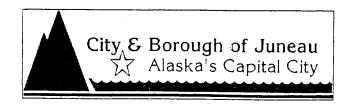
DRAFT REPORT OF THE JUNEAU DAIRY FARMING HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY





September 1991

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Cover photograph: Mendenhall Valley - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgementsi	
Forward	
Introduction	
Vicinity Map 5	
Location Map 6	
Historical Significance 7	
Historical Context9	
Historical Narratives	
Architectural Summary Statement 44	
Historic Building Survey Sheets 46	
Recommendations For Further Study 55	
Sources 56	



Photograph: Tony Kaiser - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

FORWARD

The City and Borough of Juneau Department of Community Development's historic preservation strategy is to research and record information on the historical development of the Juneau and Douglas areas. This valuable resource base serves as an aid in long-range planning for growth and development in the City and Borough of Juneau.

The information gathered from the Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey indicates that there were numerous dairies, large and small, and that the people were hardworking and tenacious, enduring the inclement weather, economy of the mines, and the sometimes undependable transportation systems. We have gained a new appreciation for those hardworking people. The dairy descendants learned details about their families they were not aware of because of our research and their enthusiasm and cooperation for the project was contagious. Oral history played a major role in the project. Memories long forgotten were revived and photographs stored away in attics started appearing. The extant buildings tell only a small part of the history. The dairy people followed the immigrant dream of coming to a new country and owning their own piece of land. We learned that modern transportation put an end to the dairy industry in the Gastineau Channel but not to the pioneer spirit.

Historic preservation should be a concern to everyone. It is a struggle to preserve the past in this age of development and modernization. It is important to inform people of their community's heritage and not let them forget who the pioneers were, and to continue the pioneer spirit by preserving the buildings and the pioneer's memories.

Gary Gillette Willette Janes

Because of the discovery of gold in the vicinity of the Gastineau Channel area in 1880 and 1881, the towns of Harrisburgh (later renamed Juneau), Douglas, and Treadwell were founded. Placer and lode mines were soon developed. With the continued growth of the mines, the population also grew by leaps and bounds. There was a demand for fresh dairy products as well as for produce. The dairy industry was an important part of the development of the area, and much needed products were available to the population because a host of enterprising and hardworking individuals not only supplied dairy products and produce, but eggs and poultry as well.

More than a dozen different dairies, from the family oriented to the large commercial ones, have served the Juneau-Douglas area from the 1880's until 1965. Some of the individuals moved north from the United States while others immigrated from Europe because of the prospect of acquiring free land or of finding gold, but only a few came with definite plans to start a dairy. Some of the families obtained homesteads while others leased or bought large parcels of land.



Photograph: Alaska Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

One of the first dairies in Juneau was started by Dr. Frank Reynolds in the 1880's. William W. Casey owned the Chicken Ridge Dairy as early as 1900. In Douglas there were several small family dairies consisting of three or four cows, as well as the larger Douglas Dairy in 1909. As the towns grew because of the development of the gold mines and the influx of people, so did the need for dairy products and produce. Other dairies were established in quick succession, most of them in the Mendenhall Valley where the larger tracts of land were available. The Pederson Dairy founded in 1910; Juneau Dairy in 1911; Mendenhall Dairy in 1917; Switzer Dairy in 1922; Alaska Dairy in 1923; and the Glacier and Sunny Point Dairies in 1929, were the major suppliers of milk to the community. Four of the largest dairies consolidated in 1936 to form Juneau Dairies Incorporated.

It was not an easy life as it required 365 days of hard work, tending the fields, as well as taking care of the needs of the animals, which meant hand-milking from 4 to over 60 cows a day. Weather was an important factor, because if it rained too early or the frost hit at the wrong time, a crop could be lost in a matter of days. Steamship or longshoreman strikes were also deterrents. Shipments of feed, cows, and even glass bottles were held up. At one time, a shipment of cows was not allowed to get off the ship and went back to Seattle because of a longshoreman strike. A shipment of hay was held at the dock by another strike. The dairymen themselves unloaded the hay with a crane directly into every available truck in town.

Few people lived in the Mendenhall Valley in the 1920's and those that did were self-sufficient. They had their own vegetable gardens and a cow or two. All the delivery routes were in town and transportation over the primitive road in the winter was by horse and sleigh when the snow was too deep, and by an open-sided truck the rest of the year. For those dairymen who lived on the northwest side of the Mendenhall River, it was necessary to travel by boat to town as there was no bridge until around 1928.

Each dairyman had an established route that usually crisscrossed his competitors. The trip to town generally started between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m., and sometimes the dairymen would race each other. It usually took about two and one-half hours to make the delivery rounds after they reached town. Deliveries were made to Douglas Thane by taking the ferry via the Gastineau Channel. Deliveries were difficult on Starr Hill because of the steepness of the terrain. Dairy products were carried up the hill in a metal basket, and if the customer changed his order it meant another trip. Some of the dairies hired school boys to help them with their rounds. Milk for the Alaska Juneau Gold Mine was delivered to the mill site south of town, where it was then transported through the tunnels into Last Chance Basin for use at the miners' The dairies had customers in the same apartment mess hall. buildings and were not adverse to taking each others bottles if the ones left outside their designated doors were missing a bottle or two. The ladies of the Red Light District on South Franklin Street were known for being the most prompt at paying their bills. One of the deliverymen devised a method of preselling a book of tickets,

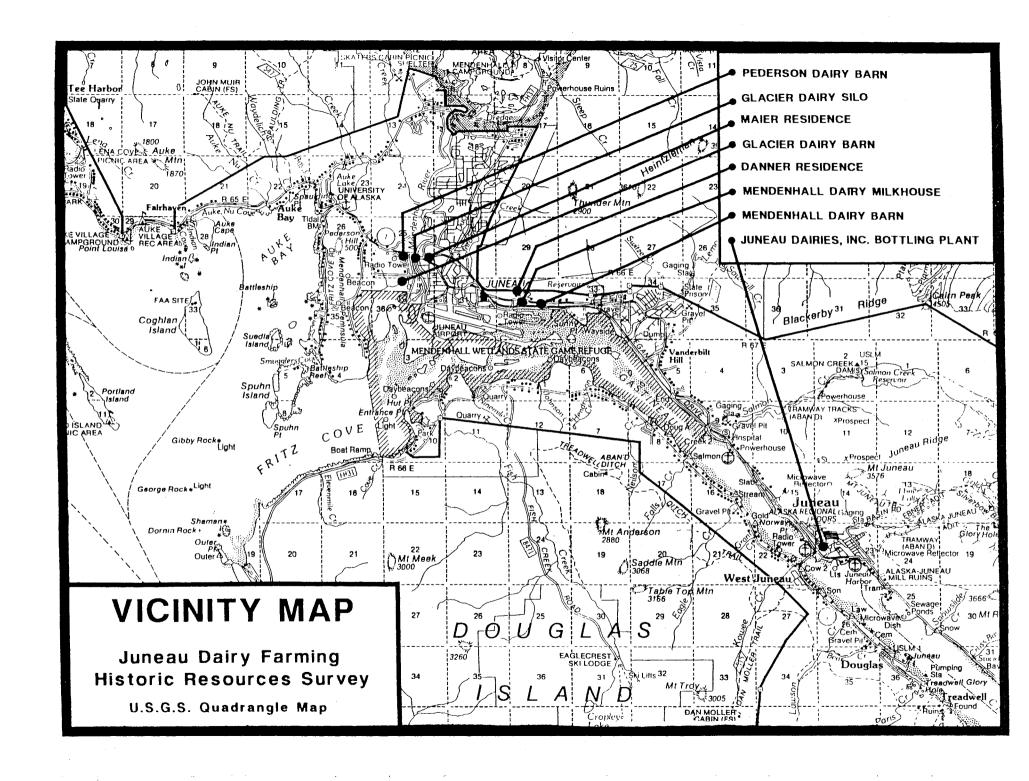
which was much more convenient than trying to collect once a month.

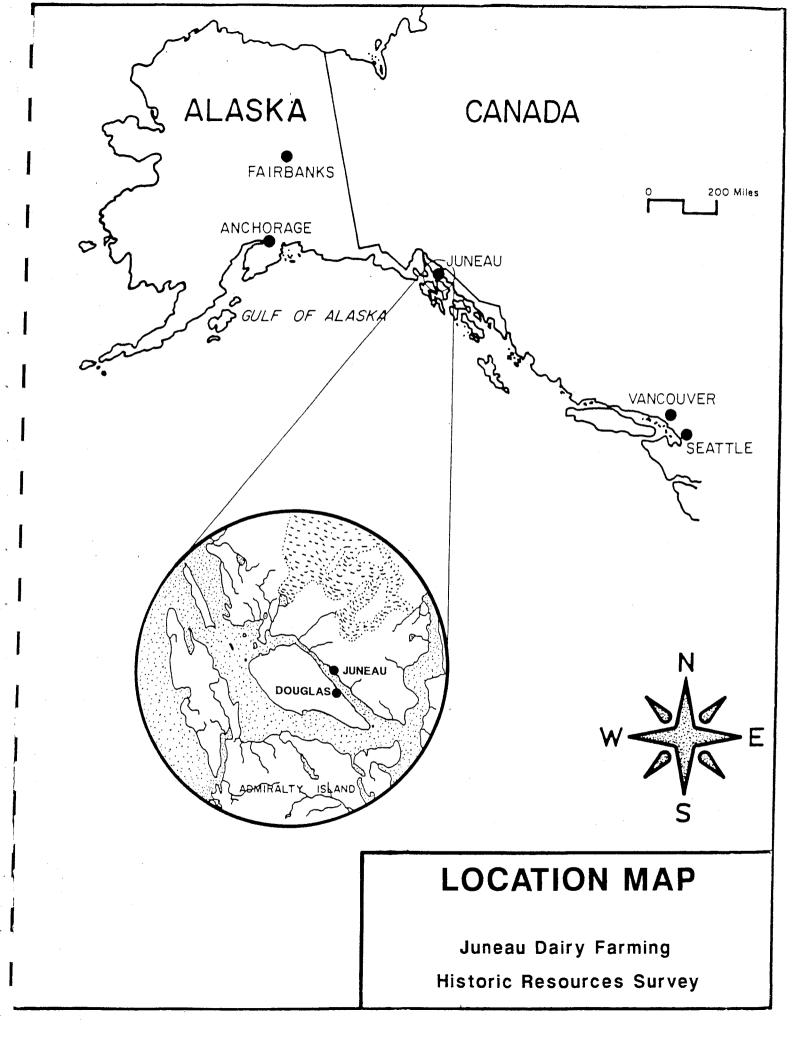
With the advent of air service into Southeast Alaska in the early 1940's and the subsequent addition of air-freighting of dairy products, it was becoming evident that dairying would no longer be profitable. The rising costs of surface transportation and feed was another blow to the industry. The smaller dairies began slaughtering or selling their herds and land, and by 1965 the last of the dairies closed. The land, cleared many years before, was ideal for airports, subdivisions, and shopping centers. Though the dairies are no longer operating, the barns and milk houses are still being used for commercial purposes. Most of them are unaltered on the exterior and serve as a reminder of the significance of the dairy industry in Juneau and Douglas.



Photograph: Pederson Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

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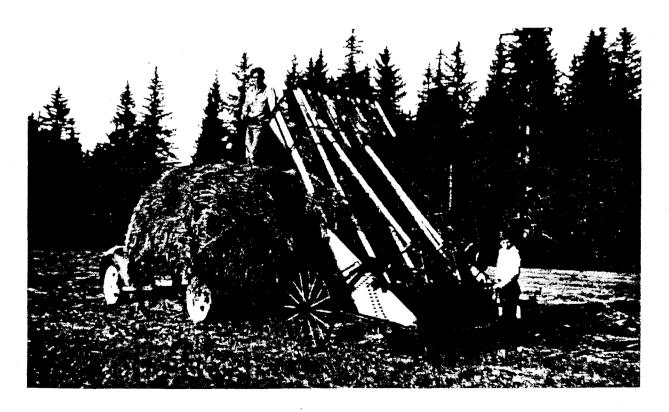




HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1990-1991 approximately 13 dairy related buildings located within the City and Borough of Juneau were selected for inventory and review. After inspection of City Tax rolls, preliminary oral history interviews and the historical architect's recommendations, eight dairy buildings were identified as significant. The survey is heavily dependent upon oral history sources to verify information collected in order to do an accurate history of the dairying industry in the City and Borough of Juneau. The majority of the buildings associated with the dairies were built by the original owners and a few were added by subsequent owners.

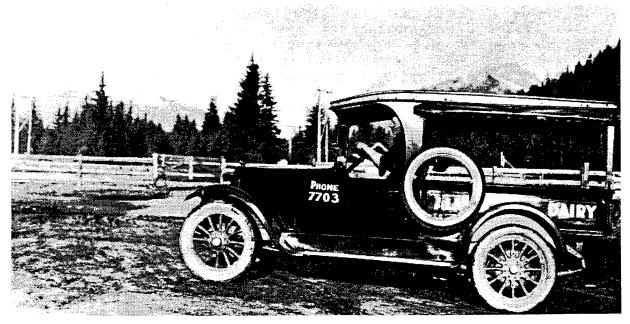
Dairying is that branch of agriculture which is concerned with producing milk, butter, evaporated milk, ice cream, cheese, and dried milk products. It includes the care and feeding of the cattle which give the milk.



Photograph: Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

In the 1880's and the 1900's, before the advent of refrigeration and air service, it was next to impossible to secure fresh dairy products. If an individual wanted fresh milk he bought a cow. Dairying was an important industry and supplied a much needed product. The secondary products of the farms were also a significant part of the economy. They included beef, eggs, poultry, fruit (berries), and fresh vegetables. Though the dairies on the Gastineau Channel were not considered large, they provided a number of jobs for hand milkers, plant workers, office workers, deliverymen, and field hands. The arrival by surface transportation of cattle, grain, alfalfa, seeds, and bottles, gave work to the longshoremen, which also added to the economy of the area. Dairying and agriculture were one, because the soil had to be cultivated to plant hay and oats for winter feed, and cultivated for the vegetable gardens that not only supplied food for the farmer's family, but to the people of Juneau and Douglas. Just as the economy of Alaska now depends upon the price of oil, the economy of the dairymen depended upon the gold mines. population ebbed and flowed with the discovery of gold in different parts of the territory. The closure of several of the large mines in 1917 and in 1944 had a definite negative effect on the economy of the area.

The remaining buildings of the dairy industry are significant not only for their architectural value, but as evidence of the development of a needed industry. The extant barns and out buildings are of a similar architectural design, except for a concrete building that was used as a milk processing plant when four of the largest dairies consolidated. The buildings were all constructed in the mid 1930's. Though the diary industry is no longer part of the community, the existing buildings are still a valuable asset to the business community, not only for their current use, but as a constant reminder of a viable industry that lasted over 75 years.



Photograph: Joe Kendler, Alaska Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Alaska, at the time of the purchase from Russia in 1867, was isolated. The pioneers learned very quickly that it was necessary to be self-sufficient. They couldn't run over to the local store and pick up vegetables and fresh dairy products. Agricultural activities were solely related to small numbers of poultry and live stock, as well as small garden plots for the benefit of the individual. If there was a surplus it was given away or sold.

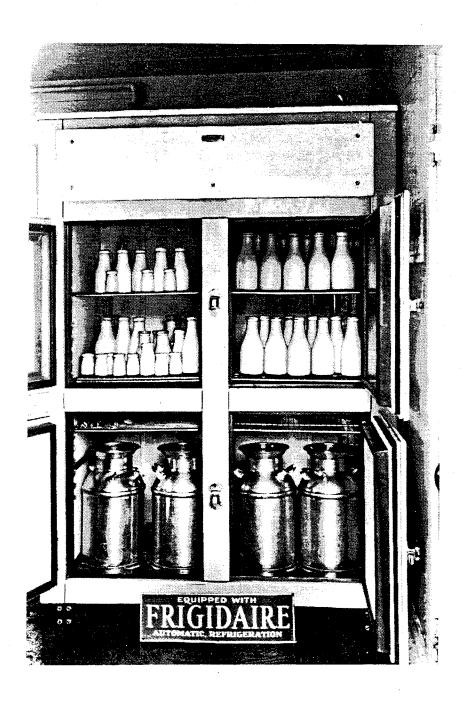
Because of the 1849 gold rush to California and the subsequent discoveries to follow, a mass of people was flowing into the northern part of the United States in the 1870's. They continued northward into Canada and when they heard of a major gold discovery in southeastern Alaska in 1880, the adventuresome travelled to the Gastineau Channel. Richard Harris and Joseph Juneau discovered gold in October of 1880, and staked the town of Harrisburgh, (later named Juneau), on October 18. In 1881 another gold strike occurred on Douglas Island across the Gastineau Channel from Harrisburgh. These two major gold discoveries brought people swarming to the area. The newly formed towns of Juneau, Douglas and Treadwell began to grow as quickly as the mines.

To encourage farming in 1898, Congress passed a Homestead Act for Alaska, which allowed for 80 acre allotments. In 1903 the act was amended so that an individual could homestead up to 320 acres without having it surveyed. In 1906 the Forest Homestead Act was passed, whereby the Department of Agriculture designated large areas of land in the National Forests for agricultural purposes. Up to 360 acres could be homesteaded and it was not necessary to survey the land until it was proved up. All of these acts encouraged farming and settlement.

With the development of the large lode mines in Juneau and on Douglas Island, the population began to increase. Most of the newcomers secured work at the mines to save enough money to send for loved ones. Many people were starting to arrive from Austria, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and from the United States. Land was scarce in Europe and there was little private ownership. The chance of freedom and free land in Alaska was almost as good as the lure of gold. A majority of the early arrivals had come from farming communities, so it was natural that they were interested in the land. Only one or two individuals came to the area with definite plans of starting a dairy.

Land was soon purchased, or a homestead filed upon to start a new life. Those that had planned to start dairies soon had a small herd and were providing the population with needed products. Because of economic reasons or just by chance, a few more men became farmers and dairymen. Some individuals had a few cows for personal use and sold the extra milk or simply gave it away.

As long as the mines were running and the population stayed constant, the dairies could run at a profit. Even though it was gold mining that significantly affected the development of Juneau and Douglas during the period of 1880 until 1944, the dairying industry was strong enough to remain in existence until the mid-1960's.



Photograph: Alaska Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

JUNEAU AREA DAIRIES

GOLD CREEK DAIRY - Established ca. 1889

Dr. Frank S. Reynolds came to Juneau in the mid-1880's as a deputy collector of customs. He started a dairy that was located along Gold Creek, below the present Calhoun Avenue bridge. The cows grazed along Gold Creek, as well as in the area of the Governor's Mansion.

In 1888 Dr. Reynolds sent to Wisconsin, for his sister Mary and her husband John Calhoun. The following year John was manager of the dairy and in the early 1890's he was the owner. Little is known of the operation, but an 1889 photograph shows the cows grazing on high grass among tree stumps with a few wooden buildings nearby. The native grass was consumed on the flats and the seeds were carried in the manure throughout the area. There were about 20 cows in the herd and the barn was located at the foot of 9th Street. There was an ad in an 1894 newspaper, from Calhoun which stated, "Anyone caught stealing milk bottles, either full or empty, will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law." Another interesting article appeared in March of 1889, which reported that Calhoun, who homesteaded in the area, "was burning brush during a Taku wind and set the whole place on fire. Everything above and below the site was on fire. The bucket brigade saved the town."

Dr. Reynolds and his family moved to Yakima, Washington, in July of 1892. Not only had he been involved in the dairy business, but he was also one of the original discoverers of the Silver Queen Mine in the Sheep Creek Valley in 1887. He also served as the mine manager and supervised its development for several years.

In 1902, after 14 years in Juneau, the Calhouns sold their land to Allen and Henry Shattuck and moved to Seattle. It is thought that William W. Casey took over the dairy business. The area was later known as the Casey-Shattuck Addition. The Calhoun's daughters were married to Frank Bach and to Edward Webster, founders of the Juneau Douglas Telephone Company.

Mary Calhoun was so well thought of, that in 1902 Calhoun Avenue was named after her. The street was first opened in 1890 to provide access to the cemetery and called Cemetery Road. John Calhoun died in 1906, and Mary Calhoun died in Nanaimo, British Columbia, in 1912.

THE CHICKEN RIDGE DAIRY - Established 1900

William (W.W.) Casey was owner of a small dairy on Chicken Ridge, one of the oldest locality names in Juneau. He purchased several Jersey cows in March of 1890 from F.J. Lewis, and doubled the herd when he purchased additional cows in 1900. His barn was reportedly located on the curve of Basin Road in the area of the last house on the left, though another source says that the barn was in the area of the first bridge on Basin Road. We do know that his cows were grazing in Last Chance Basin because the Daily Alaska Dispatch reported in August of 1901, that the Last Chance Hydraulic Mining Company was blasting in the area and disturbing Mr. Casey's cows. The cows also grazed in Cope Park. When they were grazing in the basin, Casey milked them in the barn on Basin Road. It is thought that Casey sold the Chicken Ridge Dairy to Nicholas Wagner around 1903. A 1909 newspaper article stated that in 1909 Wallia Paddock, who was working for Nick Wagner, was attacked by a black bull belonging to Douglas people.

Descendants of Lee Smith, founder of the Juneau Dairy in 1911, state that the Chicken Ridge Dairy, owned by Nicholas Wagner, and the property now occupied by the Harborview School, were both purchased from Wagner in 1911. Allen and Henry Shattuck bought land and the Gold Creek Dairy in 1902 from John Calhoun. It is thought that W.W. Casey took over the dairy and it is possible that he then sold it to Wagner soon afterwards. The records are not clear on this transaction. Hopefully, additional information may surface in the future.



Photograph: Mendenhall Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

Albert Pederson came to Juneau in the late 1890's from Bodo, Norway. He was one of the few men who came with the express purpose of starting a dairy. In 1902 he sent for his wife Jensine Danielsen Pederson and their six year old son William. Albert worked as a longshoreman until 1902 and as caretaker of Evergreen Cemetery until 1910. He was caretaker when Joe Juneau's body was interred in August of 1903, having been sent from Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada, where he died in 1899. Juneau, along with Richard Harris, was one of the founders of Juneau. Mrs. Pederson was a trained seamstress and obtained work from several Juneau families. The Pedersons first lived in Juneau on Starr Hill, and later for a brief time in Douglas. Mrs. Pederson's brothers, John, William, and Chester Danielsen, soon joined them and obtained jobs at the Treadwell mines on Douglas Island.

Albert and Jensine established a 160-acre homestead in 1907, about ten and one-half miles from Juneau on the northwest side of the They moved permanently to the area in 1910. Mendenhall River. Their first home was a small cabin with a sod floor and it was said that she kept the floor so clean you could eat off it. When the new three-story log and frame house was built in the 1920's, the little cabin became the guest house. The Pedersons were very hospitable people and always shared their abundant garden and dairy products with friends and visitors. The Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company purchased the Pederson's excellent root vegetables for the boarding house kitchens. Albert delivered the products by boat going down the Mendenhall River when the tide was high. Not only did Mrs. Pederson take care of her family and tend the garden, but she also supplemented their income during the lean years by cleaning house for people, including Mrs. B.M. Behrends, for 25 cents an hour; to do this she had to walk over ten miles to Juneau.

When the family moved to the valley, Mrs. Pederson realized there was a need for a school. She was instrumental in getting the elementary Mendenhall School established. It was run by the Territorial government and located near the area where Thunder Bird Terrace now stands. The first teacher was named Miss A. Belle Cass. Since there was no bridge, William had to row a skiff across the river to go to school. In the afternoon, his dog Carlo was always waiting for him on the bank. William threw his books across the river and Carlo would run back to the homestead, which let Mrs. Pederson know that William was on his way home. At one time he was the only student in the school. One of the nearby farmers thought his children should be at home working and removed them from school. The Territorial government threatened to close the school because of the lack of students, but said that if just one student remained they would keep the it open. Mrs. Pederson made sure that her son attended daily. Eventually the rancher's children returned to classes and the school continued to operate until around 1918.

During the summer months the Pederson Dairy cows grazed on the nutritious grass of the tide flats. Native hay was cut and stored for winter use, with additional grain being shipped from Seattle, Washington, to supplement their diet. Mrs. Pederson had a reputation for raising healthy animals, and by 1921 the Pederson Dairy consisted of 12 cows, 1 horse and 1 bull. Horses no longer needed at the mines were turned loose on the tide flats. William captured these animals and trained them as work horses for the dairy. Mrs. Pederson always made sure there was a lean-to next to the barn to shelter the animals during bad weather. The dairy farm continued to grow with the construction of a new three story log and frame house, and the completion of a new barn in 1929. By 1934 the Pederson Dairy herd numbered 32, which included 17 milk cows and 15 beef cows whose meat was sold to St. Ann's Hospital. Mrs. Pederson was also breeding and raising milk cows by this time. The cows were milked by Mr. Pederson and one hired hand until 1938 when a milking machine was purchased. Mr. Pederson delivered the dairy products and produce to town in various ways. Before the bridge was built in the late 1920's, he made the trip by boat down the Mendenhall River. In the winter he used a horse drawn sled that he built, named the "go devil." When the road was completed to the valley around 1913, he used a truck with open sides. Albert and Jensine bought the first automobile insurance policy ever issued in Juneau. It was purchased from the Allen Shattuck Insurance Company The original paper is carefully preserved by their granddaughter, Koggie Pederson File.

Because of their kindness, the Pedersons were instrumental in getting the first bridge across the Mendenhall River. While bringing the cows in from the Mendenhall Flats in the Fall of 1919, Mrs. Pederson found a duck hunter, who while camping had become ill with pneumonia. Though they still lived in the little cabin with the sod floor, Mrs. Pederson took him in and nursed him back to health. He worked for the United States Geological Survey and when he recovered he told her she had saved his life. He said he wanted to do something to make her life easier when he returned to Washington D.C. Her request was for a much needed bridge. The request was granted around 1928, when a small bridge was constructed about one-quarter of a mile below the current Brotherhood Bridge. It was a day of celebration when the bridge opened and a reception was held in the Peterson's partially finished new house.

In 1928 Albert Pederson became ill and passed away in September of 1929, at the age of 74. Mrs. Pederson and William continued to run the dairy. Axel Carlson worked for the dairy during this period of time as a hired hand. The Pederson Dairy paid \$1.00 a day plus room and board, which was considered a good wage during the depression years. Because Carlson was so faithful and a hard worker, Mrs. Pederson gave him an acre of her garden land in 1932. He continued to work for the Pederson Dairy and for the new owners until after 1940. He lived on the property until his death around 1961. The house he built is still standing near the river on the northern section of the old homestead.

In 1935 William Pederson received a patent to a 160 acre L shaped homestead, that he had secured in 1932, adjacent to the Pederson Dairy. In 1934 he married Emilia Agnes Sivertsen, whose family came from Norway and settled in Wrangell, Alaska. William and Emilia had two daughters, Koggie and Ellen, who still live in Juneau. Koggie continues to live with her husband Tom File on a portion of the original Pederson Dairy homestead. William passed away in 1956 at the age of 59, and Emilia Pederson Linvog is still living and resides in Sedro Wooley, Washington. In 1956 Mrs. Jensine Pederson entered the Pioneers Home in Sitka. She was one of the first women to be admitted and resided there until her death in 1959, at the age of 84.

Curtis and Gladys Sherwood bought the Pederson Dairy on December 2, 1940, except for a small section set aside for a homesite and a 60 acre portion that was sold to R.E. Robertson, which became the Alaska Communications System and later Alascom. The Sherwoods renamed it the "North Star Dairy." At the time of the purchase the dairy consisted of 12 milking cows, five dry cows soon to calf, young stock that was being raised for milking and butchering, and two horses. A milking machine and a Delco power plant also came with the purchase.

The Sherwood family moved to Juneau in 1940 from Eagle Rock, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. Curtis was born in Capitola, California, in 1896, and was a graduate of the Oregon Agricultural College. "Happy" Sherwood was born in Pipestone County, Minnesota, in 1896. The Sherwoods acquired some shorthorn bulls from Canada and bred the herd to include about 19 shorthorn milking stock with a total of around 30 head. Sherwood was known for his friendliness and sense of humor. His two bulls were named, "North Star Matchless King," fondly known as King, and "Wing Hill Lord Bates III," referred to as Hiram. Sherwood had quite a collection of hats that he used to dress up King. The bull loved to be on display and would stand like a statue. Sherwood painted the letters "L.A. City Limits" on the side of Hiram to give visitors a bit of a surprise. However, the bull became too temperamental and a cow named Mary Jane was painted instead.

The North Star Dairy supplied milk to Juneau Dairies Incorporated. Sherwood broke from the creamery around 1942 and developed a small retail route as well as wholesaling his milk to several stores in Juneau. The retail route was unique in that the Sherwoods had access to their customer's refrigerators. If the milk was left outside during the winter it would freeze and the caps would pop off.

Around 1948, Curtis Sherwood, Jim DeHart, and Chet Ellis organized and incorporated the Glacier Highway Electric Association, which was recently purchased by the Alaska Electric Light and Power Company (AEL&P) of Juneau. There was no power north of the Alaska Communications System station (formerly a part of the Pederson homestead) at ten and one-half mile on Glacier Highway and AEL&P wanted to charge \$1,000 to extend the line to Sherwood's dairy, which was adjacent to the station. Power was eventually supplied to areas north of the Mendenhall River. In the early 1960's the

Sherwoods gave up dairying and sold their cows when their home (the former Pederson log and frame structure) was condemned to widen and improve Glacier Highway. They donated land for two public roads when the dairy was subdivided. Curtis Avenue and Sherwood Lane are named after the family. The Sherwoods moved to Sequim, Washington, in 1964 where Mr. Sherwood died in November of 1990. Mrs. Sherwood preceded him in death several years earlier. Their son, Rolfe, still lives in Sequim, and their daughter, Alice Johnstone, makes her home in Sitka, Alaska.

The pioneer Pederson family name is still in evidence in the Mendenhall Valley. Pederson Street on the Mendenhall Peninsula Road is named after William, Pederson Hill in the area of the Family Practice Clinic for Albert, and Jensine Park Subdivision and Jensine Street are named in memory of Mrs. Pederson.

The little barn that was started in 1928, and completed in 1929, is still standing. It has changed little, however, instead of housing hay and cows, it now serves as a storage area for Harbor Plumbing and Heating Inc. The house Jensine had built for William and Emilia Pederson, when they were first married, still sits quietly across the road sheltered by a group of spruce trees that were planted years before by Albert and Jensine. The house was moved from its original location by Curtis Sherwood and made into a garage. After the sale of the dairy, Jensine built a small home on a piece of property set aside before 1929 for that purpose. Koggie and Tom File now live in that home surrounded by memories and mementos of the pioneer Pederson Dairy.



Photograph: Pederson Dairy Residence - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

THE JUNEAU DAIRY - Established 1911

Little did Leephonse Hober Smith know when he stepped off the boat in Juneau, in February of 1907, that in four years he would soon be the owner of a dairy that would last 54 years.

Smith was born March 21, 1888, in Fairfax County, Virginia. His father, John Smith, was a master mechanic who was the first to install refrigeration and pasteurization equipment in the dairies in the Washington, D.C. area. John Smith, who was a widower, lived in boarding houses with his family of four children. Alaskan lobbyists were frequent guests and told about the wonders of the territory, especially about the gold. These stories soon gave young Lee Smith gold fever.

In February of 1907, 19-year old Lee Smith worked his way from San Francisco, California to Juneau aboard a lumber schooner. Upon his arrival he inquired about job opportunities, and was directed toward the Perseverance Mine in Silver Bow Basin. Smith trudged his way up the Gold Canyon Trail (later known as the Perseverance Trail) in the middle of a Taku wind. After walking over three miles, he found the office and inquired about a job. The manager, upon hearing Smith's story of the cold and windy hike, said, "Didn't anybody tell you about the tunnel?" He was so impressed with Smith's perseverance that he gave him a job at the assay office, where he worked for three years. Because of a merger with another mining company, there was no need for two assay plants, so several men were laid off. Smith, being one of them, applied for a job with the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company across the Gastineau Channel on Douglas Island, but was not hired right away.

Smith was very fond of fresh milk and he probably got to know Nicholas Wagner by visiting the Chicken Ridge Dairy. The small barn was reportedly perched on a narrow strip of land where the last house now stands on Basin Road. Other information gathered, reveals that the barn may have been closer to the first bridge on Basin Road. The cows grazed the area of Last Chance Basin, and in Cope Park (Evergreen Bowl), and the Evergreen Cemetery. Wagner's wife was badly burned in an accident and it was necessary to take her south for medical treatment. A story goes that Wagner wired Smith and said, "You can have the damned place." Smith and his partner, James Bannigan, purchased the property November 10, 1911, for \$10 in gold coin. At the same time, Smith and Bannigan also purchased cows and land in the area of Evergreen Cemetery from Wagner. In 1902 Allen and Henry Shattuck purchased John Calhoun's property and the Gold Creek Dairy. It is assumed that W.W. Casey took over the dairy. The Smith family believes that Casey sold the dairy herd to Wagner since Smith and Bannigan reportedly purchased both dairies at the same time. The records are not clear on Casey's involvement.

The Juneau Dairy was born! Smith and Bannigan dissolved their partnership after six months. William Altmueller answered Smith's newspaper ad for a dairy partner (the spelling was changed to Altmiller, reportedly during WWI, when it was not popular to have a German name). Altmiller came to Juneau in September of 1909, and

worked as a barber in Bruner's Barber Shop. Smith/Altmiller was a successful partnership, that lasted for nearly nine years. Around 1920 Altmiller moved south to Taft, California, to a drier climate because of sinus problems.

The dairy buildings and home were in the vicinity of the current Harborview Elementary School. All of the farm buildings were on pilings, including the slaughter house. It was a convenient way to dispose of manure and other waste products. When the current boat harbor was completed in the mid-1930's, Smith bought a dump truck and hauled the manure to the homestead in the Mendenhall Valley. The house was remodeled, work was done on enlarging the barn, and a concrete dairy plant was added. All of the upgrading was done by 1914. In 1911 the Juneau Dairy introduced what is believed to be the first glass milk bottles in Alaska. Hand milking methods in 1910 were simple, with the milk flowing directly into a pail, which was then dumped into a milk can. The can was kept cool in a spring, which has since been swallowed up by modern pavement. Milk was dipped directly from the can into the customer's containers. The system was quickly upgraded by the addition of a tubular milk cooler. The cows of the newly formed Juneau Dairy grazed in the same areas as before. When the road was built to the Salmon Creek power plant around 1912, the cows were able to graze on the Salmon Creek Flats. As there was no barn in the area, they were milked in the field or in a corral. The cows were a cross between Jersey, Guernsey, and Holstein, with a few pure breds. The dairy gradually switched to pure Holsteins and then Ayrshires.

Although the road was not completed to the Mendenhall Valley by 1913, Smith and Altmiller leased Tom Knudson's ranch in the Mendenhall Flats. Milk was taken by boat as far as the completed section of the road, where a team and wagon took it the rest of the way to town. By 1914 the road was completed to the Nugget Creek Power Plant at the Mendenhall Glacier. Knudson's property was leased for summer operations only, with the cows being moved to the town site in winter. Knudson, who was a farmer, had an extensive homestead in the general area of Jordan Creek. He owned a few cows and hauled his milk, butter, meat, eggs, and vegetables to town via the Gastineau Channel by dory. Knudson, with the help of his son Herb, eventually started his own dairy, which was sold to Joe Kendler in 1923.

In 1914 Altmiller's sister, Frances, came to Juneau for a summer visit. A romance started between Lee and Frances, and in 1915 Smith went to St. Louis, Missouri, to make her his bride. A Juneau newspaper article of May 30, 1915 states, "Mr. & Mrs. Lee Hober Smith arrived from the south on the Mariposa. She was the former Miss Christine Altmueller (Frances Christine). She was a Juneau visitor last summer." The article goes on to state that they were married about three months ago. They were greeted with rice thrown by friends, and loaded into an auto that was liberally decorated with milk bottles and cow bells and given a ride to their new home.

In September of 1916, after unsuccessful attempts since 1913 to purchase land from Tom Knudson, Smith applied for a homestead in the Mendenhall Flats. The first lumber was hauled March 2 and by

November a 200' by 36' cow barn, milk house, pump house, wood shed, and a 27' by 32' dwelling were built, and about four acres of land were cleared. Mrs. Smith's brother, Emil, and her father, Mathew, were the lead carpenters.

In 1917 about 11 acres of land were cultivated, 10 in oats and vetch (a plant of the bean family used for fodder), and one acre in potatoes and garden truck. A Delco light plant was also installed. That same year on December 31, the roof of the barn collapsed, due to an extremely heavy snow fall. Reportedly 24 out of 36 heifers were killed. They were non-milking young stock that were being wintered on the homestead. Some horses and a few pigs survived because they were in pens which kept the weight of the roof off of them. There are conflicting reports as to the exact losses. A silo was added when the barn was rebuilt because Smith had visited Ben Bullard's ranch on the Taku River and was aware of the success Bullard had with storing local grasses. The family moved from the winter quarters in town to the homestead around mid-April and stayed until early October. It took about three hours to move the cows along Glacier Highway which was then a dirt road.

On September 19, 1917, Smith and Altmiller bought the Douglas Dairy from Mr. and Mrs. Al Eggan. Approximately forty cows were walked across the sand bars at low tide to the Salmon Creek flats and then to the homestead in the Mendenhall Flats. By October all the cows were brought to town to the winter quarters. The milk from the cows was processed and bottled in the Juneau Dairy town site and sent daily to Douglas. It was inconvenient and the process was soon dropped when Joe Kendler, who was working for the Juneau Dairy, took over the Douglas Dairy in 1918.

During the peak of World War I, the Juneau Dairy consisted of 90 milk cows. Because of the lack of man power, three women milkers were hired for about three years. Each woman milked a string at a time (30 cows). When it came time for the bull to service the cows, the women were asked to leave the area.

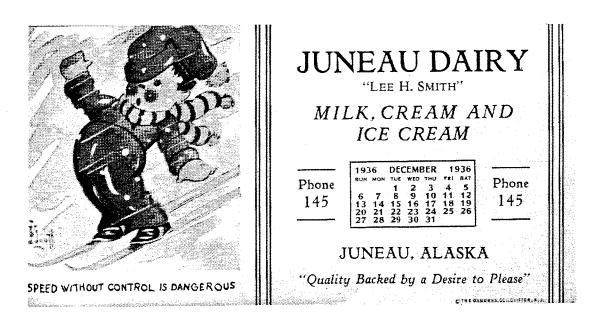
The Juneau Dairy continued to grow and modernize. Around 1928 Smith installed an ice cream machine at the town site. It was the first one in the area used for commercial purposes. In 1936 the Juneau Dairy, along with the Mendenhall Dairy, Alaska Dairy, and Glacier Dairy, consolidated to form Juneau Dairies Incorporated. A bottling plant was started in September of 1936 and completed the following year. To avoid confusion Lee Smith changed the name of his Juneau Dairy to Smith Dairy. Surge milking machines were installed in the Smith Dairy in 1937. Smith tried milking machines called Calf Way as early as 1915, but they were not too successful.

1949, 1950, and 1951 were sad years for the Smith family. Lee Smith died in July of 1949 at the age 61. In 1950 the Juneau School District condemned the town property to build the Harborview Elementary School. This decision was very hard on Mrs. Smith and she said she would never leave her home. She passed away in February of 1951. That same year, the family permanently moved the Smith Dairy to the homestead in the Mendenhall Valley and continued the family ownership and management of the dairy. They built the

first milking parlor in the area that consisted of an elevated platform that raised the cows about three feet above the ground, which made it convenient to attach the milking machines. The milk went directly over a cooler in the pipelines and into a can where it was then placed in a stainless steel holding tank that was refrigerated to around 36 degrees and constantly stirred. It was subsequently hauled into the Juneau Dairies Inc. processing plant by a tank truck.

The fall of 1965 saw the last of the dairies in Southeast Alaska close down. The Smith homestead was zoned prime commercial land by the City of Juneau (later the City and Borough of Juneau), which meant no permits could be obtained for future development of the dairy. It was becoming cheaper for customers to buy milk that was brought in by air than directly from the dairies. The family gradually slaughtered the herd of 95 cows that were not sold. The Matanuska Valley received 15 heifers, four cows were shipped to Seattle, and 22 to Fairbanks. The property was subsequently sold to developers. The Nugget Mall Shopping Center is on part of the original Smith family homestead. The old barn sat where the parking lot is now situated and the calf pens were in a grove of trees that is now occupied by McDonalds restaurant.

Lee and Frances Smith had five sons and one daughter. Ted, Francis, Sid, and Joe still live in Juneau. Lee Smith resides in Oregon and Dolores in Ohio. Unfortunately, there are no surviving buildings from the old Juneau Dairy (Smith Dairy). A road in a small subdivision that was once part of the homestead is named after Lee Smith. A side road in front of Valley Lumber, part of the original road to the dairy, is called Old Dairy Road. It is a reminder of what was once a very important part of the oldest dairy in Juneau.

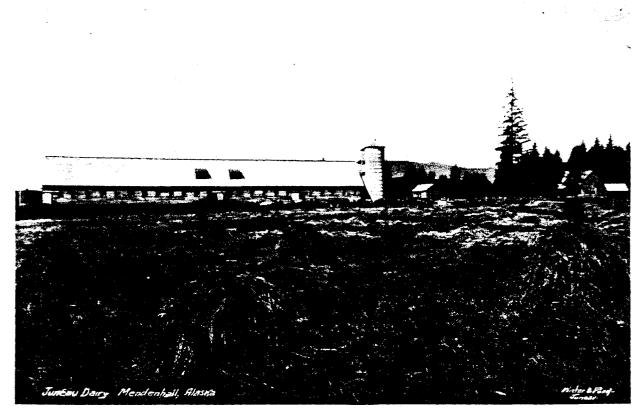


Calendar: Juneau Dairy. Courtesy of the Smith Family.

THE TAKU RIVER DAIRY - Established 1916

Already well known in the area before he started a dairy, Benjaman Bullard was a miner first. He was born in Michigan and grew up in California. He travelled north to Canada during the Klondike gold rush in 1898, and arrived in Juneau around 1900. Bullard was a graduate civil and hydraulic engineer. He staked several placer claims on Mendenhall River just below the glacier and in 1907 he was mining on Nugget Creek. He built a trail up Nugget Creek known as Ben Bullard's Trail. His hydroelectric site on Nugget Creek was acquired by the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co. around 1912.

In 1916 Bullard claimed a 148-acre homestead at what became known as Bullard's Landing, approximately four miles from the mouth of the river, or Taku Point as it is sometimes referred to. He said he always believed that the country along the Taku River was well adapted for farming and cattle raising, and he proved it. He erected six buildings, including a residence with all of the modern conveniences. He had a large warehouse, concrete pig pen, a modern silo with hoisting equipment on top, and a spacious stable. Lee Smith, owner of the Juneau Dairy, was so impressed with Bullard's operation that he added a silo when he rebuilt his barn in 1918. Bullard had a herd of 15 Holstein cows of the black and white grade, a dozen pigs, and a couple of horses. The natural grass was extremely nutritious and after spending time grazing on the excellent feed the cows' butterfat increased by almost two percent. Ben Bullard died at his Taku Ranch on Bullard's Landing in 1933.



Photograph: Juneau Dairy (Smith Dairy) - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

Because of economic reasons, many people were immigrating from Europe to the United States. One of the immigrants was George Danner, who left his home near Munich, Germany for Galveston, Texas in 1908. George was quite a handyman and moved to wherever work was available, so it was natural that he traveled to San Francisco to help rebuild the city after the earthquake. 1909 found him in Skagway, Alaska helping to work on the water system. In 1910 the lure of gold drew him northward to Circle City, which is located on the banks of the Yukon River. He got employment as a ditch digger, all the while dreaming of striking it rich on his own.

In 1914, like so many early immigrants, Danner returned to Germany to marry his sweetheart, Rosa Maier, and bring her to Alaska. He had intended to follow his dream of finding gold by returning to Circle City after marrying Rosa, but the birth of George Jr. upon their arrival in Juneau changed his plans. On August 29, 1914, a deed to a fraction of land and a house was issued to George and Rosa Danner between the Casey-Shattuck Addition and Fractional Lode Claim from Frank Bach. Because he had worked in the dairy business in the old country, George got a job with Lee Smith, owner of the Juneau Dairy. He remained with Smith until about 1917, when he decided to strike out on his own.

Few large tracts of land were available. The Danners rented acreage from Tom Knudson, who had a 160 acre homestead on the "Mendenhall Flats" and property in town near Femmer's wharf off of Willoughby Avenue. Knudson's Mendenhall property was in the vicinity of the airport and was later purchased by Joe Kendler who established the Alaska Dairy. Danner built up a herd of around 20 Guernsey cows. A Juneau newspaper article of July 19, 1917, stated that O. Eikland, who had formerly been in charge of the city delivery for the Mendenhall Dairy, was now superintendent at the summer operation headquarters and George Danner was to take charge Another article dated August 19, 1917, of city deliveries. reported that "Tom Knudson is moving two of his cabins across the street to the waterfront side. They will be remodeled and made into one dwelling. George Danner of the Mendenhall Dairy will bring in his family from the dairy farm (at Knudson's) and occupy the house."

Around 1920 Danner fixed up one of the Knudson's buildings of Femmer and Ritter's wharf in Juneau adjacent to Willoughby Avenue and used it as a milk house. He bottled the milk himself and delivered it to his customers in town. Danner took the ferry from Juneau to Thane to make deliveries, but this proved to be too time consuming and was dropped, though it was a good time to catch up on his sleep. The road from the valley was not plowed in the winter and it was sometimes difficult to get the milk to town. Lawrence Swanson, a fisherman who had a homestead on Fish Creek, sometimes helped Danner by delivering the milk by boat to Femmer's wharf (as it was later known).

Salmon Creek became the location of Danner's dairy when he leased John Wagner's land around 1921, which included a barn and a house

about 100' north of the original bridge, however, he continued to use Knudson's milk house facilities in town. The family soon moved from the cottage near Fremmers wharf to their new home.

1922 was a big year for dairy farm development. Danner took up a homestead of 130 acres approximately nine miles from town on the Glacier Highway. The building site had to be cleared of trees and drained. A small barn, milk house, and family residence were built by 1923. Rosa Maier's brothers, Frank and William, came to Juneau that same year from Germany and worked at the dairy for a brief period of time. Frank soon got a job with the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company, and in 1929 he established the Glacier Dairy, near the current Brotherhood Bridge in the Mendenhall Valley. William was an accomplished cabinet maker and followed that trade in Juneau.

There was no electricity to the Mendenhall Valley in 1923 and the Danner's did not have their own power plant. Their lighting was provided by coal oil lanterns. The herd of about 30 cows grazed on the rich grass of the tide flats. In 1923 the Danners purchased the Adsit homestead on Norway Point to use as winter quarters. A second story was added to the house and a small barn was constructed on the flats below the house to shelter the animals during the winter months. It was quite an event when the cows were moved to their winter quarters in November and returned to the homestead in May. They could hardly wait to get out to pasture and practically ran down the road, but when the cows had to return to winter quarters at Norway Point in the late fall, it was a different story — they just plodded along. People along the Glacier Highway were notified when the cows were on the way and they stood by to run them off in case the gardens looked too good to pass up for grazing.

In May of 1934, a new barn and milk house was completed at the homestead by John Klein, with the sheet metal work being done by A.M. Gyer. The family home was remodeled about the same time. It took more than 2,000 yards of rock-fill to make an appropriate site, with five and one-half feet being placed under the barn. The whole town was invited to the grand opening and barn dance. Special rates were provided by the bus line and over 2,000 people accepted the invitation to the event. Henry Krane's orchestra played and refreshments were served. People were scattered outside and inside the new facilities. George Danner was quoted as saying, "It made us happy to have such a tremendous response to our invitation to the opening and barn dance. We had thought perhaps seven or eight hundred people would come, but for more than two thousand to come out and seem to enjoy themselves so much is far more than we expected. It made us very happy."

The Territory of Alaska veterinarian said the operation was the most modern in Alaska. The new barn measured 102' by 34', with stalls for 41 cows. The stalls were of composition cork and there was an automatic watering system that was operated by the cows themselves; and there was even a refuse carrier. The milk house had an apartment added on the second floor, while the first floor held the cooling room, ice and sterilization rooms, and the boiler

room. The hand operated bottle filler and capper could do 12 to 16 bottles a minute. When electricity came to the valley around 1936, the family permanently moved from their summer headquarters on Norway Point to the homestead.

George Danner did not work alone. Rosa Danner took care of the bottle washing for the dairy, tended to a large vegetable garden, and was an accomplished piano player. She insisted that her children take violin and piano lessons. There were now two children in the Danner household, with the addition of a daughter named Rose, in 1916. George Jr. helped deliver milk by sled in the winter before attending the Fifth Street School in Juneau (as it was referred to then). A large weight was thrown out of the sled to use as an anchor in order to keep the horse from straying. the summer a Model T-Ford with open sides was used for deliveries. The Mendenhall Dairy made deliveries to Chicken Ridge, but not to Young high school students earned extra money by Starr Hill. helping to shovel the manure in the summer months. Joe Ackerman worked for a short time at the dairy (the Ackerman family later farmed in the area of Eagle River), as well as Hans Arp and Roy After electricity reached the Mendenhall Valley, a DeLavel milking machine was purchased.

The Danner's moved south in 1944 to Chula Vista, California, when Rosa became ill. George Jr. was working in the area for Consolidated Aircraft as an engineer. Mr. Danner returned to Juneau during the summer months to take care of the business, which was being managed by Maynard Peterson. George Jr. moved back to Juneau in 1945, and became plant manager of Juneau Dairies, Inc., and remained in that position until 1950. It was in 1950 that the family decided to sell the dairy to Maynard Peterson. George Jr. continues to live in Juneau in a home next door to the original house purchased on Norway Point. Mrs. Rosa Danner passed away in California around 1952, and Mr. Danner in 1966.

Maynard and Joyce Peterson came to Juneau from North Dakota in August of 1935. Mr Peterson first worked for Lee Smith, owner of the Juneau Dairy. When Juneau Dairies Inc. was formed in 1936, he worked as a wholesale milk deliveryman until 1941, when he became manager of the plant. In 1943 he quit that position to go commercial halibut fishing. Peterson planted 20 acres of oats in the area now occupied by the Fred Meyer store. He purchased a number of modern pieces of farming equipment and made improvements to the dairy by adding a silo, which was destroyed by a mud slide in 1984. Evidence was found of an earlier slide when the land was excavated for the new barn in 1934. Peterson ran the dairy for several years and moved south when it was sold to Ted Smith and Dr. Fred Honsinger around 1961. He now lives in Wenatchee, Washington, and some family members still live in Juneau. The cows were merged with the Smith Dairy herd and the buildings were remodeled for business use. Sections of the land were sold, and a church school and the Fred Meyer store now occupy the site where fields of hay once grew.

The Mendenhall Dairy barn and milk house are still standing and the family home sits across the road. The two story milk house is currently occupied by the Southeast Alaska Veterinary Clinic and the barn houses a small repair business. If you listen carefully, you can almost hear the band playing during the big celebration in 1934.





Upper Photograph: Joe Kendler, Alaska Dairy - Dairy Collection. Lower Photograph: Mendenhall Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

THE SWITZER DAIRY - Established 1922

Mention the name Charlie Switzer to anyone of the pioneer families in the area and they will all agree he was a very philanthropic man. Switzer was born in Jefferson County, New York, on March 11, 1855. At nine years of age he started work in the Singer Sewing Machine Factory. He was one of the first students to enter Cornell University. After graduation he travelled to Virginia City, Nevada, and worked in the mines. Among his friends were Mark Twain and B.M. Behrends, who later came to Juneau to establish a store and bank. While he lived in Nevada he helped put other family members through school. He continued to move around the country starting and selling small businesses and helping others in need.

Switzer arrived in Juneau in 1914, and his first job was at the laundry of the Alaska Gastineau Gold Mining Company at Thane. He lived in Juneau and walked three miles to and from work every day. In 1915 he started his own laundry on Front Street in Juneau and offered space in the back of the shop to people who were homeless. He worked at the Treadwell mine as a pipe fitter and even tried to start a pig ranch at St. James Bay, which failed because the ice did not go out until June and it was too cold to grow crops. He returned to Juneau and started a small hauling business, and even worked for a short time in a cooperative store.

In 1922, at the age of 67, Switzer decided to start a dairy while he was recovering from a stroke. He first located in the area of Last Chance Basin where he had a herd of around 12 cows. The small barn was on the northwest side of the first bridge leading into the basin. He hired 5-year old Dean Williams to help with the deliveries. The little delivery cart was pulled by a horse named "Fewclothes." It is thought that he moved his herd to the Sunny Point area after 1926, where a large barn and a small house were constructed southeast of the point. He bottled his own milk and his cows roamed the flats grazing on the nutritious grass.

Switzer continued to help those in need. If he found someone in dire straits, he would take them into his home and care for him. Many young people in Juneau and Douglas profited by his caring, not only by receiving a place to stay, but help with their education as well. If a family could not afford to buy milk he gave it to them, asking nothing in return. Switzer even offered a haven for those who returned from World War I with problems that were not severe enough to put them in a psychiatric institution.

It was during a major labor strike at the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company in 1935, that Switzer again came to the aid of those in need. Few of the stores would give the striking miners credit and he often paid their bills. Several times he butchered some of his own cows to supply meat for a soup-kitchen that was opened to help feed the men.

Though Switzer was successful at helping others, he did have his own problems. His potato crops suffered from blight, half of his chickens were stolen, and health officials discovered his cows had Bangs disease which caused them to abort their calves. Tragically,

in February of 1939, he had to have a leg amputated because of an automobile accident. The people of the area came to his financial aid by staging a fund drive headed by his friend B.M. Behrends, which supplied money to purchase an artificial leg. Because of the injury and the disease of his cows, Switzer gave up the dairy business. He died September 10, 1946 at the age of 91 and is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Juneau.

Switzer Creek and Switzer Village Mobile Park are named for him and though no buildings are standing to remind people of Switzer's Dairy, his good deeds remain in the memories of many pioneers of Juneau and Douglas.



Photograph: Juneau Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

THE ALASKA DAIRY - Established 1923

Little did Mathilde Sauermann know when she boarded a ship bound for the United States, to live with relatives in 1921, that she would meet her future husband and begin a new life in Alaska.

Joe Kendler was born in Saalbach, Austria, on October 14, 1886. His brother John, who was manager of a large dairy in Seattle, Washington, sent for him in 1913. Joe worked for a number of farms in western Washington until the Spring of 1917, when he and John bought a wheat farm in northern California. It was the year of the big draught and they lost the whole crop. That same year, Joe Kendler travelled to Juneau, Alaska, to work for the Juneau Dairy as a milker. It was the year of the big snow fall and Kendler wanted to leave, but he couldn't afford the ticket south. Within a year he acquired Smith's Douglas Dairy. The first cow barn was an old one-room school house. The original site is currently occupied by the Gastineau Elementary School on 4th and "G" Streets. At the time of the purchase, Kendler's little Douglas Dairy consisted of 12 cows. Since there were few open fields, the cows grazed in unfenced yards at the good will of the townspeople and on occasion they wandered into the cemetery. They were great lawnmowers and supplied handy fertilizer for flowers and vegetable gardens.

Kendler travelled to his homeland in 1921, hoping to bring a nephew back to Juneau with him, however, the nephew's family refused to let him go. Kendler returned instead with a dairyman named Tony Reiss, who was later to become manager of the Douglas Dairy. It was on the return trip to the United States, on the SS Hansa, that he met 22 year old Mathilde Sauermann, who was born in Wienheim, Germany, on Christmas Day of 1899. It was a true shipboard romance, that lasted for over 45 years. In 1922 Mathilde travelled from Chicago to Douglas, Alaska, to marry Joe Kendler. They were married in the home of Douglas pioneer merchant, John Feusi, on August 19, 1922. Mamie Fuesi Jensen, who still lives in the area, was bridesmaid.

A July 19, 1923 newspaper reported that "Joe Kendler, owner of the Douglas Dairy, purchased the dairy business and ranch of Thomas Knutson (Knudson). The business is known as the Alaska Dairy. The ranch consists of about 300 acres of land, about nine miles from town on the Glacier Highway. Kendler will move his Douglas herd to the new location, but will winter enough cows at Douglas to take care of his milk customers there." Tom Knudson's son, Herb, was hired by Kendler to help him with the dairy. The homestead was eventually increased to 360 acres.

In the early 1920's two different shipments of cows from Seattle arrived contaminated with Tuberculosis. John Kendler moved to Juneau to help his brother with the problem. The sick cows had to be slaughtered and John's solution to keep the remaining herd free of the disease was to get rid of the wood floors and replace them with concrete, which was successful. Kendler, along with other dairymen, was only reimbursed for about two-thirds of their worth. Eventually, the Alaska Legislature passed a law demanding health

certificates on animals entering Alaska. John remained as manager of the Douglas Dairy until the early 1930's, when he returned to Austria to help his sisters. He soon married and remained there until his death, around 1955.

Kendler sold the Douglas Dairy to Dewey Frankforter around 1934, however, it was not a successful sale and he again became the owner. His nephew, George Kendler, moved to Douglas from Pennsylvania, and managed the dairy until Mike Reiser reportedly took over and managed it until it closed around 1936.

The dairy farm in the Mendenhall Valley continued to grow, and in 1936 the buildings consisted of a dairy barn with concrete up to the windows, a calf and horse barn, milk house, hay barn, bunk house, and a new two story home, as well as numerous out buildings to store machinery. It was also in 1936 that the Alaska Dairy consolidated with three others to form the Juneau Dairies Incorporated.

The original Douglas Dairy herd reportedly consisted of a mixture of Holsteins and Guernseys. The Kendlers subsequently switched to all Holsteins, which produced more milk and less cream. Prior to World War II, the dairy consisted of about 105 head of cattle. Not all were milking stock, some were too young and others were dry. During the World War II Kendler reduced his herd to around 60 head.

In addition to running the dairy, the Kendlers raised chickens, geese, ducks, and pigs, and made their own sausage. While Joe was busy planting, cutting, and storing hay, as well as the natural beach grasses, Mathilde was taking care of a large vegetable garden. In 1938 a 30-acre field near Duck Creek was cleared and planted with Kentucky blue grass, timothy, rye, and alsike clover. Two years later the Alaska Dairy only had to ship one carload of expensive alfalfa from Ellensburg, Washington, for winter feed.

In the summer, when they had excess milk and cream, Mathilde made ice cream and sold it to the Alaskan Hotel, George Brothers Grocery, and to regular customers that stopped by the dairy. In the winter when roads were bad, milk was delivered by horse and sleigh. The bottled milk, whipped cream, and buttermilk were loaded into wooden cases then stacked on the flatbed of a long bob sled, that was pulled by "Nellie" and "Queen" the two Belgian mares. As with the other dairymen that delivered in town, the trip started as early as 6:00 a.m. and a coal oil lantern was carried for light. Kendler walked the nine miles to town so as not to add extra weight to the already heavy load. Homesteaders, from Fish Creek on Douglas Island, would sometimes catch a ride to town on the truck to town in the summer, if they could get across the Bar (a commonly used term for the Gastineau Channel, in the area of Vanderbilt Hill).

In 1942 the Army moved onto the homestead, causing considerable problems when they posted a sign in front of the Kendler's property stating, "You are now entering a restricted area. Use of cameras and binoculars is not permitted." At one time, the landowners were even denied access to their own pasture. One benefit to the

farmers and dairyman during that time was the widening of the road to town.

In 1951 Kendler started planning his retirement by selling or butchering the cows. In 1952 he decided to plant potatoes in a 10-acre plot to occupy his time. Mrs Kendler agreed with him on this decision, because in 1954 they had purchased the Feldon Apartments in Juneau and she felt this gave them security. The first year's potato crop came in at 70,000 lbs. It was a very successful project and the product was sent to many outlying towns. Not only did the Kendlers raise a successful potato crop, but they also supplied the area with eggs from 300 hens.

Over the years, the Kendlers slowly sold off pieces of their property. Several subdivisions now occupy the old Alaska Dairy site on the North side of Glacier Highway. In 1934 an emergency landing field was built near the Kendlers dairy. In 1936 Pan American Airlines bought 20 acres of land from the Kendlers to build an airport. The existing terminal, taxiways, and parking ramps for small planes, now stand where cows once grazed on fields of domesticated grass. The last of the Kendler's property was sold in 1965. A supermarket now occupies the cattle run and barnyard. Lyle's Furniture and Hardware store is near the site where the family home once stood. The two-story family home was bought by Sid and Elizabeth Smith, members of the pioneer dairy family, and moved to a lovely setting on the Mendenhall Loop Road.

Joe and Mathilde Kendler moved to Martha Lake, Washington, in 1965. Joe Kendler was 80 years old when he died February 2, 1967. The Kendlers had two children, Joe and Mildred Kendler Steen, who no longer live in Alaska. However, there are several grandchildren still living in Juneau and Douglas. Before Mathilde Kendler died in 1988 at 88 years of age, she authored a charming book published in 1983, entitled "Kendlers - The Story of a Pioneer Alaska Juneau Dairy." She told a wonderful story of love, hardship, and perseverance in the pioneering dairy business in Juneau and Douglas.



Newspaper Advertisement: 1916 Daily Alaska Dispatch. Courtesy of Willette Janes.

Frank Maier and his brother William left their hometown near Munich, Germany, for the United States in 1923, because they heard about the free land that was available in Alaska for homesteading. They joined their sister, Rosa Maier Danner, in Juneau that same year. They worked at George and Rosa Danner's Mendenhall Dairy for a brief time and then secured jobs with the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company.

After Frank became established, he sent for his fiancee Rosa Batter in 1926. She made the journey on the liner "Hamburg" and travelled by train to Seattle. She could not speak English at the time and was helped by the American Red Cross at each stop along the way. She reached Juneau aboard the "Admiral Roger" and soon became Mrs. Frank Maier.

The Maiers first lived in a little house on 12th Street in Juneau, but Rosa being used to country living did not like living in town, so they decided to look for land in the Mendenhall Valley. A local newspaper dated March 9, 1929, reported that Frank Maier and Tony Reiss of Douglas, closed a deal for the Anderson Tract of 88 acres. Equipment was ordered from Seattle and the barn was to hold 18 cows when it was built. In addition, a Ford 1 Ton truck was ordered from Juneau Motors. The article goes on to state that Reiss operated a small dairy in Douglas four years earlier and that both men had been employed by the A J (a common abbreviation of the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company). The 88 acres of land were purchased from J.B. Anderson, a local florist and greenhouse owner. It is not known how long Reiss remained a partner.

The Maier's first group of buildings were on the bank on the east side of the Mendenhall River (The meadow was subsequently subdivided and named Meadow Grove). There was only a small shack on the property, which was torn down and within the first year a barn, small milk house, and family residence were built. Maier soon found the need to purchase additional land and bought approximately 152 acres from Don and Charles Skuse. The holdings then encompassed both sides of the Mendenhall River in the vicinity of the Brotherhood Bridge (as it is now called), and both sides of the Glacier Highway. Their immediate neighbors were the Albert Pedersons of the Pederson Dairy.

In 1933 a new barn, 128'x 39' with a concrete silo, and a two story house with a can storage area attached was built by G.E. Krause & Company on the recently acquired property. The family moved from the house on the river bank because it was more convenient to be close to the new barn. The Maiers planted oats and made use of the local grass, cutting and storing it in the silo attached to the barn. The cows freely roamed the flats. They fed on the rich grass, and plodded to the barn when it was time to be milked. The initial herd of the Glacier Dairy consisted of about 24 cows and one bull. In the late 1940's, the herd was increased to around 35 Guernseys and Holsteins, with 12 additional calves raised for milking or beef stock and an additional bull. Deliveries to town were made in a small open-sided truck that had to be driven in low

gear because of the rutted dirt road. In the winter the milk was covered with blankets to keep it from freezing.

Mrs. Maier was known for her hospitality and her good cooking. Her recipes were listed several times in the Juneau Independent's "Best Cook of the Week" column. She also ran the tractor when work needed to be done in the fields. When the neighbors helped with the haying, she always fed them excellent meals, as well as preparing meals for the two to three hired hands. Mr. McMurchey and Art Vanhumbik worked for the dairy for a time and Tony Kaiser helped on occasion with the haying. Maier gave Kaiser permission to haul gravel at 25 cents per yard from the property that is now an industrial park. That was the beginning of Kaiser's trucking company.

The Maiers sold the Glacier Dairy on May 5, 1950, to Dwight and Florence Nash, who had moved to Juneau from Seattle in 1948. Frank and Rosa moved back to the original house on the bank of the Mendenhall River and soon made a visit to their homeland. Because of extensive crop failure and other problems, they got the dairy back from the new owners in 1956. Frank hired Ralph McLean, to run the dairy for him. Around 1960 two local doctors, Dr. Wilde and Dr. Gibson, purchased the dairy and ran it for a very short time. In 1962 the Maier family moved to Tacoma, Washington, where Frank passed away in June of 1966, and Rosa around 1974. The Maiers had two children, Arnold and Rose. Arnold lives in Juneau, and Rudy and Mageta Maier, children of William, continue to make Juneau their home. William Maier was a master cabinet-maker and followed that trade, helping to build a group of houses across from the Juneau-Douglas High School. William died in 1969 and is buried in Juneau.

The new owners of the dairy had no intention of going into the dairy business when they arrived in Juneau. Mr. Nash attended Oregon State and majored in animal husbandry. When he was in his mid-twenties, he purchased a dairy in Marshfield, Oregon (now known as Coos Bay), with his brother Norman. The Jersey cows from The Myrtle Dairy in Coos Bay were widely known as champions. They were often listed as among the top milk and milk fat producing cows in the world.

Nash met his future wife, Florence Bangs, while she was visiting her sister in Coos Bay. Born in Seattle of a dairying family, she was attending a Christian college in Pasadena, California. The Nashes were married in 1938. Nash had always felt a calling to the ministry and when one of the dairy's valuable cows died and with other problems occurring, he felt it was time to fulfill that dream. Nash turned the Myrtle Dairy over to his brother and moved to Pasadena to attend college. The couple worked their way through school to support themselves and their children.

After World War II Nash was a full time pastor in Seattle. In 1948 the decision was made to go to China as missionaries. While in Juneau visiting relatives, the Nashes plans were abruptly changed because the Communists had invaded China. They had sold everything they owned in Seattle, so they decided to stay in Juneau. At about

the same time, Nash had recognized a local need for a place for troubled young people.

Since Nash was a professional dairyman, it was natural that he was attracted back to that business. He became acquainted with Frank Maier when he helped him with some ailing cows, saving the life of one who was having a difficult time delivering her calf. When Frank Maier sold the dairy to the Nashes, Dwight wanted to make the Glacier Dairy into a "home for the homeless," as well as a first class dairy operation. Soon afterward, the Johnson and Minnie Field youth homes were established, thus providing for those needs. Nash was an experienced Jersey dairyman and he developed a herd of about 85 Jersey cows, reportedly the first herd in all of Alaska. Jersey cows were rarely seen in Alaska prior to this time, and were not generally considered to be a very hardy breed of cow.

In 1956, after working hard for six years, the Nashes gave up the dairying business and moved back to Oregon. Because the family missed Alaska, they moved back around 1961. Nash was a successful roofing contractor by this time and helped with the construction of homes in Mendenhaven (a subdivision near Mendenhall Glacier). They applied for and received a 5-acre homesite on Fritz Cove Road. Because Juneau had changed so much during the years they were south, the family moved to Haines, Alaska, in 1973. Dwight Nash died in December of 1975, at the age of 67 and is buried in Haines. Mrs. Nash lives with her son, William, and his family on Fritz Cove Road, not far from the old 5 acre homestead. Her children, Lorin, Dwight, Carol, and Richard, still live in Alaska. Because of a calling to the ministry, another page in the dairying history of Gastineau Channel was added.

Four structures of the Glacier Dairy are still standing. The residence and can storage house as well as the silo are a part of the Don Abel Building Supply complex. The barn was moved to the nearby industrial park and houses a residence and a painting business. The first family home is nearly unrecognizable because of extensive remodeling and no longer sits alone in the meadow, where the cows grazed and the geese wandered.



TAKE HOLD OF THE TASK THAT IS

JUNEAU DAIRY

"LEE H. SMITH"

MILK, CREAM AND
ICE CREAM

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

"Quality Backed by a Desire to Please"

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Seventeen year old Henry Hendrickson immigrated to America in 1879 from Piehinge, Finland, to avoid going into the army. The Russians, who occupied the country in 1809, required that anyone over the age of 18 had to enlist. He settled in the Finish community of Astoria, Oregon. His four younger brothers and sisters soon joined him. Land was important to the family because there was so little available in their homeland.

It was in Astoria that Hendrickson met his future wife, Marie Hannila. In 1886, when she was 17 years old, Marie left Kalajoki, Finland, to join her brother. Unfortunately, her trunk of personal belongings was lost on the journey across the United States, not an uncommon occurrence. Marie and Henry were married November 29, 1888, and soon moved to Rocklin, California (near Roseville and Sacramento), where Henry worked in the nearby marble quarries. Their son, Arnot, was born in Rocklin in October of 1893. The following year Henry and his brothers, Abel, Matt, Jack, and Mike, moved to Juneau and secured work at the Perseverance mine. Matt later returned to Oregon, and Jack was killed in a mine accident. Henry then sent for Marie and Arnot. Marie's brother, Fred Hannilla and his wife Mary, soon joined them. Three more children were born to the Hendrickson family, Waino in 1896, Helen in 1900, and Hilda in 1904.

Mr. Hendrickson and his wife built the "Rocklin House," a boarding house for miners, and made it their home. Hendrickson continued to work at the Perseverance mine until he sold his boarding house in 1914. The Rocklin Boarding House, named after their home in Rocklin, California, occupied the site where the Westmark Baranof Hotel now stands on North Franklin Street. The Hendricksons took up an 80-acre homestead on the northern section of Douglas Island. The land could only be reached by boat or across the bar at low tide from the areas of Vanderbilt Hill or Rocky Point, later known as Sunny Point. When the couple moved to the homestead on Douglas Island in 1914, only 10-year old Hilda went with them. The other children stayed with relatives in Juneau to attend school. Hilda was well read and self-educated, and received her high school diploma when she was 70 years old.

The Hendrickson homestead was very self-sufficient. There was an extensive vegetable garden and an excellent strawberry patch. The family had two burros named "Happy" and "Jenny," a couple of horses, chickens, some cows, and an ox. It was probably the only ox in Juneau and Douglas. Henry had a way with animals, and was known to have a sense of humor. When a neighbor asked him how he broke his ox to a plow, he answered, "with a peavy" (a heavy wooden lever with a metal tip used by lumbermen in handling logs). Hilda usually took the eggs and butter and sometimes vegetables and berries to Juneau by rowboat or by walking across the bar. Henry and Hilda cut logs on Shelter Island and hauled them to Juneau to repair the face of the city dock. He also supplied wood to the Alaska Steam Laundry before the advent of oil and electricity. Using the burros, he hauled lumber to the Treadwell Ditch for repairs and in the winter he hauled supplies to the caretaker's

cabins on the ditch. The Treadwell Ditch, completed in 1890, was built by the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company originally to supply water to the water wheels, then to the steam plants, and finally to the Power Plant of the 240 stamp mill.

In June of 1924, Hilda Hendrickson married Henry C. Hanna who had come to the area around 1918. The couple moved to Juneau where Henry was employed as a mechanic by Juneau Motors. He had previously operated a garage on Front Street in partnership with Miles Godkin. He was a star baseball player on the American Legion team and he was known by the nickname of "Shorty." In 1928 Henry drowned in a tragic boating accident in Gambier Bay when he was only 28 years old. He left his widow, his three year old daughter Marie, and one year old twins, Gene and George.

In 1929 when the Hendricksons filed on a 10-acre homesite on Sunny Point, Mrs. Hanna and her three children moved to the new home to live with them. Ray Peterman built the barn, house, and mink pens. Not only did the family raise mink, but they started the Sunny Point Dairy with a herd of 12 cows. Some were of the Guernsey breed and some were Jersey, but there was always one Holstein. They did not own a bull and usually borrowed one when it was Mr. Hendrickson did the milking and took care of the animals, while Mrs. Hanna bottled the milk and made the deliveries to town, which was a seven day a week job. Henry cut the native grass by hand from a field north of the homestead on Douglas Island that the family referred to as the "hay field." A horse drawn hay rake was sometimes used to do the stacking before the hay was taken to the drying barn for storage. When the drying process was completed, the hay was hauled across the flats at low tide by a team and wagon to Sunny Point and stored in the dairy barn.

It was not an easy life. There was no spring on the Sunny Point property and water had to be hauled from Switzer Creek. Run off from the mink pen roof was used as an additional water supply. The family had a Delco light plant, but it only supplied minimal power. The Hendricksons kept the homestead on Douglas Island as there was a lot of travel between the two places, especially during the haying season. During hunting season hunters used the house, otherwise it stood empty. The original family home burned around July 1926, when Mrs. Hendrickson was baking and supposedly sparks from the wood stove set the roof on fire. Mr. Hendrickson was working in the hay field at the time. The house was rebuilt and still standing in the 1950's. In 1961 the Hendrickson's grandson, Gene Hanna, built a house on the identical site which is at five and one-half mile North Douglas Highway.

Mrs. Marie Hendrickson, who had been a partial invalid for many years from a stroke, died at St. Anns Hospital in December of 1932, at the age of 63. Mrs. Hilda Hanna married John Osborn in 1932 and in 1933, a daughter they named Joan was born. The family decided to give up the dairy business in 1933, because it was just too difficult to maintain. In 1937 Mrs. Hanna developed tuberculosis and had to be hospitalized in Seattle for six months. Her sister, Mrs. Frank (Helen) Heinke, died in December of that same year when she was only 37 years old. The Osborns moved from Sunny Point

because the lack of conveniences was too hard on Hilda. The family first lived in the road camp bunk house near Auke Lake and then moved to Auke Bay. Mr. Hendrickson continued to live at Sunny Point and was 83 years old when he passed away in August of 1945. His sons, Arnot and Waino, remained in Juneau as both had married nurses from St. Anns Hospital. Waino was mayor of Juneau for seven years. In 1953 and 1954 he was a member of the Alaska Territorial Legislature. Arnot worked for Izzie Goldstein in his fisherman's supply store on South Franklin Street. The site is now occupied by the Filipino Hall. Arnot passed away in 1977, and Waino in 1983. In 1948 Hilda resumed the name of Hanna, when she and John Osborn were divorced. She then worked as a sales clerk at Nelson's Jewelry store, the Nugget Shop, and several dress shops. George Hanna, one of her twins sons, died in 1978, and Hilda Hanna passed away in 1981, when she was 76 years old. Marie Hanna Darlin and Gene Hanna still live in Juneau.

The Sunny Point property was rented for a time, and then sold and gradually subdivided. One of the streets in the subdivision is named after the Hendricksons. The original house, though remodeled, is now owned by Jim and Mary Lou King and the mink pens still sit nestled in the trees nearby.



Photograph: Juneau Dairies - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

In 1954 Juneau was one of the few cities in Alaska which had access to fresh milk and other dairy products from a local creamery. Next to the creamy at Palmer in the Matanuska Valley, Juneau Dairies Inc. was the largest in the Territory. It did a quarter of a million dollars worth of business annually and processed around 400 to 500 gallons of milk a day. It produced about 1,500 gallons of ice cream a month with almost double that amount being processed during the summer months. Ice cream and other dairy products were sent to several outlying villages. There were 18 men employed year-long and about six more were hired during the summer months.

Frank Maier, owner of the Glacier Dairy, suggested several times to Joe Kendler, of the Alaska Dairy, that he thought it would be a good idea if the dairies formed a cooperative. Other dairymen had also been considering the prospect and as a result, numerous meetings were held prior to 1935 to discuss it. In 1936 the Juneau Dairies, Inc. was formed, which included the Juneau Dairy (Lee Smith), Mendenhall Dairy (George Danner), Glacier Dairy (Frank Maier), and the Alaska Dairy (Joe Kendler). Each dairyman was to serve a term as president. Lee Smith was the first president of the corporation, and changed the name of his dairy to Smith Dairy to avoid confusion with Juneau Dairies, Inc.

By September of 1936, a bottling plant of reinforced concrete was started on the corner of Glacier Avenue and 12th Street. It was designed by N. Lester Trost and Associates and constructed by Warrack Construction Company. Before the bottling plant was completed in 1937, the milk was processed at Smith's summer headquarters in Juneau. The dairymen took monthly turns hauling 10-gallon cans of milk from the four dairies into town. The milk was brought into the plant and dumped into a vat. The process was completely enclosed and was not exposed to the air or human hands until the milk bottle was opened and the milk poured into a glass. The coop also purchased milk from some of the independent dairies. The Smith Dairy, the Mendenhall Dairy, and the Glacier Dairy had a combined total of 285 animals.

In June of 1937 pasteurized milk was offered to customers. By the 1950's the Grade A milk was homogenized and Juneau Dairies Inc. was now processing their milk into the new square glass bottles. There were about 20,000 on the Gastineau Channel routes and they had to be kept in circulation to avoid a shortage. An appeal from a dairyman in a 1915 newspaper requested that customers please return their bottles promptly and not keep them at home filled with salt, pepper, cornmeal, or any kind of fruit. There was a shortage and the dairyman could not get any more from Seattle. It was the same problem in the 1950's.

Independent deliverymen were hired for retail delivery of the milk. Wholesale routes were handled by the Juneau Dairies Inc. Tony Kaiser, who came to theau in 1947 from Chicago, signed a contract on September 9, 1948 to handle a specified retail route. He was very prompt and customers could set their watches by him. He eventually sold the route to Bill Flint and started his own hauling

business called A.N. Kaiser and Sons. Ed Nielson was production manager for many years. Other names connected with Juneau Dairies Inc., were Harry Hardin, Ed Grant, Lonie Knudson, Jim Burns, and Gene Durkee. George Danner Jr. was plant manager from 1945 until 1949.

By 1954 the plant had been completely modernized with the addition of all stainless steel equipment. The corporation officers were Ted Smith, president, Maynard Peterson, vice-president, Dwight Nash, secretary-treasurer, and on the board of directors, were Robert Boochever and Joseph Werner.

In the 1960's milk was beginning to be flown in by air and sold at a cheaper price in the markets than the local dairymen charged. Feed was getting more expensive and rates to barge it from Seattle were steadily climbing. It was no longer profitable to maintain the dairies. One by one the cows were butchered or sold and shipped to the northern dairies or to Seattle. The Smith Dairy was the last to close down around 1965 and with it Juneau Dairies Inc. closed. The building is now owned by the City and Borough of Juneau and is now the central office for the school district.



Photograph: Juneau Dairies Bottling Plant - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

THE LITTLE GUYS

There were several little dairy operations on Douglas Island and in the vicinity of Juneau. Bits and pieces of information appeared in the local newspapers, often only just one liners. April, 1897 - "Frank Nowell's ranch about a mile north of town has a fine barn and six milk cows." A mile north of town in those days was near Norway Point. July, 1892 - "A rich milk sells for 10 cents in Douglas. The price is the same at both Archer and Aamondt dairies." A Mrs. Archer had a store on Douglas Island in the short lived town of New Boston, north of the Douglas Bridge. It would be necessary to go through all the papers with a fine tooth comb to keep track of who and where. Other interesting tidbits from old Douglas newspapers include the following:

"John Stoft, the dairyman, has a new boat." - April, 1903 (Douglas).

"Walter Stephens, the dairyman, died this morning. He was born in England and came to Treadwell from Idaho. He worked as a machinist and then became Foreman." - January, 1918 (Douglas). There was a herd of cows at Treadwell, but it is unknown if they were milk cows. It was thought they were kept as meat for the boarding houses, and Stephens could have taken care of the herd.

"A cow was killed on the tracks leading to Treadwell." - May, 1907 (Douglas). The cows may have belonged to the Douglas Dairy or may have been part of the Treadwell herd.

"M.D. Berry, formerly employed by Nick Wagner on his milk route, has bought a horse and express wagon to start a transfer business." - March, 1909 (Juneau). A 1914 ad in the Daily Alaska Dispatch advertises "Berry's Express."

"W.W. Casey brought in several Jersey cows doubling the capacity of the Chicken Ridge Dairy, which he bought from H.F. Lewis." - May, 1900 (Juneau).

"There was a slide last night just above Casey's barn on Basin Road" - May, 1903 (Juneau).

"Wallia Paddock, who was working for Nick Wagner the dairyman, was attacked by a black bull belonging to the people in Douglas. He was hurt and carried to the house near the barn." - August, 1909 (Juneau). Lee Smith purchased the Chicken Ridge Dairy from Wagner November 10, 1911, as well as property at the current site of Harborview School.

"1,500 acres in the Eagle River bottom has been located for a dairy farm" - December, 1913.

"Tom Price cows now in winter quarters here in town" - September, 1909 (Douglas).

In February of 1918, John Green was quoted as saying, "the native hay is better than alfalfa." His ranch was just above the Bar on

Douglas Island. He put up a quantity of native hay, but ordered some alfalfa as a "treat" for his herd of five cows. Three of the cows were dry, but the two milk cows gave five gallons a day.

In 1936 Mary Joyce of the Taku Lodge owned a cow named "Mukluk" who loved to eat salmon. At one time "Mukluk" was courted by a moose. Mary Joyce, it is said, used the cream to make Brandy Alexanders for her guests. She also had a bull that reportedly killed a man. The Juneau Dairy bought the bull, but had to destroy him because he was too dangerous.

The George brothers had a dairy venture at Salmon Creek from around 1942 to 1944, selling the milk at their grocery store in Juneau. Tony Reiss managed the herd of around four Ayrshire though other reports say there were seven or eight cows. When they went out of business, the Smith Dairy bought the cows and Joe Kendler bought the bull.

There were also several goat farms in the vicinity of Montana Creek Road in the late 1940's and early 1950's. One farmer, who worked for Percy's Cafe, reportedly sold some of the milk to make ice cream.

There are many more little items buried in the thousands of pages of the newspapers. Just adding the number of cows of each dairyman's small herd will total quite an amount and shows the contribution the "Little Guys" made to the health and economy of the area no matter how small their operation.



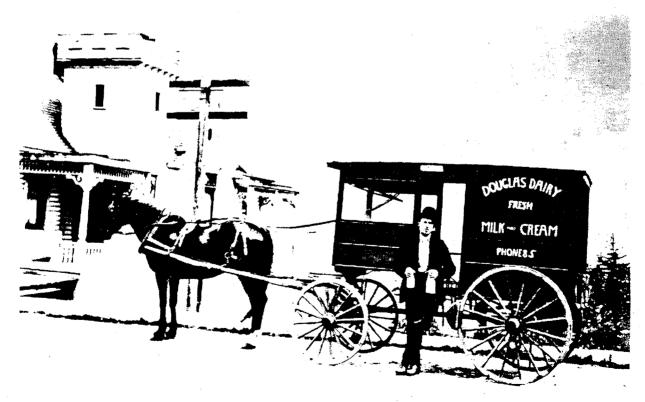
Photograph: Juneau Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

THE DOUGLAS ISLAND DAIRIES

Little information is available in the newspapers regarding the early development of the Douglas dairies. An article in the Alaska Monthly Magazine of 1906 mentions a milk ranch and dairy. References in the Douglas Island News start appearing around 1908. The paper mentions the Trudgeon barn on North Front Street and a 1914 Douglas map shows a barn in that vicinity.

THE DOUGLAS DAIRY - Established around 1909

Tom Price kept some cows at his brother's Lemon Creek ranch during the summer and wintered them in Douglas in 1909. Tom and John Price were uncles of Charlotte Price Mahaffey who wrote the book "I Remember Treadwell" in 1983. On February 8, 1910, John Price sold the Douglas Dairy to Joe Trudgeon. According to the Douglas Island News, Mr. Trudgeon was owner of the business and Ed Mackie had charge of the delivery route. On April 13, 1910, Jacob Dull of Juneau bought the Douglas Dairy from Trudgeon. Ed Mackie continued as the deliveryman under the new owner until he quit four months In August of that same year, a Judge fined a Douglas dairyman for letting his cows roam in the cemetery. The Douglas Dairy was located in the vicinity of the current Gastineau Elementary School and the Douglas Cemetery is nearby. advertisement in the Douglas Island News of October 1910, states that "Anyone wanting milk from Douglas Dairy can get the same at Trudgeon's from now on." "Trudgeons" was a well known candy store, featuring homemade confections. In 1912 he moved his store to St. Ann's Avenue.



Photograph: Douglas Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library. Mr. and Mrs. Al Eggan (sometimes referred to as Eagan in the newspapers) purchased the Douglas Dairy from Joe Trudgeon in 1911. Walter Eggan made the deliveries to the customers with a sled pulled by a team of dogs. The Eggans owned the dairy until September, 1917, when it was sold to Lee Smith and William Altmueller (later changed to Altmiller). The Eggans continued to make their home in Douglas. Regardless of the weather, Mrs. Eggan was always on the job making the regular delivery rounds. It was said that you could set the clock by her. The new owners moved the 40 cows to their place on Salmon Creek. The milk was processed at the ranch in town and the price of milk was increased from 15 cents to 18 cents a quart. Unfortunately, the cows were carriers of tuberculosis and infected the Juneau herd of Smith and Altmiller. Milk was taken to Douglas on the ferry, but it was too time consuming and was soon discontinued.

It was in 1918 that Joseph Kendler came into possession of the Douglas Dairy herd from Smith and Altmiller. His first barn was an old one-room school house in the vicinity of the Gastineau Elementary School on 4th and G Streets. An interesting article appeared in a newspaper in 1919 stating that "Nellie", the faithful old mare who hauled the Douglas milk wagon since 1914, died at the age of 24. She had worked underground at the Treadwell Mine for many years and she was reported to have tried to commit suicide in the mine by twice stepping in front of a moving ore train. Though cut and bruised she survived. After the second attempt she was brought to the surface and used by Joe Kendler to haul his delivery wagon.

After Kendler purchased land in the Mendenhall Valley in 1923, he moved the main herd to that location leaving just enough cows to handle the Douglas customers. Tony Reiss managed the dairy until John Kendler, Joe's brother, came to Alaska to help him with some diseased cattle. John remained in Douglas until the early 1930's. Dewey Frankforter bought the dairy around that time and owned it for several years. He was unable to make a go of it and Kendler took the dairy back. Joe Kendler's nephew, George, managed the dairy for a brief time and Mike Reiser reportedly was involved with it until it closed after the Douglas Bridge was built in 1935. Tax records show that Reiser had a dairy delivery truck from 1930 through 1936. He also owned a store and cooling facilities in a small building on the corner of 3rd and E Streets (the site later occupied by the Douglas Market) from which he sold milk. time the milk was water cooled in gallon containers and poured into the customer's own receptacles. Later, the milk was kept in glass bottles in a tub of cold water. Reiser owned a large piece of property between F and G Streets fronted by Third Street in Douglas with Bear Creek running through the middle of it. He had an excellent vegetable garden and reportedly had three to four goats, a number of chickens, and a few rabbits. Reiser died around 1950. A story goes that when Tony Reiss who worked for the dairy in the late 1930's was on his delivery route in town, a group of boys would sneak up to the dairy, load up a truck and sell the manure around town.

There are probably alot of little comments about Douglas dairy operations still buried in the local newspapers, but it takes alot of time to go through over 60 years of history as few of the local papers have been indexed. Most memories are growing dim and records have been lost or destroyed. One thing we do know is that Douglas did have more than one dairy. Unfortunately, there are no remaining structures in Douglas to serve as a reminder of the industry in Douglas.

THE FAMILY RUN OPERATIONS

August Aalto operated a small dairy on St. Ann's Avenue prior to 1918. Aalto came to Alaska in 1898 and to Douglas around 1900. His daughters helped him deliver milk to his customers on St. Anns Avenue. His daughter, Lempi, had the route on the edge of town serving the Treadwell houses and carried around 5 to 6 bottles in a homemade shoulder bag to make the deliveries.

Herman Savikko arrived in Douglas in 1904 and worked as a miner at the Treadwell and Perseverance mines. In the 1920's he was employed at the Treadwell foundry. He met his wife, Eli, when she was working as a maid for P.H. Fox, who owned a large mercantile store in Douglas, The Savikko family owned a small herd consisting of a bull, and three cows, one Jersey, and the rest Holstein. The bull gored one of the sons and had to be destroyed. The family reportedly started their little dairy around 1917 or 1918 and ran it for about seven years. Savikko travelled all the way to Slocum Inlet, south of Juneau, to cut grass for feed. The cows were milked twice a day by Mrs. Savikko, and when there was extra milk it was given away to neighbors or sometimes sold. The barn was destroyed and the family home on St. Anns Avenue was partially burned by a disastrous fire in 1926.



Photograph: Douglas Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY STATEMENT

The facilities within the boundaries comprising this survey district are widely located throughout the City and Borough of Juneau. They range from the town of Douglas; Chicken Ridge, Last Chance Basin and Glacier Avenue in town; the "bar" area and Brotherhood Bridge in the valley; and "out the road".

The survey district is composed of primarily residential buildings as well as a few mining structures. Most buildings are wood frame construction reflecting the available materials and historic building technology. The only reinforced concrete structure is the Juneau Dairies Incorporated Bottling Plant and was influenced by the higher technology brought to Juneau by the mining engineers.

Most of the buildings in the study area are predominately modest in detailing and primarily designed for functional use for dairy farming activities. They do not easily fit a national style category but may incorporate some reference massing or detailing. With this in mind local style classifications were defined and used for this survey.

The following local classification criteria were used in categorizing the structures in the Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey:

Other / Juneau Craftsman - These buildings do not fit the national classification due to lack of fine detailing but are reminiscent of the general massing and may feature modest detail references. The Juneau Craftsman examples in the Dairies survey featured very modest in any detailing as characterized by the national or Juneau classifications. The Dairies examples also featured a unique wrap around windowed porch.

Other / Barn - The Barn examples are characterized by gambrel roofing system and may feature shed roofed dormers or cupolas. They are designed with functionality as primary criteria and do not incorporate any elaborate detailing.

Other / Silo - The Silo listed in this survey is reminiscent of the typical silo design found throughout the country and used in the dairy farming industry.

Other style classifications used in the survey were derived from the National Register Bulletin 16 and follow generally accepted historical reference classification. The number of various style examples found in the Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey are as follows:

NO STYLE	-	1
MODERN MOVEMENT Art Deco (1925-1940)	-	1
OTHER	-	1
Juneau Craftsman (1905-1930)	_	1
Barn	_	4
Silo	_	1

The following are those structures which feature representative detailing and massing reminiscent of the period architecture and have not been altered significantly. These structures represent the significant architectural character of the Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey area and may qualify them as historic register eligible.

ART DECO

Juneau Dairies Inc. Bottling Plant	CBJ # F-5
JUNEAU CRAFTSMAN	
Danner Residence	CBJ # G-44
BARN	
Pederson Dairy Barn Maier Residence Mendenhall Dairy Barn	CBJ # G-40 CBJ # G-42 CBJ # G-46

SILO

Glacier Dairy Silo CBJ # G-41

Generally it can be said that most examples of historic building styles in this survey area were modest in interpretation. This is most likely a direct result of the economy of shipping materials to this remote part of the world, the availability of skilled craftsmen in the region, and the primarily utilitarian function of these facilities.

Buildings within the study area are truly representative of the historic socioeconomic character of the Juneau Dairy Farming population which was predominately working class dependent on the farming industry. The strong farming industry began to falter in the 1960's when milk and other dairy products began coming to town by air transportation and being sold cheaper than the local dairymen could offer.

HISTORICAL BUILDING SURVEY SHEETS

The survey sheets which follow were developed to respond to the primary criteria as established for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Each building and site were physically surveyed and investigated for the field data required on the form. In addition accessors's records were reviewed as well as other miscellaneous records to provide the historic significance of the particular building or site.



Photograph: Mendenhall Dairy - Dairy Collection. Courtesy of the Alaska State Historical Library.

Juneau Dair	y Farming Historic Resources Survey
AHRS #: JUN-497	CBJ #: G-40 Const. Date: 1929
Historic Name: Pederson Da	uiry Barn
Other Name: Harbor Plum	bing Lot/Block #: Fr. USS 1041
Location: 10.5 mi. Gla	cier Highway Parcel #: 4-B17-0-110-020-0
Historic Agriculture/animal fa	Current Commerce/warehouse Function / Use:
General Description	
approximately 20 feet by 40 feet. Some	ar shaped two story gambrel roofed wood frame structure measuring modifications have been made to it including additional windows and ndows remain and the general integretiy of the architectural form is
Historical Significance	
acre homestead taken up by Albert and C Mendenhall River in the late 1920's, Albe his wife and son William continued to rur	shall Valley, the Pederson Dairy was established around 1910 on a 160 densine Pederson in 1909. Before a bridge was constructed over the ent delivered the milk to town by boat. When Mr. Pederson died in 1929, in the dairy until 1940 when it was sold to Curtis Sherwood and renamed operations in the mid 1960's. The barn is currently owned by Harbor ge.
Architectural Classification	(Category / Sub-category)
Other / Barn	
Materials Roofing:	
Corrugated metal	
Walls:	
Vertical and horizontal wood	
Foundation:	
Concrete	
Other:	
Architectural Elements	
Gambrel roof system	

Remarks and Comments

* Modified from original
* Moved from original site

Sources

Survey Dates

1; 5B; 6-8; 20; IIIA-4, 8, 23

Juneau Dairy	Farming Historic Resources Survey
AHRS #: JUN-498	CBJ #: G-41 Const. Date: 1933
Historic Name: Glacier Dairy	Silo
Other Name: Don Abel Buil	ding Supply Lot/Block #: Lot 1, Indust. Park #3
Location: 9999 Glacier	Highway Parcel #: 4-B16-0-101-001-0
Historic Agriculture/storage Function / Use:	Current Vacant/not in use Function / Use:
General Description	
40 feet high. A top portion of aproximatel	sped concrete structure measuring approximately 16 feet in diameter and ly 10 feet is clad in corrugated metal and the structure is topped with a pears today much as it did originally and is currently not in use.
Historical Significance	
88 acres on the southeast side of the Men	1929 when Frank Maier and Tony Reiss purchased the Anderson Tract of denhall River that is now called Meadow Grove. Additional land was nd in 1933 a barn, concrete silo and two story house with a can storage of Company for George and Rosa Maier.
Architectural Classification	(Category / Sub-category)
Other / Silo	
Materials Roofing:	
Metal	
Walls:	
Concrete with corrugated metal at top	
Foundation:	
Concrete	
Other:	
Architectural Elements	
* Typical silo design	
Remarks and Comments	

Sources

1; 5B; 13A, C; 20; IIIA-2,4,9,15,16,19,20,24c

Survey Dates

Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey

AHRS #: JUN-499	CBJ #: G-42 Const. [Date: 1933
Historic Name: Maier Resid	lence	
Other Name: Hee Haw Ha	ay Company Lot/Block #: Lot 1, I	ndust. Park #3
Location: 9999 Glacio	er Highway Parcel #: 4-B16-	0-101-001-0
Historic Domestic/single dwe	Current Commerce/sp Function / Use:	ecialty store
General Description		
approximately 16 feet by 32 feet. Som	shaped two story gambrel roofed wood frame structure modifications have been made to it including new over the general integretiy of the architectural form in	windows and recent
Historical Significance		
southeast side of the Mendenhall River the first floor was sectioned off to use	or. When the house was built the Maier's moved from into the two story house in order to be closer to the for storage of the five (5) gallon milk cans. The far ht Nash. The residence and can house is now owner she sells feed and grain.	new barn. One side of mily lived in the home
Architectural Classification	(Category / Sub-category)	
Other / Barn		
Materials Roofing:		
Metal ribbed		
Valis:		
Metal ribbed		
Foundation:		
Concrete		
Other:		
Architectural Elements		
Gambrel roof system	**Commence of the Commence of	
Remarks and Comments		
Remodeled		
	Sources	Survey Dates
	1; 5B; 13A, C; 20; IIIA-2,4,9,15,16,19,20,24c	1991

Juneau Da	ry Farming Historic	Resources Sur	rvey
AHRS #: JUN-500	CBJ #: [0	G-43 Con	st. Date: 1933
Historic Name: Glacier Dai	y Barn		
Other Name:	. Lo	t/Block #: Lot	43, Mason Park
Location: 10009 Craz	y Horse Drive	Parcel #: 4-B	17-0-108-005-0
Historic Agriculture/animal Function / Use:		cent Commerce	e/warehouse
General Description	, and	alon 7 odo. [Gonniero	er specially store
The Glacier Dairy Barn is a rectangula approximately 30 feet by 120 feet. Ma sections of approximately 20 feet by 30 and roofing has been added. The general content of the section of the	ny modifications have bee) feet which are set perpe	en made to it including endicular to the origina	the addition on two new al. New ribbed metal siding
Historical Significance		•	
The second barn of the Mendenhall Dai half and moved by Joe Smith of the Stoccupied by the Alaska Striping and Pa	nith Dairy family around	1978 to Crazy Horse	Drive. It is currently
Architectural Classification	(Category / Sub-categ	gory)	
Other / Barn			
Materials			i cativi Ve
Roofing:	 		* .
Corrugated metal			
Walls:			
Horizontal wood			***
Foundation:			
Concrete			
Other:			
Architectural Elements			
* Gambrel roof system		1	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
			Magazine Company
Remarks and Comments			
* Additions have been made to the original and original siding and roofing has been replaced	Sources		Survey Dates

1; 5B; 13A, C; 20; IIIA-2,4,9,15,16,19,20,24c

1991

* Building has been moved from

original site

Juneau Da	iry Farming His	toric Resource	es Survey
AHRS #: JUN-501	CBJ :	#: G-44	Const. Date: ca 1923
Historic Name: Danner Res	sidence		
Other Name:] Lot/Block #	: Lot 28, Tr. B3, USS 1568
Location: 7630 Glaci	er Highway	Parcel #	: 5-B14-0-101-005-0
Historic Domestic/Single Dw Function / Use:		Current Function / Use:	omestic/Single Dwelling
General Description			
The Danner Residence is a rectangular structure with a small gable roofed en		·	•
Historical Significance			
eased property at Salmon Creek and e ocation for the dairy in 1923. Architectural Classification			nn, which was used as a summer
Other / Juneau Craftsman			
Materials Roofing:			
Asphalt shingles			
Valls:			
Horizontal wood with diagonal wood in he gables			
oundation:			
Concrete			

Architectural Elements



Remarks and Comments

* Remodeled in 1934

Sources

Survey Dates

1; 5B; 7; 8; 10; 13C; 20; IIIA-2,3 ,15, 16, 24b

Juneau Da	iry Farming Historic Resources Survey	<i>!</i>
AHRS #: JUN-502	CBJ #: G-45 Const. I	Date: 1934
Historic Name: Mendenhall	Dairy Milk House	
Other Name: Southeast	Ak. Vet. Clinic Lot/Block #: Lot 3, T	r. A, USS 1568
Location: 7691 Glaci	er Highway Parcel #: 5-B14-	0-102-005-0
Historic Agriculture/process Function / Use:	ing Current Other/veterin Function / Use:	ary clinic
General Description		
structure measuring approximately 20 f	use was a rectangular shaped two story gambrel roo eet by 40 feet. Numerous additions to the building all portion reveals the barn architectural character.	has all but obscured the
Historical Significance		
the attendent. The first floor housed to bottle. A hand-operated bottle filler and run the whole operation. When the da	on the first floor and an apartment was constructed he sterilizing equipment that soaked, brushed, rinsed a capper could fill and cap 12 to 16 bottles per minuity was discontinued in the 1960's, Dr. Clifford Lobot the family lived in the upstairs apartment. The factorisations are supported to the control of the family lived in the upstairs apartment.	d and sterilized each te. One person could ugh established a
Architectural Classification	ן (Category / Sub-category)	
No Style		
Materials		
Roofing:		
Corrugated metal		·
Walls:		
Wood shingles and stucco		
Foundation:		15%
Concrete		
Other:		
Architectural Elements		
* Gambrel roof system		
Remarks and Comments		
The building has been extensively		
remodeled and additions have nearly bbscured the original building	Sources	Survey Dates
	1; 5B; 7; 8; 10; 13C; 20; IIIA-1, 2, 3, 5, 16, 24b	1991
	/ 	

Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey

AHRS #:	JUN-503	CBJ	#: G-46	Const. D	ate: 1934	
Historic Name:	Mendenhall .[Dairy Barn				
Other Name:			Lot/Block	#: Lot 1, Tr	. A, USS 1568	
Location:	7671 Glacier	Highway	Parce	#: 5-B14-0)-102-006-0	7
Historic Agric	culture/animal fa	cility	Current Function / Use:	Vacant/not in u	Se	
General Descrip	tion					
The Mendenhall Dairy approximately 30 feet constrution thus the orat the ridge line as we	by 120 feet. Very riginal integretiy of	few if any modif the architectural	ications have bee	en made to it sind	ce its original	bd
Historical Signi	ficance					
The Mendenhall Dairy the Mendenhall Valley. Danners homesteaded new barn and milk hous to Maynard Peterson all business.	In 1921 they rent the current site an se was completed a	ed land near Saln d constructed a b and a grand openi	non Creek and m arn, milk house a ng and barn danc	oved the dairy to and family residen e was held. In 19	that area. In 1922 th ce by 1923. In 1934 950 the dairy was sold	a a
Architectural C	lassification	(Category / Sul	o-category)			
Other / Barn						
Materials						
Roofing:						
Corrugated metal						
Walls:				٠.		
Wood shingles and cond	crete					.
Foundation:				No.		
Concrete						
Other:						
Architectural El	ements					
* Gambrel roof system * Rooftop cupolas						
Remarks and Cor	nments					
		Sources			Survey Dates	-
		1; 5B; 7; 8; 10; 19, 20, 24b	13C; 20; IIIA-2,	4 9, 15, 16,	1991	

Juneau Dairy Farming Historic Resources Survey AHRS #: JUN-504 CBJ #: F-5 Const. Date: 1936-37 Historic Name: Juneau Dairies Incorporated Bottling Plant Other Name: CBJ School Admin. Offices Lot/Block #: Lot 1 & 2. Blk. 235 Location: 12th & Glacier Avenue Parcel #: 1-C06-0-C35-001-0 Historic Agriculture/Processing Current Commerce/Business Function / Use: Function / Use: General Description The Juneau Dairies Incorported building is a rectangular shaped two story flat roofed concrete structure measuring approximately 40 feet by 60 feet. It has been extensively remodeled in the recent past including an application of "dryvit" insulation and stucco treatment which has covered much of the original cast concrete "Art Deco" detailing however has maintained the general architectural form. Historical Significance The Juneau Dairy, Mendenhall Dairy, Glacier Dairy and Alaska Dairy consolidated in 1936 to form the Juneau Dairies, Incorporated. They formed the corporation for economic reasons and had the building constructed as a central bottling plant. It was designed by N. Lester Troast and Associates and constructed by Warrack Construction Company. The plant closed around 1965 because milk and dairy products were being shipped by air and were available at local markets at cheaper prices than the dairies could supply. The City and Borough of Juneau is the current owner and it is occupied by the central office of the school district. Classification (Category / Sub-category) Architectural Modern Movement / Art Deco Materials Roofing: Built up roofing Walls: Concrete with "Dryvit" system over Foundation: Concrete Other: Architectural Elements Remarks and Comments

* Building has been remodeled and "Art Deco* detailing concealed

Sources

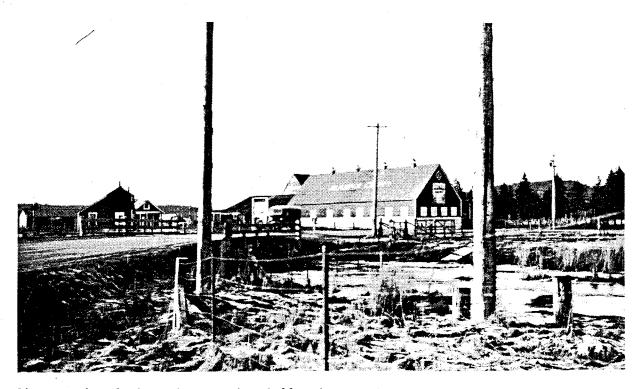
Survey Dates

1; 7; 8; 10; 13B, F; 20; IIIA-2, 4, 5,-7, 9, 10, 16,24a,c

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

All buildings listed in the survey area were reviewed for possible historical and architectural significance as defined in the National Register Bulletin No. 16. Statement of architectural significance does not necessarily indicate that the building could be nominated under criterion "C", but does suggest that the building retains sufficient integrity to be contributing to a local, state, or national district. The following buildings are recommended for further study as individual nominations or as historic districts.

CBJ Number and Building Name		Significance Arch. Hist.	
F-5	Juneau Dairies Incorporated	Y	Y
G-40	Pederson Dairy Barn	Y	Y
G-41	Glacier Dairy Silo	Y	Y
G-44	Danner Residence	Ÿ	Y
G-46	Mendenhall Dairy Barn	Y	Y



Photograph: Alaska Dairy - Dairy Collection Courtesy of Alaska State Historical Library.

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- 6. Eppenbach, Sarah (editor)
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 1979 Correspondence from dairy families, Juneau,
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 - B. Daily Alaska Empire
 - C. Daily Alaska Dispatch
 - D. Douglas Island News
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- 14. Orth, Donald J.

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II. DATA REPOSITORIES

A. State File Repositories:

Alaska Offices of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Anchorage, Alaska.

Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey, Anchorage, Alaska.

B. <u>Libraries and Archives</u>:

Alaska State Archives and Records Center, Juneau, Alaska.

Alaska State and Historical Libraries (Archival, Plats, Newspaper and Map Collection), Juneau, Alaska.

Juneau Memorial Library, Juneau, Alaska.

Sealaska Heritage Foundation Tribal Archives, Juneau, Alaska.

Sealaska Corporation, Department of Natural Resources, Juneau, Alaska.

C. <u>Governmental Agencies</u>:

U.S.D.I., Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau Area Office, Juneau, Alaska.

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III. ORAL HISTORY AND CORRESPONDENCE SOURCES

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- 7. Johnson, Roberta Fraser
- 8. Johnstone, Alice Sherwood
- 9. Kaiser, Twila (Mrs. Tony)
- 10. Kendler, Betty Bonnet
- 11. Kendler, Joe
- 12. Kibby, Ralph
- 13. Lupro, Brian
- 14. Mahaffy, Charlotte Price
- 15. Maier, Arnold
- 16. Maier, Rudy
- 17. Mills, Jack
- 18. Naghel, Grace
- 19. Nash, William
- 20. Nash, Florence (Mrs. Dwight)
- 21. Poor, Val and Alice
- 22. Shattuck, Curt
- 23. Sherwood, Rolf
- 24. Smith, Francis, Joe, Lee, Ted and Sid
- 25. Steen, Mildred Kendler
- 26. Savikko, Ben and Hjalmar
- 27. Williams, Dean
- 28. Weir, Lucille Goetz