

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Advincula, Gaspar

Gaspar Advincula Photograph Collection, ca. 1937

PCA 513

19 black and white negatives
2 cardboard booklets

Processed by: Gayle Goedde
January 2010

ACQUISITION: The collection was discovered in the attic of an old Juneau house being renovated by Bruce Tenney at 269 Gastineau. Tenny donated copies of the negatives to the library, along with a 1899 Juneau ferry schedule (Accession number 2000-30). Later, Tenny also donated a Northern Light Presbyterian Church booklet (Accession number 2001-16).

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: The booklets, which had evidence of mold, were sealed in Mylar. The negative were digitized and housed in cold storage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

From Juneau Empire article, "Worth a thousand words," dated March 11, 2001, by Ann Chandonnet.

Gaspar Advincula was an ore sorter at the Alaska Juneau gold mine in the 1930s. He and Vincent Isturis, Sr. snapped portraits of themselves and their friends, posed in the Sunday best. The photographs, developed by Winter & Pond, were mailed home to relatives in the Philippines. The photographs languished in a suitcase in the attic of a home and were discovered by carpenter Bruce Tenney when he did renovations to the house. Rudy Govina, who moved to Juneau in 1937, was able to identify some of the people in the photographs. He said they were miners from "Little Manilla" who followed a trail leading from downtown to the A-J mine.

Vincent Isturis was born in the Philippines in 1908, came to Alaska in 1925, moved to Juneau in 1929, and worked for the A-J until it closed. Virginia Johns, oldest of Vincent Isturis Sr.'s seven children, said Vincent then worked for canneries around Southeast and then became a custodian for state office buildings downtown. He died at age 79 and has 31 immediate descendants.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Also from the March 11, 2001, Juneau Empire article by Ann Chandonnet

Filipinos first ventured to Southeast Alaska in the summer to work in fish canneries, said mining historian David Stone. But when the A-J mine opened in 1917, some switched jobs, and by the 1930s about 60 Filipino men were employed. "And they worked until the mine shut down in 1944," he said. The U.S. Census of 1930 counted Chinese in Juneau, but not Filipinos. Nevertheless, Filipino workers were prized for their reliability and industriousness, Stone said, and most ore sorters were Filipino. "Sorting belts carried rock from the mine. The workers took the gold-bearing rock and pulled it off the belts. The other rock went into the dumps," Stone said.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

All of the portrait-style photographs are of Filipino men from Juneau, Alaska, in formal dress.

INVENTORY

Folder 1, copies of black and white negatives

- 1 [Marcelo Quinto, Sr.]
- 2 [Unknown man]
- 3 [Frank Belarde]
- 4 [Unknown man]
- 5 [Unknown man]
- 6 [Unknown man, holding a small child]
- 7 [Two unknown men, sitting on a rock in front of the Mendenhall Glacier]
- 8 [Unknown man, sitting on a rock in front of the Mendenhall Glacier]
- 9 [Standing, left to right: Frank Belarde and Joe Alimarong; sitting: Joe Fulgencio]
- 10 [Standing, left to right: Joe Alimarong, unknown man, and Buddy Gomez; kneeling, left to right: Joe Fulgencio, unknown man, and Frank Sison]
- 11 [Standing, left to right: unknown man and Joe Fulgencio; sitting: unknown man]
- 12 [Standing, left to right: unknown man and Joe Fulgencio]
- 13 [Standing, left to right: unknown man and Joe Fulgencio]
- 14 [Two unknown men, leaning on a piling; houses in the background]
- 15 [Three men, Frank Ramos, Sr. at center]
- 16 [Two unknown men]
- 17 [Frank Ramos, Sr.]
- 18 [Unknown man]

19 [Unknown man]

Folder 2, booklets

- 1 Northern Light Presbyterian Church booklet of prayer meeting topics, 1898.
- 2 Juneau Ferry & Navigation Co. schedule for the steamships *Flossie* and *Lone Fisherman*.

INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

1 Box

1 - 8: 2 ½ X 4 ½ black & white negatives

9 - 13: 3 ½ X 5 ½ black & white negatives

14 - 19: 2 ¼ X 3 ¼ black & white negatives