2015


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Lubec Sardine Industry Business Records

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Finding aid written in English.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository: Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
Title: Lubec Sardine Industry Business Records
ID: SpC MS 1338
Date [inclusive]: 1896-1991
Physical Description: 314 ledgers
Physical Location: 
Language of the Material: English

Abstract: The collection contains records of five companies involved in the sardine industry in Lubec, Maine: the Columbian Packing Company, the Columbian Canning Company, the American Can Company, the Johnson’s Bay Canning Company, and the Lubec and Eastport branches of the Booth Fisheries Corp.

Preferred Citation

Lubec Sardine Industry Business Records, SpC MS 1338, [Ledger No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Historical Note

The collection contains records of five companies involved in the sardine industry in Lubec, Maine: the Columbian Packing Company, the Columbian Canning Company, the American Can Company, the Johnson’s Bay Canning Company, and the Lubec and Eastport branches of the Booth Fisheries Corp.

The Columbian Packing Company was founded in 1892 by John P. McCurdy, James J. McCurdy, and J. McGonigal. The company manufactured sardines and also smoked herring. By the 1950s its letterhead indicated the company was also a wholesale and retail grocer and dealt in wood and coal as well.

The Columbian Canning Company existed from 1903-1924, with James J. McCurdy serving as president and John P. McCurdy as treasurer and manager. Its letterhead lists the company as “packers of fancy...
and standard domestic sardines.” In 1910 the company’s factory burned and was replaced. The company closed in 1924.

The American Can Company built a plant in North Lubec in 1899 to manufacture cans for the sardine industry. The plant burned in 1907 and the company built a new plant in Lubec; this plant closed in 1972.

The Johnson’s Bay Canning Company was purchased by John P. McCurdy in 1924 and was dismantled in 1931.

The Booth Fisheries Sardine Co. bought the factories of the Lubec Sardine Co. in 1917 and operated them in Lubec until 1985. The company was sold to Lyon Food Products in 1985.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains records of five companies involved in the sardine industry in Lubec, Maine. Records of the Columbian Packing Company date from 1896-1926 and include petty cash account books, daybooks, ledgers, bank account ledgers and check registers as well as a sales book from 1916-1919. Records of the Columbian Canning Company, 1907-1930, include copies of incoming telegrams, ledgers, daily cash and charge records, a fish account book, a sales book, and payroll records. Records of the American Can Company include payroll records from 1905-1909. Also found in the collection is a check register dated 1924 for the Johnson's Bay Canning Company, and a few records from the Lubec and Eastport branches of Booth Fisheries Sardine Co.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

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URL: http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll
Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Julian Barney Rier, Lubec, Me. in April 2007.

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the repository.

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Controlled Access Headings

• Lubec (Me.) -- Commerce
• Lubec (Me.) -- History
• Canned fish -- Maine -- Lubec
• Canned foods industry -- Maine -- Lubec
• Fishery processing -- Maine -- Lubec
• Herring industry -- Maine -- Lubec
• Sardine industry -- Maine -- Lubec
• Columbian Packing Company
• Columbian Canning Company
• American Can Company
• Johnson's Bay Canning Company
• Booth Fisheries Sardine Company

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Records of Columbian Packing Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title/Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid out, 1896-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty cash, 1912-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daybooks, (may include Columbian Canning Co.), 1918-1923</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ledgers, 1896-1923</td>
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</table>
### Records of Columbian Canning Company

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copies of incoming telegrams (may include Columbian Packing Co.)</td>
<td>Ledger 42-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty ledgers, 1916-1917, 1920-1923</td>
<td>Ledger 51-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily cash and charge record, 1918-1920</td>
<td>Ledger 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledgers, 1907-1913, 1921-1923</td>
<td>Ledger 54-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish account book, 1914-1918</td>
<td>Ledger 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledger: Edgings and edgers, 1918-1919</td>
<td>Ledger 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales books, 1911-1924</td>
<td>Ledger 58-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll, 1922-1930</td>
<td>Ledger 61-62</td>
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</table>

### Records of American Can Company

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distribution and payroll, July 4, 1905-Dec. 21, 1909</td>
<td>Ledger 63-311</td>
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### Records of Johnson’s Bay Canning Company

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<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tr>
<td>Check register, April-June, 1924</td>
<td>Ledger 312</td>
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### Records of Booth Fisheries Division, Lubec and Eastport Branches

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<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll journal, 1986</td>
<td>Ledger 313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth Fisheries, Eastport Branch reports, 1953, 1983-1984</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>Folder 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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