Overview of the Collection

**Collector**  
Halferty, Barbara

**Title**  
Damon and Barbara Halferty photograph collection

**Dates**  
circa 1912-1916 (inclusive)

**Quantity**  
19 black and white photographic prints and 3 color photographic prints (2 folders) ; various sizes

**Collection Number**  
PH0724

**Summary**  
Photographs of Peter Halferty’s clam canning company, Sea Beach Packing Company, and its operations at Grayland and Copalis, Washington and at Cordova, Alaska

**Repository**  
University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections
  Special Collections  
  University of Washington Libraries  
  Box 352900  
  Seattle, WA  
  98195-2900  
  Telephone: 206-543-1929  
  Fax: 206-543-1931  
  speccoll@uw.edu

**Access Restrictions**  
The collection is open to the public.

**Languages**  
English

Biographical Note

Peter F. Halferty began his business of canning razor clams during the financial panic of 1893, in a small beach town near Warrington, Oregon. He conceived the idea of mincing, canning, and selling the clams that were extremely plentiful along the beach as a means of supporting his sick wife and five children. By 1900, Halferty had relocated his business, the Sea Beach Packing Company, to Markham in Grays Harbour, Washington. He soon opened additional plants in Westport, Aberdeen, Copalis, Moclips, Washington and Cordova, Alaska. Management of the company was later passed to his sons, Guy P. Halferty (1882-1960) and Damon James Halferty (1888-1939).

Historical Background

Peter F. Halferty started selling clams to the residents of Astoria, Oregon in 1893, and over the next ten years developed new canning processes and distribution models, as he moved from glass jars to tin cans. He began by processing four dozen jars in a wash boiler and peddling them from house to house in Astoria, the nearest large town. His success there was encouraging at first, but he encountered some difficulties when it became apparent that his clams would not keep. He remedied the problem by adding
salt to the water, creating a denser liquid that boiled at a higher temperature. This allowed the clams to keep in their jars.

Once he had perfected his canning process, Halferty began to expand his business. He bought larger equipment, hired diggers and cannery helpers, and began to can in tins. He named his business the Sea Beach Packing Company, and the name of his product Pioneer Minced Sea Clams. In 1900 the Sea Beach Packing Company relocated to Grays Harbour, Washington and established its cannery at Markham. Other canneries were built at Westport, Aberdeen, Copalis, and Moclips, Washington, and Cordova, Alaska.

Content Description

Photographs of the clam canning company, Sea Beach Packing Company, and its operations at Grayland and Copalis, Washington and at Cordova, Alaska. Includes 3 color photographs of the company's crate and can labels. The company was started by Peter Halferty and some Halferty family members are pictured in some of the photos.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

View selections from the collection in digital format.

Restrictions on Use

Restrictions may exist on reproduction, quotation, or publication. Contact Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries for details.

Preferred Citation

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donor: Karen Halferty Davis; received March 5, 2006.

Processing Note

Processed by Solveig Ekenes, 2006.

Related Materials

For more information on Pioneer Minced Sea Clams, please refer to the Pioneer Minced Sea Clams Album, PH Coll 721 in the repository.
## Detailed Description of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Item</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Damon James Halferty[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Guy P. Halferty[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Halferty Cannery at Grayland, Washington[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder:Oversize</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XH2</td>
<td>4 Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington Known locally as &quot;Halferty Brothers Cannery on the Copalis River&quot;. Right to left: Main facility, warehouse and company boarding house. Bridge at left crosses Copalis River.</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XH2</td>
<td>5 Employees at Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 Three cannery workmen sitting on cases of canned clams at Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7 Three clam diggers in wagon pulled by white horses, Copalis,[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8 Two clam diggers beside horse-drawn wagon, Copalis,[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9 Weighing in clams at Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 Hauling clams up to cannery at Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington[view]</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Damon and Barbara Halferty photograph collection, circa 1912-1916
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv61712
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cannery truck at Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Damon Halferty and his dog &quot;Bob&quot; standing near horse-drawn wagon loaded with several cases of &quot;Pioneer Minced Sea Clams&quot;</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Part of Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Corner of Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington, showing company store and post office in the background</td>
<td>circa 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Company store, Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Company boarding house, Sea Beach Packing Works, plant number 2, Copalis, Washington, with Guy P. Halferty, Jr. on boardwalk</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Guy Jr. and others standing in front of the pool room at Copalis, Washington</td>
<td>1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pioneer Packing Company, Cordova, Alaska</td>
<td>circa 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Crate label for Pioneer Minced Sea Clams, designed after the company was taken over by Guy P. Halferty</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pioneer Minced Sea Clams can labels, designed after the company was taken over by Guy P. Halferty</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
- Canneries--Washington (State)--Photographs
- Cannery workers--Washington (State)--Photographs
- Clam fisheries--Washington (State)--Photographs
- Clam industry--Washington (State)--Photographs

Geographical Names:
- Copalis Beach (Wash.)--Photographs
- Cordova (Alaska)--Photographs

Form or Genre Terms:
- Photographs
Photographic prints

Other Creators:

Personal Names:
Halferty, Barbara
(creator)
Halferty, Damon
(creator)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Visual Materials Collections (University of Washington)

2010 (Last modified: 4/13/2018)

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