

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Snyder, Harry F.

Harry F. Snyder Photograph Collection, 1916-1918

PCA 38

3 boxes  
3 photograph albums  
162 photographs, b&w and some color

Processed by: Staff  
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, July 2015

**ACQUISITION:** In October 1970, Harry F. Snyder of Seal Beach, California, presented the library with a photograph documentary album of the Alaska Treadwell Mine where he worked as an electrician from 1916-1918. In May 1973 Mr. Snyder donated another album which contains many photographs related to the Nugget Creek Hydroelectric Power Plant.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

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

**PROCESSING:** This collection has been described at the album level. Original order has been maintained. In May and June, 1993, this collection was conserved by removing the original damaging "magnetic" photo album pages. These pages were separated from their hinge papers and replaced with acid-free, buffered Perma/Dur Folder Stock. The albums have been placed in archival boxes.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Harry F. Snyder worked as an electrician for the Treadwell Gold Mining Company from 1916 to 1918. Mr. Snyder was at the mine when it collapsed April 22, 1917. He related his personal memory of the incident as follows: "When the fire alarm sounded at 12:35 a.m. on April 22, 1917, I was on my way to the Ready Bullion mine. The Mexican shaft house literally exploded as I passed it and sent timber flying in all directions as a result of the immense air pressure being built up by the flooding waters."

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

In gathering material for the three albums, Mr. Snyder obtained material from five people with whom he had worked during the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co.'s peak in 1916: Virgil G. Moore, former electrical foreman; Leo J. Higley, an ore hoist operator; Alex Morgan, a machinist; George E. McConnell, an electrician; and Bob Traver, formerly of the Treadwell supply department. All men were present during the cave-in of the Glory Hole in 1917.

Album 1 contains pictures of the four mines that were in operation near Douglas, including the Treadwell, Mexican, 700, and the Ready Bullion.

The second album contains a number of pictures of the Treadwell mine before and after the cave-in, which occurred shortly after midnight April 12, 1917. Also included are photographs of the 700 mine, the Perseverance Gold Mine, the Alaska Juneau Gold Mine, and the Alaska-Gastineau Mining Co.

The third album contains, primarily, pictures of the powerhouse Mr. Snyder helped install at Nugget Creek, near the Mendenhall glacier, as well as pictures taken in Douglas and near Treadwell. Also included are some color photographs of the Treadwell area taken by Mr. Snyder in 1967 when he made a return trip to the area where he had worked nearly fifty years previously.

During this trip, Mr. Snyder became concerned that too few were aware of the history of Treadwell and prepared these albums to convey the color, flavor, and magnitude of an era along the Gastineau Channel that is long gone.

The albums include 162 photographs. Detailed captions and explanations identify buildings, mining activities, town events, and individuals. The albums also compare photographs taken by Mr. Snyder in 1916 with those he took fifty years later in 1966-67.

## SUBJECTS

Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company - History - Photographs  
Nugget Creek Power Plant (Alaska) - History - Photographs  
Gold mines and mining - Alaska - History - Photographs  
Miners - Alaska - History - Photographs

## INVENTORY

### Box 1

**Album 1:** Treadwell Alaska, 1916-17-18, Part One, By Harry F. Snyder, Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co. **Photographs #2 - 59** [#1 seems to have been skipped]

### Box 2

**Album 2:** Treadwell Alaska, 1916-17-18, Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co.  
**Photographs #60 - 110**

### Box 3

**Folder : Photographs #111 - 131**

**Album 3:** Treadwell Alaska, 1916-17-18, Part Two, By Harry F. Snyder; Nugget Creek Hydroelectric Power Plant. **Photographs #132 - 162.** [#159 - 162 are out of order at the end of the album]