

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Deborah J. Isley, Cook Inlet Historical Society Intern

TITLE: Marienfeld Photographs

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1985.062

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1930

Extent: 48 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Eric Meisel

Administrative/Biographical History:

Eric Meisel was a sound and light person and took photographs while working on a film, *The Silver Horde* (1930), shot in Southeast Alaska during the summer of 1930. Nothing else is known about the creator the time of processing.

Based on Rex Beach's 1909 book by the same name, the RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. film, *The Silver Horde* (1930), directed by George Archainbaud, follows the character of Boyd Emerson as he attempts to build a fishing/canning operation in the fictional town of Cowlick, Alaska. With the help of local resident, Cherry Malotte, he fights a fishing "syndicate" run by Fred Marsh. The film starred Joel McCrea, Evelyn Brent, Louis Molheim, and Gavin Gordon. Most of the scenes were filmed in Kaŋ'ään (Loring) and at the Alaska Packers Association Cannery located there. Other scenes were filmed in Kichxáan (Ketchikan) and Seattle. The film was released on October 25, 1930¹.

¹ American Film Catalog, *The Silver Horde* (1930), <https://catalog.afi.com/Film/12125-THE-SILVERHORDE?sid=fd5dabb2-9c42-419c-b6a4-394b793e424b&sr=9.214671&cp=1&pos=0>

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists of 48 photographic prints taken by Eric Meisel while working on the film *The Silver Horde* (1930) by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. in the summer of 1930 in Kichxáan (Ketchikan) and Kaḡ' àan (Loring). Some photographs show images also seen in the film like the fishing scenes with huge fish hauls using pile traps. Other photographs show film sets, cast and/or crew members, and studio equipment while others are general pictures of the landscape, watercraft, and buildings. The prints were developed at Thwaites Photo Shop in Kichxáan (Ketchikan), Alaska, in July 1930.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by previous archivist.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

The Anchorage Museum is the owner of the materials and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Anchorage Museum before any reproduction use. The Anchorage Museum does not necessarily hold copyright to all of the materials in the collections. In some cases, permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation:

Marienfeld Photographs, Anchorage Museum, B1985.062

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Ilse Marienfeld in November 1985.

Processing Note

Guide created from photographs and accession documents. Film identification confirmed by newspaper articles, Ketchikan Museum information, and the film itself, available to watch online. Items .6 and .7 restricted for cultural sensitivity.

RELATED MATERIALS

B1963.004 CIHS Hayman Collection

B1971.071 Alice Butler Photograph Collection

B1972.70 Kenneth Metcalf Collection

B1973.054 Reid Collection

B1984.118 "The Chechahcos" Collection
B1990.014 Steve McCutcheon Collection
B1993.017 William Hoover Collection
B2007.008 Dewey and Delena Hardy Collection
B2009.024 Alaska Packers Collection
B2018.011 Ray Mala Ephemera
Alaskan Canneries Resource Guide (Subject Guide)
Films in the Archives (Subject Guide)

SUBJECTS

Meisel, Eric
Alaska, Southeast — Description and travel
Alaska Steamship Co.
Alaska-Washington Airways
Airplanes — Alaska
Airways
Canned Fish Industry
Cannery Workers
Drama
Fishing Nets
Fishing Ports
Fish Traps
Float Planes
Inside Passage — Description and travel
Kichxáan / Ketchikan — Alaska
Kax'àan / Loring — Alaska
Lingít
Motion Picture Industry
Salmon Canneries
Sound Motion Pictures
Taant'a K̓wáan

Detailed Description of the Collection

Folder 1

.1 – [Photograph. One ship at dock with at least five individuals on docks, lettering on ship partially visible "C. ? Tillman." Taant'a K̓wáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
.2 -- [Photograph. Cliffside with illegible sign midway up, water's edge at bottom. Taant'a K̓wáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
.3 – [Photograph. Individual in sailor's cap and white button-up shirt sitting legs crossed on folding canvas chair reading a magazine. The magazine has an image of a smiling man on the back cover. The man is in a room or porch with wood paneling on the walls. Taant'a K̓wáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]

- .4 – [Photograph. Possible film production tents. Two white tents, one white canopy over a desk with a shelf. A cook fire, pot hanger, and a steaming pot in the foreground. One pot sits on a table or stand next to the fire. One individual stands next to the desk under the canopy, two individuals in conversation behind the pot hanger, one individual sits behind the large pot, and one individual partially seen next to the pot hanger. Small, brush covered hillside behind the tents. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .5 – [Photograph. Large ship’s mast and rigging with platform 1/3 of the way up, viewed from below. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .6 – [Restricted due to sensitive content]
- .7 – [Restricted due to sensitive content]
- .8 – [Photograph. Light colored houses on docks in harbor, reflections of the houses visible in the water. Small boat is seen under the house in the fore-left. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)].
- .9 – [Photograph. Canvas covered room with pipes along the ceiling and clothes hanging in various locations. One individual lies prone on a bed or cot and two individuals stand. Possible film production tent. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .10 – [Photograph. Seven individuals sit under a canvas-covered canopy. An ocean bay in the background. Possible film production tent. Picture quality is slightly washed out. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .11 – [Photograph. Five adult individuals and one youth stand and sit in front of a building. Two windows and one door visible. Slot with “etters”, presumably “letters” to the left of door. Youth is turning on a faucet and water sprays to the ground. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .12 – [Photograph. Picture taken from a position above a fishing boat. Many fish flop around in a net being drawn up into the boat. Some fish spill over the side. Four individuals stand on the boat. On the bottom left, there are two individuals standing on a dock that is attached with ropes to the boat’s rigging. Possibly a picture of the film scene from minute 48.00 of *The Silver Horde*. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .13 – [Photograph. Scow in water surrounded by pile-ons or fish traps. Fishing nets drape down the far side of the boat. Five individuals face away from the camera and appear to be hauling in the fishing nets. Possible film set. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .14 – [Photograph. Image of downtown Kichxáan (Ketchikan). At least twenty cars and many individuals in the street and sidewalks. Three individuals stand on a balcony above the “Alaska Steamship Company.” Upstreet on the left there is a drug store “Drugs” with a wheel logo and “tchikan Alaska” below the logo. “Ingersoll Hotel” is behind the drug store. On the right side of the street are signs for “55 Taxi”, “Marine Hotel”, and an American flag. Forest and hills in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .15 – [Photograph. Downtown Kichxáan (Ketchikan) waterfront. Many individuals watch from behind a rope on the main street leading away from the docks. Five individuals stand on the docks. On the bottom left is a sign for “Alaska S. S. Co.”, also in the picture “U.S. Cable Landing”, “55 Taxi”, “Curios”, “Marine Hotel”, “West Coast Grocery Co.” and another hotel with an American flag flying above it. Possible filming location. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]

- .16 – [Photograph. Docks with downtown Ketchikan in the background and to the right. One ship docked. Bay and hills on the left side of the frame. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .17 – [Photograph. 1920s-era automobile being hoisted onto a dock. Two individuals stand on the automobile’s roof holding onto the ropes. One individual stands on a boat docked beside loading dock, and one individual in a rowboat in the water behind the loading dock. One individual on the elevated dock to the left. Boat house and bay in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .18 – [Photograph. Ketchikan creek with fast moving water. Rock cliff with railed patio to the right. Houses along the bank’s right side. Trees on the left bank. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .19 – [Photograph. Ketchikan wharf with buildings, possibly Creek Street. Ketchikan creek in background. Two individuals stand on the left side behind a railing. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .20 – [Photograph. Beach with boardwalk and floating docks. Small cabins line the shore. One carved pole stands on the beach in the foreground. At least three boats are docked, two rowboats rest on the beach, and at least four individuals walk on the boardwalk. Hills and forest in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’áan (Loring)]
- .21 – [Photograph. Film crew on a floating dock. One camera stands on an elevated platform. Another camera is being operated by an individual on another platform. One individual stands near the first camera. Two small ships docked on either side of floating dock. At least eight other individuals are on the dock. Three small row boats approach the dock with 10-15 more individuals on board. Ships, the bay, and hills in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’áan (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .22 – [Photograph. Film crew on floating dock. Two cameras stand on elevated platforms on one side. Several individuals sit on the platforms. At least ten other individuals stand and sit on the dock which is also covered in gear and props. Bay and forest in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’áan (Loring) or Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .23 – [Photograph. Crowded dock with small ship docked beside it. At least two dozen individuals stand and sit on the dock and boat. A rowboat is hoisted at the end of the dock. A box of “American Sodas” is on the dock. A partial name of the boat is visible: “Ver”. Possible film set. Bay and forested shore visible in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’áan (Loring) or Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .24 – [Photograph. Scow or floating dock in Kax’áan (Loring). Large metal drum lies partially submerged beside the scow. A large vehicle is parked at one end of the scow with a metal gate between the vehicle and the bay. Town and forested hills in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’áan (Loring)]
- .25 – [Photograph. Two individuals in a canoe in a bay in front of a scow (see also .23). A vehicle sits on the deck. In the background is a beach with small buildings and a forest. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’áan (Loring)]
- .26 – [Photograph. Film studio vehicle on a scow (see also .23). A large gate is erected in front of the vehicle and other gear is piled behind the vehicle. Vehicle has “Sound Studio” and “T” printed side door. Hoisting equipment in the stern of the scow has the words “To Ketchikan Alaska” and “From RKO Studios” and “JPE”. Partial word visible on the side of the dock “?alladio” Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’áan (Loring)]

- .27 – [Photograph. Scow or floating dock from above. (see also .23) Scow is covered in filming supplies and a large vehicle. One individual stands on the deck. Two individuals stand on the roof of a boat house beside the scow. One individual in a rowboat visible at the bottom of the image. Mechanical equipment inside the boat house. Taant’a Kwáan Kax’àn (Loring)]
- .28 – [Photograph. Scow with film studio vehicle and other equipment and boxes. (see also .23) “RKO Studio” printed on the side of vehicle. Three individuals sit on the trunk and roof of the vehicle. One individual sits on a boat tied to the scow. Bay and hills in background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring)]
- .29 – [Photograph. Gap between a ship tied to pile-ons and a dock. Possibly a large pile fish trap. A large fishing net is stretched between the boat and the dock and is filled with fish. Two individuals stand on the dock and three individual stand on the boat. Bay and hills in the background. . Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring)]
- .30 – [Photograph. Boat and net loaded with many fish. One individual with a fisherman’s apron stands next to the fish. Masts and rigging in the background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring)]
- .31 – [Photograph. One individual standing on standing on a boat’s deck holding a large fish. A megaphone sits on the deck beside the individual. Possible film set. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring)]
- .32 – [Photograph. Float plan in a bay. One individual stands on the plane’s left float. Four individuals stand and sit on a canoe beside the aircraft. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .33 – [Photograph. Large military ship in a bay, flags hoisted midship and stern. Two smaller ships docked beside the ship’s stern. A rowboat with at least three individuals is seen perpendicular to the ship. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .34 – “Arcadia” [Photograph. A white yacht in a bay with hills and forest behind. American flag off the stern and an unidentified flag on the mast. Possibly the yacht seen in minute 54.12 of *The Silver Horde*. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .35 – [Photograph. Looking down on the deck of a large ship from above. Rowboats visible on the top deck. Bay and forest in background. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .36 – [Photograph. Gangway and dock. Many individuals stand on the dock. Eight individuals stand on the gangway. Possible actors from *The Silver Horde*. The individual second from the right on the gangway believed to be Louis Molheim, who played George Balt in the film. Sign on dock building “No smoking on this dock”. Partial sign visible on gangway reads “Alaska” with a logo of a flag with a letter “A” inside a circle. Taant’a Kwáan, Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .37 – [Photograph. A bay with forest, hills, and snow topped mountains behind. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .38 – [Photograph. A village at the end of a bay. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring)]
- .39 – [Photograph. Six unidentified individuals standing on a dock with a beach and small buildings behind them. Possible cast and/or crew of *The Silver Horde*. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]
- .40 – [Photograph. Fishing boat docked at a beach. Small buildings and homes in the background. Several other boats and docks visible. Taant’a Kwáan, Kax’àn (Loring) or Kichxáan (Ketchikan)]

- .41 – [Photograph. A line of boats, viewed from shore with trees and bushes in the foreground. Another boat and islands visible in the background. Possibly from scene in movie, *The Silver Horde*, at minutes 47 and 53. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kaḵ’àn (Loring)]
- .42 – [Photograph. A group of boats docked at long, skinny dock off beach. Taken from shore with white picket fence in foreground. The bay and opposite shore in background. A boat ramp is visible on the right side of the photograph. As seen in minute 53.24 of *The Silver Horde*. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kaḵ’àn (Loring)]
- .43 – [Photograph. A group of boats docked at long, skinny dock off beach. A small building in the foreground. Scow docked to pile-ons to the right of the dock. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kaḵ’àn (Loring)]
- .44 – [Photograph. A beach with boats and parts of boats on the sand. A group of boats attached to a long, skinny dock. Cannery buildings and docks in the background. Cannery buildings can be seen in minute 36.10 of *The Silver Horde*. Forests and mountains are visible in the distance. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kaḵ’àn (Loring)]
- .45 – [Photograph. A large salmon fish trap, as viewed from the water. A ladder and fish nets hanging from fish trap posts. Forest visible in background. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kaḵ’àn (Loring)]
- .46 – “U.S.C.G. Cygan” [Photograph. Coast guard ship with many individuals on board. Several are wearing uniforms. Steam blows out of smokestack on the stern of the ship. The Cygan was commissioned in 1919 and was homeported in Ketchikan, Alaska from 1925-1927. It is unclear where it was homeported in 1930, when this photo was likely taken. The ship was decommissioned in 1936. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kichḵáan (Ketchikan)]
- .47 – [Photograph. Float plane on water with an individual standing in the foreground, possibly on a dock. “Alaska-Washington Airways” printed on the tail. “Skagway” written in cursive beneath the cockpit. RKO Studios chartered this plane in July 1930 for the filming of *The Silver Horde*. In October of 1930, the Skagway went missing with three people aboard on a flight from Seattle to Ketchikan. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kichḵáan (Ketchikan)]
- .48 – [Photograph. Large pile salmon fish trap with camera crew set up for filming. One individual operates a camera on the left side of the photograph. Nets visible below. Taant’a K̓wáan, Kaḵ’àn (Loring) or Kichḵáan (Ketchikan)]

Guide written: June 3, 2025