George Family Collection, ca. 1890s-1960s

PCA 344

1 - 7" legal document box
1 - 5" legal document box
1 - 20"x16.5" flat box for oversize
1 - 5x7x2" box for glass plates
(1.2 linear feet)
4 - 20"x16.5" flat boxes for OS original negatives (freezer)

Processed: July 1993
By: Marilyn Kwock
Revised by: Jim Simard Aug. 2007

ACQUISITION: Approximately 775 photographs, negatives and some papers from George's Gift Shop, Juneau, were donated by Esther Babitzke of Olympia, Washington, in April 1992. Mrs. Babitzke is the niece of Joe George, former owner of the shop.

Two albums and 30 Winter & Pond negatives, 12"x20" were transferred from the Alaska State Museum (Acc. 2001-063).

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: The photographs were organized and indexed by community and subject. Manuscript materials and reproductions of Sydney Laurence paintings are located at the end of the collection. Most of the negatives are probably nitrate and were placed in refrigerated storage.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Michael George, a widower originally from Lebanon, Syria, brought his four children, Mamie, Tom, Joe and Gus, from Rhode Island to Douglas, Alaska, on May 12, 1912. He purchased half interest in George Meyers General Merchandising on Beach Road below St. Ann’s Avenue in Douglas and employed his children there as they grew up. Later he sold his interest in that business and opened his own general merchandising store. He also owned half interest in the Leader Dept. Store across the Channel in Juneau, in partnership with Alex Soucair. In 1921 sold his Douglas business and purchased Soucair’s interest in the Juneau department store to which he devoted his time. In 1923, Michael George and his second wife left Alaska and sold the department store to the three sons. With financial assistance from their father, they turned the business into George Brothers Exclusive Grocery Store, adding retail liquor sales in 1935. Gus sold his share to Tom and Joe during World War II, who continued with a liquor business at the George Brothers' Building in downtown Juneau.

In 1947, Tom and Joe George built the Salmon Creek Country Club, a popular dining and dancing location that was destroyed by fire 1949 with inadequate insurance to rebuild. Tom and Joe subdivided the downtown building and Joe and his wife, Thelma Turnblow George, opened George's Gift Shop and sold Alaskan products, photographs and souvenirs from 1949 until 1974. Joseph George served on the Juneau city council and as mayor from 1967 to 1969. He died in July 1975 at the age of 73.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Many images are those of the Winter and Pond Co., with some by Ed Andrews, Trevor Davis and others. The emphasis is primarily on the Juneau area and Southeast Alaska, including copies of very early views of Juneau. There are also a number of ship views and Alaskan governors’ portraits. Interior views of the gift shop and Joe and Thelma George are included in the section, “Juneau businesses” and “Personalities.”

Black and white and color photographs of Sydney Laurence paintings are grouped near the end of the collection, along with a drawing on plastic mat by Florence Melewothuk. The collection also includes some manuscript materials, newspaper clippings and correspondence of the George's, photograph captions, theater advertising, and publications.
**INVENTORY**

**Oversize (Located in PCA Oversize)**

PCA 344-117: Homes destroyed by the flood Juneau. “Flood Juneau 1918 where old Indian Hospital was, now being use Bureau Public Roads. Took people out of Hospital in riverboats. Joe George.”

PCA 344-399: Treadwell Mines; Douglas. Copyright Winter & Pond Co., Juneau Alaska. [3 ½ x 16 panorama]

**Box 1**

#1 - 590

**COMMUNITIES AND PLACES**

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http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA344.pdf
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PORTLAND
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http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA344.pdf
Box 2: Artwork 751-771

751 [Walruses by Florence Melewothuk; plastic mat (not a photograph).]

752-771B Photographs and reproductions of Sydney Laurence paintings

Box 2: Manuscript materials (paper) 772-821

772-775 Correspondence pertaining to the 50-star U.S. flag, George's Gift Shop envelope, George's novelty Christmas card

776-777 Winter & Pond Co. copyright cards

778-780 Newspaper clippings - George family biographies, advertisement

781-815 Typed photograph captions


817 Juneau history, 1 l.

818 Louvre Theatre advertisement handbill. 2 p., fragile

819 DeArmond, Robert N. Some names around Juneau, 1957. 48 p.


Box 3: Glass plate positives - Stored in Metal Cabinet in Vault

Positives correspond to PCA344-138 and PCA344-183

138 - Auk Lake and Mendenhall Glacier, W&P Co. ©

183 - Lights O' Juneau, Winter and Pond © (copy 2-6)

Box 4: (Miscellaneous) 822-861. Located in PCA Oversize-PCA 344

822 Mendenhall Glacier from Auk Lake

823 White Horse Rapids Y.T.

824 Ft. Seward & Haines Alaska

825 Mendenhall Glacier from Auk Lake
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<td>Five Finger Rapids</td>
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<tr>
<td>827</td>
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<tr>
<td>828</td>
<td>Taku Glacier</td>
</tr>
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<td>829</td>
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<td>830-840</td>
<td>[Sinking of Princess Kathleen]</td>
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<td>841</td>
<td>Windfall Lake, Juneau, Alaska [Tinted photograph]</td>
</tr>
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<td>842</td>
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<td>843</td>
<td>[View of lake. Tinted photograph]</td>
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<td>845</td>
<td>Ft. Seward &amp; Haines, Alaska [Aerial view]</td>
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<td>Twin Glacier Camp</td>
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<td>847</td>
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<td>848</td>
<td>Northern Mammoth (Elephas primigenius)</td>
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<tr>
<td>849</td>
<td>A few of the Soapy-Smith gang - who were shiped [shipped] out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850</td>
<td>Rounding up Soapy-Smith gang at City Hall, Skagway, Alaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>851</td>
<td>[View of Juneau from Douglas]</td>
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<tr>
<td>852</td>
<td>[Aerial view of Juneau]</td>
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<td>853</td>
<td>[Aerial view of Juneau]</td>
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<td>[Aerial view of Juneau and Douglas]</td>
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<td>855</td>
<td>Juneau, Alaska [Small panorama, 1909]</td>
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<tr>
<td>856</td>
<td>[View across lake. Tinted photograph]</td>
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<td>857</td>
<td>[View of lake, glacier. Tinted photograph]</td>
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<tr>
<td>858</td>
<td>[Car on bridge with glacier and mountains in background]</td>
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<tr>
<td>859</td>
<td>The &quot;Overland Flier&quot; Princess May Sentinel Is. Alaska Aug. 1910</td>
</tr>
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860  [Theater with people on stage, orchestra in pit]
861  Taku Glacier [tinted photograph]

Box 5: No Box 5

Box 6: Albums

Album 1: Photographs of the George Family, Gus George, the George Brothers Grocery, Officers of the Tahoe. Locations include Juneau environs, Mendenhall Glacier. (Acc. 2001-063)


Box 7: 12” x 20” prints from original nitrate negs in freezer. Located in PCA Oversize-PCA 344

2. #2 J.W.L. 9-5-31 [Mining buildings in Last Chance Basin]
3. Juneau, Alaska [Downtown waterfront]
4. #1. J.W.L. 9-5-31 [Mining buildings in Last Chance Basin]
5. Lights of Juneau [wide shot of Juneau/AJ mine from Douglas at night – cropped for printing smaller images]
6. Lights of Juneau
7. [Juneau – waterfront, similar to 3, badly damaged neg.]
8. [Governor’s mansion] from damaged neg, similar to # 15, neg in box 1.
10. Auk Lake and Mendenhall Glacier [Auke Lake and Mendenhall Glacier, Mendenhall Towers]
11. Juneau, Alaska 1930 [shot of downtown Juneau with numbered buildings, list included naming buildings on bottom of negative]
12. Tulsuqueh mountains- Taku River [Shot of Taku River, forest, mountains in background]

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA344.pdf
13. Yachtsmen and Reception Committee- Capital to Capital Race     Juneau, Alaska July 4th 1928 [men standing on the docks with trophy, same as #5 ]

14. [Group of people standing on docks with trophy – similar to 13]

15. [Governor’s Mansion]

16. 3. Juneau, Alaska  1922

17. Juneau, Alaska 1930 [ similar to # 1]

18. Juneau and Gastineau channel [from Mt. Juneau; antenna in image]

19. 2. Juneau, Douglas & Treadwell on Gastineau Channel [Cope Park as undrained lake. Excellent view of Juneau]

20. 4. Douglas, Treadwell & Thane on Gastineau Channel, Alaska

21. 18. Juneau, Alaska [vessels in harbor]

22. 6. Wrangell, Alaska

23. [Juneau - from badly damaged negative]

24. 11. Mendenhall Glacier, Alaska

25 Plat map[copy of plat map, Juneau]

26. 10. Taku River, B. C.
INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES
Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

Series I:

Box 1  #5 – 123  (not consecutive)
Box 2  #124 – 273 (not consecutive)
Box 3  #275 – 350 (not consecutive)
Box 4  #351 – 465 (not consecutive)
Box 5  #466 – 671 (not consecutive)
Box 6  #709 – 769 (not consecutive)
Box 7  #113 – 771B (7 X 10 ¾ - not consecutive)

Series II:  Located in freezer in vault

12” x 20” Film negatives, PCA 344 from Backlog. Winter & Pond
(28 printable images) located in freezer. These negatives were used to
produce prints in Box 7.

Box 1 (15 Negatives; good condition)
7-1.  Juneau, Alaska Nov. 1930 [Wide shot of downtown Juneau
and Douglas]
7-2.  #2 J.W.L 9-5-31 [Mining buildings in Last Chance Basin]
7-3.  Juneau, Alaska [Downtown waterfront]
7-4.  #1. J.W.L. 9-5-31 [Mining buildings in Last Chance Basin]
7-5.  Lights o’ Juneau [wide shot of Juneau/AJ mine from
Douglas at night]
7-6.  Lights o’ Juneau [Night shot, downtown Juneau from
Douglas]
    Lights o’ Juneau [ Night shot, downtown Juneau from Douglas,
large negative]
    Lights of Juneau [Wide shot of downtown Juneau from Douglas]
7-9.  Members of the House- 8th session. Alaska Legislature
    [Legislators standing on steps]
7-10. Auk Lake and Mendenhall Glacier [Auke Lake and Mendenhall Glacier, Mendenhall Towers]

7-11. Juneau, Alaska 1930 [shot of downtown Juneau with numbered buildings, list included naming buildings on bottom of negative]

7-12. Tulsiuqueh mountains- Taku River [Shot of Taku River, forest, mountains in background]

7-13. Yachtsmen and Reception Committee- Capital to Capital Race Juneau, Alaska July 4th 1928 [men standing on the docks with trophy, same as #5 ]

7-14. [Group of people standing on docks with trophy – probably similar to Yachtsmen]

7-15. [Governor’s Mansion]

**Box 2** (8 negatives; some bronzing, otherwise generally fair condition)

7-16. 3. Juneau, Alaska 1922

7-17. Juneau, Alaska 1930 [similar to negative in box 1]

7-18. Juneau and Gastineau channel [from Mt. Juneau; antenna in image]

7-19. 2. Juneau, Douglas & Treadwell on Gastineau Channel [Cope Park as undrained lake. Excellent view of Juneau]

7-20. 4. Douglas, Treadwell & Thane on Gastineau Channel, Alaska

7-21. 18. Juneau, Alaska [vessels in harbor]

7-25. [copy of plat map, Juneau]

**Box 3** (5 negatives; damaged)

7-22. 6. Wrangell, Alaska

7-23. [Juneau]
7-24. Mendenhall Glacier

7-8?. [Governor’s mansion] similar to neg in box 1.

Juneau, Alaska

**Box 4** (5 negatives severely deteriorated, to be recorded and destroyed)

- Plat map
- Auk Lake & Mendenhall Glacier
- 14. Taku Glacier
- Right Hand End of Taku Glacier
- 7-26. 10. Taku River, B. C.

Negatives not frozen can be found in Vault in:
- **Negative file cabinets**: Stored in Cooler – Room 227B, 50° Storage
- **Oversize Negatives boxes**: Stored in Cooler – Room 227B 50° Storage