

HOONAH PACKING COMPANY
(see next two pages)



Since this salmon cannery was built in 1912 it has played a very important part in the life of the Hoonah people. Not only did the company provide employment, it provided recreational facilities and incentive. It even had its own dance hall.

The first superintendent was Kinky Alexander until it was sold to Jimmie Wright. In 1918 it was sold to Bob Welsh Sr. When Mr. Welsh died his wife took over. The people still talk about Jean Welsh, what a good administrator she was and how kind and nice she was to the people. Jean passed it to her son, Barnnie Welsh, who soon sold it Excursion Inlet Packing Company (XIP). The foremen positions under the Welsh family were web boss, loft boss and casing boss. The web boss told people how and where to mend and store nets (seines). The loft boss was boss over three ladies who made boxes and cans. The casing boss told people what can to cook, what can to cool, and what can to case. The workers stayed in tents behind the cannery, and in small houses built for them. The cannery had its own power plant for lights and machines. There were a lot of smoke houses around the point. There were two wash-rooms, one bosses' house, one watchmen house, and various other buildings.

The cannery closed down in 1954 but is still open for repair and storage of boats and gear.