

# John Liersch fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2008)  
Last revised November 2021



University of British Columbia Archives



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

# Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
  - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
  - Biographical Sketch
  - Scope and Content
  - Notes
- **File List**
- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

# Fonds Description

**John Liersch fonds.** - 1937-1981.

2 cm of textual records.

96 photographic prints.

2 medals.

## Biographical Sketch

John Edward Liersch was born 2 September 1905 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He later moved with his family to North Vancouver. Liersch attended UBC, where he earned a B.A. in 1926 and a B.A.Sc. in Forest Engineering the following year. After a short period in survey and inventory work with the British Columbia Forest Service, he received a master's degree in forestry from the University of Washington. Over the next decade he worked as a logging engineer and contractor along the coast of B.C. In January 1942 he accepted the post of Head of the UBC Department of Forestry, but took leave of absence three weeks later to work for Aero Timber Products Ltd., a Crown Corporation producing spruce components for military aircraft. Liersch returned to UBC after World War II, but left in 1947 to join the Powell River Company, eventually becoming executive vice-president and director. One year after the Powell River Company was bought out by MacMillan & Bloedel in 1959, Liersch joined Canadian Forest Products Ltd. As vice-president and director of that company he helped form several joint-venture forest companies in the B.C. interior before retiring in 1970. Liersch served on the UBC Board of Governors from 1962 to 1971, and was Chairman in 1970/71. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1971, and received an honorary degree from UBC in 1980. John Liersch died on 9 March 1981 at his home in Richmond, BC.

## Scope and Content

Fonds consists of materials that document John Liersch's life and career, and include correspondence, clippings, personal documentation, photographs, and memorabilia. Many photographs also illustrate logging practices and equipment from the B.C. coast in the 1940s and 1950s.

## Notes

File list available.

Acquired by the University Archives from John Liersch's daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Richard Austin, in March 2007. Liersch's Order of Canada and Queen's Silver Jubilee medals were donated by the Austins in September 2021.

# File List

## BOX 1

- 1-1 Clippings 1960-81
- 1-2 J.E.L. [John Edward Liersch] -- Pers. -- 1971 1964-77
- 1-3 Order of Canada 1971-80  
-- includes his Order of Canada investiture programme autographed by fellow recipients Jean Beliveau and Gordie Howe
- 1-4 Personal 1975-80  
-- includes copy of birth certificate, and a CV dated 1 November 1977
- 1-5 Honorary Degree 1980
- 1-6 20 images of unidentified loggers and logging operations, all stamped "Photo by the National Film Board" -- [n.d.]  
-- 20.5 x 25 cm b&w glossy prints (20) -- note: original folder marked "NFB -- Loggers Q.C.I. [Queen Charlotte Islands]" -- not included in photograph database
- 1-7 22 images of unidentified loggers and logging operations -- [n.d.] -- b&w glossy and matte prints, various sizes (22) -- note: original envelope marked "Logging Q.C.I. (few other mixed photos)" -- not included in photograph database

## PHOTOGRAPHS

\*\*\* = included in historical photograph database under [UBC 131.1](#)

- 1 John E. Liersch, portrait -- [1970s?] -- 20 x 25.5 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 2 John E. Liersch -- [1970s?] -- 25.5 x 20 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 3 John E. Liersch, portrait -- [1950s?] -- 11 x 16 cm b&w matte print on cardboard \*\*\* [P]
- 4 John E. Liersch speaking at podium -- [1950s?] -- 20 x 25.5 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [P]
- 5 UBC Board of Governors [convocation procession?] -- May 1968 -- 23 x 17.5 cm b&w glossy print -- note: John E. Liersch second from left \*\*\* [P]
- 6 John E. Liersch speaking at podium -- 18 March 1968 -- 20 x 25.5 cm b&w glossy print -- note: UBC Chancellor John M. Buchanan seated behind him [at dedication of John B. MacDonald Building?] \*\*\* [P]
- 7 UBC Board of Governors' meeting -- Spring 1971 -- 25.5 x 20 cm b&w matte print -- note: written on back "John E. Liersch, chairman [top right]; clockwise: Bill White, Walter Gage, Bill Armstrong, Nina Robinson, Allan McGavin,

- Arthur Fouks, Donovan Miller, Paul Plant, Les Bewley, Dave Williams, Walter Koerner, Beverly Leckie" \*\*\* [P]
- 8 UBC Board of Governors -- October 1970 -- 25.5 x 20 cm colour matte print on cardboard -- note: written on back "L-R standing A. Foulks, Bev Leckie, D. Miller, ?, P. Plant, W. Koerner; seated J. Liersch (Ch.), A. McGavin (Chan), W. Gage (Pres)" \*\*\* [OVR1]
- 9 Congregation 1980 -- 30 May 1980 -- 12 12.5 x 9.5 cm colour matte prints -- note: images from Ceremonies Office from May 30 UBC Congregation ceremony and granting of honorary degree to John E. Liersch; some duplicates of UBC 35.1/109 and 110 [SP]
- 10 John E. Liersch receiving Order of Canada from Governor-General Roland Michener -- 29 October 1971 -- 19.5 x 24.5 cm b&w matte print on cardboard \*\*\* [P]
- 11 Shannon Bay, Q.C.I. [Queen Charlotte Islands], Aero Timber Products Ltd. [John Liersch seated on stern of boat] -- [ca. 1943-1944] -- 27.5 x 23 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 12 J.E.L. on large spruce log, Thurston Harbour Q.C.I. -- 1937 -- 25 x 23.5 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 13 John Liersch, in suit, with unidentified logger -- [1940s?] -- 27.5 x 23 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 14 John Liersch in front of totem pole -- [1940s?] -- 16 x 26 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 15 The staff, Crown Corporation, Aero Timber Company [John Liersch in back row, far right] -- 1942 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print -- note: Malcolm Knapp in back row, far left \*\*\* [P]
- 16 Launch of log barge "Powell No. 1" (self-unloading) -- 17 September 1954 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print on cardboard -- note: "Showing sponsor Mrs. J.E. Liersch breaking bottle" \*\*\* [P]
- 17 John Liersch standing in front of sitka spruce, Cumshewa Q.C.I. -- [ca. 1947-1948] -- 22 x 27 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 18 R.J. Filberg and J.E.L., Masset Q.C.I. -- 1943 -- 22.5 x 28 cm b&w matte print
- 19 J.E.L. and J.H. MacDonald, Juskatla Inlet -- 1944 - 27 x 22 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 20 Log barge "Powell No. 1" (self-unloading) -- 17 September 1954 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print on cardboard -- note: "Showing barge almost waterborn" [P]
- 21 Log barge "Powell No. 1", fully-loaded -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 21 cm b&w glossy print [P]
- 22 Inaugural trip of "Kingcome", Powell River tug -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 21 cm b&w glossy print [P]

- 23 Log barge "Powell No. 1" (self-unloading) -- 17 September 1954 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print on cardboard -- note: "Port side view of barge being towed back to B.D.D. Co. Ltd. [Burrard Dry Dock?] after launching" [P]
- 24 Log barge "Powell No. 1" (self-unloading) -- 17 September 1954 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print on cardboard -- note: "Bow view & towing bridle arrangement" [P]
- 25 Log barge "Powell No. 1" (self-unloading) -- 17 September 1954 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print on cardboard -- note: "Deck view of barge looking from aft to forward" [P]
- 26 Powell River Company Limited, Logging Supervisors Conference -- January 1953 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print -- note: John Liersch, front row, third from left \*\*\* [P]
- 27 John Liersch, far left, with other executives at logging conference -- 1951 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [P]
- 28 George O'Brien, J.E.L., Norman English -- [n.d.] -- 18 x 13 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [P]
- 29 John Liersch, left, with two unidentified men -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [P]
- 30 Powell River Company Limited, Logging Supervisors Conference -- January 1952 -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print [P]
- 31 P.R. Co. [Powell River Company] annual meeting, Hotel Vancouver - April 1951-- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w matte print -- note: John Liersch, front row, second from left \*\*\* [P]
- 32 "Kingcome", Powell River Co. tug -- [n.d.] -- 1952 -- 20.5 x 25 cm b&w glossy print [P]
- 33 Powell River Company Limited, Logging Supervisors Conference -- January 1954 -- 20.5 x 25 cm b&w glossy print [P]
- 34 John Liersch, second from left, with three unidentified men and tree sapling -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 35 John Liersch, right, sitting with unidentified man and woman -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w matte print \*\*\* [P]
- 36 John Liersch receiving certificate from unidentified man -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w matte print -- note: unidentified man may be former BC Minister of Highways Phil Gaglardi \*\*\* [P]
- 37 Female staff, Aero Timber Company -- [1942?] -- 21 x 16.5 cm b&w matte print -- note: names written on back [P]
- 38 Floyd Kurtz, Hubie Wallace on bridge of P.R. yacht watching first loaded trip of P.R. #1, towed by "S.D. Brooks" -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print [P]
- 39 Step in making up Davis raft in Queen Charlotte Islands for towing to Powell River, newsprint plant -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w matte print [P]

- 40 Caterpillar tractor pulling giant spruce log -- [n.d.] -- 25 x 20.5 cm b&w glossy print [P]
- 41 Claude Germyn and Angus McDonald, Juskatla Q.C.I. -- 1947 -- 12.5 x 17.5 b&w matte print [P]
- 42 Jimmy Riddell on Cat "75" hauling large spruce log, Thurston Harbour or Cumshewa Inlet Q.C.I. -- [1938-1939] -- 20.5 x 25 cm b&w glossy print [P]
- 43 John Liersch, right, with unidentified man, Thurston Harbour, Queen Charlotte Is. -- 1937 -- 10.5 x 7 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [SP]
- 44 John Liersch, right, with unidentified man and boy -- 1937 -- 5 x 8 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [SP]
- 45 John Liersch, right, with unidentified boy -- 1939 -- 8 x 14 cm b&w glossy print -- note: caption on back reads "Parker Bonney's boy -- John -- A pair of handsome youths at Cumshewa about 20 years ago -- Season's greetings 1958 to you and Lorraine and the fine girl who looks like Lorraine -- TSB" \*\*\* [SP]
- 46 John Liersch and his wife Lorraine -- 1939 -- 6 x 11 cm b&w glossy print -- note: caption on back reads "Babe & John -- Xmas 1939" \*\*\* [SP]
- 47 John Liersch and his wife Lorraine -- [1939?] -- 6 x 10.5 cm b&w glossy print -- note: clothes indicate this was taken at the same time as image #46 \*\*\* [SP]
- 48 John Liersch and his wife Lorraine, Cumshewa -- August 1941 -- 6 x 10.5 cm b&w glossy print -- note: caption on back reads "Babe & John -- Cumshewa -- Aug. 1941" \*\*\* [SP]
- 49 John Liersch, wife Lorraine, daughter Susan -- August 1942 -- 8 x 6 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [SP]
- 50 John Liersch and daughter Susan -- January 1943 -- 7 x 11.5 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [SP]
- 51 John Liersch in his Powell River Company office -- 1949 -- 5.5 x 6.5 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [SP]
- 52 John Liersch and daughter Susan, Palm Springs -- April 1949 -- 7 x 5.5 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [SP]
- 53 John Liersch -- 1952 -- 7 x 9 cm b&w glossy print \*\*\* [SP]
- 54 John Liersch with wife Lorraine and daughter Susan -- 5 August 1960 -- 16.5 x 11.5 colour(?) print -- note: caption on back reads "Jane Hodgins Wedding to Tucker Battle. Aug 5, 1960" \*\*\* [P]

## MEMORABILIA

Stored in UBC Archives Artifacts Box 4

Order of Canada medal 1971

Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee medal 1977