

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Sanders, Irville Kenneth**

**Irville Kenneth Sanders Papers, 1924-1925**

**MS 288**

2 folders  
30 photo prints, composition notebook,  
articles, and handwritten pages

Processed by: Jim Simard and  
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Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Dec 2016

**ACQUISITION:** The collection was donated by Katherine Sanders, the daughter of Irville Kenneth Sanders. Accession #2015-010.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

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

**PROCESSING:** The photographs were placed in Mylar. The collection was placed in archival folders. It was processed at the item level.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Irville Kenneth (Kenny) Sanders graduated high school in 1924 and went to work for US Steel in San Francisco. He started as "hall boy," earning \$14 a week, and progressed to "mail clerk" in 1925. Each day, he and a buddy commuted on the Key System Ferry across the bay from Oakland to San Francisco. In April of 1925, while on the ferry, they both saw the first of the Alaska Packers Star Fleet and decided to sign on with the fleet despite their mothers' objection. Both mothers were widows and wanted their boys at home, but various family members persuaded the mothers to let the boys go.

Three days later, the boys sailed on the *Star of Falkland*, boarding the ship at the lower end of California Street in San Francisco. Their salary was \$50 per month. They sailed to Alaska and worked in the cannery for the summer. They returned home 3 months and 27 days later. Upon returning, Kenny worked in Oakland for four years at the Lincoln Car Agency. He then worked four years with the Automatic Canteen Co. of America, still in Oakland. In October 1937 he began working for Shields Harper & Co. He remained with them until his retirement in 1970. He was married in 1941.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The contents of this collection include a personal diary recording a ship voyage to Alaska and time spent at Clarks Cannery, plus additional handwritten narratives of the experience. There is also a letter he wrote to his mother on July 14, 1925 while at the cannery, as well as photos of the cannery and surrounding area. Some of the photographs have captions on the back.

## SUBJECTS

Clarks Cannery Nushagak, Alaska  
Alaska Packers' Association  
Star Fleet, *Star of Falklands*

## INVENTORY

### Folder 1

Ken's Alaskan Pictures (30), mostly sailors & boats

1. Dozier on the forcastle [forecastle] head [3 copies]
2. *Star of India* in Bearing [Bering] Sea with Top sales reefed [reefed]. Sanders 1925
3. Old Tug boat of Zane Gray fame, [*Polar Bear*]
4. Kenneth Sanders @ age 20 on the forcastle [forecastle] head. [2 copies]

5. [Two men leaning on a boat hull.]
6. This might be I Ken Sanders (definitely – capt) and his friend [Julian?] Dozier.
7. I Ken Sanders on left [2 men in doorway, one with foot on can of Arctic Cup Grease.]
8. *Star of Faulkland* [*Falkland*] under [sail] as [seen] from royal yard arm.
9. Bunk house at cannery.
10. [Two men seated in a wheelbarrow.]
11. Bow of *Star of Faulkland* [*Falkland*] at tow in Nushagak River
12. Loading fish from [barge] to cars on dock to haul into cannery.
13. Old abandoned native hut.
14. [Line of men in front of cannery bunk house.]
15. [Man smoking and reading in bunk.]
16. *Star of Faulkland* [*Falkland*] at anchor in Nushagak River. [4 men seated at end of pier.]
17. Captains Quarters.
18. [Image of sea and mountain?]
19. [View of bilding [building] on rounded curve of land.]
20. Fish dock at low tide.
21. View of cannery from top of water tank. River at low tide. *Star of Faulkland* [*Falkland*] & fishing boats in the stream.
22. Sled dog.
23. Russian Orthodox cemetary [cemetery] on Nushagak River.
24. Tip of Alaskan mainland at Unamak Pass.
25. Barge load of Alaskan Red Salmon – a one day catch.
26. [Man standing in doorway of barn like building.]
27. Alaskan Eskimo Huts.

## Folder 2

1. Oak Brand Composition notebook: Kenneth Sanders, May 2, 1925 to July 30, 1925; Life at sea journal.
2. Oakland Tribune, Sunday, March 9, 1969; Knave; "Pioneer Oakland Was Buoyant Spot".
3. Photocopied page from *The Last of America's Square-Riggers*, Wreck of the "Star of Falkland" [hand-written note: "Ken Sanders was aboard"].
4. Photocopy page with images of ships: *Llewellyn J. Morse & E. R. Sterling*
5. Letter to Mother from Kenny, Clarks Cannery, Nushagak, Alaska, July 14, 1925 (2 pages)
6. Hand-written journal pages starting June 1924 (7 pages)
7. Hand-written manuscript (14 pages)

**INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES**  
Negatives stored in freezer in vault

**1 Box** - #2, 3, 5-27