

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Corbus, John Parker, 1864-1933

John Parker Corbus Business Records (Juneau area), 1896-1935

MS 078

2 boxes
1 linear ft.

Processed By: Staff

ACQUISITION: The Corbus business records were donated to the library in November 1964 by Franz Nagel of the Alaska Electric Light and Power Company. In 2004, an historical sketch of the company and Corbus' family tree were added to the collection from the backlog (MS 78-6).

ACCESS: The collection is open to research.

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

PROCESSING: The papers, mostly typescript and tissue copies are filed in acid free folders. No conservation measures were needed at the time. A 2004 addition was photocopied onto acid free pages. All papers and ledgers are filed in acid free housing.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Corbus family pioneered the Gastineau channel area. Andrew Taylor Corbus was secretary treasurer of the Treadwell mines from 1890-1905. His sons, John Parker and Adam W. Corbus were active in Juneau area business. They were founders of the Alaska Electric Light and Power Company, formed May 5, 1896 along with Robert Duncan, Jr. who was Superintendent of the Treadwell mines from 1893-1898 and lawyer, John F. Malony. John P. Corbus was treasurer of the Juneau Ferry and Navigation Company, Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent of the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company from 1899-1900 after Robert Duncan, Jr. The Corbus signature appears on correspondence of the mining company and Treadwell Store on Douglas Island.

John Parker Corbus left the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company soon after 1900 and moved to California. His work was conducted from outside Alaska with some return trips to the territory. He died in Los Gatos, California in November 1933 at the age of 69. At the time of his death J.P. Corbus was president of the Alaska Electric Light and Power Company and principal stockholder in that company as well as the Juneau Ferry and Navigation Company. [From: *Daily Alaska Empire* Nov. 6, 1933]

The Records include an accounts ledger for the Alaska Meat Company, (Douglas Island) of which John F. Malony, Robert Duncan, Jr. and Frederick D. Nowell are proprietors. Nowell also operated various mining companies and a contract supplying meat to them is in the accounts ledger.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection includes correspondence, account ledgers, vessel information and miscellaneous business records for the Juneau Ferry and Navigation Company, Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co. and Treadwell Store, and the Alaska Meat Co. In 2004 an historical sketch of the Alaska Electric Light and Power Co. and Corbus family genealogy were added from the backlog.

INVENTORY

BOX 1

78-1 Juneau Ferry and Navigation Company. Correspondence, contracts, vessel data, 1905-1935.

Folder 1. Vessel construction date and agreements. 8 items.

Items on L.E. Geary, Naval architect under contract for services; Nelson and Keloz Shipyard to construct passenger vessel agreement dated Jan. 29, 1914; Heaths Shipyards agreement dated Jan. 24, 1914 to construct motor passenger vessel.

Folder 2. Vessel data. 1909-1935. 10 items.

Registration information, official number notice for LONE FISHERMAN in 1906 and sale of vessel in 1935 to Juneau Motorship Co.; bill of sale and mortgage document for the GENT.

ALMA (Screw gasoline passenger boat, built 1914)
LONE-FISHERMAN (Screw passenger boat, built 1906)
TEDDY (Gas passenger boat, built 1910)
GENT (Screw gasoline boat)

Folder 3. Vessel data. 1909-1913. 8 items.

FLORENCE (passenger steamer)--certificate of inspection
EMPRESS (steamer)--letter with description of vessel
MARIN (passenger steamer)--3 letters, 2 photos and sketch of deck plan vessel operating in California.
DEFIANCE (passenger boat)--letter with vessel description.

The FLORENCE was owned by the ferry company and other vessels were reviewed for possible vessel purchase.

Folder 4. Vessel boilers and engine data and evaluation. 1913-1914. 14 items.

Letters to J.P. Corbus in Seattle, Wash. from Lewis, Anderson, Foard & Co. regarding Imperial engines, Sunset Boat and Engine Co., New London Ship and Engine Co., Samson Iron Works, Talbot Boiler Co., Ward and Sons and Union Gas Engine Company providing information on their products for the ferry that is being planned.

Folder 5. Dock and wharf leases. 1915-1918. 7 items.

Indenture and loan dated Sept. 16, 1915, of house and lot at approach to Douglas wharf owned by M. Carlone and M. Merzyle.

Lease dated June 19, 1916 for Thane wharf and gangplank owned by Gastineau Mining Co.

Lease dated June 28, 1916 with P.R. Bradley for Treadwell Mining Co. to use Thane wharf.

Letters: unauthorized use of the Thane float by the Island Ferry Co.'s boat GENT. June 28, 1916.

Sale of the lease of the North float of the Douglas City Dock by the Island Ferry Co., July 27, 1917.

Sale receipt from Island Ferry Co. for Douglas City Dock lease, July 27, 1917.

Resolution from City of Douglas approving sale of lease and extending lease to Oct. 10, 1918.

City of Douglas and Island Ferry Co. lease agreement, Oct. 10, 1916. (copy)

Agreement between the Island Ferry Co. and Juneau Ferry and Navigation Co. for sale of the gas boat GENT and lease of North Float of the Douglas City Dock for a total of \$3,500.00 and dismissal of two pending court cases. Dated July 27, 1917.

Folder 6. Contract with Standard Oil Company to Provide gas and distillate for ferry system. 1915, 1929, 1931.

Folder 7. Mail service correspondence, contracts, etc. 1918-1924.

Letter (April 9, 1918) and proposal to postmaster for ferry company to carry mail between Juneau, Douglas and Thane making thirteen trips per week from July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919.

Letters from U.S Post Office dated Sept. 13, 1920 approving and continuing mail service route by the ferry company.

Proposal to postmaster for mail route #78034 between Juneau, Douglas and Thane for \$100.00/mo., in letter to W.S. Pullen dated July 21, 1922.

Memorandum on proposal to carry mail for \$100.00 per month from March 31, 1922 to March 31, 1923 signed by W.S. Pullen, Pres. and Manager of Juneau Ferry and Navigation Company.

Resolution authorizing W.S. Pullen to enter into a mail service contract with the U.S. Government for the ferry company with notarized seal of J.P. Corbus, company secretary.

Contract for Steamboat Mail Service, dated July 23-June 30, 1924; July 24-June 30, 1925.

Folder 8. Permit from U.S. War Dept. to maintain wharf and float, South end Seward St., Gastineau Channel, dated March 31, 1924 (2 cop.)

Blueprint of ferry float on Gastineau Channel. (2 cop.)

Letter from W.S. Pullen dated Nov. 19, 1923 to U.S. Army Engineer Corps to erect and maintain wharf and float.

Letter from W.S. Pullen, Juneau to J.P. Corbus, Los Gatos, Calif., dated April 25, 1924 sending permit relative to Juneau wharf.

- 78-2 Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company. Letter copy ledger: correspondence Sept. 17-Nov. 17, 1898. Signed by Robert Duncan, Jr., Supt. and J.P. Corbus, Asst. Supt. of the Company.
- 78-3 [Treadwell Store] Letter copy ledger: Douglas Island Treadwell Store. Dec. 23, 1898-Dec. 4, 1899. Signed by J.P. Corbus.

BOX 2

- 78-4 [Accounts ledger, Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co. 1896.]
- 78-5 [Accounts ledger, 1896-1897.]
Alaska Meat Company, Douglas Island. (p. 1-22) with agreement dated May 1, 1896 to provide Nowell Mining Co. and Berners Bay Mining and Milling Co. with meat. John F. Malony, Robert Duncan, Jr., and Frederick D. Nowell, Proprietors.
- Formulation of Alaska Electric Light and Power under partnership of J.F. Maloney, Robert Duncan, Jr., J.P. Corbus and Adam W. Corbus. (p. 50-89)
- 78-6 Alaska Light and Power Co., historical sketch [from backlog]
Corbus family tree [from backlog] (2 items)
Obituary: John Corbus.