

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Alaska. Division of Marine Transportation

Interior and exterior views of the Alaska ferry, *Wickersham*, 1968-1974

PCA 84

14 photographs

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BIO or HISTORICAL NOTE

The Alaska ferry, *Wickersham*, was purchased by the State of Alaska from the Swedish Stena Line for \$6,960,000.00 in April, 1968, having only been built and in service for 6 months. Originally named *M.V. Stena Brittanica*, the ferry left Gothenberg, Sweden on May 7, 1968, and upon arriving in Vancouver, B.C., the name was changed to Wickersham after Judge James Wickersham, a pioneer miner and Alaskan judge. The *Wickersham* operated an express schedule between Prince Rupert and Haines, with "passenger only" stops at Ketchikan and Juneau.

The *Wickersham* was reportedly sold October 15, 1974 to S.O.L. Lines of Rotterdam, a Dutch firm, however, payments were not received. It was sold again on April 19, 1975 to Spyros Maylivenos, a Greek firm in Italy, for \$7,300,000. This deal also fell through, this time because of Italian import restrictions. On June 22, 1975, the ferry was sold to the Viking Line of Mariehamn, Aland Islands, Finland, and renamed *Viking 6*. [From: Ferries in the north : the Alaska Marine Highway, 1948-1989, Seattle : Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, 1992. p. 51-70.]