Excerpt from Health Department Annual Report (1935)

Report of the Sanitation Division, December 31, 1935

During these years of depression the problems of this division have been many.... For the first time in many years, Seattle has been forced to allow the growth of shack towns. These shacks are located mostly along the waterfront and on our filled-in tidelands. The population of these shacks is estimated to be between 4,000 and 5,000. Some of these large colonies are organized; having their own mayor, sanitary committee and other committees, and are therefore kept in fair sanitary condition. It is hoped that in the near future, as business and economic conditions improve, and employment is provided, that we will be able to get rid of these temporary shelters.

Citation: Department of Health and Sanitation of the City of Seattle, Wash. Annual Report: 1932 to 1935. Health Department Annual Reports, 1802-G6, Seattle Municipal Archives.