

The PAYSTREAK

Volume 20, No. 1, Fall, 2019

The Newsletter of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation

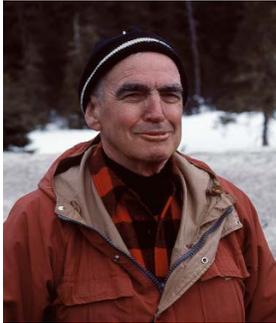
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Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation New Inductees AMHF Honors Three Pioneers from the U.S. Bureau of Mines



Thomas L. Pittman Born in Idaho in 1909, Pittman earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Washington in the 1930s, and subsequently worked as a metallurgist in Kenya, East Africa, Nevada, Montana and Washington State. He moved to Juneau in 1957 where he accepted a position with the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM). Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, he worked both in the field mainly on Prince of Wales Island and in wilderness studies and as a minerals data collection officer. In 1980, he was appointed Alaska State Minerals Officer of the USBM, where he collaborated with Alaska State agencies and archived important mining documents. Tom was an avid downhill skier who pioneered public access to ski areas near Juneau, which later became the Eaglecrest ski area. Pittman died of a heart attack in a taxi while traveling to attend the 1992 Convention of the Alaska Miners Association. At the time of his death, Tom Pittman was the longest serving employee of the USBM in Alaska.



John Joseph Mulligan was born in Woodbury, New York in 1917, the son of Irish Immigrants. As a teenager, he helped miners blast road cuts and worked on tunnels, dams, and in mines as a driller and mucker in many states and in the Alaska Territory. John enlisted in the Army Engineers during WWII and installed weather stations in Greenland. He went to school on the GI bill after the war and earned a Mining Engineering degree from the Missouri School of Mines. In 1949, he was hired by the USBM, where he worked throughout Alaska investigating mineral wealth. During 1959-60, he studied coal deposits in Antarctica, where a peak bears his name. In 1970, he became head of the Alaska Field Operations Center (AFOC) for the USBM in Juneau, where he managed projects related to ANCSA and ANILCA legislation. After retirement in 1985, he wrote and edited biographies for the AMHF and joined the Cosmos Club, which honors distinguished individuals like John Mulligan. He passed away in 2012 at the age of 94.



Donald Paul Blasko was the last permanent chief of the USBM's AFOC. Born in Rock Springs, Wyoming in 1935, Don graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.S. Degree in Petroleum Engineering. He became a full time employee of the USBM in the late 1950s, where he worked on petroleum projects in the Rocky Mountains States. Blasko arrived in Anchorage, Alaska in 1964, just five months after the March, 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, to serve as the Bureau's petroleum resource officer. During the 1960s, he worked with State of Alaska petroleum professionals, and published technical papers on oil and gas resources. He worked at the Wishbone Hill coal district on fire prevention and helped extinguish a coal fire on the Kenai Peninsula. Don managed the important mineral resource studies related to the ANCSA, ANILCA, and RARE II legislation. In 1993, Blasko retired and returned to Wyoming, where he volunteered with non-profit groups and worked part time at jobs that he greatly enjoyed—until his passing in 2009.

Co-sponsored by the Alaska Miners Association

**And Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)
Induction Ceremony, Tuesday, November 5th, 2019
Downtown Marriott Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska**

Program

The general public is invited to Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) induction ceremony from 7:00 to 9:15 PM on Tuesday, November 5th, 2019. The induction ceremony will take place in the Marriott Hotel in downtown Anchorage. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Coffee and Donuts----- | 6:30-to-7:00 PM |
| Introduction by Paul Glavinovich AMHF----- | 7:00-to-7:10 PM |
| The Unites Bureau of Mines and its role in the Alaska Mineral Industry by Tom Bundtzen, AMHF----- | 7:10-to-7:20 PM |

Presentation of Inductees

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Presentation of Thomas L. Pittman by Tom Bundtzen----- | 7:20-to-7:45 PM |
| Presentation of John J. Mulligan by Joe Kurtak----- | 7:45-to-8:10 PM |
| Presentation of Donald P. Blasko, by Joe Kurtak----- | 8:10-to-8:35 PM |
| Coffee Break----- | 8:35-to-8:50 PM |
| Recollections of Inductees from the General Audience----- | 8:50-to-9:10PM |
| Adjournment----- | 9:10PM |

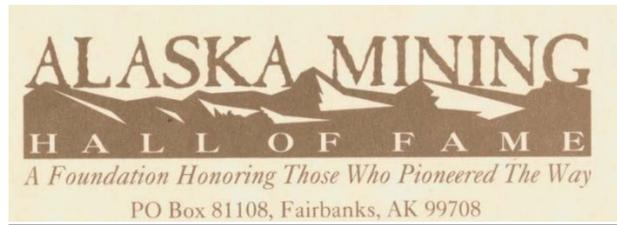
Introduction and Acknowledgements

The November 5th, 2019 induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features three pioneers associated with the United States Bureau of Mines (USBM), which operated in Alaska from 1910 until 1996, when it was abolished by the U.S. Congress. For more than 85 years, the Bureau made important contributions to the Alaska Mineral Industry; some would even say crucial to the State's mineral industry and its future. The summary that is provided on pages 8-17 cannot tell the full story of the relevance of this federal government organization.

In order to honor the USBM, we are inducting three of their employees during history night: Thomas L. Pittman, John J. Mulligan, and Donald P. Blasko. Both Mulligan and Pittman arrived at their USBM Alaska posts before Statehood. Blasko came soon after, within a few months of the Good Friday Alaska Earthquake of 1964. All three constructively worked with the new State as it began to form its own mineral and energy programs. Important contributions were made during the crucial decisions affecting Alaska as the result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

Many helped make this induction ceremony a success. Chief among them is Joe Kurtak, a former employee with the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Kurtak wrote the biographic sketch for John Mulligan and the Donald Blasko biography. Tom Bundtzen wrote the Bureau of Mines overview chapter on pages 8-17; he and Dave Carnes wrote the biographic sketch of Thomas L. Pittman. Alaska Mining Hall of Fame (AMHF) Director Travis Hudson 'got the ball rolling' by making many contacts with individuals and in seeking sources of biographical materials used in the induction ceremony. Hudson contributed to the John Mulligan remembrance. Robert Hoekzema, a former professional geologist and manager at the USBM, provided important information on all three inductees, especially Tom Pittman. Former AMA Executive Director Steve Borell helped greatly with contacts and editing of chapter manuscripts.

AMHF Director Paul Glavinovich organized the Alaska History Night Setting for the induction ceremony. AMHF President Tom Bundtzen prepared this Paystreak Newsletter.



Contributions to the AMHF

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation is funded through donations of money, time and effort, and through sales of books and other paraphernalia. The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization, so all donations are tax deductible.

Donations to the Foundation should be mailed to:

Karl Hanneman, Treasurer
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation
P.O. Box 81108
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Contributions to the Foundation

After more than a year of non-activity, the AMHF has signed a lease to pursue a new museum facility in downtown Fairbanks. At this writing, we are meeting with an architect and the building owner to help design the new facility. Contributions allow the AMHF Foundation have helped to find the site of the new location. We hope to have the new museum opened by the end of the year or early 2020. Please stay tuned for more information on this. Contributions help fund our website and the acquisition of new materials for the museum.

In 2019, contributions also helped the Foundation to update the AMHF website. We were able to reproduce all *Paystreak* Newsletters from 1997-to-Present. The thirty-five (35) *Paystreak* newsletters can be downloaded from the website, which is: www.alaskamininghalloffame.org

We thank all contributors, regardless of the level of their donation, which are: Copper (\$1-\$99), Silver (\$100-\$499), Gold (\$500-\$999); '98er, (\$1,000) and Platinum (>\$1,000). Some of the more recent contributions have been in memory of legislator, and placer gold miner Robert Bettisworth, gold miner Walt Wigger, and mine educator Jim Madonna. The AMHF especially thanks Teck Resources, operator of the Red Dog Zinc-Lead-Silver Mine, the Usibelli Foundation, and especially, the Bill Stroecker Foundation for their generous donations now over several years. Karen Erickson became our newest 98'er in 2016. Also included below are those that have contributed through the Pick-Click-Give Program.

| Name | Contribution Level | Dedication | Year |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Lyndon Transport | Gold | General | 2013 |
| Teck Resources Red Dog Mine | Platinum | General | 2013 |
| Doug Colp Family | 98er/Gold | General | 2013 |
| Jason Brune | Silver | General | 2014 |
| Malie Gray | Copper | General | 2014 |
| Clark Milne | Copper | General | 2014 |
| Peter Montesa | Copper | General | 2014 |
| Jules Tileston | Copper | General | 2014 |
| Six Anonymous | Silver | General | 2014 |
| Usibelli Foundation | Gold | General | 2014 |
| Candy Waugaman | Platinum | General | 2015 |
| Karen Erickson | Copper | General | 2015 |
| Usibelli Foundation | Platinum | General | 2015 |
| Alaska Women in Mining | Gold | General | 2015 |
| Brian Rogers, Sherry Modrow | Gold | General | 2015 |
| Marty K. Rutherford | Gold | General | 2015 |
| Karen Purdue | Gold | General | 2015 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thurman | Silver | General | 2015 |
| Karen Clautice | Copper | General | 2015 |
| Christine and Corbette Upton | Silver | General | 2015 |
| Bill Brophy | Copper | In Memory of Bob Bettisworth | 2015 |
| Leo and Fredi Brown | Copper | In Memory of Bob Bettisworth | 2015 |
| George Horner-Trust | Silver | In Memory of Bob Bettisworth | 2015 |
| Laurence Peterson | Silver | In Memory of Bob Bettisworth | 2015 |
| Sigwald and Arlene Strandberg | Silver | In Memory of Bob Bettisworth | 2015 |
| Laurence Peterson | Gold | In Memory of Jim Madonna | 2015 |
| Lisa and Milton Behr | Gold | In Memory of Walter Wigger | 2015 |
| David and Aldean Kilborn | Silver | In Memory of Walter Wigger | 2015 |
| Nathaniel May | Copper | General | 2015 |
| Michael Whelan | Silver | General | 2015 |
| Aaron Pfeil | Copper | General | 2015 |
| Clark Milne | Silver | General | 2015 |
| Joel Stratman | Copper | General | 2015 |

| Name | Contribution Level | Dedication | Year |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Karen Lapp | Copper | General | 2015 |
| Jeff Lapp | Copper | General | 2015 |
| Bill Stroecker Foundation | Platinum | General | 2015 |
| Clark Milne | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Joel Stratman | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Michael Whalen | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Richard Hughes | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Karen Lapp | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Patricia Peirsol | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Matthew Hanson | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Jason Brune | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Jeff Lapp | Copper | General | 2016 |
| John Cook | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Mark Hottman | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Two Anonymous | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Sarah Isto | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Tom Bundtzen | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Chris Olsen | Silver | General | 2016 |
| David and Heidi Doudna | Gold | General | 2016 |
| Karen Purdue | Gold | General | 2016 |
| Karen J. Erickson | Platinum | General | 2016 |
| Richard E. Wagner | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Harold and Leslie Noyes | Gold | General | 2016 |
| Karen Clautice | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Winston and Glenda Burbank | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Joseph and Victoria LeTarte | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Richard and Cherie Solie | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Debbie and Jeff Johnson | Silver | In Memory of Walt Wigger | 2016 |
| Helen Warner | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Laurence and Darlene Peterson | Silver | General | 2016 |
| John and Arlene Orbeck | Copper | General | 2016 |
| Lyman Family | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Ruth Ibbetson | Silver | General | 2016 |
| Alaska Women in Mining | Gold | General | 2016 |
| Bill Stroecker Foundation | Platinum | General | 2016 |
| Usibelli Foundation | Platinum | General | 2016 |
| Jason Brune | Silver | General | 2017 |
| Patrick Dolphin | Copper | General | 2017 |

| Name | Contribution Level | Dedication | Year |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Matthew Hanson | Copper | General | 2017 |
| Richard Hughes | Silver | General | 2017 |
| Sonny Lindner | Copper | General | 2017 |
| Clark Milne | Silver | General | 2017 |
| Jerry Sadler | Copper | General | 2017 |
| Joel Stratman | Copper | General | 2017 |
| Terry Taylor | Copper | General | 2017 |
| Michael Whelan | Silver | General | 2017 |
| 3 Anonymous | Silver | General | 2017 |
| Bill Stroecker Foundation | Platinum | General | 2017 |
| Usibelli Foundation | Platinum | General | 2017 |
| Fairbanks Branch, Alaska Miners | Gold | General | 2017 |
| Don Gray | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Richard Hughes | Silver | General | 2018 |
| William Kinne | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Clark Milne | Silver | General | 2018 |
| Patricia Peirsol | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Michael Whalen | Silver | General | 2018 |
| Jason Brune | Silver | General | 2018 |
| Matthew Hanson | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Mark Hottman | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Parry Jameson | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Jerry Sadler | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Usibelli Foundation | Platinum | General | 2018 |
| Terry Taylor | Copper | General | 2018 |
| Bill Stroecker Foundation | Platinum | General | 2019 |
| Larry and Darlene Peterson | Silver | General | 2019 |
| Jason Brune | Copper | General | 2019 |
| Matthew Hanson | Copper | General | 2019 |
| Gay Ellen Heath Griffin | Copper | General | 2019 |
| William Kinne | Copper | General | 2019 |
| Clark Milne | Silver | General | 2019 |
| Jameson Perry | Copper | General | 2019 |
| Patricia Peirsol | Copper | General | 2019 |
| Jerry Sadler | Copper | General | 2019 |
| Michael Whalen | Silver | General | 2019 |

Bolded year (2019) are new listings not included in our last Newsletter; current as of 10/17/2019.

The United States Bureau of Mines and its Role in the Alaska Mining Industry



Introduction

By the late 19th Century, the United States possessed the world's largest industrial economy—made possible by its enormous agricultural, mining and manufacturing sectors. New technologies allowed for rapid expansion in the amount of domestic mineral ores annually processed in its mining sector. But with those technological transformations came increased risk to the nation's mining work force. In 1907, the Secretary of the Interior established a Technological Branch within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to aid the rapidly mechanizing mining industry, with a focus on health and safety programs. On May 16th, 1910, the U.S. Congress established the United States Bureau of Mines (USBM) and officially placed it in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), pursuant to the Organic Act (Public Law 179). The original focus of the USBM was to deal with a wave of catastrophic mine disasters, initially in underground coal mines. The first Director of the USBM was Joseph Austin Holmes, a pioneer in occupational safety and health.

The USBM's mission was gradually expended to include:

- 1) *Conduct research to enhance the safety, health, and environmental impact of mining and processing of minerals and associated materials in the United States and its Territories;*
- 2) *Collect, analyze, and disseminate information about mining and processing of more than 100 mineral commodities across the Nation and in more than 165 countries around the world; and*
- 3) *Analyze the impact of proposed mining-related laws and regulations upon the National Interest.*

The U.S. Bureau of Mines in Alaska

On April 19th, 1911, President Taft appointed Sumner Smith to be the first USBM Mine Inspector for Alaska. Later that year, Sumner, AMHF inductee Alfred H. Brooks of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and USBM National Director Holmes visited the Matanuska Coal Field, validated the importance of the coal resources, and recommended that the Alaska Railroad, when completed, be extended into the area. AMHF inductee Jack Dalton would complete bulk sampling of coal deposits for the effort as a contractor, and transport the bulk samples back to Knik by horse pack train. These actions were the first for the USBM in Alaska.

After 1913, the USBM inspector was assisted by an inspector appointed and paid for by the newly formed Alaska Territorial government. Annual reports on mine conditions were published by the Alaska Territory. In 1914, the USBM was made responsible for coal leasing in Alaska. In 1917, the USBM was made responsible for the licensing of explosives handling. Also In 1917, the USBM office in Juneau was closed because the single USBM mine inspector was transferred to the Alaska Railroad Engineering Commission, which by then was building the Alaska Railroad.

In 1918, the USBM opened the Fairbanks Experimental Station (FES) that distributed maps and publications, analyzed mineralized samples, made metallurgical tests for prospectors, and conducted field examinations of mineral prospects. AMHF inductees Walter Smith and Henry Whuya would submit samples of placer platinum to this laboratory, which confirmed the existence of platinum at Goodnews Bay, Alaska.

In 1922, the USBM appointed AMHF inductee Benjamin D. Stewart, the former chief mining engineer for AMHF inductee William Sulzer at his Jumbo Copper Mine on Hetta Inlet, Southeast Alaska, as Supervising Mining Engineer for Alaska. In a later report released in 1929, Stewart articulated the roles of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the Territory of Alaska, and the U.S. Geological Survey that enveloped his joint appointment. For a brief time in the 1920s, the USBM was transferred to the Department of Commerce, but was returned to the Department of the Interior in 1934—with the Alaska USBM headquarters firmly established in the capital city of Juneau. A coal analyst and mine inspector and coal laboratory was established in Anchorage.

In 1935, the Territorial Legislature created the Alaska Territorial Department of Mines (ATDM). The USBM Mines Supervising Engineer (Stewart) was designated the Commissioner of Mines. Stewart's position continued to be a joint appointment between the Alaska Territory and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The ATDM took over the assay facility in Fairbanks and established similar facilities in Anchorage, Nome, and Ketchikan. The reporting of mineral exploration, development and production activities was taken over by the ATDM. However, mine safety training and enforcement continued to be a focus of the USBM, in cooperation with the ATDM.

USBM Mine Safety Programs in Alaska

An early important goal of the USBM in Alaska was to reduce fatalities, serious injury, and lost time in the Alaskan mining industry. From the gold rush era and into 1930s, accidents, both fatal and lost time

accidents were experienced in mines throughout Alaska, especially from underground mines in the Treadwell group of the Juneau Gold belt and in Alaska's copper mines and mills. Injuries and deaths were also associated with underground placer drift mines in Interior and Western Alaska, but mostly prior to USBM canvassing and oversight, which began in 1912. The USBM's safety program included regulatory enforcement, mandatory changes in improved mine techniques, and mine safety education, and training. Fatalities, whenever and wherever they occurred, were described in detail in the Annual Reports of the Mine Inspector to the Governor of Alaska in an effort to better understand and inform the mining community how to prevent such tragic accidents. The USBM helped major mining firms design competitive mine safety programs, in which Alaskan-based companies would compete at the national level. In doing so, the USBM Mine Inspectors and the ATDM believed that a 'safety culture' would be created within the Alaska minerals sector.

For the first 25 years of USBM oversight and enforcement activities, which began in 1912, Alaska's coal mining safety record was the best in the United States and its Territories, with only 2 fatalities and 144 lost time accidents recorded during that quarter century of time. This exemplary record would end. According to Stewart (1939):

"Unfortunately this remarkable safety record (for Alaska coal mining) which had been unequalled in any coal mining region in the United States, was sadly marred by the underground explosion that occurred at the Jonesville Mine of the Evan Jones Coal Company in the Matanuska Field on October 26th, 1937, which took 16 lives."

An investigation carried out by the USBM and the ATDM determined that an inflammable gas pocket near a working face was ignited by a match used by one of the miners to light a cigarette, which caused the explosion. Several more men would lose their lives in the Evan Jones Mine during WWII operations and again in 1957. Subsequent to the 1937 Jonesville disaster, USBM mine safety training was upgraded. During 1938, 1,170 miners from 24 Alaskan operations received USBM mine safety instruction, which, included first aid training. This level of safety training administered by the USBM in mines throughout Alaska continued until Statehood.

USBM-ATDM-State of Alaska mine employment and accident data is illustrated in a compilation shown in Table 1, which begins in 1912, when the USBM began to enforce safety regulations, and ends during the early years of Alaska Statehood. For these years, the calculated 'injury frequency rate' in Alaskan lode mining decreased approximately 40 percent; for Alaskan placer mining, the injury frequency rate decreased approximately 25 percent; but for Alaska's coal mines, there was no real change. With conversion to open-cut mining that began in the 1940s near Healy, coal mine accidents decreased significantly in open cut coal mines, but accident rates in underground coal mines continued unabated.

By the early 1960s, the size of the Alaska mining industry, in terms of its employment base, had decreased dramatically--by more than 90 percent from the highs of the early 20th Century--due to the shutdown of major lode gold and copper and placer gold mines, and industrial mineral quarries such as chemical and ornamental grade limestone and marble in Southeastern Alaska.

The mining of the strategic metal mercury at Red Devil and White Mountain, extracting the strategic

Table 1 USBM/ATDM/State of Alaska mine safety and mine employment data from 1912, when mine safety enforcement was initiated, to 1965; modified from Stewart (1939), Holdsworth (1959), Williams (1961, 1963,1965)

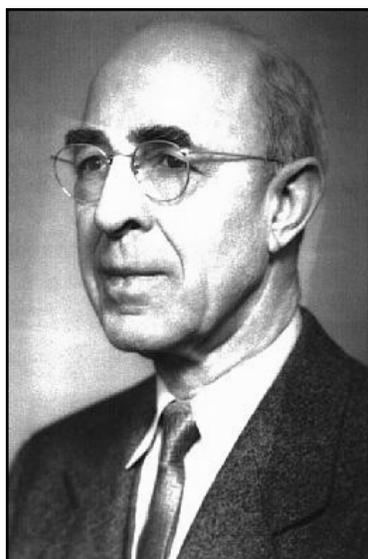
| Year | Placer Employment | Lode Employment | Coal Employment | Employment Total | Placer Fatalities | Lode Fatalities | Coal Fatalities | Placer Lost Time Accidents | Lode Lost Time Accidents | Coal Lost Time Accidents |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1912 | 3,086 | 1,914 | 155 | 5,155 | 6 | 15 | 0 | NA | NA | NA |
| 1913 | 4,500 | 3,500 | 160 | 8,160 | 10 | 15 | 0 | NA | NA | NA |
| 1914 | 4,400 | 3,500 | 140 | 8,040 | 5 | 14 | 0 | NA | NA | NA |
| 1915 | 4,400 | 3,850 | 160 | 8,410 | 4 | 19 | 0 | NA | NA | NA |
| 1916 | 4,050 | 4,200 | 340 | 8,590 | 7 | 22 | 0 | 27 | 736 | NA |
| 1917 | 3,550 | 3,220 | 270 | 7,040 | 9 | 24 | 0 | 11 | 705 | NA |
| 1918 | 3,000 | 1,897 | 400 | 5,297 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 199 | NA |
| 1919 | 2,180 | 1,757 | 310 | 4,247 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 350 | 5 |
| 1920 | 1,990 | 1,880 | 360 | 4,230 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 302 | NA |
| 1921 | 2,150 | 1,681 | 400 | 4,231 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 249 | NA |
| 1922 | 2,198 | 1,623 | 280 | 4,101 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 252 | NA |
| 1923 | 2,080 | 1,500 | 270 | 3,851 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 7 | 230 | 42 |
| 1924 | 2,500 | 1,978 | 175 | 4,653 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 30 | 327 | 6 |
| 1925 | 2,700 | 1,745 | 116 | 4,561 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 303 | 5 |
| 1926 | 2,332 | 1,663 | 108 | 4,103 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 90 | 365 | 10 |
| 1927 | 2,325 | 1,930 | 114 | 4,369 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 178 | 259 | 13 |
| 1928 | 2,234 | 1,668 | 109 | 4,011 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 152 | 302 | 2 |
| 1929 | 2,354 | 1,605 | 89 | 4,048 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 142 | 255 | 6 |
| 1930 | 2,220 | 1,502 | 98 | 3,820 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 123 | 271 | 7 |
| 1931 | 2,163 | 1,323 | 78 | 3,564 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 92 | 167 | 5 |
| 1932 | 2,180 | 1,496 | 78 | 3,754 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 67 | 163 | 14 |
| 1933 | 2,063 | 1,246 | 68 | 3,377 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 90 | 177 | 2 |
| 1934 | 2,195 | 1,451 | 79 | 3,725 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 95 | 220 | 7 |
| 1935 | 2,323 | 1,665 | 80 | 4,077 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 116 | 266 | 12 |
| 1936 | 2,605 | 1,867 | 105 | 4,577 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 89 | 284 | 8 |
| 1937 | 3,136 | 1,957 | 92 | 5,185 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 129 | 298 | 14 |
| 1938 | 3,470 | 2,071 | 218 | 5,759 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 112 | 351 | 20 |
| 1939 | 3,928 | 1,986 | 229 | 6,143 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 158 | 302 | 15 |
| 1940 | 4,240 | 1,974 | 149 | 6,363 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 162 | 313 | 29 |
| 1941 | 3,965 | 1,805 | 218 | 5,988 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 151 | 325 | 38 |
| 1942 | 2,175 | 1,065 | 249 | 3,489 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 72 | 149 | 41 |
| 1943 | 556 | 581 | 312 | 1,449 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 82 | 37 |
| 1944 | 658 | 489 | 393 | 1,540 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 89 |
| 1945 | 903 | 238 | 309 | 1,450 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 64 |
| 1946 | 1,694 | 446 | 334 | 2,474 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 44 | 12 | 75 |
| 1947 | 1,824 | 384 | 280 | 2,488 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 65 | 8 | 47 |
| 1948 | 1,938 | 309 | 267 | 2,514 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 55 | 7 | 48 |
| 1949 | 1,838 | 262 | 323 | 2,423 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 12 | 66 |
| 1950 | 1,722 | 243 | 297 | 2,262 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 38 | 14 | 63 |
| 1951 | 1,219 | 202 | 287 | 1,708 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 1 | 66 |
| 1952 | 1,286 | 222 | 404 | 1,912 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 88 |
| 1953 | 1,460 | 270 | 394 | 2,124 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 53 | 12 | 160 |
| 1954 | 1,356 | 299 | 345 | 2,000 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 46 | 20 | 71 |
| 1955 | 1,331 | 420 | 287 | 2,038 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 154 | 6 | 82 |
| 1956 | 1,323 | 386 | 282 | 1,991 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 124 | 32 | 74 |
| 1957 | 1,166 | 415 | 314 | 1,895 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 188 | 37 | 98 |
| 1958 | 1,042 | 276 | 286 | 1,604 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 93 | 10 | 60 |
| 1960 | 549 | 356 | 211 | 1,116 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 20 | 63 |
| 1961 | 497 | 74 | 279 | 850 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 31 | 9 | 46 |
| 1962 | 496 | 81 | 251 | 828 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 23 |
| 1963 | 364 | 55 | 190 | 609 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 6 | 24 |
| 1964 | 266 | 42 | 190 | 498 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 24 |
| 1965 | 256 | 104 | 183 | 543 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 8 | 22 |

NA—Not available; data for 1959 not available.

metal platinum at Goodnews Bay, intermittent uranium activities at Bokan Mountain, and recovery of barite, tin, tungsten, and antimony Alaska-wide, along with a few small placer gold mines continued; albeit at generally reduced levels. This reality resulted in a decrease in both the USBM and Alaska State regulatory oversight functions for Alaskan mines.

After Statehood, the USBM Safety Division continued to share mine inspection responsibilities with mine inspectors employed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR). Federal and State mine inspectors often coordinated with each other to insure that all Alaskan mines were visited and safety laws enforced. In 1957, both entities initiated safety inspections of active petroleum projects.

In 1972, the USBM informed ADNR that mine safety regulatory functions would soon be transferred to another agency--thus ending the USBM role in mine safety regulation in Alaska. In response, the State of Alaska created the 'Alaska Mine Safety Code for Coal, Metal, and Non-Metal Mining', with mine safety regulatory enforcement initially carried out by ADNR. Beginning in 1977, Federal oversight of mine safety would be administered through the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), a division of the U.S. Department of Labor.



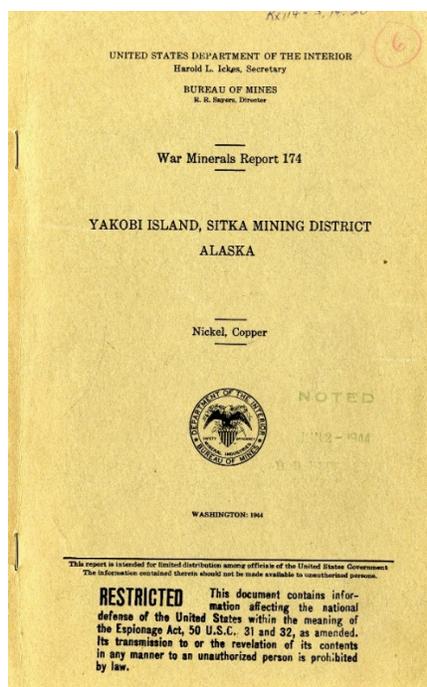
In 1922, AMHF Inductee Benjamin D. Stewart became the Supervising Mining Engineer for the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Alaska. He was previously, for a time, chief mining engineer for Bill and Charles Sulzer's Jumbo Copper Mine on Hetta Inlet in Southeast Alaska. His appointment would be jointly shared with the Territory of Alaska. He became Alaska's Territorial Mine Inspector and finally appointed Alaska's Commissioner of Mines (in 1935). Stewart was a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention during 1955-56. Photo Credit: AMHF files.

USBM Focus and Strategic and Critical Minerals

The 1939 Strategic Minerals Act (43 Stat 811) directed the USGS and the USBM to make a nationwide investigation of the sources, supply and availability of strategic and critical minerals. AMHF inductee and Kennecott pioneer Alan Mara Bateman headed up the national effort from his office at Yale University. The USBM collected mineral production data in cooperation with the ATDM. In 1942, Congress appropriated \$350,000 to the USBM strategic minerals work in Alaska. Analytical work was

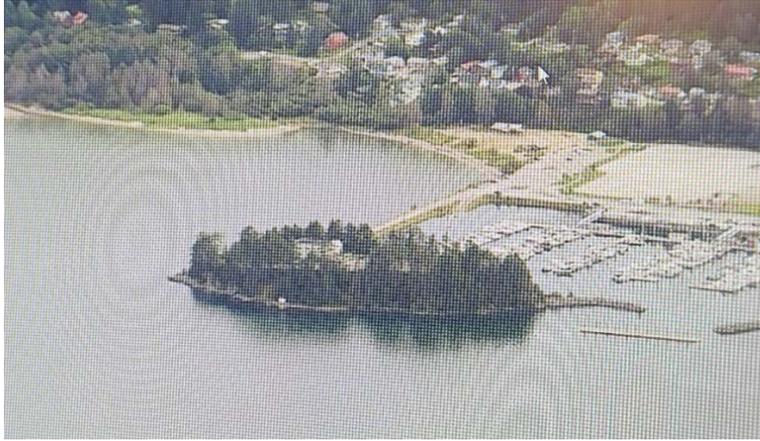
completed in cooperation with the USBM Pittsburgh laboratory. A staff of eight (8) engineers carried out the work. The USBM and the USGS cooperated closely during the effort and hundreds of mineral occurrences were examined throughout the Alaska Territory. In a sense, the USGS provided the geologists; the USBM, the mining engineers. Over 30 'War Mineral Reports' were issued; many of them classified under the federal espionage act. As part of this overall effort, the USBM Alaska Division carried out significant exploration, including drilling, of coal resources near Palmer and Healy; coal was considered strategic to the operation of military power plants scheduled to be constructed. One highlight was the conclusion of USBM personnel that strippable coal resources occurred near Healy. Up until 1942, only underground coal resources had been seriously considered in Alaska. Subsequently, AMHF inductee Emil Usibelli acquired a contract from the U.S. Army Air Corps to design and operate an open pit coal mine near Suntrana for the Ladd Field in Fairbanks, which started Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

In 1945, the Alaska office of the USBM became a separate division within the organization. Coal procurement and mine safety continued to be the most important activities in Alaska. As the war wound down, new military power plants were needed as new military bases were being constructed. The USBM office of Fuel and Explosives, based in Pittsburg, took over all exploration in the Matanuska Coal field.



USBM War Minerals Report 174 summarizing nickel-copper deposits on Yakobi Island, near Sitka. During WWII, the USBM would produce thirty (30) such reports summarizing investigations of deposits that contained strategic minerals in the Alaska Territory. Distribution of such reports were restricted by the Espionage Act.

In 1949, an appropriation of \$250,000 was provided to establish a USBM Mining Experimental Station in Alaska. Mayflower Island, previously owned by the U.S. Navy near Douglas, was transferred to the USBM; it became the Alaska-wide office of the USBM in 1950—and named the Alaska Field Operations Center (AFOC); where it remained for 35 years.



Mayflower Island on Douglas Island, home of the USBM Alaska Field Operations Center (AFOC) for 35 years. Photo source: Wikipedia Commons.

In a July 1950 reorganization, the USBM formed nine regions nationwide. Alaska's three sub-offices within one of the jurisdictions were: Mineral Industry, Metallurgy, and Mining. All mineral statistics for Alaska were transferred to the AFOC in Juneau. The Metallurgy branch started a laboratory named the Juneau Experiment Station. With the onset of the Korean War, strategic minerals again gained increased emphasis as it did during WWII. The Defense Minerals Exploration Administration (DMEA) was created and the USBM administered, which provided loans to miners involved in strategic minerals extraction. Notable Alaskan examples involving DMEA participation included: 1) mercury mines in southwest Alaska operated by AMHF inductees Robert F. Lyman and Russell Schaefer, 2) the Stampede antimony mine in the Kantishna district operated by AMHF inductee Earl R. Pilgrim, 3) tin mining at Lost River on the Seward Peninsula, 4) tungsten mining near Fairbanks, on the Seward Peninsula, and at the Riverside Mine near Ketchikan; and 5) chromite production on the Kenai Peninsula. Mineral exploration at the Tweet graphite deposits was conducted by the USGS and USBM during the 1950s; AMHF Inductees Nick and Evinda Tweet produced graphite there during WWI and WWII. At the same time, coal exploration began to wind down as coal resources of sufficient size were blocked out through drilling in the Matanuska and Healy coal fields. But with the important commercial oil discovery made at Swanson River in 1957, the USBM added a Petroleum Engineer position to their team.

As Alaska Statehood came closer to reality, both the USBM and USGS provided studies designed to aid the new State. Reports summarizing industrial minerals—thought to be needed for building infrastructure—port feasibility studies, and beneficiation and metallurgical studies of the most promising known metal deposits were released by the USBM, with the USGS providing important regional geologic information concerning mineral endowment and specific features of deposits, especially for industrial minerals. In 1950s, the coal resources of what became the Beluga Coal field and deposits west of Houston—both north of Cook Inlet were drill-tested by the USBM. With a 50-to-80 foot thick coal seam demonstrated for several miles of continuous strike length, it was thought at the time that the close-to-tidewater Beluga field could provide a fuel product for a major export market, which would in turn enhance the revenue-generating capacity and overall economy of the new State. AMHF inductee Cole McFarland worked the Beluga Coal Field project for Placer AMEX for two decades following Statehood.

In the mid-1960s, after another reorganization, USBM staff based in Juneau and Fairbanks became part of the Alaska Mining Research Laboratory (AMRL) under John Mulligan. Mine Safety and other AFOC functions remained unchanged. The USBM AMRL lab was a sub-office of the Mine Systems Engineering Group (MSEG) based in Denver. In 1970, Mulligan was transferred from the MSEG to the AFOC in Juneau, where he became overall director (of AFOC). Mineral statistics functions were returned to Washington although the USBM State Mineral Officer, Tom Pittman, continued to compile Alaskan-based information for the national effort.

USBM Actions on Alaska Conservation Lands Evaluations of the 1970s and 1980s

The changing landscape of national minerals policy on federal lands in Alaska brought new work to the USBM. With the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, three major areas of Southeast Alaska were evaluated for mineral potential, often in cooperation with the USGS. Then beginning in the early 1970s, the size of the AFOC was again increased as the result of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Section 17 (d2) of ANCSA mandated studies of mineral potential on 83 million acres of federal lands scheduled for possible inclusion into National Conservation units, where mineral development would be restricted or banned. A cooperative effort with the USGS to study mineral endowment under section 105-c of the 1976 Naval Resource Production Act also mandated modern review of the mineral potential of a foothills complex of the western Brooks Range contained within the original Naval Petroleum Reserve 4 (Pet 4)—re-designated the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPRA).

Truly one of the hi-lights of modern USBM activities in Alaska was their role in the delineation of the potential of the large and high grade zinc-lead-polymetallic deposit in the Noatak River region of northwestern Alaska. Anchorage-based WGM, Inc. received a contract from the USBM to investigate the mineral resources of the area, which substantiated the significance of zinc-lead-silver-barite mineralization at Red Dog Creek first recognized in 1968-1970 by AMHF Inductees Irv Tailleir of the U.S. Geological Survey and prospector/aviator Bob Baker. As a result of the confirmation of the size and richness of the mineralization in Red Dog Creek, NANA Regional Corporation selected the Red Dog area as a portion of their ANCSA entitlement. The NANA-owned Red Dog mine, which was placed into production in 1989, is currently among the world's largest producers of zinc concentrates—and judged by many to be Alaska's most important mining development. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Anchorage-based staff worked on mineral assessments—frequently with the USGS—in the Chugach National Forest under RARE II.

Upon the retirement of John Mulligan in 1985, Donald Blasko became the director of the AFOC, which moved from Juneau to Anchorage. A Juneau office stayed on Mayflower Island near Juneau. Jim Barker ran the office in Fairbanks which he shared initially with the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory on the campus of the University of Alaska. The 1980s to early 1990s saw the AFOC engaged in a number of Alaskan projects, including a systematic evaluation of strategic and critical minerals and statewide mining district studies. Strategic and critical commodities included platinum group elements (PGE), chromium, nickel, cobalt, tantalum, niobium, rare earth elements (REEs), tin, and tungsten. The strategic and critical minerals studies were based out of the Fairbanks office. Although AMHF inductee USGS geologist Ed McKeveitt first recognized the presence of REE mineralization at Bokan Mountain, the

REE studies carried out by the USBM paved the way for delineating significant quantities of REEs at the Bokan Mountain and other deposits on Prince of Wales Island. Likewise the significance of PGE mineralization in the Paxson-Valdez Creek district can largely be attributed to studies initiated by the USBM. Mining district studies, which included the Juneau, Haines-Skagway, Valdez Creek, Colville, and Ketchikan mining districts, were administered from both the Anchorage and Juneau offices. AFOC staff completed economic evaluations for more than 50 Alaskan mineral deposits.

In 1987, the AFOC reorganized into two branches. The Juneau Branch was headed up by Dave Carnes. The Anchorage Branch was headed up by Bob Hoekzema and later Donald Baggs. The Fairbanks office became a sub-office of the Anchorage AFOC office. With the retirement of Jim Barker in 1992, the Fairbanks office was eventually eliminated. Don Blasko resigned in 1993 as AFOC overall director, and retired to his home state of Wyoming. Martin Conyac served as acting chief of AFOC until the dissolution of the USBM in 1995-1996. Some functions continued under the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) after the AFOC was closed, including the completion of the Ketchikan Mining district studies, the Koyukuk-Wiseman Mining district studies and the Innoko-Iditarod district studies, among others. All of these and more were carried out under the offices of the BLM in Alaska until 2007.

Evolutionary Changes in Government Regulatory Structure and Closure of the U.S. Bureau of Mines

For many years, the USBM originally provided safety and health inspections for mines on a national basis, but not for all territorial or state entities. This division of the USBM comprised a majority of employees within the USBM.

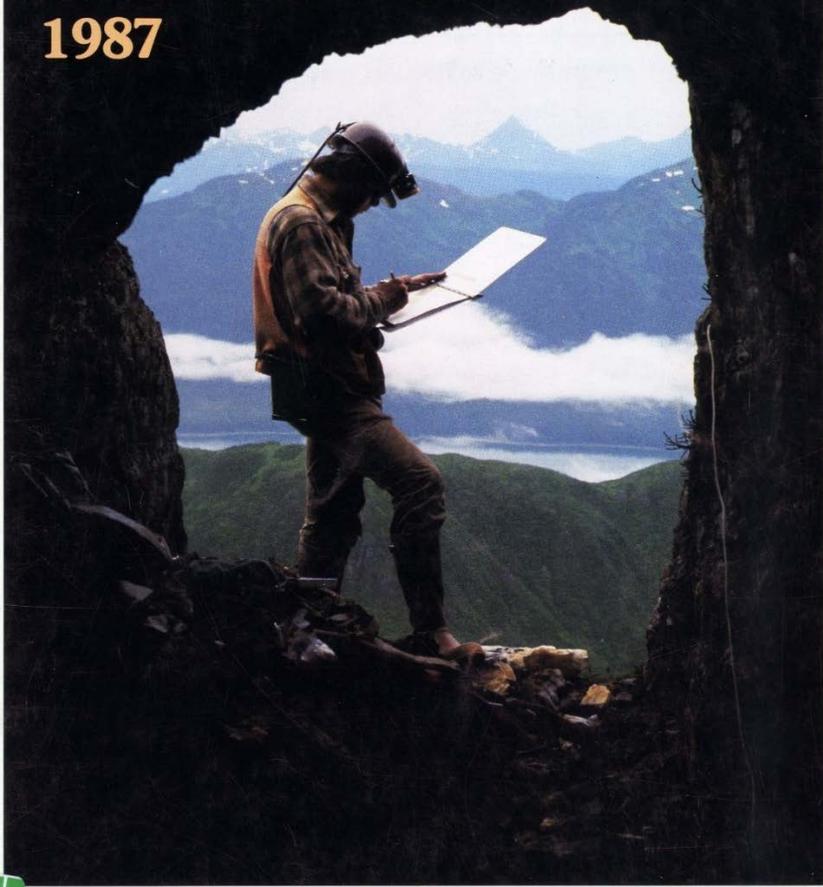
From its creation, the USBM was viewed both nationally and internationally as a focal point for new and emerging scientific research and technology development (R&D) in the minerals field. Research laboratories were established throughout the country. For example, USBM metallurgical labs in Albany, Oregon and Spokane, Washington handled many samples collected during Alaskan mineral resource projects. Since entering competition for R&D Grants in 1978 and continuing until 1995, the USBM won thirty five (35) R&D-100 awards from *R&D Magazine* for the most important research innovations of the year. These USBM achievements were especially impressive since the USBM research budget was quite small and the agency was competing with public/private research departments in, for example, Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Westinghouse), the General Electric Company (GE), Hitachi, Exxon-Mobile, General Motors, Ford Motor Company, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The USBM provided a number of research grants to the University of Alaska System, chiefly the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory in Fairbanks, with an emphasis on coal metallurgy and beneficiation. The University also received funding for the study of mineral endowment within the Trans Alaska pipeline corridor and proposed remedial action of water quality impairment caused by placer gold mining activities.

In 1973, Secretary of Interior Rogers Morton created a separate agency within DOI, the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA), and all safety and health authority that were formerly a responsibility of the USBM were transferred to the new agency. In 1977, Congress passed the Federal

ALASKA'S MINERAL INDUSTRY 1987



Division of Business Development
Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
Division of Mining
SPECIAL REPORT 41



USBM Geologist Bill Roberts is featured on the 1987 State of Alaska Minerals Report, as part of a Bureau funded study of the Juneau Mining district.



Underground tungsten mine Fairbanks district, circa 1954, named after AMHF Inductee 'Wise Mike' Stepovich; a DMEA assisted mining effort. Photo credit: AMHF



Lost River tin mine, Seward Peninsula circa 1953, a DMEA assisted project. Photo credit: AMHF

Mine Safety Act, which expanded federal authority for safety and health issues related to mining, and created a new agency, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). MSHA is located in the Department of Labor and replaced MESA. Also in 1977, Congress created the Office of Surface Mining with the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); this new agency inherited all of the USBM surface mining regulatory authority. Finally in 1977, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) took over the USBM Coal Production and Research Division. Executive and legislative actions from 1973-to-1977 resulted in a reduction in USBM staff from 6,100 in the early 1970s to 2,600 by 1980. At its peak, the USBM had 14 research centers throughout the nation, but eventually, by the early 1990s, only four research centers in Denver, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, and Spokane survived. The pattern of the successive legislative and administrative changes was clear as the regulatory authority of the USBM was, for all practical purposes, eliminated.

In 1996, the U.S. Congress closed the U.S. Bureau of Mines and transferred its functions to other federal agencies. With this closure, some 1,000 employees were immediately dismissed. At the same time, the USGS took its own hits in the national budget—leading to the loss of more than 500 full time positions. Some specific health, safety and materials research programs were transferred to the Department of Energy while in the case of Alaska, programs related to mineral information studies were transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. National functions like the *Mineral Industry Surveys*, the *Mineral Commodity Summaries* and the annual *Minerals Yearbook* were transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey. Subsequently, The Pittsburgh and Spokane Research Centers were transferred to the DOE, resulting in a loss of another 400+ jobs.

Alaskan Legacy

Although the U.S. Bureau of Mines no longer exists, no one can dispute the importance of the agency's activities in Alaska. From mine safety and health to prospector assistance, economic mineral deposit research, coal research, exploration and development, the search for strategic minerals, and systematic mining district studies; the results reported in nearly 700 USBM-sponsored publications will continue to provide important sources of information for the future development of Alaska's Mineral industry.

Rebirth?

On May 10th, 2010, U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) released proposed legislation that would change certain mine safety laws; his legislation also proposed to re-establish the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Although Rockefeller's action failed to pass Congress, it did generate interest in the USBM mission.

Written by Tom Bundtzen; reviewed by Steve Borell and Robert Hoekzema

A number of sources were used to compile this summary. Mulligan's 1995 summary in the Journal of the Alaska Miners Association was a major source. Another was a summary written by Donna Redding (2008). Other sources include the writer's personnel records and references—some listed below.

Total Historical count of USBM Publications pertaining to Alaska, From Albrecht (1996)

| Report Category | Count |
|--|------------|
| Report of Investigations (RI) | 97 |
| Information Circulars (IC) | 76 |
| Open File Reports (OFR) | 216 |
| Mineral Land Assessment Reports | 6 |
| Bulletins | 17 |
| Handbooks | 1 |
| Mineral Issues | 3 |
| Annual Mineral Year Book Alaska Summaries | 62 |
| Monographs | 1 |
| Technical Papers | 5 |
| Cooperative Papers with U.S. Geological Survey | 19 |
| Publications with Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys | 11 |
| Mineral Inventory Reports | 5 |
| Land Use Reports | 9 |
| Special Publications | 16 |
| Outside Publications | 67 |
| Contract Reports (with University of Alaska and various private contractors) | 71 |
| TOTAL | 682 |

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Previous Inductees, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame

Fairbanks, Fall 1997

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 during Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush Era.

Earnest Patty: University of Alaska renowned teacher and later president, and manager of dredge firms in the Coal Creek-Woodchopper district.

Clarence Berry: Prominent Klondike and Interior Alaska miner.

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” grubstaked many prospectors.

Arthur Harper: Respected trader and prospector and promoter of the Yukon; his son Walter, first stepped foot on the summit of Mount McKinley (Denali).

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

John Minook: Creole-Athabaskan prospector who discovered the Rampart and Melozitna districts—became an important inspiration for Indigenous rights, including US Citizenship.

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 district 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: 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 of Cancer 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, named after his son, another transportation pioneer, 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: 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 was 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.

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.

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. Hering: 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 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 throughout Alaska—he became the Postal Inspector for the Alaska Territory.

Irving McKenny Reed: Notable Associate Mining Engineer for the Alaska Territory and pioneer of Nome; was chair of the Alaska Game Commission prior to WWII and the Territorial Highway Engineer prior to Statehood.

Anchorage, Fall, 2010

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Seward Peninsula Gold Dredging Industry

Nicholas B. and Evinda S. Tweet: Partners in marriage and mining, they created a family-owned firm that has mined gold in Alaska for more than 100 years.

Carl S. and Walter A. Glavinovich: Brothers who devoted more than 100 years of their collective lives to dredging in the Nome district, one of Alaska’s Premier placer gold districts.

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 grade but also high altitude ‘Binocular’ copper prospect. He never made a mine but his dreams live on.

Arthur Shonbeck: He joined numerous stampedes during the Alaska-Yukon Goldrush and was an outstanding civic leader of Anchorage. He drowned with AMHF Inductee John Beaton in Ganes Creek west of McGrath.

Fairbanks, Spring 2012

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Mid-20th Interior Placer Mining Industry

Oscar Tveiten: Arrived in Fairbanks during the Great Depression and mined on Cleary Creek in the Fairbanks for more than 50 years.

Glen D. Franklin: A gifted athlete who studied business administration at the University of Alaska in the 1930s; mined with others throughout Alaska and Yukon Territory for several decades.

Donald Cook: An Oregon-born graduate of the University of Alaska, who pursued a stellar career in Education at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. He was an expert on USSR&M Gold dredges.

Anchorage, Fall, 2012

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Iditarod and Innoko Districts of Southwest Alaska

Merton Marston: Indiana newspaper man who became wealthy as a result of grubstaking the discoverers of the Iditarod district—later managed hotels in the Pacific Northwest.

Mattie ‘Tootsie’ Crosby: Beloved personality in Flat, the center of the Iditarod district for more than 50 years—the only Afro-American who lived and worked in that district.

Toivo Rosander: Finnish immigrant who mined in the Ophir-Innoko area for 70 years with wife Dyna and boys Ron and Ken. Managed to convince many skeptics about the economic and social value of placer mining.

Juneau, Spring, 2013

Honoring Two Pioneers Important to Mineral Development in Southeast Alaska

Alexandre Choquette: French Canadian prospector who began in the 1849 California Gold Rush and ended in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896. At the time of his death, Choquette was a true north-country legend.

John F. Malony: Was important to early mineral development of Southeast Alaska—served as mayor of Juneau and helped form Alaska Electric Light and Power, Alaska’s first modern electric utility.

Fairbanks, Summer 2013

Honoring an outstanding citizen, educator and placer mine expert

Doug Colp: Born and raised in Southeastern Alaska, Colp became a legendary expert on placer mine technologies, a UAF Educator, and, with his wife Marcel, a civic-minded resident of Fairbanks.

Anchorage, Fall, 2013

Honoring Geologists from the U.S. Geological Survey

Arthur C. Spencer: Provided the first geologic descriptions of the Kennecott Mines in the Chitina Valley and authored a classic: USGS Bulletin 287—The Juneau Gold Belt—in 1906.

Josiah E. Spurr: Forged a career as a renowned economic geologist—and helped found the Society of Economic Geologists. Best known for his pre-Klondike adventure—*Through the Yukon Gold Diggings*.

Stephen R. Capps: An outstanding regional geologist that specialized in the study of Alaskan placer gold deposits in glaciated areas. Was among the first federal geologists to study ‘strategic minerals’.

Fairbanks, Spring 2014

Honoring Three Early Mining Pioneers Important in the Alaskan Mining Industry

‘Wise Mike’ Stepovich: Self-educated Montenegrin immigrant came to Fairbanks shortly after the 1902 discovery and mined gold on Fairbanks Creek for 40 years; his son Mike Stepovich II would be Alaska’s last territorial governor.

Helen Van Campen: Had a remarkable career in Alaska that included equestrian sports, journalism and gold mining. Helen Van Campen Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks has provided journalism students with funding to help start their careers.

Peter Petrovich Doroshin: A Russian Mining engineer that discovered placer gold on the Kenai Peninsula in 1848; was a pioneer in investigating Alaska's abundant coal resources.

Anchorage, Fall, 2014

Honoring Three Pioneers Associated with the Kennecott Mines in Alaska

Alan Mara Bateman: Important Kennecott consultant at McCarthy; Editor of *Economic Geology* for more than five decades.

Edward M. MacKevett Jr. Pioneer geologist of Kennecott deposits near McCarthy and Alaska's premier mercury-antimony and REE-Th-U districts.

William H. Seagrave Best known for his management skills in the early Kennecott mines of Alaska.

Anchorage, Fall, 2015

Honoring Pioneers Associated with the Red Dog Zinc-Polymetallic Mine and a Hatcher Pass Pioneer

Robert (Bob) Baker: The Kotzebue-based bush pilot and amateur prospector who is given credit for the discovery of the Red Dog zinc-polymetallic deposit, currently Alaska's most important metal mine.

Irv Tailleu A legendary U.S. Geological Survey Brooks Range geologist who followed up on Baker's recommendations and wrote the open-file report documenting the importance of the Red Dog deposit.

Don S. Rae: Respected prospector and assayer who worked in Southeast Alaska and Hatcher Pass.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2016

Honoring Pioneers Associated with Alaska's Gold Dredging Fleet

Patrick H. O'Neill: Born into a large Cordova family of Irish descent, O'Neill would graduate from the University of Alaska with several Engineering degrees, become dredge superintendent for the FE Company in Fairbanks, and compete a remarkable career operating fleets of gold-platinum dredges in South America. He was a strong supporter of the University of Alaska for his entire life.

Walter W. Johnson: His firm, the Union Construction Company, would construct over half of all the bucketline stacker dredges to operate in Alaska (32). UCC would operate in other international locales.

Anchorage, Fall, 2016

AMHF Honors Three Pioneers Associated Placer Mining, Invention, Mineral Industry Management, Scientific Inquiry, and Public Service

John Arthur Miscovich Renowned second generation placer gold miner from the Iditarod Mining district; John was perhaps better known for his *Intelligent* and other water technology inventions.

Cole Edwin McFarland combined the hard work of a pioneering Alaskan placer mining family with the responsibilities of being President of Placer Dome U.S. Inc., a successful international mining firm.

Donald John Grybeck had a distinguished career as a scientist, teacher, miner, and earth science manager. His lasting legacy is the USGS Alaska Resource Data Files (ARDF), which he designed and implemented.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2018

AMHF Honors Three 'Minority' Mining Pioneers

William T. Ewing was born into slavery in 1854 in Keytestown, Missouri. After working his way across the United States, Ewing joined the Tacoma Police Department. He stampeded to Alaska in 1896, and in 1903, struck it rich in the Fairbanks District with partner James McCarty. After he passed away in 1923, his entire estate went to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Kate Kennedy lived in the copper mining boomtown of McCarthy, Alaska for nearly three decades. In the early 20th Century, Kate Kennedy, a divorced woman, became the largest property owner in the Chitina Valley and was McCarthy's best known entrepreneur.

Eugene Swanson was reported to be the only consistently successful gold miner in the Rampart District, according to a 1938 article by the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. He served as a Buffalo Soldier during the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush. An honor guard of black soldiers from the U.S. Army attended his 1942 funeral in Fairbanks.

Anchorage, Fall, 2018

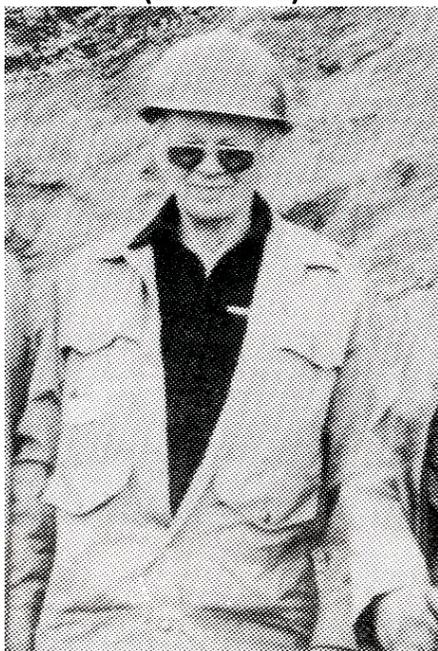
AMHF Honors Frontier Mining Camp Pioneers

Joseph B. Quigley Born in Pennsylvania, Joe Quigley would ascend Chikoot Pass in 1891, years before the Klondike Gold Rush. Quigley is best known for his work in the Kantishna District in the shadow of Mount McKinley (now Denali).

Tekla M. Kanari was a Finnish Immigrant who, along with husband John, formed and operated Trinity Mining Company in the remote Kougarak Mining district north of Nome. She made many wire transfers of funds to relatives and friends in war-torn Finland during WWII.

Alvin H. Agoff Son of a Russian immigrant, Alvin Agoff mined gold, trapped, and freighted with sled dogs in the Iditarod Mining district for more than 50 years. His family legacy lives on with Prince Creek Mining Company, the last heritage mining operation in the Iditarod.

**Thomas L. Pittman
(1909-1992)**



**Thomas L. Pittman @ Windy Craggy Deposit in
Canada; circa 1984**

Noted metallurgist and U.S. Bureau of Mines State Minerals Officer Thomas L. Pittman died in a taxi of a massive heart attack on November 3rd, 1992, while traveling from the Anchorage International Airport to the Sheraton Hotel to attend the annual Convention of the Alaska Miners Association. At the time of his death, he was the longest serving employee of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Alaska.

Early Years

Pittman was born on December 19th, 1909 in Lewiston, Montana, where he spent his formative years. He earned B.S. and M.S Degrees in Metallurgy from the University of Washington in 1931 and 1933 respectively. In 1936, Tom married Pamela Fergus Pittman. The couple would have three children.

After his formal education, Tom became a metallurgist for a number of companies active in

Kenya, East Africa, Nevada, Montana, and Washington. His work in Africa included beneficiation analysis of both placer and lode mineral deposits. In 1957, after a twenty-plus year career in the private sector, he accepted a position with the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) in Juneau, Alaska.

Career with the USBM

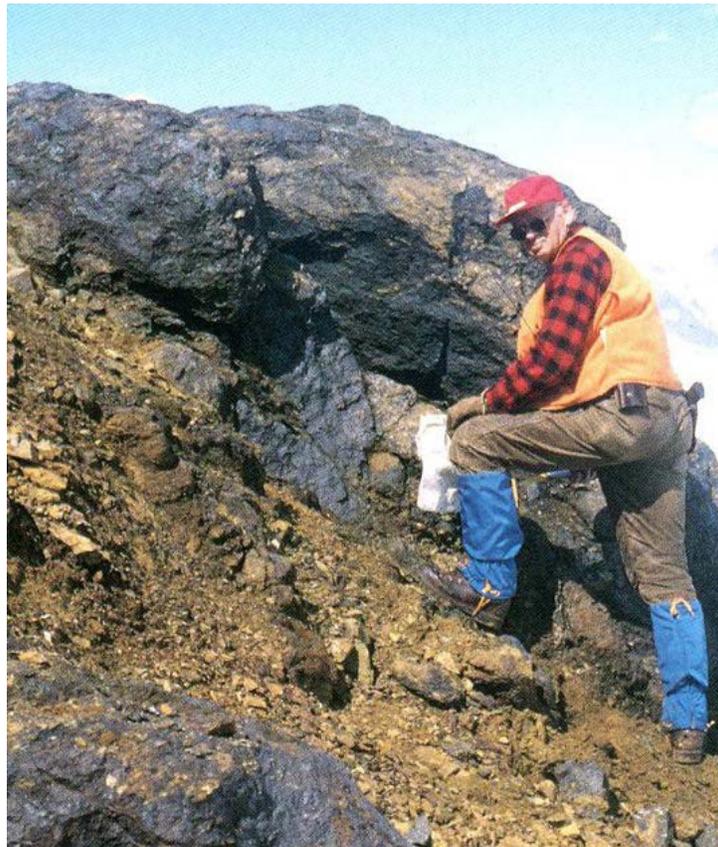
In 1958, as Alaska was preparing to enter into Statehood, the Territorial Department of Mines signed a formal agreement with the USBM for the mutual cooperative interchange of information—thus eliminating duplication of effort and achieving significant cost savings. As the new State was being formed, there was a free exchange between the USBM, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the newly forming State Department of Natural Resources. The AEC, which was focused on the search for radioactive elements—especially uranium, agreed to share information with the other agencies that was previously considered classified. As new data gathering roles evolved between State and Federal agencies, Tom Pittman became involved early in the acquisition of minerals information, a function he carried out for 34 years until his death in 1992.

Pittman was involved in many field investigations for the USBM. Prior to 1970, Tom pursued numerous mineral examinations and was listed by the USBM as an Exploration Engineer. For years, many of his projects took place on Prince of Wales Island west of Ketchikan. He was involved in the evaluations of copper and iron-bearing deposits on the Kasaan Peninsula and at Copper Mountain on Hetta Inlet. The former are now considered Iron Oxide Gold Copper (IOGC) deposits, whereas the latter are classic metalliferous skarn deposits. He also worked on the copper-precious metal volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits at Niblack Anchorage and the Trocadero Bay-Twelve Mile Arm areas.

In 1980, AFOC Director John Mulligan formally appointed Tom Pittman the State Minerals Officer for the Bureau. In that role, he compiled information to be used in the Bureau's Annual Year Book summaries, and worked with various Alaska State officials. One of Tom's important achievement was acquiring the official company records of the Kennecott Copper Corporation for their time in Alaska from 1920-to-1942. These records are an invaluable source for mining activity information for about half of Kennecott's time in Alaska when their mines in the Wrangell Mountains and in Prince William Sound operated.

The writer remembers working with Tom Pittman during much of the 1980s, while compiling mineral exploration and production statistics for the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Mineral Industry Summaries. Pittman was easy to work with and strongly

supported the efforts of the State to acquire their own mineral industry exploration, development, and production information data bases. His openness with the sharing of mineral resource data formed a long and productive relationship between the USBM and State of Alaska government agencies. Pittman was particularly helpful with providing production statistics to the State from the sand and gravel and building stone industries. He also provided important information on the development and economic activities related to the poorly known, offshore barite mine near Petersburg in southeast Alaska operated by Chromalloy™ and other firms from 1963-to-1980. Throughout the years where the writer was involved with Tom until his untimely death, the sharing of data between ADNR and the USBM was reciprocal. Pittman was an important source of historical photographs from the Juneau Gold Belt, which were used in various State of Alaska publications.



Tom Pittman sampling of an iron gossan at Glacier Bay, circa 1970s. Photo Credit: David Carnes.

During the Wilderness Act studies in southeast Alaska and the D-2 land investigations of the 1970s, Pittman became attached to various field studies conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey, and completed much field work in Tracy Arm, Glacier Bay and in other areas being considered for wilderness status. He was chiefly a minerals sampler and metallurgist, and was involved in beneficiation studies of known mineral deposits; for example, the Brady Glacier and Yakobi Island nickel- copper deposits. During field investigations, Tom worked with U.S. Bureau of Mines Mining Engineer and close friend Art Kimball aboard the U.S. Geological Survey vessel Don J. Miller.

Tom Pittman worked with the Haines-Skagway mining district investigations headed up by USBM

project managers Jan Still and Bob Hoekzema. The writer was also connected to this study through an agreement of cooperation between the USBM and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys; Wyatt Gilbert was the State's representative.

In 1984, one of us (Bundtzen) accompanied Pittman on a visit to the very large, stratiform, massive sulfide, Windy Craggy copper cobalt gold deposit in British Columbia, Canada; across the border from the Porcupine Mining district in Alaska. Pittman reviewed the various physical aspects of the massive sulfide mineralization from the point of view of a metallurgist, and made recommendations to employees of then operator Geddes Resources concerning beneficiation and possible environmental issues associated with the deposit.



Tom Pittman, second from left, during USBM field work in Southeast Alaska. Photo Credit: Joe Kurtak.

Other Interests

In his later years, Pittman was considered by many to be exceptionally fit for his age and often outdistanced many younger colleagues on numerous field excursions. His three primary interests outside of his career with the USBM was his wife and family, down-hill skiing, and amateur radio. During the 1960s, Pittman was instrumental in establishing Juneau's power ski tow on Douglas Island. Each weekend, he would pack a car battery three miles up into the ski basin. Then he would use it to start the old engine that powered the rope tow. Tom then served as operator of the rope tow. His pioneer efforts formed part of the backbone of the local Juneau Ski Club. During the 1970s, as the Juneau City and Borough contemplated a more formalized ski area, Tom was instrumental in planning and installing what became the Eaglecrest Ski area, which first opened in 1975. Tom taught 'beginner' skiing lessons to many novice skiers and was on the local ski patrol.

To honor his pioneering efforts, one of the mountain ridges in the area was formally named 'Pittman Ridge'. Today, the Eaglecrest Ski area has four double-lift chairlifts that access 640 acres of ski slopes, with 34 marked alpine runs, two Nordic skiing loops, and access to world class back country. Olympic down hill ski medalist Hilary Lindh grew up skiing at the Eaglecrest ski area.

Epitaph

At the time of his death, Tom Pittman was a Director Emeritus of the Alaska Miners Association; there were eleven (11) other emeritus directors active at that time. As Wes Moulton would relate:

"Tom Pittman was a real gentleman in all senses of the word. They just don't make many like him anymore."

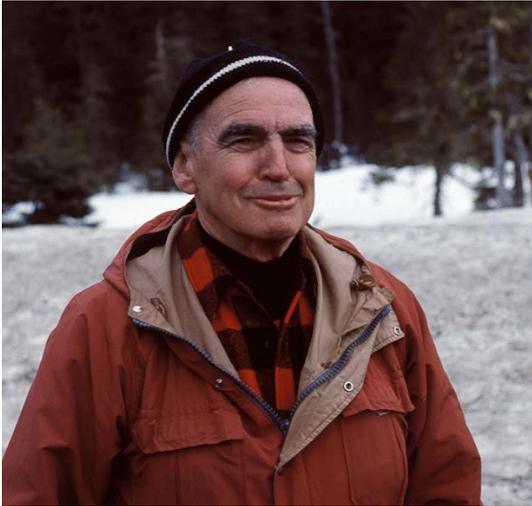
Many others share similar sentiments about Thomas L. Pittman.

Written by Tom Bundtzen and David Carnes, with contributions from Robert Hoekzema and Joe Kurtak.



Eaglecrest ski area, Douglas Island, Southeast Alaska; Pittman Ridge in the right foreground

John Joseph Mulligan (1917-2012)



John Mulligan, undated. Photo credit: Joe Kurtak

John Mulligan was born in Woodbury, New York on February 28th, 1917, the oldest of three brothers and a sister. His father and mother (Matthew Mulligan and Bridget Duffy) were both born in Ireland and immigrated to the United States as adults. John learned to shoot, hunt and fish as a child and continued to put game and fish on the table into his 80s.

Early Years

He started a life-long career in mining as a helper for two miners blasting a road cut at the age of twelve in 1929. During and after high school, he worked at farming, trapping, well drilling and construction. In 1937 he began underground work as a mucker and a driller on tunnels, dams and mines in the Northeastern and Southern states, Alaska and California. That is what brought him to Alaska in 1941 to work on driving the Whittier Tunnel. As John told me, he spent his first night in Anchorage, sleeping on a bar room pool table as there were no beds available due to the large influence of workers related to the military build-up prior to World War II.

On leaving Alaska that fall, he worked on the Shasta Dam project just prior to the bombing of

Pearl Harbor.

World War II

John enlisted in the Army Engineers in 1942. Following scant basic training and a great number of tests, he found himself in the Army Air Corps taking a crash course in weather station construction. This was immediately followed by promotion to sergeant in charge of building weather stations at bomber training fields in Iowa and South Dakota.

When the weather stations were operational, he was sent to Colorado for Arctic Training before being sent to various locations in Greenland. Here amongst other things, he was placed in charge of a weather station near Egedesminde. These weather stations, which transmitted daily weather observations, were critical to the Allies in the war effort. Weather patterns which hit the west coast of Europe passed over Greenland in route and the stations could be used to predict these weather movements. The Germans also knew this and had their own weather stations on Greenland. Several were captured by the Allies. This station also had a search and rescue team, including 20 dogs to help rescue downed airman flying between the U.S. and Europe. While in Greenland, he learned the Eskimo language and some of the skills of the traditional Eskimo hunters from the local elders.

Even though the war ended in 1945, John was left in charge of the stations until the following fall, as he was the only person who could speak Eskimo and Danish well enough to train local weather observers.

John was discharged in 1945, and the following year, enrolled under the GI bill in the Missouri School of Mines in 1946, graduating in June of 1949 with a degree in Mining Engineering. To supplement the GI benefits, he worked as a cave guide in the nearby Onondaga Caverns.

Bureau of Mines Years

John was hired by the US Bureau of Mines in July of 1949 and returned to Alaska as a Mine Evaluation Engineer. For most of his career with the Bureau he discovered and mapped mineral resources throughout Alaska, spending 3-4 months in the field collecting samples during the summer (often with Native American crews) and analyzing the samples and writing reports in the winter. One of his first projects was to evaluate copper prospects in the Lake Iliamna area. Who knows; he may have walked over the ground that is now the Pebble Deposit. This was followed by many other projects, including evaluating limestone to be used as cement for the never completed Yukon Dam project.

He spent a considerable amount of time on the Seward Peninsula, evaluating a variety of mineral commodities there, including tin. At the time the U.S. had started a critical and strategic minerals program to help secure domestic sources of metals that this country was mostly dependent on from outside sources. His report on the Lost River tin deposits is a classic. Other geologists working on the Seward Peninsula have told me accounts of meeting John in the middle of nowhere walking with a large pack on his back and rifle in hand. I'm sure that the rural upbringing influenced his ability to feel comfortable in wild remote places. Even with all these efforts, John took time to court and marry Peggy Lee in 1956.

During the summers of 1959 and 1960, John spent half the year in Antarctica searching for coal deposits. This was done under the auspices of the National Science Foundation and done for the State Department. It was thought that these deposits could be used to heat U.S. bases on that continent. However the deposits proved to be too small and remote to be useful. One of the coal deposits he discovered was located on a mountain near MacKay Glacier that is now named Mulligan Peak in his honor.

In 1970, John became chief of Field Operations for the Bureau in Alaska, based in Juneau. A major Bureau responsibility was to gather and present data on mineralized areas in Alaska to the public. Congress and land managers used this mineral data to support the land decisions mandated by the Native Land Claims Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Act (ANILCA).

To improve upon this data, a series of mining district investigations were started by the Bureau. The Bureau was eliminated as a Federal agency in 1996. However due to the efforts of Senator Ted Stevens, the program was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) until 2007, when the program was terminated. This project resulted detailed mineral resource studies in 14 districts in Alaska, adding considerable information to the Alaska minerals database. John worked extensively with the Alaska Delegation and especially Senator Stevens to help secure funding for these studies. The Bureau always had close ties with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. John was always an advocate in funding mining-related research projects at the University. This included helping to fund fieldtrips trips and work on the Fairbanks permafrost tunnel.



**Mulligan at work sampling materials in Antarctica
Circa 1960**

Retired Life

John was always a strong, independent advocate for mining: during his career in the Bureau, he started by being investigated by Senator McCarthy and ended up opposing some of the policies of both the Carter and Reagan administrations. After retirement in 1985, John travelled extensively, developed an interest in genealogy and wrote biographies for the Miner's Hall of Fame. He remained fiercely independent, doing solo winter car-camping trips, solo boat trips and cross-country driving trips into his 90's.

In 2005 John was appointed a Director Emeritus of the Alaska Miners Association and became a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, the Elks Club, and the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C. The Cosmos Club honors persons deemed to have

"done meritorious original work in science, literature, or the arts, or... recognized as distinguished in a learned profession or in public service".

Members have included three U.S. presidents, [Supreme Court](#) justices, [Nobel Prize](#) winners, and recipients of the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#).

John passed away in 2012, just two weeks before his 95th birthday. He is survived by his five children, Mat, John, Margi, Jean and Jan, six grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

A Remembrance—Joe Kurtak

I was fortunate enough to come to work for the Bureau of Mines in 1980 while John was still at the helm. I was immediately put to work leading a team doing a mineral assessment of the Prince William Sound area of the Chugach National Forest. For a boy who grew up in land-locked eastern California being around small boats and big water was a real eye opener.

It was during that summer that I first met John. He came through on a project tour with the Washington crowd including the then-Director of the Bureau.

I was impressed that he would take time to come visit the troops in the field. I also became quickly aware that John was not just another desk jockey Federal Bureaucrat, but had spent a lot of time in the field in Alaska and knew much of its geography and mineral deposits. These "punishment tours" as some called them, impressed upon the Washington crowd the difficulties and special needs for fieldwork in Alaska.

I met John at several meetings over the next few years. One highlight was during a meeting break, him demonstrating to us the technique of rolling a kayak Eskimo style.

I tracked John's field projects all over Alaska through reading his numerous well-written and informative reports. He was an excellent technical writer and I learned much from him about brevity and summarizing one's thoughts into something the reader could understand. I have to say that I stood on his shoulders using his work as the basis for many of my projects with the Bureau.

A Remembrance—Travis Hudson

I was a young geologist working with Pete Sainsbury on the Seward Peninsula when I first met Johnny Mulligan. It was at a meeting and Johnny was gracious and friendly. We met again at meetings over the years and he was always that welcoming and friendly guy. I felt like I knew him better than one would expect from casual conversation in meeting halls. And in a way I did. You see, I followed in Johnny's tracks through many mineral deposits on Seward Peninsula.

Johnny went to the field with equipment, real equipment like churn drills and dozers. I personally benefited from his skills with a dozer at many deposits. His dozer trenches at places like Potato Mountain and Ear Mountain are still the best surface exposures at these mineralized areas. At Ear Mountain he went a step further. There he thawed out the ice-plugged Winfield shaft and got underground to map and sample

the short cross cuts and winze. To this day, his map, measurements, and sample results from underground at Ear Mountain are the only data we have on the interesting base-metal and tin mineralization exposed in these workings.

The tin mineralization at places like Potato Mountain and Ear Mountain was on Johnny's extensive project list because of his career-long commitment to helping us understand our countries strategic mineral inventory.

Fortunately, he was not content with getting the fieldwork done and always followed it up with the timely publication of his observations, maps, and sample results.

His 1959 Ear Mountain report is an example with tables and maps to carefully and completely record his field observations and sample results. His publications continue to be valuable resources for anyone attempting to understand and explore the mineral deposits he examined.

I was fortunate to know Johnny and to benefit from his extensive work on Seward Peninsula mineral deposits. Later in his life I was able to thank him personally for his many contributions and for his help. For that's what his work was too me over the years – it was like he was sitting there next to me helping. I am grateful for this opportunity to acknowledge and thank him again.

Written by Joe Kurtak and Travis Hudson



John Mulligan at his field camp in Antarctica investigating coal resources, circa 1959

Donald Paul Blasko (1935-2009)



Early Years

Donald Paul Blasko was born in Rock Springs on May 25, 1935, the son of Benedict and Elsie Blasko. He attended schools in Rock Springs and helped his parents with their café in his formative years. Don graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor's Degree in Petroleum Engineering with summers spent working for the federal government on the Big Sandy-Farson irrigation project in southeast Wyoming.

U.S. Bureau of Mines Career

During his college years, Don worked part time for the U.S. Bureau of Mines Petroleum Research Center in Laramie. Upon graduation he became a full-time employee of the Bureau and conducted petroleum resource studies throughout the Rocky Mountain states. In 1964, Don was given the assignment of establishing a petroleum resource office for the Bureau in Anchorage, Alaska.

He arrived in Anchorage just five months after the March 27, 1964 earthquake and opened the office in the basement of the old post office building on Fourth Avenue. He was a regular at the Bert's Drug Store coffee counter just across G Street and held many successful luncheon meetings at that establishment. Soon after he became an active member of the Alaska Geologic Society and held various positions within the organization. This office later transitioned in the Anchorage Field Office where Don became Branch Chief.

During his early years in Alaska, Don conducted oil resource studies and compiled oil, gas and mineral resource information in cooperation with Tom Marshall, Phil Holdsworth, and Kevin Malone. One of Don's major legacies was his successful effort to identify, locate and describe oil and gas seeps in Alaska. The results of his field studies were published as Reports of Investigations, Open File Reports and the Bureau of Mines Minerals Yearbooks.

Don also became an acknowledged expert on coal fires and helped eliminate active coal fires on the Kenai Peninsula near Ninilchik. He maintained the readiness of the Bureau mine safety railroad car which was stationed in Palmer for potential use in the Sutton Coal Fields and Healy.

ANCSA and ANILCA Years

In 1972 Don was assigned as the Bureau representative on the Resource Planning Team of the Joint State-Federal Alaska Land Use Council which, at that time, was substantially involved with issues related to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) which was signed into law on December 18, 1971 by President Nixon.

Don provided minerals information and made recommendations concerning the mineral potential of federal lands being considered for selection and later for lands being considered

for inclusion in National Parks, Monuments Wildlife Refuges and wilderness areas under the auspices of the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) that was signed into law by President Carter on December 2, 1980.

In part, due to Don's efforts, the Bureau was provided special funding to conduct mineral resource evaluation studies of federal lands being considered for withdrawal under ANILCA. These included studies in the southern National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPRA) in 1977 and 1978 as well as a contract to WGM to evaluate resource potential in the DeLong Mountains area. Don worked on the NPRA projects along with Jake Jansons, Marianne Parks, and Don Baggs and was responsible for contracting support services for those efforts.

The studies ultimately resulted in the discovery of significant new base metal mineralization in the Brooks Range at Drenchwater and Story Creeks and the substantiation of a significant zinc-lead-silver deposit at Red Dog Creek. As a result, the NANA Corporation selected the Red Dog area as a portion of their ANCSA entitlement – the rest of the Red Dog story is well known history.

RARE II and Mining District Assessments

The Anchorage office's next big project was the mineral resource evaluation of the Chugach National Forest under the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II (RARE II) program. This work extended from 1979-1982. Don's role was Anchorage Office Branch Chief. One of his greatest contributions to the effort, and a great example of how Don was able to get things done, was his successful contracting of a World War II sub-chaser (the Grebe) as a support facility for a two-month reconnaissance of mineral resources in Prince William Sound. He arranged to have a helicopter platform constructed on the aft deck which proved to be very convenient.

However, at times watching the float equipped helicopter teetering on the platform in rough weather was a somewhat frightening experience. Don's creativity in the selection and preparation of the sub-chaser was in large part responsible for the success of the 1979 field season. The project supervisor, Jake Jansons, wrote:

"The selection of the sub-chaser by Blasko was brought about because for funding and bookkeeping purposes it would fall under the transportation category. This was important. Because of the oil shortages at that time, our travel budget was small and tightly controlled, but transportation was not.



Don Blasko (right) and Marianne Parks on Red Dog Creek, circa 1977

Operations Chief

In 1983, Don was promoted to Chief, of the Bureau's Intermountain Field Operations Center in Denver. However, he returned to Alaska in 1985 as Chief of the Alaska Field Operations Center following John Mulligan's retirement. He helped to develop the Strategic Mineral Initiative which was designed to assess Alaska's strategic mineral potential and the successful Mining District Mineral Assessment Program which began the same year. The program survived the closure of the Bureau in 1996 and was continued by Bureau of Land Management until 2007. This program completed assessments of 14 mining districts in the State. The wealth of minerals information generated by these assessments was a direct result of Don's efforts early in the program.

In addition to his professional career, Don was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing in much of south-central Alaska. He also took part in winter sports and joined the Sourdough Ski Patrol at the Alyeska Ski Area in the late 1960s. During the ensuing years he put in many volunteer hours on the ski hill and was instrumental in the construction of the patrol aid room at Alyeska.

Retirement Years

Don retired in 1993 and returned to Wyoming where he pursued various part time employments including mineral resource consulting work, driving a crew bus for railroad employees and a school bus for Sweetwater County, WY, and transporting mail from Rock Springs to Jackson. He spent several summers as a campground host in Wyoming and Alaska. He enjoyed road trips to visit his children and grandchildren and teaching them how to fish.

Don passed away at age 73 in 2009. During a long Alaskan career spanning 30 years, he became major contributor to Alaska's mining and energy resource industries. His surviving family members include two children, two grandchildren, two cousins and several nieces and nephews.

A Remembrance—Joe Kurtak

In the late 1970s, I was a victim of layoffs after the crash of the uranium mining industry in Colorado. Seeing the end of my job coming, I had out of frustration hurriedly filled out a Federal Government employment application for job openings at the Bureau of Mines in Alaska.



Don Blasko (left) with USBM crew (Steve Fechner (center), Nathan Rathbun (kneeling), and Lee Harper (right) at the Katalla Oil Field, circa 1981.

I had worked in the north country before and always wanted to go back. After I got the inevitable layoff notice I was feeling down in the dumps, when out of the blue I got a call from none other than Don Blasko in Anchorage. He wanted to know if I still wanted that job for the Bureau of Mines in Alaska. I had nearly forgotten about that job application and didn't know squat about the Bureau of Mines but wanted to get back north. So Don had barely got the words out of his mouth when I said yes. My first project would be to work on a mineral assessment of the Chugach National Forest RARE II project.

Don and I hit it off right from the start. Being a couple of country boys who had similar upbringings in the rural West, we had a lot in common. We were both skiers and even though he was 17 years my senior, he would always beat me down the slopes at Alyeska. In the workplace he was a great mentor to many of us just starting our professional careers in Alaska. He went out of his way to provide the support we needed to get field work done in the most remote of locations. He was great at navigating the Federal bureaucracy, having spent time in Washington, and knew who to contact to get what we needed to move our programs along.

Written by Joe Kurtak

He instilled in us a sense of professionalism and that what we were doing would benefit the future of mineral resources in Alaska. Also, that as public servants we were obligated to provide minerals information on a timely basis to the taxpayers. His ability to add some humor to even the most intense of situations was a godsend.

A Remembrance—Nathan Rathbun

Don was a great leader and lead by example. He demonstrated to all of us that, no matter what your position and title, the job must get done. Don was seen many times manning the barrel pump to refuel the helicopter. He also taught us the value of networking. His knowledge of people and his contacts around the state were invaluable to completing field projects. He always took care of the service providers, generously tipping or bringing a token of appreciation to those who helped.

Things are done differently in Alaska and Don frequently proved it to many Washington DC desk jockeys and similar types by taking them to the most remote, foul weathered, bug infested places in Alaska. Don was a great storyteller and could entertain for hours by sharing his adventures and those of others.



Don Blasko manning the helicopter fuel pump during RARE II field investigations, circa, 1979



Don Blasko (left) with Martin Conyac (right) in a field camp in the Brooks Range, undated

**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 four (24) who have each contributed \$1,000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampeder to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

The 98ers

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr. Earl H. Beistline (d) | John Mulligan (d) |
| Thomas K. Bundtzen | Patrick H. O'Neill (d) |
| Glen Chambers (d) | Elmer E. Rasmuson (d) |
| Douglas Colp (d) | Irving Stoy Reed (d) |
| Karen Erickson | William Stroecker (d) |
| Wendell Hammon Jr. | Teck Resources |
| Dr. Charles C. Hawley (d) | Dr. Robert H. Trent (d) |
| Dr. Walter Johnson | Mitch Usibelli |
| Wallace McGregor | Joe Usibelli, Sr. |
| Neil McKinnon | Candy Waugaman (d) |
| Tom Mein | Dr. William Wood (d) |
| James Moody (d) | Dr. Kenneth L. Zonge |

(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.

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

Karl Hanneman
Treasurer
626 Second St., Suite 201
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