Juneau - Douglas Dairy and Farming Families (Dairy farmers)

PCA 328

~143 photographs

Processed by: Staff
Revised by: Staff
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, Aug. 2017

ACQUISITION: In 1989, Willette Janes, local historian, compiled a survey of Juneau's dairy farming for the City and Borough of Juneau. She met with relatives of the family members and coordinated the copying of photographs from personal albums. In 1991, the photographs were donated to the Alaska Historical Library. Other photos were donated by the Kendler family. Acc. Nos. 1991-17, 1991-39.

ACCESS: The photos may be viewed. However they may not be photocopied.

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

PROCESSING: The collection is arranged by family. Photographs are sleeved in Mylar. An item-level inventory is available which includes biographical background for each family.
HISTORICAL NOTE

More than a dozen dairies served the Juneau area from 1869-1965. Some of the families came north from the lower 48 states while others immigrated from Europe, lured by the promise of free land or hopes of finding gold. Only a few came with the intention of starting a dairy. With the advent of air service into southeast Alaska in the early 1940s, dairying began to lose profitability. The rising cost of feed and surface transportation furthered losses and by 1965 the last of the dairies closed. [From: Draft Report Of The Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey, by Willette Janes, 1991. For additional information see Kendlers': The Story Of A Pioneer Alaska Juneau Dairy, by Mathilde Kendler.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection represents 5 of the more than a dozen families who ran dairy farms in Juneau from the 1890s until the 1950s: Kendler (Alaska Dairy), Danner (Mendenhall Dairy), Pederson (Pederson Dairy), Smith (Juneau Dairy), Hendrickson (Sunny Point Dairy). The collection includes an additional pioneer family, the Browns of Treadwell/Douglas who immigrated from Scotland. Photo captions were taken directly from the albums or provided by Willette Janes or surviving relatives. A biographical sketch of each family is included. The photos depict the families, their farms, the dairy operations and scenics. Other Juneau dairy collections include PCA 150, the Curtis Sherwood collection.

INVENTORY

Folder 1

The Danner Family-The Mendenhall Dairy

George Danner, Sr. and his wife, Rosa Maier Danner came to Juneau from Germany in the early 1900s. In 1914, upon the birth of George Jr., the couple rented acerage from Tom Knudson, who had a 160 acre homestead on the Mendenhall Flats. Knudson's Mendenhall property was in the vicinity of the airport and was later purchased by Joe Kendler of the Alaska Dairy. George Sr. cultivated a herd of cows and ran the city milk deliveries. By 1922, the Danner family homesteaded 130 acres near the Glacier Highway and built a small barn, milk house and family home and were later joined by Rosa's brothers, Frank and William Maier. Eventually, the Danner family built a large barn that included an automatic watering system and sterilization rooms. In 1944, the Danner family moved to Chula Vista, California, where Mrs. Danner became ill and died in 1952. George Jr. returned to Alaska in 1945 and became plant manager of the Juneau Dairies, Inc. In 1950, the Danner's sold the dairy operation to Maynard Peterson and George Danner Jr. purchased the family home at Norway Point where he lives today (1992). The photographs listed are from the personal albums of George Danner Jr.

1-1 [Juneau Dairies delivery truck, ca. 1934.]
1-2  [Mendenhall Dairy, ca. 1934.]
1-3  [Interior of Mendenhall Dairy, ca. 1934.]
1-4  [Mendenhall Dairy, ca. 1934.]
1-5  [Juneau Dairies, Inc. processing plant, 12th and Glacier Ave.]
1-6  [George and Rosa Danner.]
1-7  [George and Rosa Danner, Mendenhall Dairy, Juneau, ca. 1910.]
1-8  [Juneau Dairies, Inc., ca. 1934.]
1-9  [Juneau Dairy tractor, Godkin on tractor.]
1-10 [Mendenhall Dairy barn.]
1-11 [Sta. 83 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska ca. 1930s.]
1-12 [Residence of George Danner, Juneau, Alaska, ca. 1930s.]
1-13 [Glacier Highway and Salmon Creek, ca. 1930s.]
1-14 [L.R. Morris residence, Juneau, ca. 1930's on Glacier Highway.]
1-15 [Juneau Dairy, ca. 1930s.]
1-16 [New Mendenhall Dairy, Juneau, Alaska, ca. 1930s.]
1-17 Alaska Dairy – Kendlers [Mile 10 Jordan Creek, Juneau, Alaska, ca. 1930s.]
1-18 Alaska Dairy – Kendlers [Sta. 432 Showing New Bridge over Jordan Creek, Juneau, Alaska, ca. 1930s.]
1-20 [Pederson's Dairy, ca. 1930's, Juneau, Alaska.]
1-21 [Same as 1-20.]
1-22 [Pederson's Dairy, Juneau, Alaska.]
1-23 No. 6062- Initial point, Glacier Highway. [View of Glacier Highway, looking North.]
1-24 [Mendenhall Dairy, Juneau, Alaska, ca. 1930s.]

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA328.pdf
Folder 2

Hendrickson Family-The Sunny Point Dairy

In 1879, Henry Hendrickson immigrated from Finland to Astoria, Oregon, where he met and married Marie Hannila in 1888. The couple went to Rocklin, California, where Henry worked in nearby marble quarries. In 1894, Henry had moved to Juneau and was working for the Perseverance Mine and operating the "Rocklin House", a boarding house located on the site of the Baranof Hotel (1992). The Hendrickson's had four children: Arnot, Waino, Helen and Hilda. (Waino later became mayor of Juneau and held several appointed positions in Territorial government, including acting Territorial Governor.) In 1914, they sold the Rocklin House and homesteaded a remote 80-acre parcel on the northern section of Douglas Island. Due to a lack of roads, Arnot, Waino and Helen stayed in Juneau to attend school while Hilda was self educated on the homestead. In 1924, Hilda moved to Juneau when she married Henry Hanna who died suddenly in 1928, leaving her with three young children (Marie, George and Gene). In 1929, Hilda's family joined the Hendrickson's at their newly obtained 10-acre homesite on Sunny Point. Although the Hendrickson's kept the Douglas Island homestead for haying and hunting, it was not occupied year-round. However, Gene Hanna currently lives on the original North Douglas homesite. The Sunny Point Property was leased and eventually subdivided into residential lots. The original Sunny Point home is now owned by Jim and Mary Lou King (1992). These photographs are from the albums of Marie Hanna Darlin daughter of Hilda).

2-1 [Helen Hendrickson (Heinke), Mrs. Marie Hendrickson, Hilda Hendrickson (Hanna), ca. 1912.]

2-2 [Marie Hannila, Henry Hendrickson. Astoria, Oregon, Nov. 29, 1898.]

2-3 [Marie and Henry Hendrickson, Arnot and Waino.]

2-4 [Rocklin House, Juneau. Faced 1st and the Elk's Hall and Franklin Street, arrow is Henry Hendrickson.]

2-5 [Mrs. Hendrickson, Juneau, Alaska.]

2-6 [Henry Hanna's "Bug" on Douglas Island, after being driven across the bar from Sunny Point to the homestead. Hilda Hendrickson sits in the vehicle in front of the Douglas Island Barn, ca. 1922-23.]

2-7 [Hanna and Crosby's (neighbors) on "Dickie". George Hanna, Virgil Crosby, Beulah Crosby, Norma Crosby, Marie Hanna, Gene Hanna.]

2-8 [Hay Wagon used between Sunny Point and Douglas Island Hay fields. Right to left: Marie Hanna, Doreen Heinke, Gene Hanna.]

2-9 [Hendrickson home, 1914-24]
2-10  [Hendrickson farm on North Douglas Highway, 1924.]

2-11  Hendrickson Home [Barn] Douglas Island, 1924. [Hendrickson farm and Homestead, 5 ½ mile North Douglas Highway. The first house was built in 1914.]

2-12  [Hendrickson farm on Douglas Island. Second house was built after the fire. The house was still standing in 1951.]

2-13  [Sunny Point. Hendrickson-Hanna home. Mink pen in back.]

2-14  [Waino Hendrickson hauling hay at Hendrickson's Homestead, North Douglas, Alaska (owners of Sunny Point Dairy).]

2-15  [Hendrickson's Homestead, Douglas Island, Alaska (owners of Sunny Point Dairy).]

Folder 3

Kendler family-Alaska Dairy

Joe Kendler came to Juneau in 1917 and purchased the Douglas Dairy from Lee Smith. By 1921, Kendler met his wife while returning from his native Austria. Mathilde Sauermann of Wienheim, Germany, married Kendler in 1922. Kendler purchased the Alaska Dairy in 1923 from Thomas Knutson. The dairy consisted of 300 acres of land about nine miles from Juneau. Kendler moved his Douglas herd of cows to the Mendenhall Valley and kept the Douglas Dairy in operation until 1936. In 1934, an emergency landing field was built near the Alaska Dairy and by 1936, Pan American Airlines bought 20 acres to build the Juneau airport. The Alaska Dairy began to wind down by 1942 when the Army temporarily moved onto the Kendler homestead for security reasons. In 1951, the couple supplemented their retirement by selling potatoes and eggs and through the years, sold or subdivided their property which now houses Lyle's Hardware and the Airport Shopping Center (1992). Joe and Mathilde moved to Martha Lake, Washington, in 1965 where Joe died at the age of 80 in 1967. The Kendler's two children: Joe and Mildred Kendler Steen, do not live in Alaska, however, several grandchildren are currently living in the Juneau area (1992). Prior to her death in 1988, Mathilde authored a history of the Alaska Dairy in her 1983 publication, KENDLERS': THE STORY OF A PIONEER ALASKA JUNEAU DAIRY. The photographs in this series came from Jack Mills of Douglas, Alaska, and Mildred Kendler Steen of Seattle, Washington.

3-1  [Douglas, Alaska. 1915 Catholic School children.]

3-2  [Alaska Dairy trucks, Kendler Family.]

3-3  [Joe Kendler in Douglas, ca. 1919.]

3-4  [Old Douglas Dairy Building, former Mission School House) Joe Kendler acquired from Lee Smith in 1918, ca. 1919.]
3-5  [Douglas Dairy Herd, ca. 1918-19.]

3-6  [Joe Kendler on "Prince", ca. 1920, Douglas.]

3-7  [Joe Kendler, Douglas Dairy, ca. 1918-1919.]

3-8  [Alaska Dairy dodge truck.]

3-9  [Kendler family, ca. 1930-31. Left to right Mildred, Mathilde, Joe, Joe Jr..]

3-10 [Retired from dairy into egg and potato business, ca. 1950.]

3-11 [After addition, big storm moved section off foundation, ca. 1931-32, addition
     made around 1925-26. New addition, cement floor and walls.]

3-12 [Left Andrew Delgard; right, Peter Delgard, children: Mildred and Joe Kendler.]

3-13 [Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kendler inside dairy, next to skinned chickens.]

3-14 [25th Wedding Anniversary, left to right: Joe Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Kendler, Mildred
     Kendler Steen.]

3-15 [Mathilde and Joe Kendler.]

3-16 [Joe Kendler and Gene Weschenfelder, ca. 1945-48.]

3-17 Alaska Dairy 35100. Ordway photo, Juneau.

3-18 [Joe Kendler, ca. 1954.]

3-19 [Cows standing in a corral, snow in foreground.]

3-20 [Interior view of Frigidaire holding bottles full of milk.]

3-21 [4th of July parade, Alaska Dairy, ca. 1931-32.]

3-22 [Joe Kendler on right. Hayfield became potato patch-area gas station.]

3-23 [Joe Jr. on hay wagon. ca. 1943]

3-24 [Group of people standing around a full hay wagon, Alaska Dairy.]

3-25 [Truck loaded with hay with three men posing in a hay field.]

3-26 [Joe Kendler? riding a buggy with two horses in foreground, Alaska Dairy roof
     in distance.]
3-27 [Joe Kendler seated on a wagon, Mendenhall Valley.]

3-28 [Potato crop.]
3-30

3-31 [Color photo of a man on a tractor in winter, ca. 1940s.]

3-32 [Footbridge across Jordan Creek.]

3-33 [Group of workers standing next to a snow removal machine, in waist deep snow.]

3-34 Dad shoveling snow. [Joe Kendler? shovelling snow from a roof.]

3-35 [Old Home, Kendler's Alaska Dairy homesite.]

3-36 [New Home, Kendler's Alaska Dairy, ca, 1936.]

3-37 [New Kendler home built 1936. Approximately where Lyle's Hardware is located today (1991).]

3-38 Our home in the country [New Kendler house, built 1936.]

3-39 [New Kendler home, built 1936. small house comb. slaughter house & garage]

3-40 [Truck and car parked outside Kendler home, ca. 1936, winter view.]

Folder 4

Pederson Family-The Pederson Dairy

Albert Pederson came to Juneau in the late 1890s from Bodo, Norway, with the intention of starting a dairy. In 1902, he sent for his wife, Jensine Danielsen Pederson and their son, William. Albert worked as a longshoreman and caretaker of the Evergreen Cemetery until 1910. In 1907, Albert and Jensine established a 160-acre homestead about ten miles from Juneau on the northwest side of the Mendenhall River. The family moved to the valley in 1910 and built their first home which was a cabin with a sod floor. Aside from dairy farming, the Pederson's sold fresh vegetables to the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company. Mrs. Pederson realized the need for a school and was instrumental in creating the first Mendenhall school house, which operated until 1918. In the summer, the Pederson Dairy cows grazed along the tide flats and hay was cut and stored for winter use. Mrs. Pederson had a reputation for raising healthy animals and by 1934, the Pederson Dairy had 32 cows for milking and breeding. In 1929, Albert passed away at the age of 74 after a brief illness. Jensine and her son continued to run the dairy until 1940 when it was sold to Curtis and Gladys Sherwood. In 1935, William received a patent to 160 acres adjacent to the Peterson Dairy. In 1959, Jensine died at the Sitka Pioneer Home at the age
of 84. William Pederson married Emilia Silvertsen and had two daughters, Ellen and Koggie who currently reside in Juneau (1992). Koggie lives on a portion of the original Pederson dairy homestead. These photographs were copied from the albums of Mrs. Koggie Pederson File.

4-1  [Albert Pedersen Water Front Pass, 1918.]
4-2  [The Pederson's, William Jensine, Albert.]
4-3  [Jensine Pederson, Pederson Dairy.]
4-4  [William, Agnes, Koggie and Ellen Pederson.]
4-5  [Bill Pederson, Pederson Dairy, Juneau, Alaska.]
4-6  [Pederson Dairy.]
4-7  [Pederson's Dairy.]
4-8  [Pederson's Dairy, truck making hay.]
4-9  [Pederson home under construction.]
4-10 [Charles and Flora Rudy, Pederson's dairy.] [Rudys at Mendenhall Glacier, *per Jim Geraghty*]
4-11 [Pederson dairy.]
4-12 [Pederson's dairy.]
4-13 [Opening of bridge (Pederson's dairy).] [Numerous cars in yard after Mendenhall bridge first opens, *per Jim Geraghty*]
4-14 [Pederson home under construction, Pederson's dairy.]
4-15 [Pederson Dairies.]
4-16 [Pederson Family, farm house.]

**Folder 5**

**Smith Family-Juneau Dairy**

Leephonse Hober Smith was born in Fairfax, Virginia in 1888. His father, John Smith installed pasteurization equipment in the Washington D.C. dairies. By February of 1907, 19-year old Lee Smith worked his way from San Francisco to Juneau aboard a lumber schooner. By 1911, after
working for several Juneau gold mining companies, Smith and his partner James Bannigan, purchased property from Nicholas Wagner, which included the Chicken Ridge Dairy, several cows and a strip of land in the Evergreen Cemetery area. Although Smith and Bannigan dissolved their partnership after six months, William Altmiller joined Lee Smith in a partnership that would last almost nine years. In 1914, Altmiller's sister, Frances married Lee Smith and had six children: Lee Jr., Joe, Delores, Ted, Francis and Sid. In 1916, the Smiths homesteaded additional property on the Mendenhall flats area and continued to operate the downtown dairy until Lee Smith's death in 1949. Francis Smith died shortly before the family moved the dairy operation to the Mendenhall Valley in 1951. That same year, the town property was condemned in order to construct Harborview Elementary school. In 1965, the Alaska Dairy closed permanently and the valley property was zoned prime commercial land and the Smiths eventually sold some of their property to the Nugget Mall area developers (1970s). These photographs were copied from the albums of Francis Smith.

5-1 [Smith family portrait, Juneau Dairy, ca. 1930s.]


5-3 [Lee H. Smith, founder and partner of Juneau Dairy. From Fairfax County, Virginia, moved to Juneau in 1909. He worked in the Perseverance Mine for three years before taking over an existing dairy in 1911. Smith purchased the Juneau Dairy with Bill Altmiller and introduced modern features such as glass milk bottles. The dairy was sold to Joe Kendler in 1919.]

5-4 [Juneau partner, Bill Altmiller, came to Juneau from St. Louis, Missouri. Bill, brother of Francis Smith, wife of Lee H. Smith was partner from 1912 to 1923, when health problems forced him to seek drier climates.]

5-5 [Juneau Dairy tractor, Smith Brothers.]

5-6 [Juneau Dairy Products truck and Tony Kaiser holding milk bottles, ca. 1930s.] [Addition to information: Driver- Tony Kaiser-contracted to deliver milk for Juneau Dairies Inc. est. 1936]

5-7 [Lee Smith, Juneau Dairy, winter delivery.] [Addition to information: 1922 Juneau Dairy townsite winter milk delivery sleigh Don Skuse and “Brownie”]

5-8 [Smith Dairy home.] [Addition to information: Home in Mendenhall Valley-Juneau Dairy after 1936 Smith Dairy]

5-9 [Juneau Dairy cows, Mendenhall Valley, ca. 1917.]

5-10 [Lee Smith, house and dairy, Juneau Dairy, 12th and Glacier, ca. 1911.]

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA328.pdf
5-11  [Juneau dairy, 4th of July float.]

5-12  [Juneau Dairy, first barn; Lee Smith, owner, Mendenhall Valley.]

5-13  [Lee Smith, Juneau Dairy, first milk wagon, 1911.]

5-14  [Lee Smith dairy; Juneau, Alaska. Juneau Dairy winter barn and milk plant. Original owner of the barn prior to 1911. The barn was lengthened and remodeled. A concrete building constructed in 1913 housed the milk processing plant on the lower level and was a bunkhouse for employees on the upper level.]

5-15  [Juneau Dairy's original barn under construction in the Mendenhall Valley. The barn was lost under heavy snow in Dec. 1917, killing 24 of the 36 heifers that wintered there. The 1917-18 snowfall was a record 22 feet.]

5-16  [Lee Smith delivery cart, Juneau Dairy, Gastineau Avenue, ca. 1915.]

5-17  [Juneau Dairy, Lee Smith, Mendenhall Valley, ca. 1917. Winter and Pond photo.]

5-18  [Juneau Dairy, Lee Smith, Mendenhall Valley, ca. 1916.]

5-19  [Making hay in a field, using a tractor and truck; Smith Dairies.]

5-20  [Juneau Dairies, Inc. Juneau, Alaska; employees and delivery trucks lined up outside the Juneau Dairies building on 12th Street.]

5-21  [Smith's Dairy Farm truck unloading hay?] [Addition to information: Smith’s Dairy Farm-name changed from Juneau Dairy ca. 1936-so as not to confuse with Juneau Dairies Inc. (4 dairies incorporated in 1936)]

5-22  [Lee Smith, Juneau Dairy, Glacier Highway; two late model vehicles parked along side Glacier Highway.]

5-23  ["Smith's Dairy Farm" truck, loaded with lumber.]

5-24  [1915 Juneau Dairy Homeplace. Site of present (1991) Harborview School. The concrete building beside it was built in 1913. The home was originally built in 1911 and enlarged and remodeled in 1913.]

5-25  [1910 photo, Juneau Dairy summer ranch homestead in 1916. First barn built in 1916 was crushed by the deep snow of 1917-18. 22 ft., 4 ft was said to have packed the road. 24 of the 36 animals were killed. The animals that were saved were calves in pens.] Winter and Pond photo. [Addition to information: Roof of barn cave-in Dec. 31, 1917. Silo built in 1917-date on photo could not be 1910? (homestead records: see 1912.0002vf)]
5-26  [June 1915, Juneau Dairy Town Site. Lee H. and Francis Smith after marriage in St. Louis, Mo in April, 1915.]

5-27  [1916 Ranch Homestead, Mendenhall Valley. Ranch House under construction. Right to left: (Dad) Lee H. Smith, Uncle Emil Altmiller, 3 men unknown, Grandpa Matthew Altmiller.]

5-28  [Same as 4-2.]

5-29  [Summer 1917, View from road built 1916. Juneau Dairy Mendenhall Valley Homestead. This barn lost to heavy snow, Dec. 31, 1917, rebuilt 1918 white building milk house, shop and pump house and wood shed 200'x36' barn in background.]

5-30  [1917 Juneau Dairy. Lee H. Smith, 1915 Mack Truck on homestead, Mendenhall Valley.]

5-31  [1913 Juneau Dairy. Left to right: William L. Altmiller, Anna Altmiller, Matthew M. Altmiller (William's parents) on sailing sloop off Bishop Point near Taku River Inlet.]

5-32  [June 1920, Juneau Dairy Town Site. Left to right: Lee Smith, Mother Francis Smith, ages 3 1/2. Joseph Smith (age 2), baby Delores Smith age 6 mos.]

5-33  [1941; Tony Kaiser, owner of independent route and truck. Tony is seated inside a Juneau Dairy Products delivery truck.]

5-34  [1921 4th of July parade. Juneau Dairies Mack Truck in parade.]

5-35-  [Calendar Cards, 1936-1937; Juneau Dairy "Lee H. Smith" Milk, Cream and Ice Cream...]

5-40  

Folder 6

David and Agnes Sinclair Brown family

David Brown was travelling to the Klondike in 1898 from Orkney Stromness Scotland, but when he arrived in Douglas he decided to stay. He was foreman of the 300 mill in Treadwell, Alaska and lived in Treadwell with his wife, Agnes Sinclair, also from Scotland. Their children were Etta and Sinclair Brown. These photos are copied from Etta Brown's albums. Dave Brown is a current resident of Douglas (1991) and is the son of Sinclair Brown. Willette Janes, May, 1991, and Gastineau Heritage News, Oct. 2003, vol. 6, no. 3, p. 22.

6-1  [Interior view of the Southeast Alaska Empire newspaper, Juneau, Alaska, ca. 1930s.]
Folder 7

**Douglas Dairy, Al and Ethel Eggen.**

Mr. and Mrs. Al Eggen purchased Douglas Dairy from Joe Trudgeon in 1911 and owned it until September, 1917 when Lee Smoith and William Altmueller (Altmiller) purchased it.

7-1 Launch of Douglas Dairy [and] Mr. Eggen [scanned photo of boat carrying milk cans; Same as #5].

7-2 1920, A.M. (?) Hamilton, Ethel Eggen, Herbert Anderson at Larsen [Lawson] Creek, Douglas [scanned photo including 7 individuals].


7-4 Ethel Eggen [scanned photo].

7-5 Mr. Eggen, launch of Douglas Dairy [scanned photo of boat with milk cans, same as #1].


7-7 [Account receipts for The Douglas Dairy: Royal Grill (Chris Bailey), Frank Hassell, Emil Lootius, L.M Lindsay, R.H. Pratt. 9 pages, some duplicates]