

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Sorensen, Paul M.**

**Paul M. Sorensen Photograph Collection, ca. 1930-1950**

**PCA 239**

3 Folders  
36 b&w photographs  
9 non-pictorial items

Processed by: Staff  
Addition processed by: Anastasia Tarmann  
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, May 2014

**ACQUISITION:** The collection was donated by Mrs. Priscilla (Paul) Sorensen in 1976. Acc. #1976-008, no instrument of donation. Nancy Sorensen Raffetto, niece of Karl Sorensen, donated an additional 12 photographs, July 27, 2012. Acc. #2012-020.

**ACCESS:** The photos may be viewed. However, they may not be photocopied.

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

**PROCESSING:** Folders 1 and 2 of this collection are housed in the Oversized Photograph Collections area, in an archival box. Photographs 1 – 24 were received attached to three numbered scrapbook pages. The photographs remain attached to the scrapbook pages. Each of the scrapbook pages were placed in Mylar and then into one acid free folder. The non-pictorial items were placed in Mylar and then into an acid free folder. The photographs added by Nancy Sorensen Raffetto were placed in Mylar, then into an acid free folder, and housed in an archival box. Ms. Raffetto provided the descriptions for the added photographs, numbers 32-43 in this collection.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Paul Sorensen was a registered professional engineer for the Territory of Alaska and the State of Utah. He was general manager of the Hirst-Chichagof Mining Company, Kimshan Cove, Alaska, when these photographs were taken. He and his wife, Priscilla lived at the mine, located at Kimshan Cove, from 1932-1943. They returned in 1950 to reopen the mine but high operating costs and the Korean War combined to make the attempt unsuccessful.

Mr. Sorensen also worked as chief engineer and general superintendent, U.S. Tin Corporation, Lost River, via Nome, Alaska (1951-1953) and general superintendent of DeCoursey Mt. Mining Co., at Sleetmute, Alaska.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection includes pictures of the mine, the Sorensens, some employees, float planes, the *Estebeth*, and the *Zapora*. Nine non-pictorial items relating to the mine complete the collection. These items include newspaper clippings; the manager's report to stockholders; an obituary of Lew G. Kay, president of the mine; and postcards to stockholders.

## INVENTORY

### **Folder 1 (#1 - 24) Located in Oversize Photograph Collections** *Photographs*

#### **Note on page 3 of photographs:**

These photographs were donated by Mrs. Paul M. Sorensen who lived at the Hirst Chichagof Mine from 1932 to 1943. She returned with her husband, Paul M. Sorensen, General Manager, in 1950 when an unsuccessful attempt was made to reopen the mine. The onset of the Korean conflict and the high operating costs defeated the effort.

### **1930's Hirst Chichagof Mine Kimshan Cove, Alaska**

1. Mine adit or entrance [Entrance to Hirst Chichagof Mine, five people at entrance].
2. [Hirst-Chichagof Mine] Mill with covered track leading to mine entrance.
3. [Hirst-Chichigof Mine] Store, office, Post Office, and supply room. Bunkhouse is at right.
4. Kimshan Cove from mountain. [Location of the Hirst-Chichagof Mine].

5. Building at right - dining room, kitchen store room on first floor. Manager's quarters and drafting room on second floor.
6. Flotation cells in [Hirst-Chichigof Mine] mill.
7. Looking from the dock, same building as above. [Building in photograph #5]
8. Manager, Paul M. Sorensen (r) and two of the mill crew. [Blurred image].
9. Salt water tank with mill in background. Salt water was used in mill.
10. Manager Paul M. Sorensen and wife, Priscilla on *Estebeth* with two other passengers.
- 11-12. Two of the eight cabins supplied by the company for married couples' living quarters.
13. View from water showing power line and trail over mountain to Chichagof.
14. View of the *Estebeth* at dock [people on deck].
15. John Sonya, Joe Bauer, Priscilla Sorensen, Paul Sorensen, Brownie Tippets and Gene Tippets, (l to r) at John and Joe's radio station where all camp telegrams were transmitted and received.
16. Framing shed with sawmill in background.
17. The *Zapora*, a ship from Seattle with supplies.
18. Canadian Geese in cove, they stayed year round. Work boat is seen in the background.
19. Paul M. Sorensen and Pete Mandrich at prospect hole following a quartz stringer.
20. A plane landing in cove [one engine seaplane].
21. Some of the crew in front of the dining room. Stairs to the right lead to manager's quarters on second floor. [Group of 23 people].
22. Plane wrecked on beach during big storm [small sea plane].
23. We had year round boat service but ice did form where fresh water streams entered the cove. [Man on ice floe]

24. Airplane landing float built by the Bureau of Public Roads. [Single-engine seaplane at float].

**Folder 2 (#25 – 31) Located in Oversize Photograph Collections**

*Non-pictorial items*

25. Lew G. Kay – Life Devoted to Chinese-American Friendship; Chung Hua (China) – monthly journal; Seattle, Wash., U.S.A.; March 1948 Vol. VI, No. 3.
- 26a-c. 3 postcards to the Stockholders from Hirst-Chichagof Mining Company, Lew G. Kay, President. 1937 – 1938.
27. Newspaper clipping – “Ship Ahoy! *Zapora* Plies Unusual Route” by the Skipper
28. Newspaper clipping – “Paul Sorensen To See About Opening Mine” 1946
29. Newspaper clipping (photocopy) – “Hirst Chichagof Makes Ready To Open Mine Soon: Sorensen Finds Plant in Good Condition After War-time Closing,” 1946.
30. Newspaper clipping (photocopy) – “Hirst-Chichagof Will Reopen, Sorensen Says: Former Big Gold Producer Will Resume Operation – Cloed Since 1943,” 1950.
31. “Progress Report To Stockholders July to December 1950”; Hirst-Chichagof Mining Company; Kimshan Cove, Alaska; December 5, 1950; 9 pages.

**Folder 3 Additional photographs donated by Nancy Sorensen Raffetto.**

*Donor notes unless indicated as from photo verso or in brackets (librarian’s notes).*

32. Kimshan Cove. Karl M. Sorensen (father) and Paul M. Sorensen, on right (son).
33. Kimshan Cove. Karl M. Sorensen. [Close-up with fish catch]
34. Kimshan Cove. Karl M. Sorensen. [With fish catch in front of building with dormers]
35. Kimshan Cove. (left to right) Paul M. Sorensen, Priscilla Sorensen, Karl Sorensen (father), Johanna Sorensen (mother), unknown woman [each holding a fish]
36. Kimshan Cove. Unknown persons [Man, woman, and child on plank runway next to Pacific Alaska Airways plane]
37. Kimshan Cove. Unknown persons. [Man and woman disembarking from plane]

38. Lost River, view of mine community, circa 1951 [donor's note]. [Unidentified figure in foreground]. Mill in background--Oil Storage – Warehouses – Bunk & Cook house – Office, lower left – School house, right center – Sorensen shack back of school house – Grocery warehouse under snow below 2 stove pipes, right center one radio tower back of schoolhouse [from photo verso]
39. Lost River, view of mine community [close up, unidentified figure]. Eskimo Village with mill in for [?] background [photo verso].
40. Lost River, view of mine community [close up]. Mill partially covered by drifted snow. Smoke is exhaust of Diesel-Electric plant {from verso}.
41. Lost River. Priscilla Sorensen and Penny Sorensen (daughter) sitting in dog sled [donor's note]. October 1951. Cy and Penny taking mail to launching field below camp [from photo verso].
42. Lost River-Eskimo school children, Priscilla Sorensen (center rear) and Penny Sorensen (second from right) [donor's note]. Cy and her school children – All Eskimo but Penny [from verso].
43. Penny Sorensen, daughter of Paul and Priscilla Sorensen.