

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**John L. Johnsen, John L., Collector**

**John L. Johnsen Photograph Collection, ca. 1932-34**

[Taku Harbor Cannery]

**PCA 361**

167 photographs, b&w  
15 menus

Processed: 1995  
By: Ellen FitzGerald  
and India Spartz

**ACQUISITION:** John L. Johnsen donated this collection in June 1995. (Acc. No. 1995-03.)

**ACCESS:** The photographs are available for viewing. However, the images may not be photocopied.

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

**PROCESSING:** The photos have been numbered and placed in Mylar sleeves. A subject-level inventory is available.

### Biographical / Historical Note

Johnsen worked at the Libby McNeill Cannery in Taku Harbor as a fireman, pile driver, watched traps and was a deckhand on cannery tender between 1932-34. A man named Tom who was bookkeeper and storekeeper in Taku Harbor took the photos of the Taku Harbor fire. Other views were taken by a crewmember who worked in Taku Harbor. The collection includes images of the Taku Cannery fire on May 9 and 10, 1932, pile-driving and daily activities at the cannery.

Johnsen writes,

“After the fire, Skinner and Eddy had an idle cannery at Kake, southeast end of Frederick Sound. Libby operated Kake until Taku Harbor cannery was rebuilt. ...The kings [salmon] were caught in a pile trap at Cape Bendal, north of Kake [Alaska] size 45 to 50 lbs. per fish. They were then salted in large Hog’s head barrels and shipped to England...also hand packed. The Chinese and Native Alaskan Indians packed in half tins. The Finnish [?] fishermen were the people who made the wire mesh for the traps on the Webb Dock. Also, the nets for the traps, [were] for the spiller where the fish was brailed. The Finnish fisherman also fished Taku River for the Taku Cannery.”

### Inventory

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| 1-44    | Taku Harbor Cannery  |
| 45-68   | Pile drivers, fire suppression machinery.  |
| 69-74   | Taku Harbor Cannery fire, May 9 & 10, 1932.  |
| 75-100  | Fishing operations, salmon trap at Shelter Cove, President (boat), Excursion (boat), Willard B. (boat), Neptune (boat).  |
| 101-148 | Leif, Gilbert, Goodman, Uncle Charlie Manual, other unidentified men (fishermen?) and fishing activities.  |
| 149-165 | Scenic views of southeast Alaska communities (Wrangell, Mt. Edgecumbe), ships, postcard to Miss Tina(?) Johansen, scenic and miscellaneous views including a salmon fish trap at Chichagof Island. |
| 166-182 | Menus from <i>The Alaska Line, S.S. Northwestern</i> . Photographers: O.C. Shallerer, Ed Andrews, Fisher Studio, Ketchikan, H.W. Steward, Cordova.   |