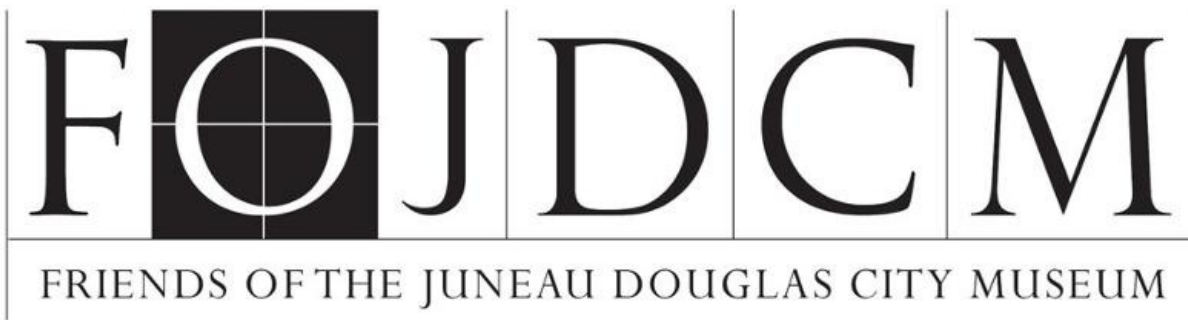


HISTORY ON THE CHANNEL YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FLASH



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GAZES AT DEATH AT TREADWELL

January 31, 1917—Elmer Peters, an employee at the central power plant at Treadwell, is a lucky man. Probably no other man can relate a more harrowing experience or had a better look at the old man with the scythe than did Peters the first of this week. While on night shift, during the extreme cold of Sunday night, Peters had occasion to oil the salt water pumps near the Treadwell dock. On leaving the warm power plant, he wrapped his face and neck up in a piece of cheese cloth for protection against the bitter winds he must face on going to the dock. On arriving at the pump house, he did not remove the cloth from his neck as the work there required but a few minutes of his time. While oiling the rapidly revolving shaft, the cloth on his neck became loose and in some manner got caught. The cloth resisted his every effort to break it and he was slowly being wound toward the



Treadwell, about 1915, from near the saltwater pump house. The central power plant is on the left, and the 300 mill on the right. The timber-trestle-supported pipeline in the center conveyed water from the pumps to shore for mills and fire-fighting. ASL-P75-422

shaft with the scarf tightening and choking him. He retrained sufficient presence of mind to attempt to get out his pocket knife but lost consciousness from choking before he could sever the cloth. Some fifteen minutes later he came to himself lying near the shaft where he had fallen, the cheese cloth having parted or become burned from the friction of the revolving shaft, allowing him to fall clear.

Peters was back at work again yesterday. Although his neck is sore and burned somewhat and his protruding eyeballs show his awful choking and gazing upon certain death, he feels a better man than ever to perform his duties. The experience is one he will never forget and it is also a strong object lesson to all employees working around any kind of revolving machinery, never to wear loose clothing or anything that can become entangled in the machinery. The shafts on these centrifugal electric pumps revolve in the neighborhood of 1250 revolutions per minute and the great speed causing the friction and burning of the cloth is the only thing that saved Peters' life. Had it been a slowly revolving shaft, and he could not have cut himself loose, he would have been choked and crushed to death. The policy adopted by the Treadwell Company in all departments --"Safety First"--will be the watchword of Mr. Peters from now on. *Daily Alaska Dispatch*.

The pump house is a favorite of local artists.



Alice Slattery

JDCM Collection



Jay Crondahl