

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Waller Photograph Collection: Sitka Cold Storage, 1936-1937**

PCA 72

Photographs by an engineer named Waller. Negatives available for all prints.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

Sitka Cold Storage came into being around 1926 when W.P. Mills incorporated with a dozen shareholders in order to buy the Booth Fisheries Company plant, which had been forced into bankruptcy by the Depression. Sitka Cold Storage began operating in 1931 and soon became a waterfront fixture. By 1935 they were freezing a million and a half pounds of salmon and more than 1250 tiers of mild cured salmon per year. They expanded the store and locker in 1946 and established a radio telephone station, KMP, in 1947 to give fish prices and other fishing information and to relay messages to fishermen over the airwaves. L.T. Peterson was manager of Sitka Cold Storage from 1933-1947 and resumed the position in 1955, the same year Norton Clapp bought the controlling interest in the company. P.S. Ganty was named president. The plant was destroyed in a \$2 million dollar fire, July 7, 1973, leaving 150 tons of rotting fish to be cleaned up in addition to the fire debris. [DeArmond, R.N., *A Sitka Chronology, 1867-1987*, and *From Sitka's Past.*]

## INVENTORY

- 1 Front, of the main building of Sitka Cold Storage, 1936.
- 2 Sitka Cold Storage Plant, 1936, looking North from Standard Oil Dock. Forest Service float in foreground.
- 3 Sitka Cold Storage dock and ice trestle, looking West from near Customs House, 1936. In foreground is an old Russian cannon, muzzle down in the ground for a mooring bitt.
- 4 Looking down the dock approach, Sitka Cold Storage, with trestle for carrying ice above, 1936.
- 5 Looking West down the gangway and float of Sitka Cold Storage, 1936. Partial view of floating cannery Retriever.
- 6 Part of Sitka Indian Village, 1936.
- 7 Part of Sitka Indian Village, 1936. Building with white stripe is Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall. Cold storage at left.
- 8 Part of the- waterfront's fishing fleet, Sitka, 1936. Floating cannery - Retriever appears behind other boats.
- 9 North side of Sitka Cold Storage dock with new fish house at right, Marlyn Fish Company station at end of dock. Packer Santa Rita in foreground, 1936.
- 10 Fishing fleet at Sitka Cold Storage Co. float, 1936.
- 11 New fishhouse of Sitka Cold Storage, on North side of dock. Halibuter Hecla at left, troller Frolic at left, probably packer Elsie in distance.
- 12 At left, building put up in 1918 by Sitka Packing Company, later used as boat shop by "Scotty" Jennings.
- 13 North side of main building of Sitka Cold Storage, 1936, looking East toward town.
- 14 North side of Sitka Cold Storage, looking toward town. The Harbor Store, next to Cold Storage, Alaska Native Service School behind, 1936.

- 15 East end of Sitka Cold Storage Co. main building, 1936. The Harbor Store, foreground, and first section of the building, housing the blacksmith shop, were torn down in 1937 when the new store addition was built.
- 16 Sitka Cold Storage - the second ice crusher, built in 1937.
- 17 North side of Sitka Cold Storage Co. plant, looking East. Ice elevator at left.
- 18 Sitka Cold Storage, new fishhouse and ice trestle. Packer Santa Rita at right, 1936.
- 19 Station of the Alaska Trollers Marketing Association in new fishhouse, Sitka Cold Storage, 1936.
- 20 Sitka Cold Storage Dock, looking across boat E.D.M., the mail-passenger-freight boat for Goddard Hot Springs, 1936.
- 21 Ice crusher tower at end of Cold Storage Dock, Sitka, 1936.
- 22 End of Sitka Cold Storage Dock with tower for ice crusher. Facing camera is station of Alaska Coast Fisheries, Inc.
- 23 Marlyn Fish Co. station at end of Sitka Cold Storage Dock, 1936. Salmon prices are posted: 17-9-5-5.
- 24 New store addition to Sitka Cold Storage Co. building on the East end of main plant, on Katlian St., 1937.
- 25 Tanks, warehouse and dock of Standard Oil Co., 1936.