Thorpe, Willis

Letter from Willis Thorp to F. P. Kendall, Seattle, 1896 June 17

MS 4-6-9

1 item

Processed By: Gladi Kulp
April 2002
Revised: 4/19/2002.gk;
5/26/11 jas

ACQUISITION: The collection was a gift to the Alaska State Museum, Juneau, from Betty and Jim Walsh, Seattle WA. It was transferred to the Alaska Historical Collections in March 2002 (Accession no. 2002-31).

ACCESS: The manuscript is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: The letter is housed in mylar.
Biographical Note

Willis Thorp was from a cattle-raising family. As a young boy he helped drive a herd from Oregon to the Yakima Valley area of Washington Territory. In 1886 he moved to Juneau and opened a butcher shop. He built a slaughterhouse on the southern outskirts of town and began shipping cattle “on the hoof.”

Thorp eventually became a newspaper owner. He leased, then purchased a small-lode gold mine and stamp mill on Gold Creek. He founded the Alaska Electric Light and Power Co., which is still in business. He began by purchasing surplus electricity from a mining company, then later he installed his own production plant.

Thorp completed several cattle drives over the Chilkat Pass to the Yukon to feed the Klondike gold miners. In 1897 he retired to a real estate business in Seattle.


Scope and Contents Note

Thorp wrote the letter in 1896 to F.P. Kendall, Seattle. Letterhead is Pacfici Meat Market and lists J. Kill as proprietor.