

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Lockert, Herbert J., (1916-1990)**

**Herbert J. "Red" Lockert Papers, 1964 - 1990**

**MS 207**

7 boxes  
3 linear ft.

Processed by: Kay Shelton, Nov. 2004  
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Dec. 2012

**ACQUISITION:** Gift of Mrs. H. J. Lockert (Accession No. 92-23).

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted. However, the scrapbooks are very fragile and must be handled with extreme caution. A preliminary inventory is available. Photographs found in PCA 452.

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

**PROCESSING:** Scrapbooks arranged chronologically. Because the tape was losing its stickiness, many of the clippings were no longer anchored on the page; it was decided to microfilm all scrapbooks. Great care must be taken in handling originals, since the clippings are easily displaced. Photographs were grouped as received, usually by project. Note that many photographs are pasted into the scrapbooks. Box 1 Folder 13 contains photocopies of the front covers of 8 publications. These publications were then moved to the general collection.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Captain H. J. "Red" Lockert

Captain H. J. "Red" Lockert was born in Chicago on March 23, 1916 and raised in Puget Sound (Bellingham). Captain Lockert died in Port Ludlow, WA on June 19, 1990.

The following two paragraphs are quoted from a legislative memorial to Captain Lockert:

He began his maritime career with service in the U. S. Navy from 1934 to 1938 where he was assigned to the U.S.S. West Virginia. After his military service he worked briefly for Puget Sound Tug and Barge Company as a ship fitter, and then spent 25 years as a tugboat captain on oceangoing tugs on the Aleutian Chain and throughout Southeast Alaska for the Army Transportation Service, Portland Tug and Barge, and Alaska Freight Lines. In 1962 Red took a job as a marine surveyor for U.S. Salvage Company of Seattle. In 1964 Captain Lockert was hired for the first time by the Alaska Marine Highway System as their Port Captain. In 1965 he was promoted to Marine Superintendent, and in 1966 Governor Bill Egan appointed him Director of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

Captain Lockert served Alaska as the Director of the Alaska Marine Highway System from 1966 to 1976, some of its formative years. During Red's tenure at the helm, Alaska's Ferry System increased its fleet from the original three ships to nine, and expanded its routes to include Seattle and other Alaskan ports in addition to the three served in Territorial days: Juneau, Haines and Skagway. The Wickersham was purchased and sold, three of the system vessels, the Malaspina, Matanuska, and Tustumena were lengthened and the Columbia came on line during Red's stint as director. Red stepped down as Director of the Marine Highway system in 1976, but continued to serve the State of Alaska as a consultant to the system. He was the State inspector on the construction of the newest addition to the Alaska Marine Highways, the Aurora, which came on line in the fall of 1977.

[Sources: Alaska State Legislature "In Memoriam, Captain H. J. Red Lockert," June 29, 1990, Social Security Index, information in Scrapbook 6, p. 65]

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Captain Lockert collected photographs and papers during the years he served the Alaska Marine Highway System, continuing his interest in Alaska maritime affairs until his death in 1990. The papers are mostly 10 scrapbooks from 1964-1978 and one box of miscellaneous papers and publications relating to his work. The scrapbooks contain

clippings from newspapers and magazines, key photographs and memorabilia, such as letters of appreciation, invitations, etc. Subjects covered include the building of the Marine Highway System, such as the purchase of the Wickersham and the building and lengthening of the fleet: the Malaspina, Matanuska, Tustumena, LeConte, Aurora and the Columbia. Political figures include Governors Egan, Hickel, Miller, and Hammond. As Director of the Alaska Marine Highway, Captain Lockert was involved in the controversy concerning the Jones Act and the M/V Wickersham, budget and labor negotiations, publicity, tourism, designation of Seattle as the southern terminus for the system.

### Marine Highway History Highlights

- 1948 *Chilkoot* (a privately owned ferry) plies between Tee Harbor and Skagway
- 1957 *Chilkat*, built by J.M. Martinas Shipbuilding Company of Tacoma, Washington, begins run between Tee Harbor and Haines
- 1958 Statehood; *Chilkoot* sold shortly thereafter
- 1963 Ferries designed by Philip Spaulding, naval architect, begin service from Prince Rupert to Skagway (Built by Puget Sound Bridge and Dry Dock Company, later Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction)
  - a. *Malaspina*
  - b. *Taku*
  - c. *Matanuska*
- 1963 *Chilkat* and *Nenana* Ferry also operating in Southwest
- 1964 *Tustumena*, built by Christy Corporation of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, entered service between Kodiak – Homer – Seward
- 1968 *Wickersham* entered service to operate on a limited waiver, being built in Norway. Service between Vancouver, BC and Skagway, in June
- 1969 Reservation system instituted
- 1970 *Bartlett*, built by Jeffboat Inc. of Jeffersonville, Indiana, begins service between Cordova – Valdez – Whittier; *Chilkat* moved to operate between Auke Bay--Hoonah
 

*Taku* runs aground on July 29 on West Kinishan Island, eight miles west of Prince Rupert. British Columbia ferry, *Queen of Prince Rupert*, assists in removing vehicles
- 1971 *Tustumena* runs aground. *Columbia* plans laid
- 1972 *Malaspina* stretched completed; on line June 6
- 1974 *LeConte*, built by Peterson Builders in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, enters service in May.

*M/V Columbia*, built by Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction (formerly Pacific Bridge and Drydock) of Seattle enters main line service between Seattle – Skagway, July 5. *M/V Wickersham* sold to Finnish Company, June 1974, to sail as Viking 6

- 1976 *Malaspina* converted to fast food service
- 1977 Computer reservation system planned.
- 1989 *Columbia* makes last sailing from Pier 48 in Seattle on September 29 and the first scheduled sailing out of new terminal at Bellingham on October 6, 1989.

[Sources: *Highway on the Sea* by Stan Cohen (1994) and *History of the Marine Highway System* by W. R. (William R.) Hudson (1977).]

## INVENTORY

### BOX 1

- Folder 1 Alaska State Legislature, "In Memoriam" June 29, 1990
- Folder 2 Gastineau Philatelic Society – first day covers for *M/V Columbia*, 1974
- Folder 3 Souvenirs from Alaska Marine Highway, trip to Alaska
- Folder 4 Drawings of "*Stena Britannica*" and "*Wickersham*"
- Folder 5 Memorandum to Alaska Marine Highway Select Committee, December 13, 1983, from Philip R. Spaulding, President, Nickum & Spaulding Associates, Inc.
- Folder 6 Nickum and Spaulding: plans for *M/V Matanuska*, 1979
- Folder 7 Specifications, etc., by Nickum and Spaulding for lengthening and modification of *M/V Matanuska* and *Malaspina* Class vessels
- Folder 8 Publications relating to the Marine highway system and specific ferries.
- Folder 9 Newspaper clippings, many without dates, memorabilia, 1964-1968?
- Folder 10 Newspaper clippings, memorabilia 1968--1970?
- Folder 11 Newspaper clippings, many without dates, memorabilia. 1973 – 1978?
- Folder 12 Juneau Empire four-part series on Marine Highway, 1989

Folder 13      Photocopies of title pages of publications not kept in MS207, but found in Alaskana in Historical Collections

## BOX 2

Scrapbook 1 (1964-1966)      Lockert named Port Captain, M/V *Tustumena*, photographs of M/V *E.L. Bartlett* on ways, maiden voyage of M/V *Tustumena* in July 1964, Captain Maitland Merkley and crew

Scrapbook 2 (1968)      Seattle named as southern terminus, *Wickersham* purchase, photographs of Seattle named as southern terminus, Governor Wally Hickel and M/V *Stena Britannic* renamed M/V *Wickersham*

Scrapbook 3 (1968)      (August – November?) b&w snapshots of M/V *Wickersham*, her trip to Kodiak, Anchorage in September, post-card of M/V *Chilkat* in front of glacier (p. 3-42)

## BOX 3

Scrapbook 4 (1969)      New Year's eve on M/V *Wickersham*; M.V. *Shafer*, Director of Travel Division; addition to M/V *Tustumena*; building, launching, christening by Mrs. Bartlett of M/V *Bartlett*, Governor Keith Miller and wife; *Wickersham* in dry dock (all subjects include photos)

Scrapbook 5 (1969-1970)      Christening of M/V *E.L. Bartlett* (con't), photographs of modified M/V *Tustumena* launch, publicity shots of interior, editorials on Jones Act and *Wickersham* [some photos missing]

## BOX 4

Scrapbook 6 (1970-1971)      M/V *Taku* aground (good photo on inside cover), drydock photos of damage, photo of H.J. Lockert (p. 6-44), *Tustumena* grounding near Kodiak, Keith Miller campaign of 1970, Friends of Marine Highway System (supporting bond to lengthen vessels), menus from Alaska Marine Highway, Governor Egan inauguration

Scrapbook 8 (1972-1973)      Keel laying of new ferry on October 2, 1972 with Governor Egan cutting ribbon (con't from Scrapbook 7), Governor and Neva Egan at christening and launching of M/V *Columbia*

## BOX 5

Scrapbook 7 (1971-1972)      Cover missing; photographs of docking facilities in Southeast Alaska, request for waiver from Jones Act (H.R 10834, 92d Congress,

Second Session), lengthening of M/V *Malaspina* (color and b&w photos, plans), new ferry (*Columbia*), Governor Egan at keel laying of new ocean-going vessel, Fourth of July parade in Juneau

## BOX 6

Scrapbook 9 (1973-1974) Cover missing; sale of *Wickersham*, building and launching of *Columbia*, M/V *LeConte*

Scrapbook 10 (1974-1975) Photo portrait of H.J. Lockert, William R. Hudson appointed new director of Marine Transportation by Governor Jay Hammond, death of Peter DeBoer (representative of Standard Oil of California and man who brought music to the state ferries), photos and information on two Oceanographic Research vessels *Oceanus* and *Wecoma* built by Peterson Builders, Inc., of Sturgeon Bay, WI, Alaska Ferry strike, building of ship *Endeavor*, budget cuts, controversy on moving southern terminus to Bellingham

*Maritime Reporter and Engineering News*, August 1, 1974 (vol. 36, No. 15), containing article on M/V *Columbia*

## BOX 7

Scrapbook 11 (1975-1976) Marine Highway issues, including budget cuts by Governor Jay Hammond and Bill Hudson, conversion of *Malaspina* food service from restaurant-style to cafeteria-style, ferry maintenance to Alaska port, M/V *LeConte* launching, labor problems, controversy surrounding *Columbia* and its repairs, service to Pelican, M/V *Aurora*

Scrapbook 12 (1977-1978) [cover missing] *Aurora*, *Tustumena*, Ferry strike, IBU (Inland Boatman's Union) workers, *Matanuska* extension, *Columbia*, Bellingham-Seattle southern port discussion, ferry service to Tenakee,