Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 25
Clifford N. Carver Whaling Records
1933 - 1959

22 boxes
12 linear feet
Accession No. 1983.3

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Clifford N. Carver Whaling Records

Carver, Clifford N., 1890-1965
   Records, 1933-1953; bulk 1937-1940
   22 boxes (12 linear feet)
   Businessman involved in two twentieth century whaling firms.
   Business records from the American Whaling Company, Western Operating
Corporation, and Western Chartering Company, all whaling and shipping firms run by Clifford N.
Carver. The bulk of the records are from the Western Operating Corp., a whaling company, and
include detailed log books, whale catch reports, crew lists, and accounts from the whaling
factory ship ULYSSES, operated by the firm in the late 1930s, as well as minute books,
accounts, and licenses from the firm's office in New York. Cargo ship operations are
represented by the Western Chartering Co., which owned the ship JANUS under the
Panamanian flag. The collection also contains whaling trade publications and newspaper
clippings collected by Clifford N. Carver.
In English and Norwegian
   Organized in four series: Series I. American Whaling Company; Series II. Western
Operating Corporation; Series III. Western Chartering Company; Series IV. Clippings and Trade
Publications
   Clifford N. Carver; Gift; c. 1952. John A. Carver; Gift; 1983; LB1983.3
   Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:
   American Whaling Company
   Western Operating Corporation Ltd.
   Western Chartering Company Inc. (Panama)
   Carver, Clifford N. -- (Clifford Nickels), -- 1890-1965.
   ULYSSES (Whaling factory ship)
   FRANGO (Whaling factory ship)
   JANUS (Ship)
   Shipping
   Whaling.
   Whaling -- Australia.
   Whaling ships.
   Whalers (Persons) -- Norway.
   Voyages and travels.
   Whalers (Persons)
   Australia.
   Norway.

Acquisition:
   Parts of this collection were donated directly by Clifford N. Carver, who was one of the
founders of the Penobscot Marine Museum. The bulk of this collection was given by Carver's

Restrictions
   This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.
Condition:
The collection is mostly in good condition. Most books and documents show wear related to use and age; some are stained or torn at the edges.

Related Materials:
PMM 5, the American Whaling Company Films, contains video footage of operations aboard the FRANGO in 1938 and 1939, as prepared for television. Penobscot Marine Museum also owns a painting and model of the whaling vessel ULYSSES, contemporary to these documents.

Historical Note:
Clifford N. Carver (1890-1965) was a New York businessman descended from a seafaring family of Searsport, Maine. He was active in the shipping industry, and involved with the two American whaling firms active in the 1930s.

The American Whaling Company was formed in 1930 to send whaling expeditions to the Antarctic whaling grounds. Clifford N. Carver was an officer in the firm. The company owned the whaling factory ship FRANGO, which operated with crews of Norwegian whalers. The FRANGO made its first trip in the winter of 1930; its second trip, in 1936, was delayed due to slow demand during the Great Depression, but the FRANGO then sailed regularly until 1939.

The Western Operating Corporation Ltd. was registered as an American whaling company in December 1936. Clifford N. Carver eventually served as the company’s president. The corporation converted the tanker ULYSSES, a tanker built in Baltimore in 1915, to a whaling factory ship. Like the FRANGO, the ULYSSES operated in the Antarctic, off the coast of Western Australia, with a Norwegian crew and a fleet of Norwegian catcher boats. Whale oil from the ULYSSES was loaded into smaller tankers mid-cruise and sent to American and European markets.

The Western Operating Corporation ceased whaling before the Second World War, but remained incorporated until the early 1950s. The ULYSSES was refitted as a tanker and chartered to carry oil to ports in the Americas. After World War II, the directors of the Western Operating Corp. founded a new company to continue the chartering business, named the Western Chartering Company. The new company owned at least one ship, the JANUS, which operated under the Panamanian flag. The Western Chartering Company dissolved about 1953.

Scope and Content:
This collection contains records from the Western Operating Corporation, the American Whaling Company, and the Western Chartering Company, as well as clippings and trade publications reflecting Clifford N. Carver’s interests in the twentieth century whaling industry. The bulk of the collection is from the Western Operating Corporation, in Series II.

Series I. American Whaling Company contains two items: licenses from the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries for the FRANGO and her fleet of catcher boats; and an album of photos by Morris Douglas Miller of whaling operations on the FRANGO during the 1938 season. The latter is likely a companion to the video footage of the American Whaling Company in PMM 5.

Series II. Western Operating Corporation makes up the bulk of the collection. The series contains detailed corporate records, including the articles of incorporation, minutes, account books, purchase contracts, and licenses for the company’s active years in the whaling industry and into the early 1950s. There are also extensive records from the factory ship ULYSSES, including blueprints of the vessel, deck log books, records of whales caught and processed, accounts with each crew member, lists of gear and provisions, and insurance claims. Some of this material is in Norwegian, the language of the ULYSSES’s captain and crews, but reports sent to American owners and regulators are in English.
Series III, Western Chartering Company, contains business records from this company from its organization in 1946 to its dissolution less than a decade later. Records include by-laws; minutes; accounts, including money exchanged with the Western Operating Corp.; and purchase and mortgage documents for the ship JANUS. The movements of the JANUS are not recorded; instead, this series is a legal and financial record of an American shipping firm operating under a flag of convenience in Panama.

Series IV, Clippings and Trade Publications, contains material about the twentieth century whaling industry collected by Clifford N. Carver. Material in this series reflects Carver’s concerns as a businessman: treaties, tariffs, and oil markets and well represented in the articles and publications collected. There are also contemporary articles on the American Whaling Company and the Western Operating Corporation, and copies of the *Norwegian Whaling Gazette* from the 1950s.

Box and Folder List:

Series I. American Whaling Company

- Licenses, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, FRANGO and catcher boats, 1937
- Photograph album by Morris Douglas Miller, FRANGO, 1938

Series II. Western Operating Corporation

**Charter and Minutes**

- MS 406-11 Charter, By-Laws, and Minute Book, Western Operating Corp., 1937
- MS 406-9 Minute book, Western Operating Corp.: Board of directors, 1937-1938
- Stockholders, 1937-1940
- MS 406-10 Minute book, Western Operating Corp.: Board of directors, 1938-1945
- Stockholders, 1940-1943, 1946
- MS 406-39 Minutes and notes, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1938

**Stocks**

- MS 406-13 Western Operating Corp. stock certificates, #1-200
- MS 406-14 Western Operating Corp. stock certificates, #201-400
- MS 406-38 Western Operating Corp., stock certificates (blank)
- MS 406-17 Western Operating Corp., stockholder record book #1
- MS 406-18 Western Operating Corp., stockholder record book #2

**Accounts**

- MS 406-22 Cash book, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1939
- MS 406-23 Cash book, Western Operating Corp., 1939-1942
- MS 406-27 Cash disbursements, Western Operating Corp., 1947-1952
- MS 406-20 Ledger accounts, Western Operating Corp., 1937
- MS 406-21 Ledger accounts, Western Operating Corp., 1938
- MS 406-24 Trial balance book, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1940
- MS 406-19 Accounts payable and receivable, 1939-1949
- MS 406-8 Account book, journal, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1941
Account book journal, Western Chartering Co. and Western Operating Co., 1941-1951

Summary of disbursements, Antarctic Expedition #1, 1937-1939
Summary of disbursements, Antarctic Expedition #2, 1939
Cash disbursements, 1947-1952

Correspondence and accounts with Anders Jahre, Norway, 1940-1944
1945-1949

Domestic Whale Oil Contract, Proctor & Gamble, 1938

Correspondence and accounts, charter of CHARLES RACINE to deliver whale oil, 1937-1938

Statement of General Average, BELLO, for damage and interruption due to war, 1940

Licenses
Licenses, U.S. Government, for the Western Operating Corp (copies):
Licenses for the taking and processing of whales, 1937-1938
Radio license, 1937
Certificate of enrollment, ULYSSES, 1941

Agreement between the Radiomarine Corporation of America and the Western Operating Corp., January 1937
Agreement between the Radiomarine Corporation of America and the Western Operating Corp., April 1937
Agreement between the Radiomarine Corporation of America and the Western Operating Corp., July 1939

Blueprints, whaling factory ship ULYSSES, c. 1934

Office log book, ULYSSES, 1937-1940
Office log book, ULYSSES, 1941-1942

Deck log book, ULYSSES, October 23, 1937 – February 1, 1938
Deck log book, ULYSSES, February 2 – April 16, 1938
Deck log book, ULYSSES, January, 28 – April 30, 1939
Deck log book, ULYSSES, May 1 – October 1, 1939
Deck log book (smooth), ULYSSES, November 1, 1939-April 28, 1940

Chief Officer’s log book, ULYSSES, January – April 1941
Chief Officer’s log book, ULYSSES, July – October 1941
Chief Officer’s log book, ULYSSES, October 1941 – January 1942 (2 copies)
Chief Officer’s log book, ULYSSES, January – April 1942 (2 copies)

Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, September 19, 1933 – February 26, 1934
Chief Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, June 11 – August 12, 1937
MS 418-F  Chief Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, August 13 – October 9, 1937
MS 418-G  Chief Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, October 9 – November 30, 1937
MS 418-I  Chief Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, February 1 – March 31, 1938
MS 418-J  Chief Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, April 1 – 16, 1938
MS 403-46 Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, January 23 – April 20, 1941
MS 403-57 Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, April 21 – October 22, 1941
MS 403-58 Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, October 32, 1941 – January 22, 1942
MS 403-59 Engineer’s log book, ULYSSES, January 26 – March 11, 1942
MS 403-44 Bell Book, engine room commands, Curacao, March 1941
MS 403-56 Bell Book, engine room commands, March 1941

MS 418-N  Radio log, ULYSSES, November 28, 1938 – February 6, 1939
MS 418-M  Radio log, ULYSSES, February 7 – March 8, 1939, and May 1939

Catch Logs
MS 403-24 Daily whale catch log, ULYSSES, 1937 season
MS 403-25 Journal (whale processing), ULYSSES, 1937 season
MS 403-26 Tank journal, ULYSSES, 1937 season
MS 403-21 Daily whale catch log, ULYSSES, 1938 season
MS 403-28 Oil processing journal (kokerijournal), 1938
MS 403-33e Catch journal, 1939 season
MS 403-33b Catch log, kill boats, 1939 season
MS 403-33f Catch log, boat KOS 4, 1939 season
MS 403-33c Oil processing journal (kokerijournal), 1939 season
MS 403-33d Tank journal, 1939 season
MS 403-33a Journal, Violations, 1939 season
MS 403-22 Daily whale catch and operation reports, ULYSSES, 1938 and 1939 seasons
MS 403-23 Weekly whale catch reports, ULYSSES, 1939 SEASON
MS 403-20a Whaling catch reports, ULYSSES, 1939 season, tabulated for the Norwegian Committee for Whale Statistics
MS 403-20b “International Whaling Statistics” nos. 8, 9, 11, and 12 (1937-1939), edited by the Committee for Whaling Statistics, Oslo
MS 403-32 Daily catch log-books and International Whale Statistics report sheets, 1939, blank

Accounts and Wages
MS 403-11 Inventory of stores and provisions on board whaler ULYSSES at the end of the 1937 season
MS 403-35 Lists of stores and repairs, ULYSSES and kill boats, 1940 season
MS 403-36 Account book, postage (Porto), 1939 season
MS 403-10 Crew wages, Australian season, 1937
MS 403-13 Crew wages, Antarctic season, 1937
MS 403-12 Crew’s Final Accounts, 1937 season
MS 403-14 Crew wages, 1938 season
MS 403-15 Crew bonuses, 1938 season
MS 403-27 Slop accounts, 1938 season
MS 403-31 Crew list, ULYSSES and killer boats, 1939 season
MS 403-34 Crew agreements, ULYSSES and killer boats, 1939 season
MS 403-41 Official log-book, crew list and records, 1939 season
MS 403-43 Crew wages, book III, 1939 season
MS 403-29 Crew accounts, 1939 season
MS 403-18 Slop accounts, 1939 season
MS 406-42 Correspondence about crew wages and payment, 1939-1940

Insurance Claims
MS 403-8 Statement of Particular Average, ULYSSES, February 1937
MS 403-9 Survey report for damage incurred on voyage, ULYSSES, February 1937
MS 403-19 Insurance claim, loss of fuel oil, ULYSSES, 1939
MS 403-40 Statement of General Average, ULYSSES, grounding in Mississippi River, April 1940
MS 403-42 Statement of General and Particular Average, ULYSSES, 1939-1940 season
MS 403-60 Statement of General and Particular Average, adjusted, ULYSSES, 1939-1940 season
MS 403-39 Survey report for damage incurred on voyage, ULYSSES, May 1940
MS 403-48 Statement of General and Particular Average, ULYSSES, stranding at Curacao, March 1941

Series III. Western Chartering Company
MS 406-1 Charter, By-Laws, and Minute Book, Western Chartering Co., 1947-1953
MS 406-15 Western Chartering Co., stockholder record book #1
MS 406-16 Western Chartering Co., stockholder record book #2
MS 406-7 Account book journal, Western Chartering Co. and Western Operating Co., 1941-1951
MS 406-33 Construction certificate, M/T JANUS, 1947
MS 406-30 Assignment of mortgage, M/T JANUS, Western Operating Corp. to Chemical Bank and Trust, November 14 1947
MS 406-34 Assignment of mortgage, Panama, M/T JANUS, Western Chartering Co. to Western Operating Corp., December 22, 1947
MS 406-35 Assignment of mortgage, Panama, M/T JANUS, Western Operating Corp. to Chemical Bank and Trust, February 12, 1948
MS 406-29 Letter acknowledging receipt of mortgage, M/T JANUS, 1948
MS 406-28 Mortgage, M/T JANUS, 1949
MS 406-31 Promissory note, M/T JANUS, 1949
MS 406-32 Bill of sale, M/T JANUS, to Petrotankers, 1949

Series IV. Clippings and Trade Publications

Industry and Policy

“Interchangeability of Oils and Fats.” Report of the American Farm Bureau Federation, 1930
“Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils: Production, Consumption, Imports, Exports and Stocks,” 1934
“Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils: Production, Consumption, Imports, Exports and Stocks,” 1936

Whaling Treaty Act, Hearings before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, February-March 1936

International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling, message from the President of the United States, July 31, 1937

Treaty for the Regulation of Whaling. Signed London, June 18, 1937; Proclaimed May 18, 1938

Association of Whaling Companies, “Annual report, account and balance sheet, 1938”


_Norsk Avaflangst-Tidende_ (The Norwegian Whaling Gazette), 1954; 1958-1959

**Clippings**

MS 403-17 Radio script, "Radio & Whaling" by A.D. Andreaasson, about the ULYSSES, 1939

MS 403-63a Newspaper clippings, whaling ships and whaling industry, c. 1938-1939

MS 418-A Scrapbook on whaling policy and industry, c. 1939

MS 403-63b Scrapbook, news clippings on whaling industry, c. 1939, volume 1

MS 403-63c Volume 2

Loose clippings, whaling policy and industry, c. 1930-1952

Clippings, oversize, 1938-1952


**Blank:**

MS 406-3 Tablet of summary account sheets, schooner voyages, Palmer Fleet, Boston, c. 1905

MS 406-4 Official Log-book, Mercantile Marine of the United States,

MS 406-5 Steamship Deck Log Book, three months, S.S. OVERBROOK (blank, some pages cut out)

MS 406-6 Steamship Deck Log Book, three months