

The PAYSTREAK

Volume 14, No. 1, Spring 2012

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

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Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation New Inductees

AMHF Honors Mining Pioneers Important to Mid-20th Century Interior Alaska Placer Mining



Oscar Tweiten, born in Tacoma, Washington, was the third oldest of eight children born to Norwegian immigrants. He came north during the 1930s to mine and prospect for gold, and to escape the effects of the Great Depression. After arriving in Interior Alaska, Oscar went to work on #10 Above Discovery on Cleary Creek, the richest creek in the Fairbanks district, a claim that Oscar would later own and live on for decades. Oscar and his brother, Carl, prospected and test-mined lode gold in the Goodpaster district, near where the Pogo Gold Mine now operates. After nearly 60 years of placer mining and prospecting, Oscar retired. When he died at the age of 99, his obituary indicated the cause of death as “authentic old age”.



Glen DeForde Franklin was born in Chewelah, Washington, and came north to study business administration at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, and to seek opportunity. He was a gifted athlete and musician. Before World War II, he worked with Ernest Patty at the Coal Creek dredge. After the war, he, with partners, formed the Yukon Placer Mining Company, a firm that mined in both Alaska and the Yukon Territory of Canada for many years. His wife, Vieno, and daughters, Glenna and Ina, were part of the mining team. Glen served in the Alaska Territorial legislature during the 1950s. After Vieno died of cancer in 1980, he became reacquainted with Fairbanks resident Pat Sather, who had lost her husband to cancer. Glen married Pat in 1983, and the two spent many years together in Fairbanks and other locales. In 2008, Glen Franklin, aged 95, passed peacefully with his wife, Pat, by his side.



Donald Jean Cook was born in Astoria, Oregon, and spent his childhood in the Pacific Northwest. At the age of 18, he arrived at the University of Alaska, where he pursued an education in mining engineering. Cook served in World War II as an infantry officer, and led 45 men onto Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion. He was later shot by a sniper, and spent 18 months in medical facilities. After the war, he received a degree in mining engineering, and worked for the FE Company for ten years. Don taught in the College of Earth Sciences and Mineral Industries (CESMI) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks for 25 years. He later became the Dean of the reorganized school, a position he held until 1990. Cook pioneered an educational exchange program between Fairbanks and Taiwan, and, after retiring from education, became Alaska’s trade representative to Taiwan. In 2009, Don passed away peacefully at the age of 89, and left behind a legacy of loyal service to Alaskans and to the Alaska mineral industry.

**Co-sponsored by the Alaska Miners Association and the Tanana Yukon
Historical Society**

Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)

Induction Ceremony, March 23, 2012

Morris Thompson Cultural Theater, 101 Dunlap, Fairbanks, Alaska

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 March 23, 2012. The induction ceremony will take place in the Morris Thompson Cultural Theater in Fairbanks, Alaska. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served.

Coffee and Donuts.....6:30-7:00 PM

Introduction and Purpose of the AMHF, by Thomas Bundtzen.....7:00-7:10 PM

Presentation of Inductees

Oscar Tveiten, by Curtis J. Freeman.....7:10-7:30 PM

Glen DeForde Franklin, by Thomas Bundtzen.....7:30-7:50 PM

Donald Jean Cook, by Charles C. Hawley.....7:50-8:20 PM

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

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

Adjournment.....9:00 PM

Introduction, Acknowledgments and Announcements

The March 23, 2012 induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features three pioneers who were important to Interior Alaska placer gold mining during the mid-20th Century. The inductees, Oscar Tweiten, Glen Franklin and Donald Cook, are roughly the same age, and all three arrived in Alaska during the Great Depression. They each sought opportunity in Alaska's gold mining industry, although in different ways.

Oscar Tweiten began work on #10 Above Discovery on Cleary Creek, the richest creek in the Fairbanks district, a claim that Oscar would later own and live on for decades. Oscar and his brother, Carl, prospected and test-mined lode gold in the Goodpaster district, near where the Pogo Gold Mine now operates. Oscar became a household name in Fairbanks mining circles, and was known for fairness and honesty. He never criticized, judged or interfered with others. After nearly 60 years of placer mining and prospecting, Oscar retired. When he died at the age of 99, his obituary indicated that the cause of death was "authentic old age".

Glen Franklin arrived in Fairbanks in 1933, during the depth of the Great Depression. Glen pursued a degree in business administration at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, and continued attending that school when it later became the University of Alaska. He was a gifted athlete, and played basketball and hockey for the school. His business sense proved to be very valuable in future business partnerships involving a risky industry - placer gold mining. His first marriage, to Vieno, brought him two daughters, Ina and Glenna, who would give him joy and satisfaction, in mining and in life. After Vieno died of cancer in 1980, Glen became reacquainted with Fairbanks resident Pat Sather, who had lost her husband to cancer. Glen married Pat in 1983, and the two spent many years together in Fairbanks and other locales.

Donald Cook differed from Franklin and Tweiten in that his focus was on mineral education. After serving with merit during World War II, Cook graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) and worked for the famed FE Company, which operated a large dredge fleet in the Fairbanks area. His technical knowledge of how those gold boats operated has never been surpassed. Likewise, his contribution to the mineral industry curriculum at UAF is equally important to his legacy.

Curt Freeman and Oscar Tweiten's daughter, Judie Wischman, wrote Tweiten's biographic sketch. Tom Bundtzen wrote the biographic sketch of Glen Franklin, drawing on valuable notes and data supplied by Glenna Hutchens, Glen's daughter, as well as from sources in the Franklin and Sather families. AMHF Honors Chair Chuck Hawley supplied the biographic sketch of Don Cook, with significant contributions made by Cook's son, Galen Cook.

As you read this newsletter, and hopefully enjoy the ceremony, the AMHF board wants to let you know that we are embarking on a feasibility study for an Alaska Mining Hall of Fame facility here in Fairbanks. Our consultant, Howard-Tellefson Consulting, will be at the induction ceremony. We hope that you will provide them with feedback regarding how you feel about such an endeavor, if and when you are asked.

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.ée: 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, Spring 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, Summer 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, Fall 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, Spring 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, Summer 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, Fall 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.

Ernest 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.

Anchorage, Fall 2008

Honoring Two Engineers and a Prospector Who Helped Bring Success to the Kennecott Mines in the Chitina Valley of South-Central Alaska

Earl Tappen Stannard: An innovative engineer at Kennecott's Alaska mines, and later a CEO of Kennecott Copper Corporation.

William Crawford Douglass: A gifted mining engineer and exceptional manager at Kennecott's Alaska mines.

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 Alaska.

Anchorage, Fall 2009

Honoring Four Pioneers Important to the Willow Creek Mining District

Robert L. Hatcher: Began the lode mining boom in the Willow Creek district when he discovered gold-quartz veins on Skyscraper Mountain that later became part of the Independence group of mines.

Orville G. Herning: Instrumental in forming the east-coast based exploration group, Klondike and Boston Gold Mining Company and in forming the Willow Creek Mining district.

Byron S. Bartholf: Represents a large family group that was instrumental in the development of the gold lodes in the Willow Creek district.

Walter W. Stoll: An exceptional mine operator of the Independence gold mine, which became the largest gold producer (in ore tonnage) in the Willow Creek district.

Fairbanks, Spring 2010

Honoring Two Civic-Minded Mining Pioneers Important to Interior and Western Alaska Development

John P. Clum: Long after his involvement with the capture of Geronimo in Arizona, Clum established reliable postal service in Alaska, and became the Postal Inspector of the Alaska Territory.

Irving McKenny Reed: Notable Associate Mining Engineer for the Alaska Territory and a pioneer of Nome; was Chair of the Alaska Game Commission prior to World War II and the Territorial Highway Engineer just before Alaska Statehood.

Anchorage, Fall 2010

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Seward Peninsula Gold Dredging Industry

Nicholas B. and Evinda S. Tweet: Partners in marriage and partners in mining, they created a family-owned firm that has mined gold in Alaska for over one hundred years.

Carl S. and Walter A. Glavinovoch: A pair of brothers who, collectively, devoted more than one hundred years of their lives to the prospecting, deciphering, drilling, thawing, and dredging of the Nome, Alaska placer gold fields.

Anchorage, Fall 2011

Honoring Two Pioneers Active in South-Central Alaska Mining and Economic Development

Martin Radovan: A Croatian prospector who prospected the Chitina Valley for decades and found the high altitude Binocular copper prospect. He never made a mine, but his dreams live on.

Arthur Shonbeck: He joined numerous mining stampedes during the Alaska-Yukon gold rush, and became an outstanding business leader in Anchorage, Alaska, where he helped found Providence Hospital. He drowned in Ganes Creek, west of McGrath, Alaska, while on a trip with AMHF inductee John Beaton, the man who discovered Iditarod.



Oscar Tveiten sluicing in the Fairbanks district; photo courtesy of Judie Wischman.

Oscar Tveiten (1911-2010)

Oscar Tveiten was born in Tacoma, Washington, on October 22, 1911. He was the third oldest of eight children born to Norwegian immigrants Omund and Pauline Tveiten. His parents moved from Tacoma back to their home town of Tveiten, Norway, when Oscar was eight years old. Oscar's father, Omund, had inherited the family farm located in the Sirdal Valley. The family home in Norway housed Oscar's ten family members on one side of the house, and Omund's younger brother's family of eight on the other side. They were a strong, hardworking, Lutheran family. It was in a one room school house in the tiny village of Tveiten that Oscar received his formal education. In 1929, at the age of 17, Oscar returned to the Tacoma area just as the Great Depression made its devastating entrance onto the world stage. His brother, Carl, and sister, Martha, had already settled in the area. Together, the three siblings worked to return the rest of their family to America. In 1933, Oscar and his cousin, Lee

“Bunk” Leland, were employed at a door factory. When a decree came down that the wages were being cut in half (they only made a dollar an hour before the cut), Oscar said,

"We decided that if we were going to starve, we'd do it in Alaska."

This doesn't seem like such an odd decision when you consider that Oscar's uncles, Karl and Ole, had climbed the Chilkoot Pass on their way to the Klondike gold rush, and that Oscar's father had gone to Nome after gold was discovered there. The next generation had already followed suit: Oscar's older brother, Carl, had made his way to Interior Alaska via Valdez and the Richardson Highway in 1932.

In the big territory of Alaska, gold miners were doing well during the Depression. Oscar recalls,

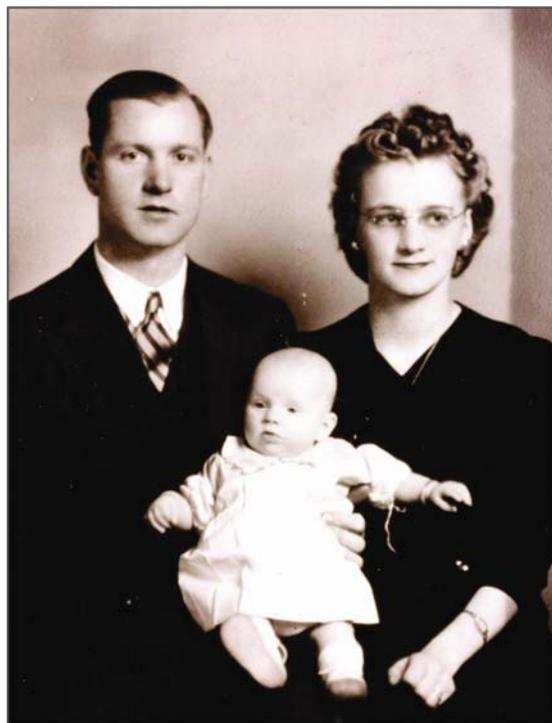
"It was good times in Alaska because of gold mining. We'd heard about that."

In May of 1933, Oscar and his cousin, Lee Leland, borrowed \$39 from a cousin, and booked passage on a boat to Seward. Once there, they negotiated a train trip to Fairbanks in return for shoveling coal to fire the locomotive's boilers. Oscar's brother, Carl, who was already in Fairbanks, introduced them to a lady named Mrs. Dunham, who was the caretaker of the library. She rented Oscar and Lee a cabin for five dollars per month. Since they were only making fifty cents an hour, this seemed a little pricey, so they moved three buddies in, and each paid one dollar per month.

After Oscar had tried his hand at a few jobs, his brother, Carl, introduced him to Helmer Johnson, a well respected operator for whom Carl worked, who was mining placer gold on Chatham Creek about 25 miles north of Fairbanks. Johnson was

using a small bucket-line dredge, the first such dredge in the Fairbanks mining district, and he put Oscar to work on #10 Above Discovery on Cleary Creek, a claim that Oscar would one day own, and on which his two-story frame house still stands. The house had been a part of the bustling town of Cleary City near the mouth of Cleary and Chatham Creeks. When large scale dredging encroached on the town during the Depression, the city was dismantled to make way for the dredge, and Oscar bought the house, and moved it to #10 Above. Thus, Oscar began his placer gold mining career at the business end of a pick and shovel. Little did he realize that he would spend the better part of the next 60 years living and working in this area, and not hanging up his diggers until he was 85 years old.

That first summer in Fairbanks, Helmer Johnson not only introduced Oscar to “gumboot mining”, the sourdough’s term for placer mining, but to his and wife Emma’s daughter, 14-year old Irene Sophia Johnson. According to Oscar, Irene made quite an impression on him, so much so that several years later, on April 5, 1939, they were married. Oscar and Irene had a daughter, Judie Ann, the undisputed light of Oscar’s life. Irene suffered from a debilitating disease that required Oscar and Judy to care for her for over 40 years, until her death in 1995. Irene was very talented musically. She could play many instruments “by ear”, with no formal training. Oscar and Irene loved to dance and sing together. Irene would play the accordion and entertain in the mining camps.



Oscar Tweiten and Irene Sophia nee Johnson Tweiten with their daughter, Judie Ann; photo courtesy of Judie Wischman.

Oscar worked for Helmer Johnson until late autumn that first year in Fairbanks. Word was out that there was gold to be found in the Goodpaster area, a poorly known, and inaccessible, part of Interior Alaska, about 100 miles east of Fairbanks. Up for more adventure, Oscar joined his brother, Carl, and cousin, Lee Leland, on a winter prospecting trip to the upper Goodpaster River country, a place he would come to know well in the years ahead.

The story of Oscar and Carl Tweiten's prospecting adventures in the upper Goodpaster River drainage is a book unto itself. In fact, Carl Tweiten did write a book about their experiences in the Goodpaster River country: *Alaska, Big Delta and the Goodpaster Region*, published in 1990. For anyone interested in finding out what the pioneer spirit is all about, it is highly recommended reading.

During the autumn of 1933, Oscar, Carl and Lee pooled their limited funds, and set out for Big Delta and the Goodpaster River country on their first of many trips to this part of Alaska. The three partners admitted to not winning the good housekeeping award that winter – they discovered mouse droppings in their flour. As was the case for thousands of prospectors before and after them, trapping was a necessary part of prospecting. The meat from the game they trapped was eagerly eaten, while good furs could be traded for food and supplies.

When asked why his party chose the Goodpaster River area as their prospecting destination, Oscar would grin mischievously, and tell the story of French John, a Canadian miner, trapper and yarn-spinner, who told had them about Felix Pedro's famous lost gold mine. It seems that before Pedro discovered gold and set off the rush in the Fairbanks area in 1902, he was in the habit of going up the Goodpaster River each summer, and returning to Dawson in the fall with a bulging gold poke. No one knew where he got his gold, but everybody had their own idea. Oscar and his partners decided that if it was good enough for the legendary Pedro, it was good enough for them.

The three prospectors spent the winter moving into the country by pole boat, which Oscar described as

“more pullin than polin”.

They spent the winter prospecting, trapping and exploring the country on skis. The only reading material they had while in the Alaska bush, was a dictionary and a Bible, about which Oscar remarked,

“Now boy, don’t think we didn’t go through both of those.”

By candle light, the young prospectors spent many an evening reading Bible verses and discussing word definitions to pass the time during those cold, dark winter nights. Oscar and Carl had learned the art of Nordic skiing as youths in Norway, and routinely traveled faster and farther in a day than even the experienced local dog mushers, sometimes as much as 100 miles. Oscar noted that skiing in this part of Alaska meant having to cross the shallow, winding Goodpaster River on a regular basis. Sometimes the crossing point was not frozen, so they accomplished this by cutting small poles from the surrounding forest, and fashioning stilts to walk across the open leads, much as they had been taught to do as youths in Norway.

As the winter of 1933-34 came to a close, Oscar and his partners built two cabins to serve their future needs, then returned to Fairbanks, to earn money to pay for more prospecting. Oscar and Carl worked for Helmer Johnson again on Cleary Creek. Lee Leland went to work for the FE Company on their gold dredge at Fish Creek.

The spring of 1935 saw a surge of lode gold prospectors into the Goodpaster River country, particularly into the hills above Oscar, Carl and Lee’s cabin on Tibbs Creek, near the upper reaches of the river. During the time he had spent on upper Cleary Creek, Oscar had been introduced to many notable Fairbanks lode gold miners, some of whom mined the hills immediately surrounding Helmer Johnson's operations. The talents of lode mining legends such as Earl Pilgrim, Fred and Charlie Wackwitz, Arnold Nordale and F.J. McCarty, seemed to have rubbed off, because Oscar and Carl soon began to help guide various parties to the new lode gold discoveries in the Goodpaster River country. One

of the world's largest mining companies, the American Smelting and Refining Co. (ASARCO) eventually optioned several claims in the Black Mountain area, and put Oscar and Carl to work driving exploration adits on what was known as the Blue Lead Extension.

By early 1937, ASARCO had decided that there was not enough paying ore to continue their work, and they dropped their options on the Blue Lead Extension property. Oscar and Carl joined forces with Fairbanks hotel owner C.W. Tibbets, miner Chris Elenger and mechanic Doc Cripe, and took an option on the nearby Grizzly Bear claim. They immediately began driving an adit beneath a surface exposure of very high grade gold ore. The following spring, they began building a small mill below the workings. Unfortunately, when their adit intersected the lode underground, the gold grade was too low to mine at a profit. After recovering only 1000 ounces of gold, Oscar and his partners decided to look elsewhere for the elusive yellow metal.

The partners chose the Blue Lead Extension claim as their next prospect. The camp, mill and rest of the equipment was moved from the Grizzly Bear mine to the new site. Adits, raises and stopes were soon developed, but once again, the gold grade was too low and unpredictable for sustained operations. Carl remarked that the employees had made wages, but that he, Oscar and the other three owners did not have enough money left to buy socks. Oscar and his partners decided to cut their losses, and gave up the venture. By this time it was late 1939.

The following summer, Oscar returned to work for Helmer Johnson on upper Cleary Creek. He continued working for Helmer until 1942, when

the insatiable demand for metals to fight World War II caused the federal government to issue Executive Order L-208. This order forced the closure of all non-essential mining operations in the United States, including lode and placer gold production in the Territory of Alaska. For the duration of the War, and for two years after the War, Oscar was employed at various jobs by the U.S. Army at Ladd Field (now Fort Wainwright) in Fairbanks. Oscar was a very skillful welder, and he ran the welding shop there, but he could do just about anything, and he was also a talented mechanic and heavy equipment operator.

By 1948, Oscar was back in the mining game in the Fairbanks district, running his own placer gold mine on Chatham Creek. Oscar had formed the Chatham Creek Mining Company with partners Emil Wickstrom and Ragnar Berg, and taken over the claims previously owned by Helmer Johnson. Instead of a bucket-line dredge, Oscar used a dragline for this work. Oscar mined on Chatham Creek from 1948 to 1958, during which time he mined over one and a half miles of creek bottom. Oscar recalls crossing high grade lode veins and shear zones when the workings reached bedrock, most notably the old Pioneer lode. He knew he was approaching one of these leads by noting how the gold grades and the shape of the placer gold changed just downstream from the lode. The Pioneer vein in Chatham Creek had been the site of what was reported to be the first lode mining claim staked in the Fairbanks mining district, the Blue Bell lode staked by John C. Rose on November 24, 1903. By the time Oscar mined the gravels over the lode, the underground workings had been long abandoned, but evidence of the lode miners was remained. The Pioneer vein had been stoped upward until it hit the overlying

frozen gravels, the same gravels Oscar mined 50 years later.

During Oscar's stay on Chatham Creek, he also worked on Eldorado Creek, just over the divide from his home on #10 Above Cleary Creek. Oscar's efforts started just upstream from an area that had been dredged previously by the FE Company. Although there was gold in the gravels of upper Eldorado Creek, the pay streaks were inconsistent, and none too rich. Oscar pulled out of this area after just two seasons of work.

After Oscar completed his mining on Chatham Creek, he spent a couple more years placer mining on Ready Bullion Creek on the flank of Ester Dome on the other end of the Fairbanks district. The ground was good, but land status problems prevented Oscar from opening up an area known as the Seattle Bench. Reluctantly, Oscar dropped his leases on Ready Bullion Creek.

During the 1960s, 70s and 80s, Oscar returned to his old diggings on upper Cleary Creek, where he continued to mine using a simple dozer and sluice box set up. He also returned to Chatham Creek, where he applied the same methods to areas that had not been previously mined by dragline during the 1950s. He now owned patented and unpatented claims on both creeks, including #10 Above on Cleary Creek, the first placer claim he had ever worked on. Oscar last mined on Chatham Creek in the late 1970s, and he conducted his last mining on Cleary Creek in the mid-1980s.

After over 50 years of placer mining in the Fairbanks district, and prospecting in the Goodpaster country, Oscar decided to lease his placer claims to "the young bucks" - younger

miners with the skill and modern equipment needed to produce gold on the third or fourth pass over his claims. In the late 1980s, he leased his claims on Chatham Creek to a "kid" named Andy Miscovich, himself a veteran of 40 years of placer mining. Andy and his sons mined on Chatham Creek into the mid-1990s. During Andy's first season on the creek, he exhumed dredge buckets and other equipment from Helmer Johnson's original bucket-line dredge. Neither Oscar nor Andy saw anything nostalgic about the old dredge parts, they simply moved them out of the way and kept mining.

Oscar and Irene were charter members of the Fairbanks Lutheran Church, and Oscar was the last survivor of this prestigious group. Raised in a very religious home, he always possessed a strong, quiet faith. Proud of his heritage, he was also was a faithful member of the Sons of Norway.

When Oscar was 90 years old, he moved from his long-time Fairbanks home to live with his daughter, Judie, and son-in-law, Chuck Wischman, on Mercer Island, Washington. With seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, he spent the next eight years surrounded by love, and in good health. Oscar died peacefully on August 26, 2010, just a couple of months shy of his 99th birthday. His obituary indicated the cause of death as "authentic old age".

Oscar demonstrated to all of us how to be cared for by your loved ones in later life. He never criticized, judged or interfered with others. Oscar was a man of great modesty, and he thanked his family daily for his good life, and was possessed of a wonderful, gentle spirit to the end.

His obituary summed up his mining life:

**“He fulfilled his golden dreams as an
Alaskan Miner.”**

*Compiled by Curt Freeman and Judie Wischman,
March, 2012.*



Glen Franklin; photo from family archives.

Glen DeForde Franklin (1913-2008)

Glen DeForde Franklin was born on April 30, 1913, on a farm near Chewelah, Stevens County, Washington, about 50 miles north of Spokane. At the time of his birth, Chewelah was a small town of about 1600 people, slightly less than the 2300 that reside there today. Glen's father, Charles Frank Franklin, known to friends as 'CF', was born in Minnesota in 1873, and moved west as a traveling salesman. He was also a jeweler, and an expert watchmaker. Glen's mother, Lucille Gertrude DeForde, was born in Dayton, Ohio, and met, and later married, Charles Franklin in Spokane in 1906. Before Glen's birth, the Spokane area's economy sagged, and Charles and Lucille started a farm near Chewelah, and also supplied railroad ties to the Great Northern Railroad. The couple had two sons, Carl and Earl, who were born in Spokane. According to Glen, his mother's desire for a daughter was thwarted when he arrived.

In 1914, the family moved to Pe Ell, near Centralia, in western Washington. There, Charles and Lucille opened a combined jewelry and furniture warehouse complex, which included apartment rental units, and leased dental and medical offices. Pe Ell was home to many immigrants from Poland, the Philippines, and Japan, and, according to Glen, it was a great place to grow up. He got early contact with the mining industry when he shoveled a rail car full of Centralia coal (40-45 tons) into the family's fuel bins each year. Glen's father and mother were hard workers, and their business flourished, but they were too liberal with credit. Customers owed the firm about \$90,000 when the stock market crashed in 1929. Charles and Lucille thought that they could just call in the money owed to them to pay off the loan due on their store. But no money arrived from those to which they had extended credit, and the Chehalis Savings and Loan foreclosed on the Franklin business. Glen's parents lost everything, and had to declare bankruptcy. This catastrophic event would affect how Glen would proceed with his life. After settling the bankruptcy, the family moved to Forest Grove, Oregon.

Glen Franklin was an exceptional athlete in high school, and played baseball, tennis, football and basketball. He loved basketball, and was an excellent point guard. He also loved to play his trumpet, and performed at many Saturday night dances. After high school graduation in 1931, he was on track to play basketball at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, but broke a leg while on a bridge construction job, sustaining compound fractures. The leg later became infected, and it was nearly amputated. Glen's father would not allow the doctors to remove the leg. After a year, the leg finally healed. Glen

enrolled at WSU in 1932, and he made the varsity basketball squad.

Like so many of his age, Glen faced the reality of the Great Depression. Glen's older brother, Carl, who was teaching at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines (AAC&SM) in Fairbanks, Alaska, urged him to travel north to seek education, and, later, employment in Interior Alaska's gold mines. Gold mining was going strong near Fairbanks, largely due to the activities of the USSR&M Company dredge fleet, which had revitalized the economy of Fairbanks. An additional boost to the Territory's mining economy occurred in 1934, when President Roosevelt took the United States off the gold standard, which nearly doubled the price of gold, from \$20.67 an ounce to \$35.00 an ounce. During the fall of 1933, Glen Franklin traveled north aboard the Alaska Steamship Company's steamer, the *S.S. Alaska*, with his brother Carl, who had spent the summer in Washington. They left Seattle on August 28th, and stopped in Juneau to take on more passengers. One passenger was an attractive high school graduate of Finnish descent by the name of Vieno Wahto, who was living in Douglas with her family. Glen and Vieno would later marry, after graduating from the university. Glen, Carl, Vieno and other students arrived in Seward on September 2nd, and traveled to Fairbanks via the Alaska Railroad on September 5th.

Franklin enrolled in AAC&SM, and pursued a business major. Glen served as Student Body President, and was President of the Business Administration Club. He made money playing his trumpet, and joined *The International Swingsters*, a band that featured a piano, banjo, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and drums.



Glen Franklin and Vieno Wahto Franklin, circa 1938; photo from the Glenna Hutchens collection.

Glen was quickly recognized as a star point guard on the AAC&SM basketball team. In December 1933, the team traveled by steamer, and played teams throughout Alaska's coastal areas. They played 29 games in 27 days, and won all but two games. Many other games would be won by the ACC&SM, which later became the University of Alaska, basketball team before Glen's graduation. Glen would play basketball in the city leagues of both Fairbanks and Douglas until he was 35 years old. Glen also played hockey at ACC&SM, but performed as a less than stellar hockey goalie. He would later claim that his inability to skate, which he blamed on his long-limbed frame, placed him in front of the net, rather than on the offensive lineup. Nevertheless, in 1936, Glen was part of a team dubbed the 'Hockey Champions of Alaska'. Later, local Fairbanks businesses sponsored a hockey series originally designed to compete with the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Glen joined other hockey players from Fairbanks and Dawson, and played teams in both the United States and Canada. The north country athletes

were competitive with the American, teams, but were always soundly defeated in Canada. They split the series in Minneapolis.



University of Alaska hockey team dubbed “Champions of Alaska” showing Glen second from left in front row; photo from Gordon Picotte Collection, UAF Polar Archives.

In 1936, Glen Franklin earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration, with a major in accounting and a minor in education, from the University of Alaska. Vieno Wahto had one more year to go before graduating in 1937. They were married on April 23, 1938.

Glen’s mentor was Ernest N. Patty, who was the Dean of the School of Mines, and, later a President of the University of Alaska. Even though Glen was not a graduate of the School of Mines, the two became close, first in a student-teacher relationship, and later as long time mining colleagues. Glen’s mining career started in the summer of 1936, when Patty hired him to be the chief operating accountant for Fairbanks-based Alluvial Golds, Inc. and Gold Placers, Inc. Patty, who had resigned from the School of Mines earlier that year, managed both firms. The

dredging firm, Alluvial Golds, Inc., had assembled a three cubic foot, bucket-line, W.W. Johnson (San Francisco) dredge on Coal Creek, southeast of Circle. Glen’s job with Alluvial Golds Inc. continued for six years, until the end of the 1941 mining season. His first daughter, Ina Lucille, was born in 1940, and was taken to Coal Creek camp to spend the summer. His second daughter, Glenna, was born after the War, in 1946. In October

1942, Federal Order L-208 shut down most gold mines in Alaska for the duration of World War II, including the Coal Creek dredge. The dredge restarted after World War II, and mined until the end of 1952. During thirteen full seasons of operation, more than 100,000 ounces of placer gold were produced. The knowledge that Glen gained while keeping the books for the sophisticated placer mine would serve him well in his future.

Years later, Glen would relate an amusing story about the first operations of the Coal Creek dredge. The principle investors, Alexander McRae and Walter Seligman, arrived in camp during the fall of 1936 to observe the first cleanup of the new dredge, which yielded about 550 ounces of placer gold. Since they judged the company safe to be insecure, the investors expressed concern that the gold might be stolen;

hence they slept in the manager's office with the cleanup. To insure security, they nailed the windows and doors shut. The next morning, Ernest Patty was surprised to find that they had used a ball-peen hammer to seal the door and windows. Although the gold was indeed safe, a claw hammer had to be dropped down the stove pipe of the manager's office so that the nails could be removed from the door, and the investors could escape.

In December 1941, Glen registered for the draft. His enlistment officer recommended that he work for Alaska Freight Lines, which was doing strategic military work in Alaska for the War Department. Glen was a foreman for twenty truck drivers, who drove freight from Valdez to Northway, initially for the construction of the Northway airport, and later to haul military equipment to various interior bases. Some of the freight consisted of aircraft parts for the USA/USSR Lend Lease program.

After the War, Glen became re-engaged in the Alaska placer gold mining industry. In the fall of 1945, Glen joined with four partners, Charles F. Herbert, Leonard J. Stampe, Earl Ellingen, and Harold Schmidt, to form the Yukon Placer Mining Company (YPMC) and an affiliated subsidiary, the Jack Wade Creek Dredging Company. The YPMC partnership assembled a variety of applied skills, including engineering (Herbert), mechanical (Stampe, Ellingen, and Schmidt), business management (Franklin), dredging (Herbert and Franklin), and hard work (all of them). The streams and districts in which YPMC would operate are summarized in Table 1. What made YPMC different from other northern mining firms was that they operated gold mines on both sides of the International Boundary. Glen served

as the partner responsible for all of the bookwork, payroll and income tax, and also independently managed the Jack Wade Creek Dredging Company. Eventually, Franklin would assume management responsibilities for several more operating placer mines, with a focus on dredging. The YPMC became one of the more successful and respected non-corporate, north country, mechanized placer mining firms of the mid-20th Century.

During January and February, 1946, Glen, Earl Stampe and Harold Schmidt drove a two ton Ford truck, named "The Green Hornet", from the Alaska-Canada Highway southeast of Tok Junction, Alaska to Dawson, Yukon Territory, using a patchwork of old mining trails and open river beds. This was the first vehicle to make the trip from Alaska to the Klondike in the Yukon, on what are now known as the Taylor and Top of the World Highways. In March 1946, after finalizing a large line of credit from the Northern Commercial Company, YPMC assembled a 'cat train' composed of heavy equipment, trucks, a shack on skids with bunks and a kitchen termed 'The Doghouse' and 'go-devil' sleds laden with fuel and other supplies, and moved into the 40-Mile Country.

The first YPMC mining operations were non-float, mechanized operations on the Walkers Fork of the 40-Mile River and on Jack Wade Creek, both in eastern Alaska. On Canyon Creek, the paystreak was also mined with a small bucket-line dredge. By 1951, economic pay was running out at the main operation on Walkers Fork in Alaska, and the company moved over to the Yukon Territory, Canada. They settled on Big Gold, Miller, and Glacier Creeks, which collectively, became known as YPMC's 60-Mile project,

which continued until 1961. In the 60-Mile district, YPMC mined pay with a 3.75 cubic foot bucket-line stacker dredge (on Big Gold Creek) as well as by non-float, mechanized dozer mining techniques. After the 1951 season, YPMC mined exclusively in Canada until 1968. After 1957, all operations were mechanized, non-float dozer mining projects.

Through time, the YPMC partnership shifted and changed direction. In 1952, Earl Ellingen left the partnership, only to pass away a few years later. Both Leonard Stampe and Chuck Herbert were bought out in 1959. Herbert became involved with gold mining operations near Livengood, Alaska, and would later become a Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources and Commissioner of Natural Resources for the William Egan administrations of 1960-1966 and 1970-1974, respectively. Eventually, Herbert would become an important Alaskan leader during the contentious D-2 lands debate that followed his state service. Herbert was inducted into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame in 2006.



Glen Franklin and long-time mining partner Harold Schmidt standing in front of a Caterpillar tractor on Glacier Creek, 60-Mile district, Yukon Territory, Canada; photo courtesy of Glenna Hutchens.

Table 1. Summary listing of placer gold mining projects of the Yukon Placer Mining Company, 1946-1968.

Name of Gold Project	Mining District and Jurisdiction	Duration
Walkers Fork/Davis and Poker Creek	40-Mile District, Alaska	1946-1951
4 th of July Creek	40-Mile District, Alaska	1947-1951
Canyon Creek	40-Mile District, Alaska	1948-1950
Jack Wade Creek	40-Mile District, Alaska	1946-1951
Big Gold, Miller and Glacier Creeks (collectively, the 60-Mile Project)	60-Mile District, Yukon, Canada	1952-1962
Ballarat Creek/Henderson Creek	Klondike District, Yukon, Canada	1952-1957
Hight Creek	Klondike District, Yukon, Canada	1952
Lousetown Bench, Klondike River	Klondike District, Yukon, Canada	1958-1960
Dominion Creek (several locales)	Klondike District, Yukon, Canada	1958-1965
Quartz Creek	Klondike District, Yukon, Canada	1962-1964
Eldorado Creek	Klondike District, Yukon, Canada	1961-1968

After 1959, Glen Franklin and Harold ‘Smitty’ Schmidt continued the Canadian placer mining operations. These last two partners, Smitty and Glen, would operate together until 1965. Afterwards, Glen operated Franklin Enterprises Ltd., a subsidiary of the YPMC, on a small scale on Eldorado Creek until 1968.

After the Yukon Placer Mining Company finally closed its doors, Harold Schmidt formed Ballarat Mining Company, and continued to operate in the Yukon Territory. Harold Schmidt's son, Stuart, who was a good friend of Glen's, currently operates Schmidt Mining Corporation, one of the Yukon’s largest placer gold mining firms. In a

recent correspondence with the writer, Stuart Schmidt wrote:

“I feel like I was raised in the tradition of the old timers from Yukon Placer Mining Company and so much of what I have learned about placer mining comes from their history. Those guys were my professors.”



Glen Franklin cleaning up the box at Glacier Creek in the 60-Mile district. The small child looking on is Stuart Schmidt, the current owner/operator of Schmidt Mining Corporation; photo courtesy of Glenna Hutchens.

At a public gathering held in Fairbanks on April 17, 2000 (which the writer attended), Glen presented the results of the 22 years of mining conducted by the Yukon Placer Mining Company (YPMC) and subsidiaries, and provided statistical summaries through the eyes of a gold miner, manager, and accountant. He described how the firm required cash assets to start the business, which involved a hefty loan package that had to be repaid within three years. Logistics and infrastructure issues were challenging, and the company built many of miles of roads into their mining properties. Power had to be generated; heavy equipment needed to be purchased and maintained; water and water rights had to be secured; and people needed to be trained. Complex land acquisitions included negotiations with the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation Ltd. (YCGC), which was then the largest dredging entity active in Yukon Territory.

Glen said that his family, wife Vieno and daughters Ina and Glenna, actively participated in the mining business. Glen ‘and his girls’ helped operate the dredge on Big Gold Creek. Ina and Glenna teamed up with ‘Papa’ Franklin and Harold Schmidt’s girls, Dede and Mimi, to pick up heavy equipment parts from the company’s Walkers Fork camp and haul them over the divide to YPMC’s 60-Mile district mines in Canada. Ina taught Sunday School to miners’ children in the mining camps, and played a Salvation Army pipe organ acquired from Dawson. Glenna and

Ina took care of the company vegetable garden in 60-Mile camp. In an effort to prevent boredom from settling in at the mining camps, the Franklin and Schmidt girls would show movies on Saturday nights, and provide pop corn for the weary mining crews.



Glenna and Ina helping to keep up the garden at the 60-Mile camp; photo courtesy of Glenna Hutchens.



From left, Glenna, Ina and Vieno Franklin in the 60-Mile district; photo courtesy of Glenna Hutchens.

Several locations were mined simultaneously, and the firm employed as many as fifty people during the short summer seasons. The Canadian operations involved participation with the Federal Canadian Emergency Gold Mining Assistance program (EGMA), which worked to keep small gold mining firms afloat in small communities throughout rural Canada, because of their importance to the local economies.

In Glen's final analysis, approximately 17.64 million cubic yards of muck and overburden were stripped by YPMC. Just over 7.06 million cubic yards of gravel were processed, and 163,960 troy ounces of placer gold were produced at an average overall grade of 0.023 ounces of placer gold/cubic yard. Eldorado Creek and Jack Wade Creek yielded the highest gold grades of 0.031 and 0.028 ounces of placer gold/cubic yard, respectively. Just over 1/3 of the total gold output came out of their 60-Mile operations, which constituted YPMC's largest single project. Eight of the eleven projects listed in Table 1 were profitable, but three were not. The Internal Rate of Return (IRR) to YPMC for the entire twenty-two year period of mining was just under 21 percent. The rising costs of mining and the fixed price of gold ended the YPMC activities in Alaska and the Yukon. Glen's April, 2000 presentation was the most complete summary of a mid-20th Century, north-country placer mining venture that the writer has ever heard.

In the mid-1950s, Glen and his family began to split their time between Seattle, Washington, during the winter months, and Alaska and the Yukon during the summer months. In 1959, Glen and Vieno moved to Kennewick, Washington, where they bought 10 acres, planted a plum orchard, and managed Keller Insurance Company.

Glen and Vieno continued to travel north each year to mine until 1968. When the price of gold was decontrolled and began to rise in the mid-1970s, Glen worked as a placer consultant. During 1974-1975, he worked with Toronto-based Livengood Joint Ventures, for which developed a large-scale placer mining operation on the Livengood Bench north of Fairbanks. He also provided consulting expertise for operations in Idaho, Oregon and California, and outside the United States in Haiti, Mexico, and Italy.

Glen and Vieno were together for 42 years, but Vieno was diagnosed with bone cancer in 1979, and died eleven months later in 1980. In 1983, at the encouragement of his good friend, Bill Stroeker, Glen pursued a relationship with a previous Fairbanks acquaintance, Patricia Egan Sather, who had recently been widowed. Her husband, Martin, a well known gold miner from Fairbanks, had also died of terminal cancer. That summer, after a brief but determined courtship, Glen and Pat were married. Until 2005, the couple spent many summers on Pat's mining property on Fairbanks Creek. Denise Herzog related to the writer:

“They had the most wonderful parties on Fairbanks Creek”.

During the winters, Glen and Pat alternated between Fairbanks, Hawaii, and visiting friends in the Lower 48 States and abroad. Glen continued to thoroughly enjoy oversight of mining operations, and ensured that Pat's four sons were kept busy with innumerable projects that he personally directed.



Glen, Pat and Rusty at the Fairbanks Creek camp, circa mid-1980s; photo from the John Cook collection.

Glen Franklin was a civically minded individual in addition to his successes in the minerals business. He became interested in politics after World War II. Because he was neither a Democrat nor a Republican, he ran as an Independent for the Territorial House in 1947 (unsuccessfully). During the 1949 and 1951 sessions, Glen ran and won as a conservative Democrat, and represented Alaska's 4th Judicial Division in the Territorial Legislature. In 1949, he was part of the group that drafted the first Alaska Statehood Bill, which was created by the Alaska legislature to express the desire of Alaskans for Statehood. He did not win reelection in 1953, but joined many other Democrats who were swept from office during the 'Eisenhower Landslide' of 1952-53.

Subsequently, Glen was a lobbyist for the Alaska Miners Association in Juneau until Statehood.

Glen was very active in the Pioneers of Alaska, and a strong supporter of the University of Alaska. Through the Pioneers Igloo #4, Glen directed the purchase and installation of the life-sized, bronze statue of the first University President, Dr. Charles Bunnell, which appears on the campus of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

On the evening of June 17, 2008, Glen D. Franklin, aged 95, passed peacefully in his sleep with his wife, Pat, by his side. Thus ended the long and successful career of an Alaskan pioneer, musician, athlete, leader, statesman, accountant, and placer gold miner.

Written by Thomas K. Bundtzen, March 4, 2012



Glen Franklin (center) with friends Governor Bill Egan (left) and Chuck Herbert, circa early 1980s. Photo courtesy of the John Cook family.

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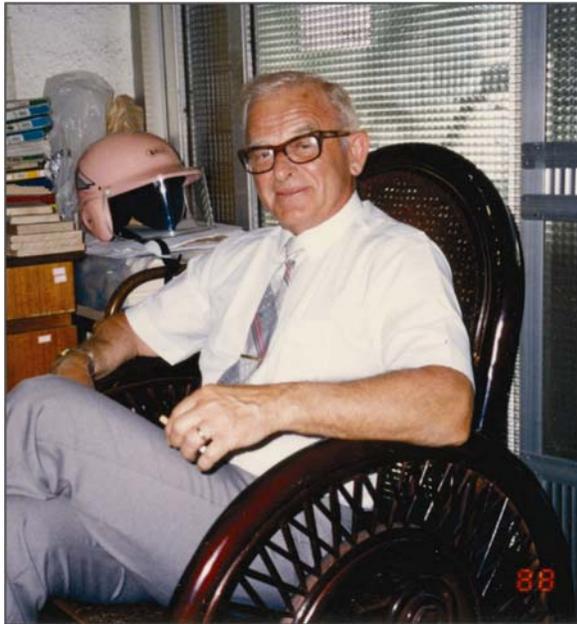
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This biographic sketch benefited from a long 1991 written correspondence from Glen to his daughter, Glenna Hutchens, and several addendums—all entitled 'Facts, Fiction, and Memories about Glen DeForde Franklin'. In addition to email, phone and correspondence and interviews with Norman Sather (on February 8th, 2012), Denise Herzog and John Cook (on December 9th, 2011), Stuart Schmidt (February 22nd and 24th, 2012), and Glenna Hutchens (February 23rd, March 4th, and March 7th, 2012), the writer used notes from a conversation with Patricia Franklin on June 22nd, 2008 and notes taken during conversations with Glen Franklin on April 17th, 2000 and in two previous meetings with him in the 1990s.



The 20th Territorial House in session during 1951. Glen Franklin is at the far left edge of the photo. The Speaker of the House (left center) is Glen's long time friend, Bill Egan; photo from Alaska's Digital Archives.



Donald J. Cook; photo courtesy of Galen Cook.

Donald Jean Cook (1920-2009)

Donald Cook was a World War II hero, whose wounds kept him in military hospitals for more than a year. Nevertheless, if you had met him casually, you never would have suspected that this quiet man had led troops during the Normandy invasion, or had suffered personal losses which would have stopped a lesser person. After World War II, in addition to working in the mining industry, Don became an inspiration to generations of students at the College of Mining and Engineering, University of Alaska, and at Cheng Kung University at Tainan, Taiwan.

Don Cook was born on Valentine's Day, 1920, to Arthur and Ida Cook, in the coastal town of Astoria, Oregon. He spent his early years studying hard, fishing, and helping his father run a food distribution business. At the age of 16, he graduated as valedictorian of his high school class. Don went to work as a mess hall busboy

for a Standard Oil refinery in California. But the job didn't last long. At age 18, he was on a ship heading for Alaska, his destination being the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He enrolled in the School of Mines, with the intent of becoming a mining engineer. To feed himself, and to pay his own way, he waited on tables at the campus commons, and spent summers working on gold dredges, most notably, the dredge at Coal Creek operated by Alluvial Gold, Inc., and managed by the former Dean of the School of Mines, and Alaska Mining Hall of Fame inductee, Ernest N. Patty.



The Coal Creek Dredge, as it appeared in about 2005; photo courtesy of the USNPS.

Don also signed up as an ROTC cadet, and was a member of the first four-year officer's program at the University of Alaska. He deferred his mining education as the United States entered World War II. He received his 2nd Lieutenant's commission in 1943, after passing all of the rigid requirements to become an officer. He went on to Fort Benning, Georgia that summer, and later to Fort Campbell, Kentucky for advanced weapons and leadership training. At the age of 24, Lt. Cook led 45 men onto the shores of Omaha Beach at Normandy, France, and quickly became involved in the dangerous hedgerow fighting of the French

countryside. After six weeks of non-stop engagement, Don was hit by a sniper's bullet at the Battle of St. Lo, where U.S. casualties were high. For his service, Don was promoted to 1st Lieutenant, and received the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He spent the next 18 months in rehabilitation hospitals in England and later in Walla Walla, Washington. While he was in Walla Walla, he met and married Cora Jacinsky, an Alaskan girl from Ninilchik. Their first son, Wayne, was born in Walla Walla.

Don was anxious to return to Fairbanks and resume his studies at the University of Alaska. In 1947, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mining Engineering. His Professional Engineer of Mines Degree was awarded in 1954. Don's academic work on gold mining, and the costs of gold mining, under post World War II conditions, took him throughout the Territory of Alaska to interview miners. The behavior of placer gold in sluice boxes, a life-long interest, was studied through a window in the side of the box. His work remains a major scientific source on the formation of placer gold.

For ten years, Don Cook worked for the United States Smelting, Refining and Mining Company, and their Fairbanks subsidiary, Fairbanks Exploration, known locally as the FE Company. It was during this period that Don gained valuable practical mining experience, and became an oft-recognized engineer. Don especially liked working around the big, bucket-line stacker gold dredges that the FE Company operated in the Fairbanks district. He became very knowledgeable about the FE dredge fleet, and later published papers on technical aspects of their operations.

But Don's true calling was in academics. After the tragic loss of their two older sons, Don and Cora crammed all of their possessions into a 1957 Oldsmobile station wagon, and, with their two infant sons, Galen and Donald, Jr., drove to Pennsylvania, where Don had been offered a scholarship to attend the prestigious Mineral Engineering School at Penn State University. At Penn State, Cook earned both Masters and Doctorate degrees in just three and one-half years. A new job offer came quickly. Earl Beistline, the Dean of the University of Alaska School of Mines, wanted Dr. Cook back in Alaska, to take part in a major restructuring of the university's natural resource program. Don accepted Beistline's offer, and Don and Cora repacked the 57 Olds for a return drive to the 49th State. During 1958-59, a reorganized School of Mines combined the mining engineering and metallurgical programs in what would eventually become the College of Earth Sciences and Mineral Industries (CESMI). Cook was given a full professorship, and worked with familiar names at the reorganized School of Mines, including one of his best friends, Ernest N. Wolff. Both Wolff and Beistline were inducted into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame in 2007.

For the next 25 years, Don taught undergraduate and graduate students, conducted research, wrote technical papers, authored books, and helped to broaden the University of Alaska mining program. There wasn't much demand for the placer gold mining engineers that the school had been turning out, so Cook, fresh from graduate work at Penn State, headed a new, broadened program, with focus on mineral processing, from 1961-1971. Although the transition was not easy, something was working, as enrollment went from a low of 36 students in the mid-1960s, to 114 by 1971.

During this time, the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory (MIRL) was established. Cook was involved in all of these new programs, and he became an agent for change and progress while the mineral industry itself was evolving due to changing times. Later successful mineral engineers such as Lawrence (Lonnie) Heiner remembered Cook as one of two or three inspirational professors.



Don Cook instructs a CESMI student in mineral processing procedures in the Brooks Building, UAF campus; photo courtesy of Leslie Noyes.

During the early 1960s, the school, under Don's administration, pioneered an outreach technology program designed for educating Native Americans from bush Alaska, which had been set up by the

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The BIA-funded program trained mineral technicians for Kennecott Copper's mineral development project at Bornite in northern Alaska. As a result of Don's project, some thirty-five students were hired by Kennecott to work at Bornite; unfortunately, in 1965, the shaft on the property flooded with water, which terminated the venture. Nevertheless, the program was the base for the practical level mining courses that are presently taught throughout Alaska as new mines come on-line.

In 1971, Don took his first academic sabbatical leave, and traveled to Taiwan with his family, where he became CESMI's first foreign exchange professor in Taiwan. Cook had originally wanted to go to Australia on sabbatical, but changed his mind at the instigation of Fred Lu, Professor of Economics at CESMI, who urged Cook to become an exchange professor at Lu's alma mater in Taiwan. At Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan, Don served as a professor-in-residence, teaching mineral engineering and mineral processing to graduate students. He greatly enjoyed this new cultural experience. The next year, after returning to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF), Don initiated a student exchange program between Taiwan and Alaska that was sanctioned by UAF officials. As a result, the graduate studies mining program was revamped, and was catching the interest of overseas students. Subsequently, Don was summoned by UAF Chancellor Howard Cutler to organize formal working relationships in academics and industry between Taiwan and Alaska.



Donald Cook attending an exchange gathering in Taiwan, circa 1970s; photo courtesy of Galen Cook.

In 1979, Cook returned to Taiwan as a visiting professor. This time, he established a research agreement between UAF and Cheng Kung University, which resulted in more than a dozen professors from both schools meeting every three years at alternate universities to discuss topics of common interest. The first exchange sent more than a dozen people from Fairbanks to Taiwan.

After twenty five years of teaching at the college level, Don retired from UAF. His retirement lasted two months. A new UAF Chancellor asked Don to come back to the university and serve as the Dean of the reorganized School of Mining, Petroleum and Geological Engineering. Don couldn't refuse the offer, and he also became the Director of MIRL. He steadfastly held that post until 1990, when he took a retirement a second time after 30 years in academics.

Now over 70 years old, Don came out of retirement again, this time to take a newly created position with the State of Alaska. He returned to

Taiwan to work as Alaska's trade representative. In 2002, Don was appointed by Governor Murkowski to serve as a member of the Alaska Minerals Commission.

In 2009, Don passed away peacefully at the age of 89. He left behind his wife, Cora, and sons Donald Jr., an employee of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, and Galen, who is a practicing attorney. Don J. Cook left behind a legacy of loyal service to Alaska's

mineral industry. During a lifetime, he was the recipient of many academic achievements, professional awards, and notices of distinction. His quiet, confident manner helped many students get through the often arduous course work he himself had assigned. Although the core of Don's professional career was solidly rooted in academics, research, and teaching new mining engineers, he never forgot his own experiences in the Alaska mining industry, Alaska mineral exploration, and with Alaska's miners themselves.

Compiled by Charles C. Hawley and Galen Cook.

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**Donald Cook with Dr. Maneval and others from the CESMI program
observing mine operations in Healy, Alaska, circa 1970s; photo courtesy of
Galen Cook.**

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 twenty-two (22) people who have each contributed \$1000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampedeers to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

The 98ers

Dr. Earl Beistline	James Moody
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Dr. Walter Johnson	Mitch Usibelli
Wallace McGregor	Joe Usibelli, Sr.
Neil McKinnon	Dr. William Wood (d)
Tom Mein	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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Charles C. Hawley
 11401 Olive Lane
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