

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Lewis, Richard F.**

**Richard F. Lewis Photograph Collection, ca. 1907-1930**

**PCA 103**

138 photographs

Processed by: Staff

**ACQUISITION:** The source of the collection is unknown

**ACCESS:** The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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**PROCESSING:** Photograph are numbered and housed in Mylar.

### Biographical Note

Richard F. Lewis came to Alaska around 1894, following his graduation from Harvard Law School. He married in 1898 in San Francisco and brought his bride, Grace, to Juneau. They spent their time between Juneau and California. In 1900 he was among the group of Alaskans who lobbied successfully in Washington, D.C. to have Alaska's capital moved from Sitka to Juneau. He retired to Piedmont, California in 1952 and died in 1955.

Lewis was called upon in 1938 to assist the Alaska Commercial Company of San Francisco, a trading company operating in Alaska, in establishing its title to the wharf and other property at Unalaska. By 1938 the company had sold all of their Alaska holdings except their trading posts at Dutch Harbor and Unalaska to former employees who organized as Northern Commercial Company. Dutch Harbor and Unalaska had been part of their original purchase from the Russian American Company in 1867. With increased U.S. Navy activity in the area in the late 1930s, the company's officers were concerned that their property would be taken over for military use.

The Dutch Harbor and Unalaska properties and merchandise were sold in August 1940 to Northern Commercial Company. Two weeks later the Navy selected Dutch Harbor as its Aleutian Island headquarters. The trading post there ceased operations for the next two years. The Unalaska post, however, continued in operation, catering to the many civilian construction workers as well as military personnel and local residents.

Alaska Commercial Company operations were divided into four Districts: Kodiak, St. Michael, Unalaska, and the Pribilof Islands. Some of the existing records have been assembled by W.J. Erskine, a longtime company employee who purchased the Kodiak District property in 1911. The records for the Kodiak District collected by Mr. Erskine are held by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and have been inventoried by Wendell H. Oswalt in ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY RECORDS: 1868-1911. Records for the St. Michael District and the Pribilof Islands are scattered, some being held by Wilson F. Erskine and others by the Jackson Library, Stanford University. Most of the Unalaska District records have been lost or destroyed.

### Scope and Content Note

The photographs in this collection include views of Juneau, Sitka, Flat City and Iditarod. Views of Juneau include the Gold Creek Dam and flume construction, 1928, Juneau buildings, general views, and fires. Photographers represented in the collection include Trevor Davis, the Snap Shoppe, Lomen and Ordway. Many of the images were taken by unidentified photographers.

### Inventory

- 1 Juneau, Alaska. Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. Gold Creek Dam August 14, 1928. (Alaska Scenic Views)
- 2 Juneau, Alaska. Gold Creek Dam. August 14, 1928 (Alaska Scenic views)

- 3 Flat City, Alaska. Front Street, May 1911. [Stanley's Restaurant & Lodging and other storefronts]
- 4 Flat City, Alaska. Grand Hotel 1910. [N. Glanz S. Swanson proprietors]
- 5 Juneau, Alaska. [General view including the A.J. Mine]
- 6 [Steamer COTTAGE CITY]
- 7 Juneau, Alaska. [General view 1925]
- 8 [Group of people seated on tramcar. Woman holding WE ARE MARRIED BANNER] (Lomen Bros. Photo)
- 9 Juneau, Alaska. [General View]
- 10 [Mudslide]
- 11 R.G. Willoughby's Mirage. [the Silent City] Alaska. (Winter & Pond #101)
- 12 Juneau, Alaska. Memorial Library [Postcard drawing]
- 13 Juneau, Alaska. [Scottish Rite Temple] (Alaska Scenic views photo 17)
- 14 Juneau, Alaska. [General view including Gastineau Channel and Douglas] (Trevor Davis photo 251)
- 15 [Rockslide]
- 16 [Mountain scenics]
- 17 Proposed Distin Avenue Apartments for Fosbee Development Co. [Postcard drawing]
- 18 Juneau, Alaska. [from Sandy Beach, Douglas] (Ordway-Neff)
- 19 Juneau, Alaska. [from wharf near A.J. Mine] (Ordway-Neff)
- 20 Sitka, Alaska. The Prospector [in front of Pioneer Home] (Photo Shop Studio)
- 21 [Same as #16]
- 22 [Waterfall]
- 23 [Waterfall]
- 24 [Scenics]

- 25 [Same as #23]
- 26 Alaska - Juneau Mill
- 27 Juneau, Alaska [Aerial view] (Winter & Pond)
- 28 [Gold Hill Hotel]
- 29 [Gold Creek flume 1898 Or 1899]
- 30a [Dogs playing in water, buildings on bank of river]
- 30b [Steamer on the Iditarod River]
- 31a [Juneau fire. Jorgenson's Motors at left] (T. Davis photo)
- 31b Juneau Hotel fire. 1:30 A.M. September 4, 1911. (Winter & Pond photo)
- 32 [Juneau fire] (Ordway photo)
- 33 [Juneau fire] (Ordway photo)
- 34 Goldstein Building Fire (Snap Shoppe)
- 35 [Juneau fire] (T. Davis)
- 36a [Juneau fire] (Ordway no. 30)
- 36b [Juneau fire] (T. Davis)
- 37 Goldstein Building fire. (Snap Shoppe)
- 38 [Juneau fire] (T. Davis)
- 39 [Construction site]
- 40 [Barge]
- 41 [Man, attached to a line, wading in water]
- 42 [Cabin]
- 43 [Pacific Coast Lumber Co.]
- 44 [River scene]
- 45 Scow CHENA sinking. 18 miles below Dikeman. May 27, 1911.

- 46 [Horses pulling sleds]
- 47 [Construction site]
- 48 [Natives standing by building]
- 49 [Native camp. Fish nets leaning on tent]
- 50 [Same as #47]
- 51 [Horses pulling wagon]
- 52 [Native children]
- 53 [Canvas covered automobile]
- 54 [Men on bow of vessel]
- 55 [Winter scene by creek]
- 56 [Horse pulling sled and man]
- 57 [Fish drying on racks]
- 58 [Same as #551]
- 59 [Building construction]
- 60 First Boat of Season. Landing. Iditarod, Alaska. May 19, 1911. [WHITE SEAL]
- 61 [Flume]
- 62 [Gold Creek, upper part of spring no.5, March 12, 1907]
- 63 [Gold Creek, upper part of spring no.5, March 10, 1907]
- 64 (Gold Creek Spring no.5, View I., March 12, 1907]
- 65 [Gold Creek. Creek bed above flume at Spring no. 5., March 12, 1907]
- 66 [Gold Creek flume]
- 67 [Barge EDNA]
- 68-79 [flume construction]
- 80 [Unidentified town]

- 81 [Man crossing creek]
- 82 [Construction site]
- 83 Shea's Dogteam - Winner of Race - Iditarod, Alaska. Jan. 1, 1911.
- 84 [Man & dogs wading creek]
- 85 [Steamer DAWSON at wharf]
- 86 [People standing at back of horse drawn cart]
- 87 [Totems]
- 88 [Man crossing creek]
- 89 [Flume]
- 90 [Sled dogs crossing river]
- 91 [Dogs, pulling sled and man]
- 92 [Construction area]
- 93 [Fish wheel on river]
- 94 [Dogs, sled and men crossing creeks]
- 95 [Similar to view 86]
- 96 [Gold Creek, Spring no.5]
- 97 [Shaft House at Jualpo March 10, 1907]
- 98 [Flume at Gold Creek Spring no.5 March 9, 1907]
- 99 [Shaft house. March 12, 1907]
- 100 [Small log cabin]
- 101 [Dogsled]
- 102 [Steamer WHITE SEAL]
- 103 [Men working on railroad]
- 104 [Flume]

- 105 [Men, dogs, cabin and cache]
- 106 [Shaft House]
- 107 [Sleds filled with supplies by cabin]
- 108 [Man & Dogs crossing creek]
- 109 [Mouth of Jualpo tunnel]
- 110 [Side view of flume exterior]
- 111 [Shaft House, March 10, 1907]
- 112 [Summer tourists]
- 113 [Lower end flume exterior]
- 114 [Shaft House, March 12, 1907]
- 115 [Men standing outside log SALOON]
- 116 [Flat City?]
- 117 [Celebrating opening of Gold Creek flume]
- 118 [Flat City?]
- 119 [Unidentified ROADHOUSE]
- 120 [Small log cabin]
- 121 [HALFWAY ROADHOUSE]
- 122 [Ruby, Alaska street scene]
- 123 [Fairbanks Stage carrying U.S. Mail]
- 124 [Dredge]
- 125 [Ruby, Alaska.]
- 126 [Horse pulling sled]
- 127 [Horse drawn cart]
- 128 [Cabin along river]

- 129 Juneau, Alaska. [General view] (T. Davis #253)
- 130 Juneau, Alaska. Elk's Building. Gastineau Hotel (Kirk photo)
- 131 [Mouth of Jualpa Tunnel March 9, 1907]
- 132 [Gold Creek flume construction]
- 133 [Gold Creek flume construction]
- 134 [Gold Creek flume construction]

*Photographs 135-138 are housed in Oversize*

- 135 Draft men. Co. A. 14th Infantry Fort Seward Alaska. Winter & Pond Co. [81 unidentified uniformed soldiers posing at the edge of a wooded area.]
- 136 The Great Fire that nearly destroyed the City of Douglas Alaska, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1916.
- 137 [Large group of men in Elks Hall; probably annual roll call] (Elite Studio, Juneau, Alaska)
- 138 Draft men. Co. C. 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Fort Seward Alaska. Winter & Pond Co. [Unidentified uniformed soldiers posing at the edge of a wooded area.]