Kennedy, Eugene Patrick, 1875–1961, Collector

Eugene Patrick Kennedy Collection, ca. 1912-1923

PCA 444

4 photograph albums
1 scrapbook

Processed by: Kay Shelton
December 2003
Revised: Dec. 2004

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated in 2003 by Tom Kennedy of Santa Cruz, CA. Acc. #2003-60.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied. Viewing the scrapbook is limited, since it is mildewed and brittle.

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

PROCESSING: Several albums were received with photographs missing. For copying and conservation purposes one album was unbound, but the pages were kept in original order. Photos were numbered, but not listed individually. The scrapbook was carefully wrapped and isolated. Volunteer Jim Geraghty of Juneau made the Nugget Creek identifications in the spring of 2004.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Patrick Eugene Kennedy was born on January 23, 1875 and died in 1961. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, he came to Alaska to work as a mining engineer and eventually settled in Juneau. He was assistant superintendent at the Treadwell Mine. In 1912, he married Teresa Keenan of San Francisco and they had two sons.

After laying the groundwork between 1912 and 1914, Kennedy and his partners in 1915 formed a corporation under the laws of California named the “Speel River Project.” Its purpose was to establish a power plant based on the “Norwegian plan” for electro-chemical factories. (Alaska Daily Empire, May 5, 1915). They planned to explore the possibility of chemical extraction in that region.

Subsequently, Kennedy helped organize the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company in 1920 at Speel River. According to the Douglas Island News (2/4/1921), “The first wood pulp manufactured in Alaska was made at Speel River by the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company on January 24. The shipment is to be forwarded to California for trial in the paper mills.” The product of the plant was sheets of pulp, described as resembling “…blotting paper that has become dampened.” After a promising beginning, low prices made the plant not viable. It seems to have closed after a year of operation. However, the company itself, after several attempts at revitalization, was not liquidated until 1950.

Kennedy was commuting between San Francisco and Juneau in the early 1920s, but returned to San Francisco for good after the plant closed. His brother, T. F. Kennedy, was president of the First National Bank in Treadwell [?]. His sister Veronica was married to Robert A. Kinzie, general superintendent of the Treadwell, Alaska Mexican Gold Mining Co., Alaska United Gold Mining Company, and the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company from 1905-1914. The Library’s Collections of the Kinzie Papers and Photographs contain references to Speel River (MS 21 and PCA 13).


“In March of 1920 the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company applied for the purchase of 100 million feet of timber from the Port Snettisham and Glass Peninsula areas for the manufacture of pulp at Speel River, Alaska (S-SALES, Tongass, Alaska Pulp and Paper Company, June 1, 1920). The Forest Service subsequently advertised a sale of this amount calling for bids at not less than $1.00 per MBF for Sitka spruce, western red cedar and Alaska cedar and 50 cents per MBF for western hemlock and other species. The applicant (and sole bidder) bid the advertised rate and the timber sale contract was approved December 8, 1920.

“The Alaska Pulp and Paper Company built a small mill on the Speel River, near Juneau, and shipped 100 tons of pulp to Seattle in April of 1921 via the steamer, City of Seattle, at a rate of $5.00 per ton of ‘wet’ pulp. Shortly thereafter, company officials announced closure of the mill claiming that the low price of pulp $35.00 a ton, coupled
with freight charges that totaled $12.40 on every dry ton landed at Seattle made it impossible to operate at a profit.

“Records indicate the plant finally closed on November 15, 1923. The agreement with the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company was formally cancelled August 22, 1925. During the Company’s period of operation an estimated 300 tons of pulp were produced from logs purchased principally from independent operators. Actually only 69,890 board feet of spruce sawtimmer was cut by the pulp company under their sale contract—this in early 1921.

“The failure of this operation was apparently due to pulp market competition and lack of finances to construct a plant of greater size or one that could produce paper or dry pulp. Shipping baled wet pulp with from 55 to 60 percent water content in the quantities produced simply didn’t pay.”

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection is comprised of four photograph albums (two partial) and one scrapbook, plus a one page handwritten document and one advertisement printed on pulp, mostly related to the Speel River Project and/or the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company. Localities depicted include Long Lake, Long Creek, Crater Lake, Crater Creek, Speel River, Second River, Tease Creek. Album 3 includes images of Treadwell and the building of a flume and pipeline at Nugget Creek. Photos are ca. 1912-1923.

INVENTORY

TWO BOXES:
Box 1: Albums 2, 3, 4
Box 2: Album 1 and the Scrapbook

Photograph Albums

Album 1: Postcard-size black and white photographs bound together in an album. All are of the Speel River and vicinity, both of the mill and the surrounding country. No date given, but assumed to be 1920-1921.

Images #1-#87

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description written on verso of image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Looking south down Speel River from cliffs north of A P &amp; P Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Looking north up Speel River from cliffs north of A P &amp; P Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Looking east across Speel River from Crater Creek side of A P &amp; P Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Looking west across Speel River from cliffs north of A P &amp; P Co. to Crater Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>same as former</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Looking west across Speel River from Dock of A P &amp; P Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA444.pdf
7 A P & P Co. from Crater side 
8 Looking up thru Speel River dam site 
9 Speel River below dam site as it falls thru rock gorge 
10 A P & P Co. dock from [above?] 
11 Cliffs north of A P & P Co. 
12 [no caption] 
13 Looking N.E. up Speel River from point near Crater Creek 
14 Long Lake 
15 Looking east from Mt. above Crater Lake 
16 Second Lake 
17 Crossing on Second Lake on way to Long Lake gage 
18 Crossing on Second Lake on way to Long Lake gage; Long Lake dam site on skyline 
19 Long Lake to right; Speel River flats to left foreground 
20 Long Lake with ice in lake 
21 Long Creek above crossing 
22 Long Creek below crossing 
23 Long Creek at crossing 
24 Crater Lake 
25 Looking up Crater Lake 
26 Looking thru Crater Lake gorge or dam site to A P & P Co.'s location 
27 same as former 
28 same as former 
29 same as former 
30 Crater Lake gauging station 
31 Crater Lake 
32 Looking thru outlet or dam site of Crater Lake to Tease Lake from mountains at west end of Crater Lake 
33 Looking east from flats at west end of Crater Lake 
34 Looking west from flats at west end of Crater Lake flats 
35 Looking northwest from head of Crater Lake 
36 Long Lake gage station 
37 Crater Lake outlet 
38 Crater Lake outlet 
39 Speel River cottages 
40 Tease Creek near beach 
41 Tease Creek Falls 
42 Mallard Cove pass to Slocum Inlet 
43 Sawyer Glacier, Endicott Arm 
44 Sawyer Glacier 
45 Minerva Lake, south of Tease Lake 
46 Minerva Lake 
47 Minerva Lake 
48-55 [no caption] 
56 Tease Creek Falls 
57-66 [no caption] 
67 Tease Creek
68 Teas Creek
69-73 [no caption]
74 Teas Creek
75-86 [no caption]
87 [Far left unknown, then L to R: Frances, Nancy Ann, and Peggy Lass, per daughter of Frances Lass]

**Album 2:** Partial album with photographs of Speel River area. The first image on the first page is a portrait (PCA 444-88), presumed to be that of Eugene Patrick Kennedy.

**Images #88-#113**

89 Electro Speel River, Match 1913 [sic] [near Port Snettisham]
97 Tease Lake Nov., 7, 1913
98 [Tease Lake?] Nov., 7, 1913
112 Verso: S. S. Baranoff - Mary C. Allen [photographer]
113 Verso: S. S. Aleutian - Mary C. Allen [photographer]

**Album 3:** Partial album, depicting the laying of a pipeline and flume. Includes images of construction of Nugget Creek flume near Mendenhall Glacier, Treadwell, and family images including Mrs. Lass and Patrick Eugene Kennedy, but others not identified. PCA 444-174 is a clipping of the engagement of Eugene P. Kennedy to Miss Theresa Keenan of San Francisco.

**Images #114-#179**

[notes on images 114 – 144 by Jim Geraghty of Juneau, 1/8/2004]

114 [unknown location: compressor to run underground; air tools – talus scree in background. NOT Nugget Creek]
115 [Hydro dam construction site: Mendenhall Glacier (center) has temporarily dammed Nugget Creek; water is now dropping but notice trestle has floated and is laying on its side]
116 [Pipeline exits tunnel from dam. Photo taken from end of waste rock dump at Nugget Creek]
117 [Wooden stave flume; end of Thunder Mountain at top left]
118 [Local materials: temporary construction trestle]
119 [Leak at top of 200’ ride; near junction of wooden stave and riveted iron flumes]
120 [Leak at top of 200’ rise showing entire rise with Mendenhall Glacier at left]
121 [Temporary untreated wooden trestle]
122 [Upper flume area with rail cart loaded with lumber; four men on right and one man on left. Bullard Mountain at upper right, Mendenhall Glacier at upper left.]
123 [Temporary, untreated wood trestle being constructed with Mendenhall River in background]
124 [Same as above, with rail cart and materials; skid chute]
125 [Same as PCA 444-123]
126 [Same as PCA 444-117]
127 [Constructing wood stave flume; clear photo of crew]
128 [Similar to PCA 444-127, but photographer is further away; Mount Bullard in background]
129 [Nugget Valley very flooded by Mendenhall Glacier ice dam; see also PCA 444-134]
130 [Unidentified; perhaps looking up Nugget Valley]
131 [Hoisting riveted iron section up 200’ rise. [As of January 2004, this standing cable is still in place.]
132 [Same as above]
133 [Junction in iron flume at base of 200’ rise. Wooden trestle was replaces with permanent iron later.]
134 [Nugget Valley after Mendenhall ice dam broke; see 444-129]
135 [Mendenhall Falls]
136 [Shoring timbers at tunnel portal. Clear photo of E. P. Kennedy and crew.]
137 [Crossing creek on cable chair (Nugget Creek?)]
138 [Top of present Nugget Falls looking into Nugget Valley]
139a [Unidentified dog]
139b [Cutting through ledge for pipeline route]
140 [Workmen next to Mendenhall Glacier; McGinnis and Stroller White mountains in background]
141 [Nugget Creek Hydro Portal Camp]
142 [Permanent Bunkhouse at Nugget Creek power plant. Stroller White Mountain above peak of roof.]
143 [Same as 444-141]
144 [Same as 444-118]


**Images #180 –#285**

183 Crater Lake, Long Lake, Cove, Cottages; July 7, 1920 [Tease Lake pulp mill & pipe construction]
190 [Tease Lake] (similar to #178)
Items #286-288 were received separately but are housed with Album 4

286  Snapshot of Kennedy Family in 1915: Couple with two small boys

287  Advertisement for Alaska Pulp and Paper Company, printed on wood pulp (9” x 3 ¾”), lists product prices

288  “Alaska Pulp & Paper Co.” handwritten legal-size page giving a brief history of the organization and liquidation of shares in the company. Presumably by E. P. Kennedy, stating the amount that he lost in this venture.

Scrapbook
Clippings dated 1915 – 1921: Contents relate to mines in Juneau and the Juneau Gold Belt, the Speel River Power Project, the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company, and general articles on the establishment of electro-chemical industries, pulp and paper industries, and water power development. (WARNING: this scrapbook is very fragile and mildewed. Use with caution.)