

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Bufvers, John

John Bufvers Papers, ca. 1860s-1973

MS 13-1

1 box
13 folders

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann, Dec. 2009
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Nov. 2016

ACQUISITION: Accessions: Manuscripts sent by John Bufvers from 1969-1973 to the Alaska State Library through Dale DeArmond or directly [no accession numbers] ; Accession #1989-031; Accession #2009-057 [Folders 10 & 11] transferred from the Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the folder level. Original order maintained. Manuscripts at one time placed in Mylar, and all items placed into pH-neutral folders. Original Manuscripts and photocopies.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Bufvers wrote, in letters to the Alaska Historical Library, that he was born November 8, 1888 in Bohuslan, Sweden. He arrived in the United States in 1910. In July of 1913 he boarded the S.S. *Dolphin*, disembarking in Juneau "when that city was booming as the world's largest gold mining center." After his arrival, he worked in salmon canneries and mines at Yakataga Beach, the Gold Bullion Mine in Willow Creek District, and at Kennecott. After his discharge from the army in 1919, Bufvers worked again at the Kennecott, Gold Bullion and Latouche Copper Mines before going "outside" again. He returned to Alaska in 1931 to work in the Lucky Shot Mine of the Willow Creek District. Close to Christmas of 1931 he went to Ketchikan, where he was employed intermittently by Salt Chuck Mine on Prince of Wales Island. Bufvers was also employed by the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and between jobs, went out prospecting in the hills. John Bufvers said he left Alaska for the last time in September of 1954.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Memoirs of mining, cannery and saltery work in Alaska between 1913 and the 1940s. Biographical sketches of Alaska pioneers in Ketchikan and Kasaan Bay, 1860s-1970s. A few b&w photographs are included as illustration. Index to collection with more complete details about manuscripts received less recently.

SUBJECTS

Mining, Pioneers, Saltery work, cannery work, Valdez, Ketchikan, Kasaan Bay, Warm Chuck Bay, Salt Chuck Mine, wreck of the Curacao, gold mining, Yakutaga, copper mining, Prince William Sound, Latouche Island, Juneau, Alaska pioneers, Sweden.

INVENTORY

Folders 1 - 11:

1. Valdez Trail Days. 1913-1922 [Manuscript]. [Gives the author's reminiscences about the Valdez area, prospecting, and people he knew there around 1913-1922].
2. Memories of an Alaska Copper Camp. Prince William Sound, Latouche [Manuscript]. [Gives the author's reminiscences about Latouche Island in Prince William Sound, copper mining and people he knew there around 1918 through 1920's].
3. Mines in Southeast Alaska. Puyallup Mine near Hollis, Prince of Wales Island, Lucky Nell Mine, and over 20 mines in the area [Manuscript]. [Illustrated with photographs giving author's reminiscences about mining activity in the Ketchikan mining district from the 1900's-1940's. Includes data on the Puyallup Mine near Hollis, Prince of Wales Island, the Lucky Nell Mine, and over twenty other mines in the area. Information is also given on prospectors and miners such as Richard Nuckolls and A.L. Howard. Includes transmittal letter in script dated 22 Aug. 1972 from Seattle donating

the manuscript.]

4. A Cheechako's First Year in Alaska. Early days in Sweden and then Alaska [Manuscript]. [Gives the author's reminiscences with comments on Alaska's history, several early photos of the author and his birthplace in Sweden.]
5. Alaska Pioneers. Some early Alaska days. Prospectors and mines [Manuscript]. Includes transmittal letter dated 25 May 1973 indicating manuscript is about prospectors and mines mostly around Southeastern Alaska. A partial list of prospectors and mines from contents list include:
Charles Vincent Baronovich & family; Oscar Anderson, A.I. Howard, James Bawden, Frank Blazer, Ernest Specht; Croesus Prospect and Goo Goo Prospect.
6. A Cheechako in Alaska. [Manuscript]. [An account of the author's first trip to Alaska; the wreck of the *Curacao*; working at a saltery in Warm Chuck Bay; gold mining at Yakutagi; and wintering in Juneau].
7. Kasaan Bay Pioneers. [Manuscript]. Signed by the author. Biographical sketches of inhabitants, miners and cannery men in the Kasaan Bay, Alaska area, ca. 1860's-1960's.
8. Pioneers From Early Days of the Ketchikan District. [Manuscript]. Typewritten photocopy with handwritten notes and table of contents, photos. Biographical sketches of early pioneers of Ketchikan and Kasaan Bay areas, 1860's-1970's.
9. Index and photocopies of four books of news clippings and biographical sketches of early miners and mining activities in Ketchikan area and some points north, ca. 1899-1965 [Books].
10. Geologic Reconnaissance Map of the Tonsina District, Alaska, 1935. U.S. Geological Survey, Bulletin 866 Plate 1 [Includes handwritten notes regarding claims and mines]
11. Early Days in Prince William Sound (page 1), When Mining Was Booming at Prince William Sound (page 6), Miners and Prospectors (page 18) [Manuscript].