

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Larss, P. E. (Per Edward)

Papers, 1898-1904

MS 030

193 items

Processed By: Staff

ACQUISITION: Both the paper and the Larss Photograph Collection (PCA 41), which includes original photoprints, were donated in September 1977 by his daughters Florence and Adeliene Larson, of Coos Bay, Oregon and his son, W. E. Larson of Long Beach, California. Adeliene Larson provided the biographical information on her father. A French compass and other Larss memorabilia are in the Alaska State Museum. Several cameras are in museum in Goldfield, Colorado [or Nevada?].

ACCESS: Please use microfilm, located at 0031 MFMS.

Biographic Note

P. E. Larss, who later became known as P. E. Larson, came to the United States from Sweden in 1881 at the age of 18: His earliest photography work was with the Oswald Brothers in Minneapolis. He opened a private studio in 1888 in Cloquet, Minnesota under the name of P. E. Larss. He then formed a partnership called Larss and Boyer Bros., Photographers in Duluth, Minnesota. In 1892 he was in partnership with W. C. Pierce in the Elite Studio in Nanaimo, British Columbia.

When the rush began for the Klondike and Dawson City in 1898, Larss met E. A. Hegg in Skagway, having previously been acquainted with him in New Whatcom, Washington. Larss worked for Hegg as a photographer on the Chilkoot Pass, at Lake Bennett and traveled as a member of the Hegg party in 1898 down the Yukon River to Dawson City.

Hegg and Larss entered into a partnership in 1898 and had a photography studio and business in Dawson City: until 1899: In that year they separated and Larss and Duclos became partners in a new studio. Larss was very active as both photographer and a gold miner in the Klondike. He left the Yukon in 1904, married Hilda Johnson in Denver, Colorado and established himself as a photographer in Goldfield, Nevada in 1905, under the name of P E. Larson. In 1908 he was proprietor of a hotel and general store in Allegheny, Oregon. From 1920 until his death in 1941, he was in business as P. E. Larson Grocery in San Pedro, California.

His papers include notebooks and other material providing a brief firsthand record of events in his two simultaneous careers, as a professional photographer and as a gold miner on his several claims.

Inventory

Folder 1-1 Larss Notebooks, primarily Dawson, Yukon Territory. . 11 volumes:

- 1-1 1898, Jan. 2 - Dec. 31.
Records from Denver; Colorado to. Seattle. In Seattle, Jan. 25th Larss worked for photographers Pierce and Adams; Watcom, Washington on March 20, 1898 working for P. L. Hegg. Sailed on S.S. Utopia, March 20.1898.for Alaska arriving in Skagway, March 26. Documents his photography activity at Chilkoot Pass and Sheep Camp, developing film in E. A. Hegg studio, selling photographs, travel to Dawson, Y.T. , arriving June 20. On Oct. 14 "Fire and ruins." Some goods are saved and working on rebuilding studio. Includes some appointments and addresses.

Folder

- 1-2 1898, April 23-Sept. 14.
Skagway, Lake Bennett, Lake Lindeman, Dawson.
Record of photographs taken, orders, expenses.
- 1-3 1899, Jan. 1-May 16.
Scattered entries on photograph supplies, orders and expenses.
- 1-4 1899. March 3-June 4
Record of photographs and sales, titles of photographs. Not a daily account.
- 1-5 1899, Feb 15-1900, Jan. 4
Moved to new studio, Feb. 27 and opened March 10; bought a claim at Steward on March 13; entered in partnership with J. E. N. Duclos, Apr.1 ,1899.
- 1-6 1900. Weekly Time Book.
Lists photographic supplies to equip the Larss and Duclos studio. trips to Whitehorse, Y.T., Skagway, Seattle and Vancouver, B. C. to buy photo supplies; expenses, etc.
- 1-7 1900, Jan. 1- 1901, Jan. 13.
Mining, photo activities, and travels. Photo studio on 3rd St. and 3rd Ave., Dawson. Left Dawson June 2 going up Yukon River to Whitehorse, Skagway, Seattle and Denver. Left

Denver July 5 returning for Dawson July 27. Went to Cheechako Hill survey claim Aug. 21, trips to Eldorado, Bonanza, Hunker, Dominion and Caribou in Fall 1900. Worked mine at Cheechako Hill, Dec. 1900 - Jan. 1901.

- 1-8 1900, Jan. 1- 1902, Jan. 7.
Moved photo studio to King and 3rd Ave. Active mining year working Cheechako Hill through March 1901; Gold Run claim during summer and fall; also photography work.
- 1-9 1902, Jan. 1-Dec. 31.
Photography and mining activity, expenses and sales.
- 1-10 1902, Jan. 9-1904, Apr. 2.
Addresses, accounts, cash received and paid out. The last two pages record trip expenses from Dawson, Y.T. to Marshfield, Oregon, March 12 to Apr. 2, 1904.
- 1-11 1903, Jan. 1-1904, Feb 1.
Reference to elections, expenses, phototography work and mining. Summer of 1903 worked Eldorado No. 10 with Pete Erickson; Irish Gulch Mine from Dec. 1903 to Feb. 1904 with N.M. Nelson.

Folder 2 Letters to P. E. Larss and E. A. Hegg, 1898-1905. 10 items

- 2-1 Larss, P. E.? to E. A. Hegg? 1898. 1 l
Fragment of letter concerned with photo prints and supply order.
- 2-2 Hegg, Ella to Ed Hegg, Dawson. Aug. 31, 1899. 5p.
Mrs. Hegg requests more prints of photographs to sell; says more advertising is needed for studio in Dawson as people are buying views done by Barley before getting to Dawson. Shipping of photograph supplies has been a problem and Mrs. Hegg defends her efforts. She tells Mr. Hegg he will not hear from her again until he writes her a decent letter.
- 2-3 Coulter, C. C., Egel , Alaska to E. A. Hegg, Dawson. June 26, 1898. 3p.
Coulter writes he purchased Hegg a town lot of in Eagle indicating lots are now staked and improved three blocks outside of his with prices running up to \$500. Describes this boom town which is the only outlet to Forty and Seventy Mile, American and Mission Creeks.
- 2-4 Byers, Fred, Nanaimo, B.C. to Bob Byers, Dawson. Jan. 4, 1899. 1 l
Writes he received a letter from Mr. [C. C] McKinzie, saying Bob was very sick and desire that he will soon be better. Offers to send money for return south.
- 2-5 Byers, Fred W., Nanaimo, B.C. to P.E. Larss, Dawson, Jan. 4 1899. 1l with certificate. 1l.
Mr. Byers is grateful for Larss help with Bob Byers during his illness and asks him to continue helping and Fred will pay the bills. A death certificate for Bob Byers dated Nov. 24, 1898 is with the letter including medical and burial expenses.

- 2-6 Vincent, L. B., Seattle, Wash. To P. E. Larss. 1900? 2p.
Asks Larss to write when he gets to Dawson and send a set of cyclonomic views of Lynn Canal to Lake Bennett, Dawson, etc. which he details.
- 2-7 McCluskey, Harry, Nanaimo, to P. E. Larss, Dawson. March 29, 1902. 2ℓ and map.
Writes Larss about a clay deposit on Graham Island in the Queen Charlotte Islands which he has not sold because of poor price offers. Sends map with clay location and indicates nearby coal. Tells Larss if he thinks the information is worth anything, to pay him what Larss thinks fair. McClusky has had bad luck and plans to work in coal mines to get money to prospect.
- 2--8 Youngstrom, Emil, N=60 Below Bonanza to P. E. Larss, Dawson. July 29, 1904. 2p.
Letter in Swedish concerning mining? (The Larss notebook dated Apr. 16, 1903 tells of his buying a lease from Youngstrom. Also portrait of Emil in PCA 41-23.)
- 2-9 Hoffmann, Julius, Irish Gulch to P. E. Larss, Dawson. June 2, 1904. 4p. and receipt.
Letter describes problems with mine equipment, statement on gold produced from claim, wages and other expenses. Hoffman says he owes Larss two ounces of gold and will send it with gold produced from the Larss mine. Includes receipt from Hoffman dated May 23, 1904 for \$48.80.
- 2-10 Duclos, J. E. N., Dawson to P. E. Larss, Goldfield, Nev. May 8, 1905. 3p.
Duclos tells Larss about railroad to be started and other activity in Dawson. Tell s about a Ms. H. J. Goetzman ; a local photographer being in financial trouble and Rev. Grant lending money on her stock. Discusses the photo business: Adams & Co. doing portraits, Darmes is an engraver of half-tones and publishes a monthly periodical The Yukon.
- Folder 3 Photograph business partnership and studio records, 1898-1902. 9 items.
- 3-1 Partnership agreement between E.A. Hegg and P.E. Larss dated Sept. 26, 1898 at Dawson in a photographic business, witnessed by John Brown. 1ℓ (handwritten)
- 3-2 Ogilvie, Willam, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory at Dawson, a letter to Hegg and Larss, Dawson. Dec. 27, 1898. 1ℓ
Ogilvie approves their erecting a portable photograph gallery on Front Avenue until objection is received to the location. Ogilvie suggests the gallery be on a steel sled with wide runners as the wheels they propose would probably sink to the hub and not be able to move as indicated.
- 3-3 Clement, Pattullo and Ridley, Dawson, a letter to E.A. Hegg, Dawson. Apr. 25, 1899. 1ℓ
The correspondence represents the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory in procuring signatures of waterfront occupants to leases. Occupant failing to sign by May 1 will be ejected and buildings upon the: premises become the property of the government.
- 3-4 An agreement dated July 8, 1901 in which P.E. Larss sells one-fourth of Lot No. 1 in block "M" Dawson to Joe Duclos for \$2,500.00 and Larss and Duclos bind themselves to the

sum of \$5000.00 being the amount of a mortgage made April 18, 1901, witnessed by Alberta Ferry.

- 3-5 Bill of sale from Joseph E. Duclos to Edward P. [P. E.] Larss dated April 4, 1902 for the price. of one dollar transfers one-half interest in six cameras and all things that pertain to the photo studio and view plant.
- 3-6 Duplicate certificate of title to Edward P. Larss [P. E.] for the northerly fourteen feet of the westerly half of lot numbered 11 in block lettered "LI" in the Ladue Estate in the townsite of Dawson.
- 3-7 Business card: Hegg and Larss, Dawson photography
- 3-8 Business card: Larss and Duclos, the leading photo artists. Dawson, Y.T.
- 3-9 Business card: J.E.N. Duclos, photographer. Dawson, Y.T. (2 cop.)

Folder 4. Photograph related orders and various receipts, 1898-.1904. 95 items.

Includes customer orders for photograph prints, orders, for photographic and other supplies, postal receipts and receipts for payments.

Folder Mining Records, 1898-1903. 30 items.
(see also letter from Emil Youngstrom in this file, 2-8)

- 5-1 Free Miner's Certificate, No. 40201, issued July 29, 1898 to P. E. Larss by the Dominion of Canada. 1ℓ (form)
- 5-2 Grant for Placer Mining, No. 6151, issued Nov. 24, 1898 from the Dept. of Interior, Stewart River to William Stocker for a claim. in the Thistle Creek Mining District. 1ℓ. (form)
- 5-3 An indenture made by John Fry, dated Nov. 15, 1898 at Dawson, selling his Free Miner's Certificate No. 6732 to William Stocker and Per Edward Larss. 1ℓ. (handwritten).
- 5-4 Appointment of Perry Edward Larss, at Dawson to serve as an attorney for William Stocker, free miner, license no. 49118, with full power and authority regarding business concerning his mining claims. Feb. 1, 1899. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-5 An indenture made by William Stocker, dated Dec. 15, 1898, at Dawson, selling to Per Edward Larss one-half interest in a placer mining claim on Stocker Creek, Thistle Mining District for \$500. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-6 Same as 5-5 with an additional paragraph. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-7 A, agreement between Dana H. Thomas and J. H. Hegg dated Jan. 24, 1899 at Dawson specifying which half of a mining claim is owned by each of them. Witnessed by J. B. Lynch & Co., mining broker. 1ℓ.

- 5-8 Free Miner's Certificate, no. 24345, issued Feb. 13, 1899 to C. T. Hegg by the Dominion of Canada. 1ℓ. (form)
- 5-9 Grant for placer mining, no. 7411, dated Apr. 1, 1899 to Charles T. Hegg, Dawson for a claim on Hunter Creek, Dawson Mining District. 1ℓ. (form)
- 5-10 Grant for placer mining, no. 22209, dated June 9, 1899 to C. T. Hegg, Dawson for a claim on Hunker Creek, Dawson Mining District. 1ℓ. (form)
- 5-11 Bill of Sale dated June 15, 1898 from Israel Olson for Free Miner's Certificate no. 16726 to P. E. Larss for \$100. 2p (form)
- 5-12 McCluskey, Harry, Dawson, a receipt dated July 17, 1899, Dawson, to P. E. Larss acknowledging payment of \$250 for one-fourth interest in a claim on Bonanza Creek under litigation and in event settled in McCluskey's favor. 1ℓ. (handwritten) Also a short note referring to McCluskey mining claim.
- 5-13 Same as 5-12 except dated July 18, 1899. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-14 Bill of Sale dated August 7, 1899, Dawson from G. T. Hegg, Free Miner's Certificate no. 24345, selling a mining claim on Hunter Creek to Ben Peterson for \$5. 2 cop. (form).
- 5-15 Bill of sale dated Sept. 18, 1899, Dawson from L. Schultz selling a cabin on Eldorado Creek to P. B. Anderson for \$80. 1 ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-16 Anderson, P. B. , Dawson, a receipt dated Oct. 4, 1899, to P. E. Larss for \$413.50 as payment for claim on Gold Run Indian River District. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-17 Anderson, P.B., Dawson, a promissory note dated Oct. 4, 1899, to P. E. Larss for the sum of \$216.35 plus 10 per cent per annum. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-18 Anderson, P.B., No. 12 Eldorado, a letter dated Feb. 9, 1900 requesting P.E. Larss, Dawson to pay T. C. Allison \$144. for twenty-four cords of wood. Includes receipt statement dated Feb. 12, 1900. V . (handwritten)
- 5-19 Anderson, P.B., No. 17 Eldorado, a letter dated Feb. 9, 1900, requesting P. E. Larss, Dawson to pay \$323 in gold dust at \$16/oz. to Frank Bostrome. 1ℓ (handwritten)
- 5-20 Anderson, P: B., No. 12 Eldorado, a letter dated Feb. 19, 1900 to P. E. Larss, Dawson, saying he has placed the balance of the order of wood from Eeffner and Allison for \$114 in gold dust. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-21 Anderson, P. B., No. 12 Eldorado, a letter dated Feb. 18, 1900 to P. E. Larss, Dawson, requesting him to Pay Mr. A. Eeffner \$114 for 19 cords of wood. With acknowledgement of payment by Eeffner. 1ℓ. (handwritten).

- 5-22 Memorandum of gold bullion no. 56222 for deposit of \$620.31 at E. E. Burlingame & Co., Denver on July 2, 1900 by P. E. Larss. 1ℓ. (form)
- 5-23 Memorandum of gold bullion, no. 314 for deposit of \$344.45 at the Denver mint on July 16, 1904 by P. E. Lawson (Larson). 1ℓ. (form).
- 5-24 Anderson, P. B., No. 12 Eldorado, a letter dated April 24, 1901 to P. E. Larss, Dawson, saying he needed \$700 to pay Woodman and he hoped to have money from mining; also he delivered the order from Duclos for his money to McDanor? and Pratzman. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-25 Appointment of P. E. Larss (Larss), Dawson to serve as an attorney for W. H. Tully, Dawson with full power and authority regarding his mining claims. May 25, 1901. 2ℓ. (typescript)
- 5-26 Lay agreement dated March 2, 1903 between E. P. Casel of Paris, France and Charles Jeanneset; Dawson, leasing a placer mining claim no. 9a on Eldorado Creek to Per E. Larss. 1ℓ. (form)
- 5-27 Free Miner's Certificate, no. 97964, issued Aug. 1, 1903 to Per E. Larss by the Dominion of Canada. 1ℓ. (form)
- 5-28 [Bill of Sale] dated May 12, 1902 from W. F. Peter? selling sixteen sluice boxes and other mining equipment for \$200 to P. E. Larss. 1ℓ. (handwritten).
- 5-29 Leinweber?, Martin, a receipt to P. E. Larss dated May 6, 1902 for \$25 as part payment for purchase of the Branton interest in a mining claim. 1ℓ. (handwritten)
- 5-30 Grant for placer mining, no. 53625, renewal dated Dec. 5, 1903 to P. E. Larss, Dawson for a mining claim in Bonanza. 1ℓ. (form)

Folder Larss, patents, 1883, 1902 (waterwheel)

- 6--1 Paul, A. C., Minneapolis, Minn., a receipt dated Feb. 26, 1883 to P. E. Larson for fifteen dollars on account of application for patent on self counting pool rack by Larson and N. C. Peterson.
- 6-2 [Larss, P. E.], Dawson, a letter dated [Aug. 27, 1902] to the Commissioner of Patents, Ottawa, enclosing specifications and drawings of a swinging paddle for water wheels and five dollars. 1ℓ. (typescript copy)
- 6-3 Certificate of Post Office Registration, Oct. 13, 1902, Dawson to Commissioner of Patents. 1ℓ. (form)
- 6-4 Photograph of swinging paddle. 3 cop.

- 6-5 Receipt from Patent Office, Canada, serial no. 6221 to P. E. Larss for five dollars. 1ℓ. with envelope.
- 6-6 Certificate from the Patent Office, Canada, dated Sept. 18,1902 to Per Edward Larss, Dawson, certifying filing a caveat related to paddles for waterwheels, no. 7761. 1ℓ . (form)
- 6-7 Larss, Per Edward, Dawson, application and affidavit for a caveat on paddles for waterwheels, dated August 27, 1902 to the Commissioner of Patents, Ottawa. 4ℓ. (typescript) with diagram of paddle design. (2 cop)
- 6-8 Contract agreement between Per Edward Larss and Frederick William Johnson, Dawson dated Aug. 20, 1902 to cooperate on perfecting a swinging paddle for a water wheel designed by P. E. Larss, and after patent any costs, royalty or sale will be shared. 4ℓ. (typescript) with diagram of paddle design.
- 6-9 "New kind of water wheel", THE YUKON SUN, Dawson, Y.T., Sept. 16, 1902. (Article on the paddles invented by P. E. Larss).
- 6-10 "A Klondike up-to-date invention", DAWSON DAILY NEWS, June 11, 1903. (article on the water wheel paddle design of Larss as improved by Fred Johnson which has been patented).

Folder

- 7 Newspaper clippings. 18 items.
Includes article by Larss that flash-light photos are dangerous, Senators visiting Dawson had been photographed by Larss before, reference to Larss mining claim, and news-sheet - The Klondike, Yukon and Copper River Company headquarters in the field (letters of officials).

Folder

- 8 Miscellaneous. 10 items.
Includes Larss and Duclos tax statement for 1900; Larss savings account book at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Dawson; invitation to Larson to participate in the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, July 31, 1909 as a guest of honor on Swedish Day; Masonic membership dues receipt, Nanaimo; 2 color views of cameras used by Larss in Goldfield, Nev.