

The PAYSTREAK

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The Newsletter of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)

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Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation New Inductees

AMHF Inducts Three Pioneers Who Helped Bring Success to the Kennecott Mines in the Chitina Valley of South-Central Alaska



Earl Tappen Stannard was born in Chittenango, New York, on December 9th, 1882. He graduated with honors from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University in 1905 with a degree in Mining Engineering. After working as mill superintendent in a Missouri lead mine and the El Teniente copper mine in Chile, Stannard arrived at Kennecott, Alaska in 1913, where he soon perfected the ammonia leaching circuits that allowed for the recovery of copper from carbonate ores. Stannard later designed a flotation plant designed to upgrade copper concentrate output at Kennecott's Beatson Mine on Latouche Island. After managing the Kennecott mines, E.T. Stannard served as President of the Alaska Steamship Company and the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad. After serving for eight years as the CEO of Kennecott Copper Corporation, Stannard was killed in 1949 along with 18 other passengers and 4 crewmen in a bizarre and infamous Canadian aircraft bombing incident that involved a murder plot carried out by a husband to kill his wife and collect her life insurance.



William Crawford Douglass Was born in Plainfield, New Jersey on July 12th, 1889 to the owner of a printing firm. Douglass was a gifted athlete, musician, and historian, but enrolled at Colorado School of Mines, where he earned a Mining Engineering Degree in 1914. He arrived in Kennecott, Alaska in 1916 during the heyday of copper production. He stayed there until 1929, leaving as General Superintendent. He and wife Mabel raised all four children at Kennecott. Although Douglass was a good mining engineer, he was a better manager and motivated and inspired the miners at Kennecott. As General Superintendent, he encouraged recreational activities and helped organize annual winter carnivals. After leaving Kennecott, he and family suffered financially along with millions of others during the Great Depression. After the death of his first wife Mabel, he remarried and ended his career working for Nickel Plate Mining Company in Canada and South America. In 1964, he published an important history of the Kennecott mines in Alaska. At his death in 1979, he was remembered as an outstanding miner, manager, and in the view of his children, an exceptional father.



Reuben Frederick McClellan organized the mining partnership that made the initial discoveries and negotiated the sales of the mineral claims that became the Kennecott mines. In 1898, McClellan and partners traveled from Princeton, Minnesota to Valdez. In 1899, acting on information from Natives, they prospected in the Wrangell Mountains and acquired a one third interest in the Nikolai prospect. Later Clarence Smith and Jack Smith prospected on behalf of the 'McClellan Party' and staked the outcrops of malachite-rich, chalcocite ores which became the Bonanza mine. After successfully negotiating with Stephen Birch for the mining claims, McClellan left Alaska in 1911 and relocated to California open up a bank and serve on the Board of Supervisors for Los Angeles County. By honoring McClellan, we also honor many other prospecting partnerships that successfully made mineral discoveries during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush.

**Supported by the Alaska Miners Association
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)
Induction Ceremony, November 6th, 2008
Sheraton-Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska
Jointly Presented with the U.S. National Park Service, Alaska Region**

Program

The General Public is invited to the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) induction ceremony from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, on November 6th, 2008. There is no charge for admission.

Introduction and Purpose of the AMHF

President Mary Nordale.....7:00-7:10 PM

Presentations of Inductees

Brief History of Kennecott Mines..... 7:10-7:20PM

Earl Tappen Stannard..... 7:20-7:40 PM

William Crawford Douglass..... 7:40-8:00 PM

Reuben Frederick McClellan..... 8:00-8:20PM

Refreshments and Coffee Break..... 8:20-8:35 PM

Recollection of Inductees from the Audience..... 8:35-9:00 PM

Adjournment..... 9:00 PM

Introduction and Acknowledgements

The November 6th, 2008 induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features two mining pioneers important to the development of the famed Kennecott Mines in the Chitina Valley of South-Central Alaska. Earl T. Stannard was a talented metallurgical engineer who successfully designed the ammonia leach circuit at the Kennecott mill that allowed for the upgrading of copper carbonate-rich ores. He later rose to prominence in the Kennecott Copper Corporation. William C. Douglass served not only as an able mining engineer at Kennecott but also as a superb manager who inspired workers and greatly improved labor-company relations. Reuben McClellan led the prospecting team that discovered what became the Kennecott Mines. The AMHF has previously inducted two pioneers important to Kennecott's history: Kennecott founder Stephen Birch in 1998, and exploration geologist Wesley Earl Dunkle in 1999.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Iditarod Mining district in southwest Alaska. We are including a biography of John Beaton, who co-discovered the Iditarod district with William Dikeman. Beaton was inducted in 2001, but his AMHF biography has never been publicly accessible until now.

AMHF Honors Chair Charles C. Hawley compiled the biographies of Stannard and Douglass. T. Bundtzen and Hawley researched the introductory comments for the Kennecott story and worked up the Beaton-Iditarod District information. Logan Hovis of the National Park Service compiled the biography of McClellan. The AMHF especially thanks Louie Cononelos, Chief Advisor, Government and Corporate Relations, United States and South America for Rio Tinto, for assisting the editors with obtaining photos of the two inductees. T. K. Bundtzen and Tina Laird of Pacific Rim Geological Consulting, Inc. edited and produced the Newsletter.

Previous Inductees, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame

National Mining Hall of Fame Inductees

Six charter members of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation were previously elected into the National Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville, Colorado.

Stephen Birch: Founder and developer of Kennecott Copper Mines.

Frederick Bradley: Successful manager of Treadwell and A-J Mines, Juneau.

John Treadwell: Founder of Treadwell Mines, Juneau.

Alfred H. Brooks: Chief Geologist of U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska.

Earnest Patty: University of Alaska, and manager of Placer Dredging Venture.

Clarence Berry: Prominent Klondike and Interior Alaska miner.

Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation Inductees

Fairbanks Spring 1998

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Yukon Basin Traders and Prospectors

Alfred Mayo: “Captain Al” well-known Yukon River trader, prospector.

Jack McQuesten: Known as the “Father of the Yukon” grubstaker for prospectors.

Arthur Harper: Well known and respected trader and prospector and promoter of the Yukon.

Howard Franklin: Fortymile prospector, discovered first “bedrock” placer gold in Alaska.

John Minook: Creole-Athabaskan prospector who discovered Rampart district.

Felix Pedro: Discoverer of Fairbanks district in 1902.

Nome Summer 1998

Induction Ceremony Honoring Pioneers of Nome Gold Rush

John Brynteson: A ‘Lucky Swede’; an experienced hard-rock miner, discoverer of the Cape Nome district.

Erik Lindblom: The eldest of the “Lucky Swedes”, a tailor.

Jafet Lindeberg: The Norwegian of the ‘Lucky Swedes’, president and manager of the very successful Pioneer Mining Company.

Charles D. Lane: Tough, honest, and wealthy miner who helped the Lucky Swedes in their legal battles.

Juneau Spring 1999

Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Juneau District

Joe Juneau: Native of Quebec, a California 49er, co-discoverer of gold in the Juneau district.

Richard Harris: Irish immigrant, co-discoverer of gold in Juneau district.

George Pilz: German immigrant who sent and financed the Juneau and Harris prospecting ventures in the Juneau area.

Kawa.ee: Tlingit leader who brought rich gold samples from Gastineau Channel area to George Pilz

Livingston Wernecke: Geologist-engineer for the Bradley companies of Juneau.

Bartlett Thane: Promoter-founder of the world's largest gold mine, the Gastineau at Juneau.

Anchorage Fall 1999

Induction Ceremony Honoring Mining Pioneers of Southern/Southwest Alaska

Andrew Olson: Swedish immigrant, innovator at Flat; the original organizer of the platinum mining complex in the Goodnews Bay Mining district.

Evan Jones: Welsh immigrant; the true father of Alaska coal mining industry.

Wesley Earl Dunkle: Kennecott engineer and innovative geologist, co-founder of Star Air Service, predecessor of Alaska Airlines.

Fairbanks Spring 2000

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early 20th Century Interior Pioneers

Emil Usibelli: Italian immigrant and founder of Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc., Alaska's only and historically largest producer of coal; civic benefactor in Fairbanks.

John B. Mertie Jr.: Leading U.S. Geological Survey geologist; outstanding earth scientist, mathematician, and world expert on platinum.

Fannie Quigley: Prospector, renowned for her bush skills, legendary Kantishna character.

Juneau Spring 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Government Role in Mining

Benjamin D. Stewart: State and Federal mining administrator, Alaska constitutional delegate at Alaska Statehood Convention in Fairbanks.

Fairbanks Summer, 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring the Pioneers of the Large Scale Gold Dredging Industry of Nome and Fairbanks Districts

Norman C. Stines: Visionary engineer who planned and supervised original USSR&M activities in Fairbanks district.

Wendell P. Hammon: Installed the first three dredges in Cape Nome district; helped design financing for what became USSR&M dredge fleets in Alaska

James K. Davidson: Designed and built Miocene and Davidson ditch systems.

Anchorage Fall 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Flat District

John Beaton: Co-discovered Iditarod district with William Dikeman.

Fairbanks Spring 2002

Induction Ceremony Honoring Successful Miners and Engineers of Early 20th Century

Frank G. Manley: Highly successful miner in Fairbanks, Hot Springs district, and Flat. Founder of the First National Bank, Fairbanks

Herman Tofty: Norwegian immigrant who worked prospects near Manley Hot Springs.

Chester Purington: Acclaimed international mining engineer; wrote treatise on Alaska placer fields.

Thomas P. Aitken: Arguably the most successful small scale mine developer during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush; worked both lodes and placers in Alaska and Yukon.

Anchorage Fall 2002

Induction Ceremony Honoring Immigrant Pioneers

Peter Miscovich: Croatian immigrant who settled in Flat, Alaska 1910. Pioneered the use of hydraulic mining techniques.

David Strandberg: Swedish immigrant who joined the Klondike gold rush in 1898 and the Iditarod rush of 1910. Built placer mining dynasty Strandberg & Sons, Inc.

Lars Ostnes: Norwegian immigrant who mined in the Iditarod district and developed placer mines in remote western Alaska for over 50 years.

Fairbanks Summer 2003

Golden Days Induction Ceremony (also recognized during Fall AMA convention)

Kyosuke “Frank” Yasuda and Nevelo Yasuda: Japanese immigrant and his Eskimo wife, discovered Chandalar gold and founded the community of Beaver.

Anchorage Fall 2003

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early and Mid-20th Century Placer Miners

John Gustavus (Gus) Uotila: By 1915, Gus Uotila was known as a tough Iditarod teamster. He mentored placer mining operations throughout Alaska and became a respected overland freighter.

Simon Wible: He mined gold, built water canals, and became a wealthy man in California. When the time the gold rush came along, he pioneered hydraulic mine technology on the Kenai Peninsula.

Fairbanks Spring 2004

Honoring Early Pioneers Associated with USSR&M Dredge Fleet

Roy B. Earling: Built pre-World War II FE Company into one of the most efficient and successful dredge mining firms in the world.

James D. Crawford: Well organized manager who acquired new dredge properties and guided FE Company into successful post-World War II period of gold mining.

Jack C. Boswell: Engineered the development of the rich Cripple deposit; and helped build giant FE machines used to dig deep placer deposits. Published historian of USSR&M era.

Genevieve Parker Metcalfe: Breakthrough woman mining engineer who developed initial plans for FE Fairbanks operations, wrote a landmark thesis on Alaska placer mining, and was a champion athlete and scholar.

Earl Richard Pilgrim: First Professor of Mine Engineering at University of Alaska. Independent Kantishna miner and pioneer, and noted FE consultant; “Mr. Antimony” in the US.

Anchorage Fall, 2004

Honoring Those in the Mining Legal Profession,

In Cooperation with the History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association

William Sulzer: Bill Sulzer became a prominent New York attorney and politician and briefly served as Governor of New York. The ever-optimistic Sulzer mined copper in southeast Alaska and developed gold in the Chandalar district.

Joseph Rudd: Shortly after statehood, Rudd drafted the State’s mining law on state lands and was sought for his expertise on natural resource issues throughout his career. He was killed in a plane crash in Anchorage upon his return from Juneau after discussing with other Alaskans challenges to President Carter’s Implementation of the 1978 Antiquities Act.

Anchorage Fall, 2005

Honoring the Discoverers and the Developer of Platinum Resources at Goodnews Bay

Per Edvard (Ed) Olson: Born in 1898, Edward Olson was born into a large farm family in Sweden and immigrated to the United States in 1905. In 1934, he assumed the position of general manager of the Goodnews Bay Mining Company (GBMC), the largest supplier of platinum in the U.S. during 1934-1975.

Walter Smith: In the summer of 1926, Yupik Eskimo Walter Smith and his young apprentice Henry Wuya found placer platinum in a stream draining a remote, uninhabited coast of southwest Alaska. The GBMC eventually purchase Smith’s claims. Smith and Wuya are recognized as discoverers of Goodnews Bay platinum.

Henry Wuya: Henry Wuya was born to Eskimo parents in Quinhagak on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Wuya was proficient in English when few Yupiks knew English. He mentored with the older and experienced prospector, Walter Smith.

Fairbanks March 2006

Honoring Two Pioneers Important to both Canadian and American Mining Communities

Ellen (Nellie) Cashman: Ellen (Nellie) Cashman was a quintessential gold stamper who participated in many gold-silver rushes of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Nellie's final home was Nolan Creek in the Koyukuk district of northern Alaska. Cashman died in 1925 at St. Anne's Hospital, Victoria, British Columbia, a medical facility she helped found several decades earlier.

Jack Dalton: One of the premier horse freighters of the Alaska-Yukon gold rush era, Jack Dalton opened up the 'Dalton Trail' for prospectors and trades from Haines to Central Yukon, Canada. In later years he worked as a freight engineer for the Alaska railroad. The Dalton Highway is a tribute to the Dalton family in Alaska.

Juneau June 2006

Honoring the Mining Legal Profession, in Cooperation with the History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association

Frederick (Fred) Eastaugh: Nome-born Fred Eastaugh was an Alaskan accountant a ship's officer for the Alaska Steamship Company, and Alaska mining attorney. Eastaugh was appointed to the Alaska Minerals Commission in 1991 by Governor Walter Hickel. Upon Eastaugh's death a year later, Hickel ordered state flags flown at half mast.

Anchorage November 2006

Honoring an Outstanding Statesman and an Outstanding Prospector Active in the mid-20th Century Alaska Mining Industry

Charles F. (Chuck) Herbert: Chuck Herbert was one of the premier miners of his generation. Educated at the School of Mines in Fairbanks, he mined placer gold deposits, sought metalliferous lodes, and served with distinction in several public roles. During early years of Statehood, he played a crucial role in the selection of Alaska's North Slope Lands. Later as DNR Commissioner, he revitalized the State land selection process.

Rheinart M. (Rhiny) Berg: Berg's strength and stamina were legendary during most of his 86 years of life. He worked as an underground miner in the Wrangell Mountains and Fairbanks districts, as a trapper and prospector, and he found the Bornite copper-cobalt deposit. He later developed the Candle placer district on the Seward Peninsula. He gained great wealth, which he mostly gave away.

Juneau March 2007

Honoring an Outstanding Statesman and a Mine Attorney Active in Southeast Alaska's Mineral Industry

Phillip R. Holdsworth: Phil Holdsworth's professional career extended nearly seventy years. He was a practical miner at the age of sixteen. Later he operated mines, assay labs, and mills. In World War II, he defended a Philippine mine as a guerilla warrior. After serving as Alaska's first commissioner of Natural Resources, Holdsworth became Alaska's elder natural resource statesman before his death in 2001.

Herbert L. Faulkner: H.L. (Bert) Faulkner's law career extended for almost seventy years. He was a sheriff, U.S. Marshall and attorney. He would represent almost every major mining company operating in Alaska during his lifetime.

Fairbanks July 2007

Honoring Two of Alaska's Outstanding Mine Educators

Earl H. Beistline: Earl Beistline had a distinguished career as mining educator at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Beistline brought to the classroom a unique blend of theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of mining. During all of his adult life, he has been a tireless and outspoken advocate of Alaska mining industry interests.

Ernest N. Wolff: Ernie Wolff was a notable personality on Alaska's mining landscape for more than sixty years. During this time he prospected, mined, taught and administered at the University of Alaska, wrote a classic book, *Handbook for the Alaskan Prospector*, and served on public bodies; all of this always in his unique style with a kind of gentle truculence.

Anchorage, November, 2007

Honoring Those involved in the Southwest Alaska's Quicksilver Mining Industry

Robert F. Lyman: Besides operating small scale mercury lodes, he managed Alaska's largest mercury mine at Red Devil, Alaska, which, during the 1950s, produced nearly 20 percent of U.S. domestic requirements of the strategic metal.

Wallace M. Cady: Produced, with other USGS colleagues, 'The Central Kuskokwim Region, Alaska', a geological framework of a large, 5,000 mi² area centered on Alaska's premier mercury mining region.

Russell Schaefer: One of Alaska's 'tough guy prospectors' that accomplished much in the Kuskokwim Mercury Belt of southwest Alaska.

Fairbanks, Spring 2008

Honoring Three Attorneys and a Civic Minded Woman Important to the Interior Alaska Mining Industry

Luther Hess: First rate mining lawyer and active mine developer in several interior Alaska gold camps. Helped organize the Alaska Miners Association (in 1939) and served as AMA's first President.

Harriett Hess: Worked with husband Luther on a variety of mining education issues and was a pioneer regent of the University of Alaska system. Worked as pro-development, pro-mining Democrats during the Roosevelt Administration.

Earnest B. Collins: Pursued a long and successful career in Interior Alaska as a placer miner, lawyer, Alaska Territorial legislator, and delegate to Alaska Constitutional Convention.

John (Johnny) McGinn: A smart mining lawyer who, with James Wickersham, cleaned up corruption in Nome and financed many small gold and silver projects in Interior Alaska and Yukon, Canada.

INTRODUCTION TO THE KENNECOTT ALASKA STORY, 1897-1955

The account of an incomparably rich copper discovery in remote Alaska and the related development of a multinational mining company, Kennecott Copper Corporation, is an oft-told tale that is, however, incomplete. The Alaska story is intertwined with the tales of two much greater copper discoveries: El Teniente (Braden) in Chile and Bingham Canyon in Utah. These mines also became part of the Kennecott copper empire. The Alaska mine paled in size to giant Bingham in Utah and El Teniente in Chile, but because of the richness of its ore, it contributed to the company as a whole. That all three discoveries, Kennecott-Alaska, El Teniente, and Bingham Canyon, were melded into Kennecott Copper Company was due to mining contacts and access to capital available to the Guggenheim Exploration Company, commonly referred to by its cable name, Guggenex. After some internal jockeying, Guggenex consisted mainly of five Guggenheim brothers and one outsider. The brothers were led by Daniel, the second son of Meyer Guggenheim, the founder of the dynasty. The outsider was William Collins Whitney who was about as wealthy as a Guggenheim.

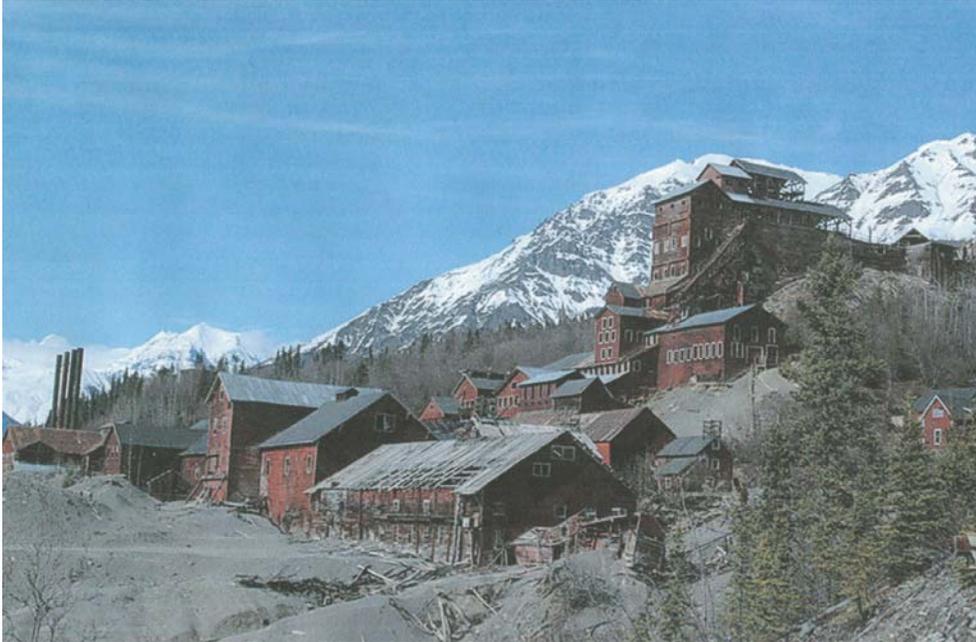
A major reason for the Guggenex success was Whitney's insistence that they engage John Hays Hammond, one of the world's most famous mining engineers of the time, to manage its affairs. Hammond and his associate Pope Yeatman guided Guggenex into the Kennecott-Alaska, Braden, and Bingham transactions. In Alaska, M. Guggenheim and Sons combined with the J. P. Morgan Company to form the Alaska Syndicate that funded the development of the Bonanza mine and its infrastructure (Hammond, 1935).

Construction of copper mines and railways is only a detail in a broader story of an era of national optimism, U.S. colonial expansion, invention, and a propitious economic climate. By

the late 1890s, the gloom that had attended the panic of 1893 had been largely dispelled. Discoveries of gold in the Klondike and at Nome were contributing factors. The nation's economy that had begun to expand under President William McKinley continued to expand under Theodore Roosevelt, but with some not so subtle differences. Roosevelt was the ultimate national cheer leader but his nation would not march to the beat of trusts and monopolies—corporate structures that would have been tolerated, if not encouraged, by his predecessor McKinley.

Copper, not as glamorous as gold, was more important to a burgeoning industrial economy. The nation was becoming electrified and the demand for copper increased exponentially. Where would the new copper come from? The end was in sight for the rich Michigan copper mines. Even rich veins of copper at Butte, Montana, could hardly keep up with demand. Forecasts suggested that the copper price would continue on a demand-driven steep upward course unless exceptionally large or rich copper mines were found.

Although not anticipated by the majority, the required copper fields were discovered. One of these fields, Kennecott, was in the Wrangell Mountains of Alaska. The Wrangell discovery was high grade, a bonanza. Ultimately the more important copper discoveries were low-grade ones (the copper porphyries), which could be mined and processed on a bulk scale. The nearly synchronous invention of the process called froth flotation allowed economic separation of sparse copper minerals from dominant silicate minerals of the raw ore. Flotation could upgrade a raw ore of 1-2 percent copper to a concentrate of about 30 percent. The concentrate was rich enough to absorb the cost of freight to the nearest smelter. For a time, Alaska's bonanza ore could compete with the huge copper porphyries, because the ore from Kennecott-Alaska contained as much as 70 percent copper without any concentration.



The Kennecott Mill, Wrangell Mountains, Alaska, as it appeared in 2006; photo credit: Wikipedia Commons

The Alaska bonanza copper discovery in the Wrangell Mountains was timely. The historic Alaska copper mines, and the bulk of Alaska's great historical gold-mining districts were discovered in just over a ten-year period from about 1897 to 1908: Copper-rich Beatson and Ellamar in Prince William Sound were discovered in 1897. The copper mines in the Hetta Inlet and Kassin Peninsula areas on Prince of Wales Island (Southeast Alaska) were also discovered in 1897. The rich Wrangell Mountains copper lodes were discovered in 1900. Of the significant gold discoveries, Nome was found in 1898, Fairbanks in 1902, and Iditarod on Christmas Day in 1908. Exceptions in the decade-long gold-rush era discoveries was Juneau gold--discovered in 1880, Fortymile gold in 1886, Circle gold in 1893, Koyukuk gold in 1894, Livengood gold in 1917, and finally Goodnews Bay platinum in 1926. But it was that 10 year era of discovery, beginning with the Klondike Gold Rush in Yukon, Canada, that brought the Alaska's mineral wealth to the attention of the international mining community.

The discoveries and the gold and copper rushes that followed were largely responsible for a major change in the demographics of Alaska. In 1890 the white population of Alaska was about 5,000; the native population was somewhere between 25,000 and 30,000. Most of the white population lived in Southeast Alaska, the Panhandle, where only Juneau resembled a city. Ten years later the white population had increased six-fold, to about 30,000 and whites slightly outnumbered Native Alaskans. No longer concentrated in the Panhandle, immigrant Alaskans were in Cook Inlet, Resurrection Bay, Prince William Sound, increasingly in the Yukon and thousands of transients rushed to Nome on the Seward Peninsula. The upward numerical trend continued for the next decade, when white population growth dwindled. In 1910 the white population was about 36,400. In the decade following 1910, many men left Alaska as the easy pickings of the gold rush were exhausted and a World War took most of the strongest. The population of the region around Prince William Sound was especially hard hit after the opportunity to mine coal was lost. The 1910 white population of Alaska was not equaled until sometime in the 1930s when a great depression triggered another

gold rush and the nation began to prepare for another war, this one fought much closer to Alaska (Colby, 1939).

Around the turn of the 20th century, the majority of Alaska immigrants stampeded to the gold camps. Several thousand, however, went to ice-free Prince William Sound and the Copper River country where they could prospect for copper, gold, or coal, catch or can fish, or build bridges and a railroad.

The early years at Kennecott can be briefly described. In August, 1900, two prospectors, Jack Smith and Clarence Warner, representatives of the 'McClellan Party', spotted a green patch on a hillside overlooking Kennicott Glacier, named for noted naturalist and explorer Robert Kennicott. The prospectors thought it would be a good place to graze their pack horses, but found out instead that the green was the copper carbonate malachite, the signature of what would be the high copper values of the Bonanza ore body. The McClellan Party formed Chitina Mining and Exploration Company to develop the mines. Mine development started immediately and about 20 tons of high grade ores were shipped to Valdez via horse pack trains during the summer of 1900. The same year, mining engineer Stephen Birch met with Reuben McClellan, the party's leader, and bought out the prospector's interest for \$275,000, a very large sum for a largely untested copper prospect. Political battles over the mining interests and railroad were fought in the office of U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt and between conservationists and private interests that wanted to develop the mines. Within 10 years, the find would prove to be one of the richest copper lode systems (actually five separate deposits) ever developed in the world. The remote region needed and attracted capital, mainly through Birch's connections with the New York-based Guggenheim family and J.P. Morgan, which would form the Alaska Syndicate. Construction of remote copper mines and their infrastructure required many times the expenditures needed to develop even the largest gold mine. In 1903, Birch,

with the financial backing of the Guggenheims and J.P. Morgan, formed the Kennecott Copper Corporation, named, of course for the rich Alaskan copper lodes. By the mid-20th century, Kennecott was the world's largest copper producer.



Robert Kennicott, north country naturalist and explorer; photo credit: Smithsonian Record RU95

From 1906 until 1911, the Alaska Syndicate invested at least \$30 million in the region. The expenditure included more than \$20 million to build a railroad to the mines from Cordova on the coast in Prince William Sound. The railroad alone cost about three times as much as the United States paid to buy all of Alaska about forty years before (Stearns, 1967; Webb, 1977).

These huge expenditures were not the only ones that the Guggenheims and their partners made. In the years that the Alaska Syndicate was developing the Wrangell Mountain bonanza, Guggenex and partners were also spending \$25

million to explore and develop Bingham Canyon and millions more in Chile. Share agreements indicate that about \$110 million was spent in total on the three entities that went into Kennecott Copper Company (Stearns, 1967).

Railways were essential at all three mines. A narrow gauge railroad to access El Teniente was begun in 1907 and completed, as was the rail to Kennecott, Alaska, in 1911. At Bingham the 20 mile-long Bingham to Garfield Railway, an engineering marvel, was completed in December 1911 (Bailey, 1988).

In Alaska, the construction of the Copper River and Northwest Railroad (CR & NW) was the first of Alaska's mega construction projects. It required more than 3,000 men, who were mainly Scandinavian immigrants, and five years to construct. After the railroad project was completed, the mines made an operating profit from the start, especially during World War I, when copper prices were very high. But copper prices softened in the 1920s and fell dramatically after the stock market crash of 1929. Because of the very low copper prices that averaged just 6 cents/pound by 1930, the Kennecott mines closed for more than 2 years beginning in the fall of 1932. Forgotten now is the worldwide glut in copper that existed throughout much of the 1930s, despite repeated attempts by international producers such as Anaconda, Kennecott, Rio Tinto, Phelps Dodge, and others to limit world copper production. The Kennecott mines would not resume production until 1935, and then, the decision to reopen them was partly based on the recovery of silver present in the high grade pillars that remained in the depleted, bonanza grade, chalcocite ore bodies. Although the company grossed about \$210 million during the life of the mines (1911-1938) at an operating profit of about \$100 million, the gross income was not sufficient to repay the invested capital. The Alaska Syndicate did recoup its investment, but it was by smart maneuvering on the stock market rather than profits from the mines (Navin, 1977). The final balance sheets show that 4.625 million tons of ore

averaging 13 percent copper and several ounces/ton silver were produced from the Kennecott mines in the Chitina valley (Douglass, 1964). Although certainly noted for their bonanza grade copper values, the deposits did not contain a world class copper endowment as defined by modern standards.

Yet the Alaska-Kennecott endeavor made hugely important contributions to the development of Alaska's economy. Once the Alaska copper mines opened, the year-round lode operations helped stabilize not only the economy of the region but of the entire Alaskan Territory. Between 1911 when Kennecott's Bonanza began to produce and 1930 when the Beatson mine closed, Kennecott's Alaskan copper mines employed almost 900 men and paid out nearly \$1,000,000 in annual payroll. After Beatson closed, payrolls for up to 500 men were disbursed until 1938 when Kennecott closed all its Alaska mines.

Kennecott returned briefly to the Wrangell Mountains in 1955. Although others have doubted their conclusions, a new round of Kennecott explorers confirmed the assessment reached in 1938—that no copper resources of a size and grade to interest Kennecott had been left un-mined. Shortly afterward, Kennecott announced the discovery of significant copper deposits in the western Brooks Range, but the 1955 evaluation essentially marked the end of Kennecott interest in the Wrangell Mountains. It was a great and significant era for Alaska: The infusion of a great deal of capital into Alaska opened up Prince William Sound and south-central Alaska. Company-owned Alaska Steamship Company, "Alaska Steam," gave Alaskans reliable transportation for four decades at no capital cost to Alaska. Similarly the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad provided access to remote interior Alaska before the modern road network was constructed. Neither transportation sector was highly profitable for Kennecott, but they kept more men and women working as far south as Seattle and as far north as Nome. Steamship operations continued until August

1944, when the company sold Alaska Steamship Company to Seattle interests. Charges of exorbitant freight rates in general seem ill-founded as indeed do charges of monopoly often leveled at the Syndicate: Two copper mines (Bonanza and Beatson), one railroad, one steamship company, and canneries, the latter which were sold in 1911, do not a Guggenheim monster make.

The great porphyry mines at Braden, Chile, and Bingham continued in operation, as they do today although not under the ownership of Kennecott Copper Co. The ownership of Kennecott changed under the rules of capitalism. A British company with long vision, Rio Tinto, bought Utah's Kennecott Copper Co. and currently operates it profitably with a smelter that removes 99.9 percent of the sulfur gases which plagued historic smelters. In Chile, El Teniente, was expropriated without compensation in 1971. It is now operated by the world's largest copper company, Chilean government-owned Codelco.

Kennecott has continued to be active in Alaska as a subsidiary of their 'Mother Ship' Rio Tinto. Until recently, Kennecott maintained managerial and operational control of the Greens Creek polymetallic mine near Juneau under the name Kennecott-Greens Creek Mining Company. Tom Albanese, a product of the University of Alaska School of Mineral Engineering program in Fairbanks, became Chief Executive Officer of Rio Tinto in 2007, the world's second largest mining company, with operations throughout the globe. Albanese informed an audience in Fairbanks during the spring of 2008 that his firm has a significant interest in Northern Dynasty, which owns 50% of the Pebble Copper project near Iliamna. Tom told the group that Rio Tinto will continue to look at Alaska as a long term opportunity in the coming years.

Charles Caldwell Hawley and
Thomas K. Bundtzen
October 26, 2008

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EARL TAPPAN STANNARD
December 9, 1882-September 9, 1949

Earl Tappan Stannard was born on December 9th, 1882, in Chittenango, NY, a small town better known as the birth place of L. Frank Baum, creator of the Wizard of Oz. Stannard's technical brilliance and his ability as planner and strategist were well known. In his work for Kennecott Copper Company and Guggenex, Stannard, he would perform his own brand of wizardry with the recovery of copper. Earl's family had comfortable means, and funds for his education were never in doubt. He prepared for a Yale education at Phillips Andover, leaving there in 1902 to enroll in Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University. Stannard chose Mining Engineering as his major and did well as a student. He received honors in mathematics in his freshman year and general honors in his junior year (in the second year of Sheffield's unusual 3 year curriculum). He repeated with general honors in his senior year. Stannard graduated with the class of 1905 and earned a graduate scholarship for his senior thesis on mine ore-crushing machinery. Further recognition of Stannard's collegiate

accomplishments is suggested by his induction into the national scientific fraternity Sigma Xi and into Yale's Book and Snake society. Stannard's later interest in a paper trail in all aspects of mine management can perhaps be foreseen from his position as the chair of class statistics (Yale University, 1910). Unlike some of his Eli brothers Stannard left Yale and apparently did not look back. He missed his class Triennial dinner celebration in 1908 where a high point of the festivities seems to have been the loss of the beer wagon and its timely recovery by class biographer Bill Barber.

Shortly after his graduation in 1908 Stannard was named Milling Superintendent for the Federal Mining Company of Flat Rock, Missouri. Stannard stayed at Flat Rock until 1910 when he had the opportunity to trouble shoot the new mill erected at Braden, Chile for El Teniente mine, an acquisition of Guggenex that, in 1915, would become a major asset of Kennecott Copper Corporation. In 1913, Stannard arrived in Kennecott, Alaska with general mandates to enlarge and update the existing 300 ton/day gravity mill and to develop other methods for recovering the ore.

As a day-to-day mine manager Earl Tappan Stannard left a few things to be desired. He was aloof, looked down on the miners and even some of his peers. In his years at the Kennecott Mine (1913-1920), some long-time Kennecott officers, like company secretary Carl Ulrich, found Stannard a bit hard to take, especially in comparison to his mentor Stephen Birch. Stannard did receive some popular acclaim as a baseball player on the Kennecott team, and baseball and the accompanying gambling were major Kennecott sports. In the July 4, 1913 game against McCarthy, Kennecott won largely on the strength of Stannard's hitting (Dunkle tapes). In the long term, Stannard's technical brilliance prevailed. A special assignment was to recover the copper carbonate ore that formed as much as 50 percent of the ore in parts of the mine but was

largely lost in the mill's gravity circuits. Stannard solved the copper carbonate problem with an ammonia leaching plant that was only one of three in the world at that time, all built about simultaneously—one at Kennecott, another in upper Michigan and the third in Africa. The principles involved in the ammonia plant were relatively simple, but the engineering was complex. Copper carbonates were dissolved in an aqueous ammonia solution, and then copper oxide was precipitated as the ammonia was boiled off to be recycled through another batch of carbonate ore. To recover the very fine-grained copper carbonates that fouled the circuit, Stannard sulfidized the copper carbonate with alkali sulfides that enabled the materials to be recovered by flotation, also a relatively new technique at the time. Altogether, Standard's additions allowed recovery of more than 95% of the copper in the ore. Stannard's rebuilt mill at Kennecott had a throughput of 1200 tons per day, but usually operated at about 1000 (see Douglass, 1954 and Hawley 2003).

Besides his work at Kennecott, Stannard also designed and constructed a flotation mill at the company's Beatson mine in Prince William Sound. In its early years Beatson ore was mined selectively to maintain a copper content of somewhat less than 10 percent. The ore body was large, larger than those at Kennecott, but of lower grade. Stannard proposed a mill large enough to process all the ore. The flotation plant successfully upgraded the pyrite rich massive sulfide ore from about 1.5 percent copper to 15 or somewhat more percent copper. Although the mill was capable of further enrichment, it balanced the copper grade with moderately high iron content necessary to flux the sulfide-poor Bonanza ore and concentrate.

Stannard came into his own when he was moved out of Alaska and was given more executive responsibilities. As Stephen Birch's chosen successor, Stannard left Kennecott stronger than he found it. In 1920 Stannard was

transferred to Seattle and in 1923 was named vice-president for operations of Kennecott Copper Company. At the same time Stannard was made president of Alaska Steamship Company and the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad. In 1933, Stannard became president of Kennecott Copper Corporation answering only to Birch, but essentially equal in rank to D. C. Jackling who ran the affiliated Utah Copper Company. At about this time Stannard became active internationally, as part of an industry group studying the problem of global oversaturation of a depression-limited copper market (Time, Inc., April 1935). In addition to his position in Kennecott, Stannard served as a director to the J.P. Morgan and Johns Manville companies.

Stannard retained his position with the CR & NW Railway and Alaska Steam and managed a long term mine closure plan for the company's Alaska mines as their ore was depleted. Beatson closed as the developed copper ore was depleted in 1930. The Wrangell Mines continued to operate, but shut down in 1932 when the copper price dropped below the cost of production. In 1935 every newspaper in Alaska headlined that the mines would be reopened (Time, Inc, June, 1935). The copper price had not increased substantially, but Stannard announced that the amounts of silver (and gold) in the ore were sufficient to allow reopening of the mines. The remaining ore in the mines was largely composed of the high grade chalcocite ores preserved in pillars, and the chalcocite could carry as much as 20 ounces of silver per ton.

Under the local control of mine superintendent W. A. Richelsen, the last of Kennecott's high grade ores were mined, and in early December 1938, Kennecott's Alaska mines closed.

After the 1938 mine closure, Stannard was in contact with representatives of the National Park Service about a possible future for the Kennecott area as a National Park. Stannard

pledged road maintenance and preservation of some buildings that might be valuable to a future park.

In 1940 Stephen Birch died and Stannard took over Birch's role on the management committee. Stannard acted as Kennecott CEO from that time until his own death eight years later. As in World War I, the demand for copper seemed insatiable. Little Kennecott-Alaska was hardly missed as Kennecott's great porphyry mines in the western US and in Chile went back into full production. Kennecott, having played tag with Anaconda for years, now became the world's largest copper company.

In 1944, Stannard disposed of the last significant Kennecott-Alaska asset when the company sold Alaska Steamship Company to Seattle interests. In 1948, Stannard was due to retire. Essentially all senior managers of the original Kennecott Copper venture were also at retirement age, and the company had to look outside for someone to take Stannard's place. They found an excellent man in Arthur D. Storke, who had directed copper mines in Africa and molybdenum mines in Colorado. To guide exploration, the company picked Russell J. Parker.

Stannard, uncertain about the future of post WW II copper demand had guided the company towards diversification, and Parker found a large titanium project in Quebec that might serve as the flagship of a diversified Kennecott (esp. see Navin, 1978).

Arthur Storke, Stannard, and Russ Parker were all killed in one of the first airplane bomb incidents on their way to visit the titanium project in Quebec. It was found that Albert Guay, a French Canadian citizen from Quebec, had planted a bomb to kill his wife, also a passenger, for her \$10,000 insurance policy. All 23 on board, 4 crew and 19 passengers, on a Canadian Pacific DC-3 (C-47) perished. The fatal crash

was on September 9, 1949. Kennecott's loss that day was huge, and the company's management was decapitated. Arthur Storke was to be Stannard's successor to run the company. R. J. Parker was Vice President of Exploration for Kennecott Copper.

Only a few months before his death, Stannard and a very distinguished group of men and women, including Herbert Hoover, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Alfred P. Sloan Jr., had founded the National Fund for Medical Education, Inc. in response to a plea from the medical profession (Minutes, 1949).



Canadian Pacific Airlines DC-3 aircraft that was blown up by a bomb September 9th, 1949, the third in-flight bombing incident in history. Stannard and 22 others were killed; photo credit: Jacques Trempe Collection #2469.

The Kennecott board picked Charles Cox from U.S. Steel to run the company. Cox proved an exceptional manager, but the company's direction was now his and not the Alaska-connected Kennecott that was managed since its inception by Stephen Birch or his protégé Stannard.

A copper mining company that grossed \$50 million a year in Stannard's early years, grossed \$350 million annually at his death. When Stannard came to his sudden and unusual death, Kennecott was the world's largest copper mining company. Stannard was recognized with an honorary doctorate by the Michigan School of Mines at Houghton.

Charles Hawley, October 26, 2008

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Yale University, 1910 Class of 1905, including an account of the Triennial class meeting in 1908, Sheffield School, New Haven, CN



photo credit: Louie Cononelos, Rio Tinto

WILLIAM CRAWFORD DOUGLASS 1889-1979

William C. “Bill” Douglass was an exceptional athlete, a musician, historian, and a skilled mining technician who also had exceptional personnel skills. At Kennecott he knew every miner and citizen of Kennecott by his or her first name. Bill became the preeminent manager of the entire Kennecott-Alaska operation, managing with great efficiency and leading the mines at Kennecott to their height. He finally left looking for other mining challenges. Bill Douglass was born in 1889 in Plainfield, New Jersey, to John E. and Margaret *nee* McNellie Douglass. John E. Douglass was born in 1851 in Carlisle, England, and had immigrated to the eastern United States with numerous siblings in 1859. By the time William Douglass was born, John was the owner of a printing company in New York City. He and Margaret were married in 1883. Bill was the youngest of four children. He played varsity football at Plainfield and was courted by eastern colleges for his athletic prowess. Douglass, however, turned down football scholarships in order to enroll at Colorado

School of Mines in Golden, Colorado, and to prepare for a life in the mining industry. Upon graduation Bill was hired as safety engineer for Anaconda Copper Co in Butte, Montana. In 1916, Bill Douglass went to Kennecott, Alaska, as a working foreman. He stayed until 1929, leaving as General Superintendent. His first position at Kennecott was as a foreman working with the men actually producing the ore, which may have required a pay cut from his role at Anaconda as chief safety engineer. At first Douglass lived with the miners in their bunkhouses thousands of feet above the mill level and the staff houses where the professional engineers lived. But as a mining foreman, he got to know the miners while also gaining operating experience. After only a short time, an opportunity arose for Bill to step up in status and, if he had a wife, he could move downhill into a staff house. Taking his chances, Bill sent for Mabel Dixon who was a nurse at the Anaconda hospital in Butte. Mabel accepted the challenge and by herself left the mature mining camp in Montana for the unknowns of Alaska. Bill and Mabel were married March 14, 1917 in Cordova and moved into one of the staff houses in the Kennecott village. Mabel was twenty-seven when she married; she had lived a somewhat independent life before moving to Kennecott, probably without the best apprenticeship for marriage and housekeeping in the wilds of Alaska. Sheila, Mabel’s second daughter and one of the “younger set” at the time, later thought it was a mystery how they got any laundry dry in the winter, what with her father’s “stiff heavy khaki trousers and jackets, heavy wool flannel shirts and wool socks and, of course, long johns”.

William D., the oldest of Mabel and Bill’s four children was born in the winter of 1917-1918. To help out with the household, Mabel sent for her friend and nurse associate Loretta (Addy) Hallett. When Addy’s fiancé, one of the young mine engineers, was killed in a rockslide, Addy moved in with the Douglass family to stay. It

seems to have been a practical solution to several problems: Mabel disliked cooking and Addy loved to cook; Addy was more outgoing and was a constant help as children were born, Bill, Jean, Sheila, and Nancy. Bill appreciated having Addy there to give support to Mabel, as he had moved to mine engineer, then mine superintendent, and was essentially on the job seven days a week and on demand for up to 24 hours a day.

Bill had arrived at Kennecott in 1916 during the mine's heyday, Kennecott's most productive period. In addition to the small Glacier and Slide ore bodies, Douglass found two mines in full operation, the original Bonanza and the Jumbo that was just beginning to mine a high-grade ore body found in 1915. Each mine had a separate tramway. The mature Bonanza mine was tramming about 375 tons of mill ore and 25 tons of high grade per day. The Jumbo Tramway was laden with about 400 tons of ore daily: 225 tons of ore for the mill, and 175 tons of high grade to be shipped directly to the smelter. Mill ore from both mines averaged about 7.5% copper; the 25 tons of high grade from the Bonanza averaged 50% copper; the Jumbo high-grade averaged about 70% copper, reminiscent of the glory days of the Bonanza. During 1916, monthly production averaged about 10 million pounds of copper; that production was never to be equaled again at Kennecott.

Douglass later described the mine at its most productive and contrasted it with copper production at Butte. Butte turned out 30 million pounds of copper every month that came from thirty shafts some as deep as 4,000 feet, each drawing hundreds of horsepower, with a labor force of 15,000 men. In contrast, Kennecott put out one third as much ore (10 million pounds) as Butte from two shallow inclined shafts, drawing less than 100 total horsepower and employing less than 500 men. Douglass recorded costs of 4 ½ cents to deliver a pound of copper to New York. With the uncontrolled early World War I copper

price of more than 35cents, Kennecott's copper mine was a figurative gold mine.

The push for maximum production came from newly named General Manager E. Tappan Stannard. The production level reached in 1916, however, could not be maintained. Copper prices dropped in response to war time price controls and in 1917, Kennecott faced its only strike. Stannard proved highly competent technically but was not a good personnel manager and his actions prolonged a difficult labor situation. It took several years for the mine to recover, especially as copper prices dipped further in response to a post-war copper glut. Bill Douglass was key to morale recovery and the mine's successful operation for the next decade.

Douglass's management era included driving long crosscuts to the small but rich Erie ore body and, more importantly, harmonizing production from the declining Bonanza with that from the Mother Lode, the last of three great ore bodies exploited by Kennecott. Shortage of mine process water was a constant challenge in the Wrangells, as was a complete rebuild of the power plant after the original plant was destroyed by fire. Earlier Douglass had come close to death in the aftermath of the influenza epidemic in the early 1920s. Bill gave credit for his survival to the company doctor whom he had handpicked at Johns Hopkins.

Historian Melody Webb and historic Copper Country novelist Ron Simpson both credit Douglass's exceptional management skills with Kennecott's successful operation in the 1920s. Stannard, who kept rising in the Kennecott hierarchy, said that Douglass was the best underground man that he ever knew. Webb noted that "Kennecott continued like clockwork during the ten years of his [Douglass's] stewardship". The mines continued to produce at copper prices that demanded great efficiency. Douglass made changes that improved operations and added to the quality of life at Kennecott. He added heated

lunchrooms to the underground mines; utilidors delivered steam heat to the staff houses. He authorized a lighted ice rink for hockey, contests, and winter carnivals. Webb notes that Douglass himself played on the baseball team that played McCarthy and Cordova, sometimes with pitchers brought from as far away as Seattle. The young Douglass children and other Kennecott kids benefited from some of the improvements. Bill, the son, and sister Jean constituted the “older set” and joined older kids in ice skating, hunting small game, and in generally being more adventurous than the “younger set” of Sheila and Nancy who sometimes played catch-up but ordinarily had sense enough not to compete.

Douglass left Kennecott in the early summer of 1929 to take a job at the Kimberley mine out of Ely, Nevada. The mine was affiliated with Utah Copper, still part of the Kennecott empire. Douglass was hired as Assistant General Manager of the large porphyry copper mine. It was only months before the events of October 1929 that triggered the Great Depression. Like many others, Bill had invested in the stock market with a portfolio valued at about \$250,000. Unaware of the impending crisis, the Douglass family planned for a more stable life in Nevada.

Bill bought a seven passenger Franklin car and took driving lessons. Their house at Kimberley was a four bedroom colonial. Mabel found an interior decorator in San Diego to help with the furnishing of the new house. In 1917, Con Kelley, the president of Anaconda Copper Company had presented Mabel with an oak dining room set in appreciation of Mabel’s nursing skills at Butte. The set had been in storage for more than 10 years before it was proudly displayed at the Assistant General Manager’s house at Kimberley. However, the idyllic placement at Kimberley proved short-lived as the copper price plunged below profitable levels and the mine closed in 1932. Bill retained some dollars and for a while all seemed at least survivable.

Events changed rapidly. Mabel noted severe muscle spasms and a sharp company doctor diagnosed her condition as ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Bill took her to the Mayo Clinic and hospitals in New York and San Francisco, but then as now the condition is incurable. At about the same time, Addy developed breast cancer and failed rapidly. The copper market was abysmal, and the only job that Bill could find in 1932 was at small placer gold mine in Downieville, California. Bill had to do most of the cooking and 13-year old Jean and 11-year old Sheila assisted a young housekeeper with the chores and the care of their mother. At one time Bill’s pre-stock market savings were down to \$300.

Bill found a better position as Assistant Manager of the Auburn Chicago Mining Company in Auburn, California, and the family made another move. Art Sweet, the manager of the mine was a Colorado School of Mines classmate of Bill’s. Operating funds were almost assured, as the promoter of the mine was E. L. Cord, famed designer of a series of fine automobiles. Bill also became friends with the young geologist at the mine, Ken Wilson; the two shared carpooling to the mine. Ken lived with his widowed mother, young brothers and a sister, Madalin, a graduate of San Rafael College who stayed on to teach there. Madalin had taken first vows to become a nun, but her brothers and mother prevailed on her to postpone her final vows until more time had elapsed from her father’s death.

On Feb 6, 1934, the Douglass family celebrated their father’s forty-fifth birthday. Mabel died that night. The family stayed in Auburn until the summer of 1934. In August 1934, Douglass took on the reopening of the Nickel Plate Company gold mine for the Kelowna Exploration Company at Hedley, British Columbia. The balance of his professional career was with the Kelowna Company or with numerous affiliates. At Hedley, Douglass rebuilt

the plant and reopened an underground mine—an assignment urged upon him and his new employers by another old Colorado School of Mines friend, Paul Billingsley. At Hedley, Bill was recognized for improved working conditions at the mines and for recreational activities for the community.

In 1943, Bill was transferred to New York where he became General Manager, Vice-President, and a Director of the Kelowna Company and affiliated companies in South America, including the Cotopaxi Exploration Company with operations in Ecuador. In 1949, Bill was honored by his Alma Mater - Colorado School of Mines awarded a Distinguished Achievement Medal in Mining Engineering. In 1950, Bill returned to the west - he retained his operating role as Vice-President for Kelowna and began a consulting career advising companies throughout the western United States and Canada.

In Seattle Bill took on an extracurricular project-- writing a history of the Kennecott Mines. The work, first published by the State Division of Mines (now Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys), covers much more than technical matters. It includes accounts of the pre-Bonanza discovery expeditions, the discoveries and acquisition by Stephen Birch, and the construction of the Copper River and Northwest Railway. It stands as a concise and accurate account. With Wesley Earl Dunkle's 1954 paper, it gives a detailed account of Kennecott operations from 1910-1938 by men who had operational experience during Kennecott's most interesting years. Historian Melody Webb found Bill's memory helpful as she began to construct her account of early Kennecott, Alaska.

Bill Douglass died in 1979 just short of his 90th birthday. He was an exceptional miner, but also an exceptional man and, in the view of his children, an exceptional father.

Bill Douglass is survived by his son William D. Douglass, an attorney of Orinda, CA, and daughters Sheila Jardine Douglass and Jean Loretta Douglass both of Seattle. Another daughter Nancy Douglass died in 2006. Douglass is also survived by his son James Wilson Douglass, who was born to Bill's 1935 marriage to Madalin *nee* Wilson. Mr. James Douglass lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bill "D" Douglass, as one of the "Kennecott Kids", fondly remembers his happy Kennecott years which to a remarkable degree were a product of his father's enlightened management.

Compiled by Charles Hawley, Oct. 28, 2008

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REUBEN FREDERICK McCLELLAN
April 1859-May 3, 1930

Reuben Frederick McClellan - everyone called him Fred¹ - organized and was the central figure in the informal mining partnership that made the initial discoveries and negotiated the sales of the mineral claims that became Alaska's Kennecott mines. In addition, the McClellan Party, as the group was known, was representative of many of the "ad hoc" prospecting groups that formed to search for gold and other metals during the gold rushes in Alaska and across western North America.

Fred was born in Maine in April 1859, and he moved with his family to Minnesota shortly after the end of the Civil War. By 1872, his father had passed away and his mother was raising the family in the town of Princeton, Minnesota. As a young man, Fred worked in the pine forests of Minnesota. Among other things, he was a surveyor. He also cleared his own land and ran a small, apparently popular local resort on Mille Lacs Lake north of Princeton. By all accounts he was a practiced woodsman. He appears to have

been a given to horse racing - successfully - and to the dramatic. His grand-daughter remembered that "he would ride into town with a brace of white horses while standing in his wagon with his flaming red hair blowing in the wind."²

Before heading north, he was a partner in a lumber yard and active in municipal politics. He was elected assayer for Princeton in 1892. He appears to have made investments in the California placer camps where he made what was later described as "an independent fortune." When he returned to Minnesota later, he invested in timber lands and was appointed a timber cruiser for the State of Minnesota, a position he held until he turned his attentions to Alaska in 1898.³

McClellan and his partners - he initially organized seven or eight men from the Princeton area - arrived in Valdez in March 1898. They spent the season looking for gold along the tributaries of the Copper River with some success. The next year, 1899, a reformed, slightly larger group returned and looked for copper as well as gold. Based on information from Native informants, they raced other prospecting groups for a number of copper prospects. In the end, they acquired a one-third interest in the Nikolai prospect, a bornite showing on McCarthy Creek east of the Kennicott Glacier.⁴

In the fall of 1899, the McClellan Party settled its affairs in Valdez and took on a number of new members. The arrangement between McClellan and his partners was simple. According to Clarence Warner, who joined the party in 1899: "It was an agreement that we should go in the field as prospectors, standing our prorata [*sic*] of the expenses and sharing, share and share alike, in whatever might be found." Several of the party had their own arrangements with backers in Minnesota. Another backer was a full partner. Major W. R. Abercrombie, head of the military exploration party to the Copper River area, acquired an equal share in the group in the spring of 1899 in exchange for some unspecified

considerations, probably food or other supplies. Their business concluded for the year, the group dispersed, some to Minnesota and home, others to prospect in Prince William Sound.⁵

McClellan and the other partners negotiated the sale of their individual interests to Stephen Birch who transferred title to the Alaska Syndicate a few years later. McClellan and



Part of the McClellan prospecting team behind a massive boulder of native copper, Nizina district, Alaska; circa 1899; Reuben McClellan in center; photo credit UAF digital archives

Over the winter, McClellan negotiated an agreement to manage the Nikolai prospect – to drive a tunnel and do other exploration work - for the Chittyna Exploration Company, a company formed to combine the interests of the three parties that laid claim to the Nikolai. McClellan hired some members of his Party to perform the work. Two other members, Smith and Warner, continued to prospect on behalf of the Party. On July 22, 1900, they staked the Bonanza outcrop, the rich, green chalcocite showing at the heart of the future Kennecott mines on behalf of the group. Two days later they staked the first claims on the nearby Jumbo showing.⁶

several other members of the Party made arrangements with Birch to work on the Bonanza as well as prospect other locations. Among other things, he was the manager of the Kennecott Mines until the Copper River and Northwestern Railway was completed. McClellan continued to be associated with Birch and Alaska until after the Chisana gold rush.

McClellan had been wintering in California since 1901, and eventually lived there full time. For a while, he lived in Mariposa County where he had first made money in mining. He invested in real estate and opened a bank, the Citizens State Bank of Sawtelle. Politics attracted him again, and from 1916 until his death, he served on the Board of Supervisors for Los Angeles County. For the last few years of his life, he was President of the Board and was considered a political power in the area. Alaska had been good to him.⁷

By honoring Fred McClellan, we acknowledge his significant contributions to mining in Alaska. Through him, we also recognize and honor the many prospecting partnerships, formal or not, that were characteristic of the search for minerals during the gold rush era in Alaska and elsewhere.

Compiled by: Logan Hovis
October 31, 2008

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¹ Jacquie Sorby to Logan Hovis, 02/04/2003. Ms Sorby of Princeton, MN—a genealogist and indirect descendent of R .F. McClellan—graciously provided most of the information on McClellan’s early life.

² *Anoka Union* (January 27, 1886); *Princeton Union* (April 5, 1894); and Sorby, *loc. cit.*

³ *Princeton Union* (March 10, 1892), (June 9, 1892), “R. F. McClellan [sic] Dies in Los Angeles,” *The Shelborne County Star News* (January 15, 1930 ????);and “R. F. M’Clellan [sic], Alaska Pioneer, Called to Rest,” *The Alaska Weekly*, 33,6 (May 9, 1930): 1.

⁴ Unless *otherwise* indicated, the general discussion of the McClellan party’s activities is taken from Copper River Mining Company v McClellan, *et. al.*, 2 *Alaska Reports* 134-157 (1903).

⁵ “Testimony of Clarence L. Warner,” in “Copper River Mining Co. v McClellan *et. al.*,” March 3, 1903, US Supreme Court Case #20006, Vol. II, p. 497, National Archives and Records Administration, pp. 470-471: and “Deposition of Major W. R. Abercrombie,” pp. 2507-2508, Copper River Mining Co., v. McClellan, *et. al.*, Vol. VII, pp. 2507-2508, RG 26, National Archives and Records Administration.

⁶ *Valdez News* (4 May 1901): 1.

⁷ *Princeton Union* (May 15, 1930): 1.

THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE IDITAROD GOLD RUSH: CHRISTMAS DAY, 1908

A remote district in southwest Alaska between the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers is an important placer district in Alaska. The district, sometimes called Iditarod, surrounds the historic city of Flat. It was the site of the last great stampede in Alaska's gold rush history.

Prospectors first reached the site of Flat by a short overland hike to upper Otter Creek from the Iditarod River. Later, some followed the Iditarod River upstream to its confluence with Otter Creek, then ascended Otter Creek with boat or sled depending on the season. By 1910, the preferred route, and the only route for heavy freight, was to the new settlement of Iditarod on the river of the same name, thence overland to the new placer diggings. But large riverboats could only ascend the Iditarod to the settlement of Dikeman where supplies and equipment were transferred to shallower draft boats or barges. Dikeman is only about thirty air miles north of Iditarod, but at least twice that distance up the meandering river. Soon the diggings in Otter Creek were connected with Iditarod with a light rail tramway where passengers and freight were transferred on horse-drawn rail cars. Some stampedeers came on an overland trail, west from Knik on Cook Inlet or south from Nome on the Seward Peninsula. The route was called the Iditarod Trail.

Although all the mining in the new district was near the settlements at Flat and Discovery, by 1911 Iditarod was the commercial center of the district, with stores, warehouses, and the Miners and Merchants Bank.

From 1909 to the present time, the Iditarod district produced about 1.5 million ounces of placer gold, the third largest total from Alaska's Placer districts (Bundtzen and others, 1992). The district has been dormant since about 2000, but

with the large Donlin gold project nearby, accompanied by improved infrastructure for this area, the Iditarod district might have a 'second' life.

In 2001, the AMHF inducted John Beaton, the co-discoverer of the Iditarod District. Unfortunately, John Beaton's biography was never released either in our Paystreak newsletter nor on our website. We are honoring the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Iditarod district by printing Beaton's biography, which follows.



photo credit: PRGCI Files/AMA

JOHN BEATON 1875-1945

John Beaton was born on August 9th, 1875, at Rear Little Judique (later St. Ninian), Nova Scotia, to Donald and Flora (*nee* MacLean) Beaton. John was the second oldest son in a family of six children. The Beatons, staunch Scot Roman Catholics, came from the Isle of Skye to Pictou, Nova Scotia, on the vessel *Dove* in 1801. Among the passengers was John's grandfather, Angus Beaton. Angus soon married Christine MacDonald. The Beatons had two children, Ann and John Beaton's father, Donald.

Angus Beaton was a farmer. Most of the men who arrived on the *Dove* were farmers, laborers, or tenants, but many bore ancient Scot names such as MacLean, MacDonald, and McLeod. The Beaton's clan name, MacBeth, is as old as any. Beatons trace their roots to Macbeth, King of Scotland from 1040 to 1057, A.D. After the death of Macbeth at the hands of Malcolm, it was perhaps expedient to drop the patronymic. Macbeths became Beatons or

Bethunes. To escape the wrath of Malcolm and his descendants, many Beatons immigrated to Ireland, but gradually filtered back to Scotland. In the great period of migration from the British Isles that began near the start of the nineteenth century, many Scots migrated to Canada and the United States. The Isle of Skye, home of many soon-to-emigrate Beatons, was also the home of many of the strongest supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Catholic Stewart claimant to the thrones of England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. Many of those who left the Isle of Skye for Nova Scotia were members of the Catholic families who backed the last of the Stewarts during a time of Protestant ascendancy in Scotland.

John Beaton was a quiet man, but he must have retained something of the adventurous spirit of the Scot Highlanders. He left Nova Scotia in 1899 for British Columbia and shortly thereafter moved to the Klondike. Finding most of the opportunities in the Klondike gone, John arrived in Alaska in 1900, shortly after the Great Stampede to Nome in 1898-99.

John's travels in Alaska between 1900 and 1908 are uncertain, but John possibly mined in the hard rock mines of the Juneau area. In 1908 John and two partners began a prospecting enterprise in southwest Alaska, first prospecting in the Innoko district west of McGrath. The district was then in its early stages, following a discovery at Ganes Creek in 1906. John's two partners were W. A. "Bill" Dikeman, a man of German descent from Nebraska, and Merton "Mike" Marston. When the men began to prospect the Iditarod country, they were also accompanied by John's younger brother Murdock. Only two of the men, Beaton and Dikeman, assisted by young Beaton, prospected. Marston stayed in town and worked any job available to purchase food and supplies for the prospecting venture. Marston's supplies must have been rudimentary; later John remarked that

he had eaten "two tons of beans" in his prospecting years.

Beaton and Dikeman had little success in the Innoko district. In the fall of 1908, they decided to leave the Innoko district and prospect the Iditarod, a twisting tributary of the Innoko, in a region then virtually unknown. The men drove a steam launch down the Innoko and up the Iditarod as far as they could, beached the boat, and built a little cabin about eight or nine miles below the site of Iditarod. They then proceeded south into unknown mountains and began to prospect. On Christmas Day, 1908, Beaton, Dikeman, and young Murdock Beaton hit high-grade pay at a depth of twelve feet near the head of Otter Creek. The site was later named Discovery. Although most accounts indicate that the discovery shaft was the first in Otter Creek, Beaton later remembered that it was the 27th shaft that the two men had sunk on their prospecting venture that year. After their discovery and further prospecting, the men staked about a mile of Otter Creek for "themselves and a few friends," as stated by A. G. Maddren of the U.S. Geological Survey. One of those friends was Mike Marston, the third partner of the venture. According to the late Tony Gularte, who was in Flat in the early years, Beaton and Dikeman themselves staked alternate claims down Otter Creek.

Soon after the discovery, John Beaton returned to Nova Scotia to marry Florence MacLennan, the daughter of Neil and Mary (*nee* Chisholm) MacLennan in Inverness County, near his old home. John and Florence rushed back to the discovery site in Alaska and Florence was the first white woman in the new camp.

Because of the remoteness of the area, word leaked out slowly but by the summer of 1909, prospectors began to filter in and staked the remaining ground on Otter and its main tributaries. The pay on Otter Creek proved to be exceptionally wide, the widest paystreak ever mined in Alaska. When the Iditarod opened to navigation in the spring of 1910, there were at

least two thousand people ready to stampede to the new district. Possibly as many as 10,000 men and women stampeded to Flat; almost certainly at least 4,000 came. Beaton's and Dikeman's discovery became the third largest placer district in Alaska, only exceeded by Fairbanks and Nome.

Among the first stamperders were Croatian immigrants Peter Miscovich and John Bagoy and his wife. John Bagoy's sister, Stana, soon joined the group and shortly thereafter married Peter Miscovich. Stana became fast friends with Florence Beaton. The camp was a lively one. Married couples like the Bagoys, Miscovichs, and Beatons had their own entertainment. But the more numerous bachelors were not left out completely. Each year the girls of the line held a Grand Pretzel Ball to honor their choice of Miss Otter Creek, and all were invited. Mostly just the bachelors attended.

Mike Marston joined Beaton in the new camp and the two men possibly mined together for the first years of the camp. Murdock Beaton left in 1909; his main purpose, to make a grubstake in order to marry his sweetheart, had been satisfied. Bill Dikeman apparently sold his claims to the Guggenheim-owned Yukon Gold Company soon after they entered the camp. But Beaton proved a canny Scot when he optioned his claims on Otter Creek to the Guggenheims, who were mining down Flat Creek from the rich Marietta claim. The Googs spent two years drilling out Otter Creek, but did not exercise Beaton's option price of \$250,000. Beaton, however, with the drill data leased out his claims to individual operators running Bagley scrapers. Dikeman may have made a short-lived windfall when he sold his claims to the Guggenheims. Beaton did better in the long haul with royalties paid by several operators, while retaining the claims for later dredge operations.

Subsequently Beaton entered into a very successful mining partnership with brothers Gilbert and Bill Bates of Seattle, and with Harry Donnelly of the Miners and Merchants Bank. In 1916-17, the partners built a dredge on Black

Creek where it competed against a Riley owned dredge. Beaton and his partners did well in Black Creek where some ground ran an ounce per pan. One reason for their success was their choice of foreman, "Big Lars" Ostnes. Ostnes not only was exceptionally strong, but was a good miner with several years experience in the district. Lars had just returned from Seattle with his bride Elise on the *Princess Sophia*. The couple had purchased round-trip tickets to expedite their return trip outside after the mining season.

In the early fall of 1918, Florence had an opportunity to leave Flat and travel to Seattle in part to let her two young children, Laretta, age six, and John Neil, age four, visit relatives and have their first glimpse of Outside civilization. Originally Lars and Elise Ostnes had planned to return to Seattle on the *Sophia*, but Elise was six-months pregnant and they decided to remain in Flat. Elise sold her tickets to Florence.

The *Princess Sophia*, with three Beatons on board and much of the season's gold, left Skagway, Alaska, on October 23, 1918, but soon hit a reef. Early arrived ships, which might have been able to save a few passengers, were turned aside by the captain of the *Sophia* to await the arrival of another Canadian Pacific vessel. By that time, one-hundred mile-an-hour winds had smashed the *Sophia* and she went to the bottom with the loss of all on board, three-hundred and fifty-three souls. The event had an extra measure of tragedy for John.

Beaton's mining partner Gilbert Bates reached Juneau first and identified a child as Laretta Beaton. When John arrived at the make-shift morgue, he found that it was another child. The body of Laretta was never recovered.

During the teen years Beatson speculated on one endeavor far the mining world. Possibly with Seattle partners Bill and Gilbert Bates, John built the old Strand Theater in Seattle. His

theatrical venture was not particularly successful, but the mines at Flat continued to produce. In the highly competitive camp at Flat, John Beaton retained the respect of other operators and remained above most of the rivalry. He often aided other miners to become established. One of those men was Peter Miscovich. Beaton sold Peter a block of about 120 acres on a pay-as-mined deal. The land was adjacent to other lands acquired by Miscovich. The acquisitions enabled Peter Miscovich to establish a very successful mining operation and founded a family mining heritage.

Perhaps as an aid to mental recovery after Florence' death and to expand his horizons, Beaton bought a large cattle ranch in British Columbia, which he owned until 1927. On one trip outside in the early 1920s, John Beaton met a young widow, Mary "Mae" (*nee* MacDonald) Grant who had a daughter named Eunice, "Jean." John and Mae met at a dance in Boston, but soon compared notes and found that Mae was also a native of Nova Scotia and had grown up not far from John. John and Mae married on February 12, 1924 at St. James Cathedral in Seattle. On February 16, 1925, Mae had a son who the Beaton's named Neil Daniel. In 1927, John sold the ranch and returned to mining full time in Alaska. After the Guggenheims left Flat, Beaton's North American Dredging Company; a.k.a., the 'Beaton and Donelley Dredge', and the Riley Investment Company dredge shared an important part of Flat's production essentially until the early years of Alaska Statehood. In about 1937, Beaton, encouraged by his dredge manager Alex Matheson, began to look for new ground. Otter Creek had been mined intensively for nearly thirty years and according to Mathieson, was approaching its end. Beaton sold his outfit to Matheson. It appears that Mathieson and other men may have known that rich ground remained, and should have so advised Beaton, but kept their knowledge to themselves. Matheson rebuilt the 'Beaton and Donelley' dredge, immediately turned the boat back onto Guggenheim-mined ground, and extracted

another fortune from gold left behind by the Googs.

Regardless, Beaton found other ground that he liked. It was close to where he and Dikeman had begun to prospect in 1908. Beaton went back to Ganes Creek in the Innoko district with his friend A. A. Shonbeck. Shonbeck and Beaton dredged there until World War II, and the creek is still not exhausted.

In 1936, John and Mae established a residence in Anchorage. One of the first things they did was to plant an apple tree, a tree that still flourishes in downtown Anchorage. Like many of his Anchorage contemporaries, John joined the Elks Club where he was sponsored by banker George Mumford and by Shonbeck whom John had known since 1910 in Flat. Beaton shared an interest in agriculture with Shonbeck and perhaps participated with Shonbeck in some of "double A's" many ventures in Anchorage and the Matanuska valley. Although John may have lost out in his transaction with Alex Matheson, the depression years seem to have had little negative effect on Beaton's life style. Both Jean and Neil attended private schools in Seattle. John and his new family enjoyed traveling throughout Alaska and "Outside." On those trips John and Mae were well dressed and looked the part of successful mine owners, which they were. But at the mines in Flat and at Ganes Creek, John, with overalls and a corn cob pipe in his mouth, often looked more like one of the laborers than the owner.

Inside Alaska, John Beaton's extended family began to expand. His stepdaughter Jean married accountant-miner-contractor Joe Ramstad and raised one family. After a divorce, Jean married Francis Szymanski and raised another.

In late June 1945, Beaton and fellow pioneer Shonbeck were at Ganes Creek in the Innoko district to visit their placer mine -

probably to consider reopening the mine at the end of World War II. Alaska mining man Hugh Matheson saw the men off in their truck. Except for trapper Cashmere Naudts, who was riding in the rear of the truck with his dog and was thrown into the river, Hugh probably was the last to see them alive. Shonbeck was driving and had a fatal heart attack as the men drove off a bridge abutment into Ganes Creek. The lock on the truck door jammed and it was hours before miners could retrieve the flooded truck and its fatal cargo.

Neil Beaton hurried home for the funeral from an Air Force training camp to join his mother and step-sister, then Mrs. Francis Szymanski. John Beaton's funeral was held in Anchorage on June 27, 1945 at the Catholic Church, Father Dermot O'Flanagan presiding. Pall-bearers were Alaska old timers. John was buried in the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery.

Family members have continued Beaton's heritage in Alaska. After flying as an Air Force Navigator, Neil returned to Alaska and began his own mining and construction career, at times mining with the Ramstads at Golden Creek north of the Yukon. Neil's skill with massive construction cranes is still remembered by old-time Alaskans and his skill as an operator has rarely been equaled. Neil's children left mining, but Neil's daughter, also Laurretta, and her brother John retain family records and Laurretta pursues family history in prose and poetry. The second generation Ramstads and Szymanskis, although "step children" Beatons through their mother Jean, all consider John Beaton as "grandfather," and honor his accomplishments. The Szymanskis and Ramstads recently spearheaded efforts to re-monument the internment site for John, now joined again in death by his wife Mae and stepdaughter Jean.

In an obituary newspaper article published in Nova Scotia shortly after John's death, an unknown relative noted: "John Beaton was one

of the fine type of Scottish Highlander who pioneered in distant lands and made good in many fields of endeavor. His heart was ever true to his native Nova Scotia and above all he loved to visit his old home and the scenes of his youth.... He was a loyal friend, a devout Catholic, kindly and cheerful despite more than the usual share of hardship and tragedy." In 1932, after a visit to Seattle, the *Seattle Times* characterized John Beaton as "small, quiet, calm" seemingly not at all the man whose life had been a series of "wild romantic adventures," who won and lost numerous fortunes, and who cheated death by minutes—all except the last time. That, nevertheless, was the life of John Beaton.

Notes and Sources:

The date of the marriage of John Beaton and Florence MacLennan is assumed to have been in early 1909; it might have been earlier but probably not much later.

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**Distinguished Alaskans Aid
Foundation as '98ers**

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation was incorporated as an Alaskan non-profit corporation on April 27, 1997. The Foundation was organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes, including donations to organizations that are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. On September 17, 2003, the IRS confirmed the 501(c)(3) status of AMHF, and further categorized the organization under codes 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(6).

The foundation is a non-membership corporation that depends on services provided by its officers and directors, others interested in Alaskan mining, and on donations and grants.

The Foundation is especially indebted to eighteen (18) persons who have each contributed \$1,000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampedeers to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

The 98ers

Dr. Earl Beistline	John Mulligan
Thomas K. Bundtzen	Patrick H. O'Neill
Glen Chambers	Elmer E. Rasmuson (d)
Douglas Colp	William Stroecker
Wendell Hammon Jr.	Dr. Robert H. Trent
Dr. Charles C. Hawley	Mitch Usibelli
Dr. Walter Johnson	Joe Usibelli, Sr.
Wallace McGregor	Dr. William Wood (d)
James Moody	Dr. Kenneth L. Zong

(d=deceased)

Most of the 98ers are recognizable as miners of national or international reputation. The late William R. Wood was President, Emeritus, of the University of Alaska. Dr. Wood suggested the organization of the Foundation. The late Elmer E. Rasmuson was an Alaska banker and benefactor, long interested in Alaska natural resource history. Dr. Walter Johnson's career was mainly in Native public health, but he knew many pioneer Alaskans. His own research has taken him to Sweden and Norway in search of the true story of the so-called "three Lucky Swedes" of fame at Nome.

The Foundation is seeking about ninety more 98ers, but it welcomes contributions at every level. For further information contact:

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