

Guide to Collection

Lantis, Margaret, Photographer

Margaret Lantis Photograph Collection, 1948

PCA 182

The glass slides in this collection were taken by Margaret Lantis as part of a BIA funded project entitled, "Economic Needs of Natives in Southeastern Alaska." They were loaned a boat with crew and lived on the boat during the project. The field work was done in late summer/early fall of 1948 but the findings were never published. Lantis "surmised that [the findings were] rejected by the BIA Commissioner because he had worked only with Western Indians and thought of resources and economy solely in terms of land I think he would have been happy if we had recommended that every Indian family receive 160 acres." The slides include economic survey statistics of the seven villages in the project, views of these villages and activities of the people. Includes villages in southeast Alaska in the 1940's.

Sixty photographs were taken with a Graflex camera to be included in the 1948 report written by Margaret Lantis and Dr. Varden Fuller (economist with the Gianinni Foundation, University of Ca., Berkeley) and 31 were made into slides. The overall size of the slides is 3 1/4" x 4": the image size is 2" x 3". Prints have been made for viewing.

"In the late 1940's, Metlakatla was for outsiders one of the showplaces of Alaska, with its community-owned cannery and community-provided services: utilities, school, payment for health care. As you recall, the prop planes of that period used to stop on the Island en route between Juneau and Seattle. Although most passengers never saw the village, people who did want to visit had easy access. So much has been written about the founding and early years of Metlakatla but little about it after W.W.II. I found all the communities interesting but Metlakatla the most interesting." M. Lantis, 23, April 1980.

Collection received April 1980.

Inventory

- 1 Economic Survey, Southeast Alaskan Indian Towns, 1948. Population: Total and Samples. [Lists the population details of the towns which were part of the survey.]
- 2 Identification of Sample. [breakdown of the seven towns in survey].
- 3 Average Family Money Income, by Source and town, 1948. [Breakdown of the seven towns in survey]
- 4 Average Family Expenditure for current consumption - by item. [Comparison of ten expenditure items between Juneau and composite of seven Indian communities.]
- 5 Expenditure compared with Income [Breakdown of seven towns in survey].
- 6 Comparison of towns, by their deviation from the median, in major categories of family consumption.
- 7 Dilapidated Houses, Klawock. 1948. [3 small children in front of houses]
- 8 Klawock Restored Totem Poles [2 poles on grassy area]
- 9 Klawock Abandoned Sawmill (?) [dilapidated buildings]
- 10 Abandoned Store [-- Nelson General Merchandise]
- 11 Fishing Fleet, Sitka (?) [view from the water of moored fishing boats]
- 12 Clan Houses, Sitka [Row of two-story buildings].
- 13 Clan House burned. Sitka [2-story building with burned roof]
- 14 Housing Project, Hoonah. [approximately 40 dwellings grouped on the waterfront]
- 15 Cemetary -- Hoonah. [name on headstone is John Houston; ceremonial hat is atop the headstone.]
- 16 Cemetary -- Hoonah [close-up of elaborate headstone topped with wolf carvings.]

- 17 Cemetary -- Hoonah. [Name on headstone is James Miller. Whole image etched on the stone, also the star of David is used as a decoration]
- 18 Cemetary -- Hoonah. [Totem-like carving on tombstone]
- 19 View of a small anchored ship; mountains and clouds in the background
- 20 Metlakatla Community -- owned cannery, [view of cannery from the water]
- 21 [Women cutting fish in cannery at Metlakatla]
- 22 [Women handling a tray of cans - Metlakatla cannery]
- 23 [Cannery workers loading a front end loader - Metlakatla]
- 24 Pre "World War II bungalows, Metlakatla. [row of houses.; picket fence center, wooden sidewalk, left]
- 25 Mayor (?), a boat builder, in front of Council Chamber, Metlakatla. [man standing to left of building steps].
- 26 [MV Mercury, Bellingham tied up to a float]
- 27 [Hauling in loaded fish nets at the dock]
- 28 [Two men dumping fish from net to large wooden container.]
- 29 Cannery supervisory and imported labor housing - Tyee. [group of cottages and an apartment building]
- 30 Cannery Housing for Indians - Tyee. [Row of 14 small houses along the shoreline],
- 31 [Man on shore, foreground; group of houses across body of water.]