

The PAYSTREAK

Volume 19, No. 1, Spring, 2018

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 'Minority' Pioneers of the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush Period



William T. Ewing was born in Missouri a slave, in 1854. In 1880, Ewing traveled throughout the country, and eventually moved to Tacoma, Washington, where he served with the Tacoma Police Department. In 1896, Ewing traveled north to Alaska and was at Circle just prior to the Klondike Gold Rush. In 1902 Ewing and mining partner Jesse Noble were prospecting in interior Alaska, when Felix Pedro made his gold discovery. Ewing teamed up with Daniel McCarty, who owned the Discovery Claim on Fairbanks Creek, and made a fortune in gold. He later retired to Oakland, California, and when he passed way in 1923, he willed his entire estate to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. His gravestone in Oakland states: "William T. Ewing, 1854-1923, a native of Missouri. His estate left to educate his people".



Kate Kennedy was the consummate stamper who traveled north with her husband, Charles, over Chilkoot Pass during the 1897 Klondike gold rush. She would briefly team up with AMHF inductee Fanny Quigley and set up cooking establishments for the mining community wherever needed. After spending more than 10 years in the Candle district of northwest Alaska, she stampered to Shushanna and Nizina gold fields in the Wrangell Mountains. Kate ended up in the copper boom town of McCarthy in 1912, where she ran boarding houses, kitchens, taxi companies, and practically any other business needed for the small isolated mining community for decades. She passed away in Oregon in 1969.



Eugene Swanson was reported to be the only consistently successful miner in the Rampart Mining District, according to a 1938 article published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. He was born in 1864 near Chicago, Illinois. He served as a Buffalo Soldier in the U.S. Army, arriving at Fort Wrangell, en-route to Skagway, Alaska where he served out the remaining part of his tour-of-duty. Like Ewing, he participated in the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush and mined in several mining districts throughout the Interior, finally settling on the Rampart district along the Yukon River, where he mined for decades. When he passed away in late 1942, an honor guard of black soldiers from the U.S. Army participated in his Fairbank's funeral.

Co-sponsored by the Alaska Miners Association
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)
Induction Ceremony, Wednesday, March 28th, 2018
Carlson Center, Fairbanks, Alaska

Program

The general public is invited to Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) induction ceremony from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday, March 28th, 2018. The induction ceremony will take place in the Carlson Center, Fairbanks, Alaska. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served.

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

Introduction by Tom Bundtzen, President AMHF----- 7:00-to-7:15 PM

Presentation of Inductees

Presentation of William T. Ewing, by Joan Skilbred----- 7:15-to-7:40 PM

Presentation of Kate Kennedy, by Patricia Garrett----- 7:40-to-8:05 PM

Presentation of Eugene Swanson by Joan Skilbred----- 8:05-to-8:30 PM

Coffee Break----- 8:30-to-8:45 PM

Recollections of Inductees from the Audience----- 8:45-to-9:00 PM

Adjournment----- 9:00 PM

Introduction and Acknowledgements

The March 28th, 2018 induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features three pioneers associated with the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush. Two were African American men, Eugene Swanson and William Ewing, traveled north to obtain riches and adventure. The third, Kate Kennedy, traveled north with her husband Charles; not to necessarily mine gold but to rather benefit from the economic side shows that always accompany a gold rush.

William T. Ewing began his life in Missouri in the year 1854 as a slave. After the Civil War, he was a quick study and established himself in several businesses, including real estate, and traveled extensively throughout the country. He eventually ended up in Tacoma Washington, where he started a homestead and later became employed with the Tacoma Police Department. The urge to participate in the last great gold rush of North America actually began before the Klondike discovery. Ewing was in Circle in early 1896 before that great strike was made. Later, he and partner Jesse Noble were prospecting in interior Alaska when Felix Pedro made his great discovery in what became the Fairbanks district in 1902. By partnering up with Dan McCarty on Fairbanks Creek, he became a rich man. Ewing eventually moved to Oakland, California, and when he died, left his entire estate to the Booker T. Washington Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Ewing's counterpart, Eugene Swanson, was born in 1864 in rural Illinois. In 1899, he enlisted as a Buffalo soldier in the U.S. infantry. After his discharge from the Army, Swanson traveled to the northern gold fields spending two years in the Klondike, where he acquired the skills as a gold miner. He later mined in the Nome district in the Alaska Territory, and eventually settled down in the Rampart district by 1904, a gold camp where he stayed until his death in 1942. A military honor guard participated in his funeral, which was arranged by his attorney, AMHF Inductee E. B. Collins.

Kate Kennedy symbolized a woman's participation in the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush. After stampeding north to Dawson with husband Charles, she managed to find her niche cooking for miners with each impending gold rush. Kate spent much time on the Seward Peninsula before finally settling down in the copper boom town of McCarthy, which serviced the Kennecott Copper Corporation operations in the Wrangell Mountains. She managed to operate a multitude of services needed by the local population of miners for their sustenance. Respected and well liked, Kate retired to Oregon, where she passed away in 1969.

Joan Skilbred of the Pioneers of Alaska wrote the biographic sketches of Ewing and Swanson. Patricia Garrett from the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum provided the biography of Kate Kennedy. Tom Bundtzen edited the biographic sketches, and created this *Paystreak* Newsletter.

News From the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation

2017 Museum Operational Notes

- In 2017, 1,591 visitors came through the doors of the AMHF Museum compared to 1,501 visitors in 2016. In 2017, visitors from 29 US states and 16 foreign countries visited the museum.
- Visitor hours were 11AM-5PM, six days a week, May 20-September 15. We counted 958 in 2016 compared to 788 in 2017, a significant reduction of 20 percent. In contrast, the number of people attending scheduled evening events at the Museum moved upward from 543 in 2016 to 803 in 2017, an increase of 47 percent. This increase of attendance at scheduled evening events is why the AMHF experienced a modest net gain in overall museum attendance for the year.
- The AMHF continued the popular ‘Wednesday Evening Lecture Series’ at the museum during 2017, when eight (8) presentations were given by local and international historians. The Fairbanks Branch of the Alaska Miners Association held five (5) morning meetings at the museum. The Fairbanks Genealogical Society held three. The Colorado-based Mining History Association (MHA) held a reception during June at the museum; 118 attended—a record for the facility. The MHA reception was co-sponsored by Pacific Rim Geological Consulting and Avalon Development Corporation. Two authors presented book launches at the museum: 1) Patricia Sandberg’s *Sundog and Yellowcake*; and 2) Rose Rybachek’s *Mining for Alaskan Adventures Volume I and II*.

Helping to Celebrate the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Alaska Purchase

Using AMHF archived information and his own research, AMHF President Tom Bundtzen presented: *Mineral Resource Development Prior to the 1867 Alaska Purchase* during History Night at the 2017 Annual Convention of the Alaska Miners Association in Anchorage. The presentation coincides with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska from the Russian Empire by the United States. Research for the lecture included a visit to the Russian Geographic Society and the Russian Museum of Ethnology and History, both in St. Petersburg, Russia, to gather information. A peer reviewed article authored by Bundtzen has been accepted for publication and will be added to the AMHF website soon.

AMHF Looking for a New Home

As this newsletter goes to press, we have found out that the Museum facility at 825 1st Avenue in Fairbanks that houses the collections of the AMHF has been sold. We are to vacate the facility by April 30th, 2018. The AMHF has been inducting pioneers for the last 21 years at such venues as Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, and Nome. For the last 4 years, many inductions have taken place at the Fairbanks museum facility. Firstly, we want to thank all of our volunteers and helpers for their support during the operations of the Fairbanks museum facility. After the Spring Mining Conference in Fairbanks, the Board of the AMHF will be searching for a new home. Please stay in touch.



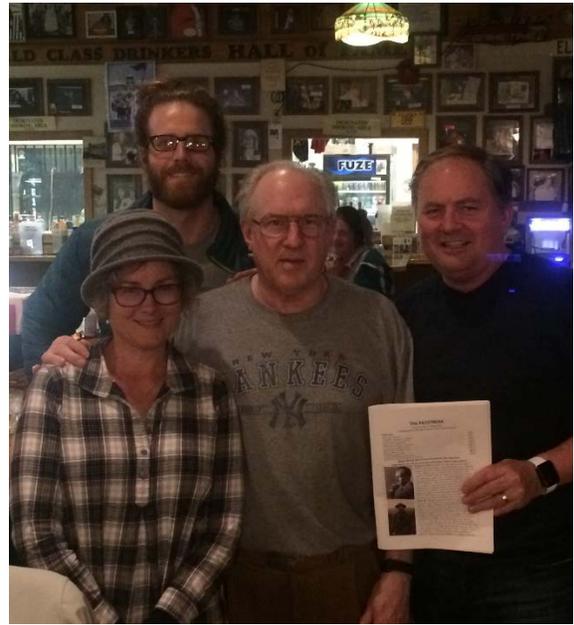
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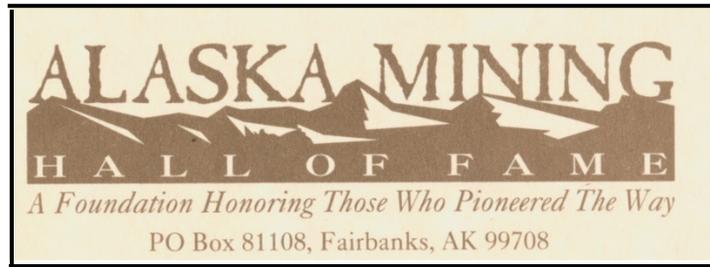


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Scenes from the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame 2017 activities: A-- Well-known Anchorage historian Rolf Buzzell chats with other Mining History Association attendees at the June 15, 2017 reception; B-- Gay Ellen Heath caters to the Mining History Association reception on June 15, 2017; C—Museum supporter Jim Baldrige contemplates the biographic sketches of AMHF inductees from the Kennecott Copper Corporation period; and D--Ivory Jacks Restaurant owner Dick Ellsworth poses with AMHF Newsletter. During 2014-2017, Ivory Jacks generated significant gaming income for the AMHF through the sale of Pull Tabs.



Contributions

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation is funded through donations of money, time and effort, and through sales at this Museum. 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

The museum opening and continued operations have thus far been made possible from various income sources acquired by the AMHF—a non-profit organization. Donations are graciously accepted. The AMHF would like to acknowledge individuals and organizations that have made financial contributions to the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation. These generous donations allow us to publish the *Paystreak* Newsletter, maintain this website, organize and carry out induction ceremonies Statewide, and especially pay for the expenses of the AMHF Museum in Fairbanks, which has been leased from a private owner for several years but ending now. Contributions allow the AMHF Foundation to plan for future plans, including a site relocation of the museum, and acquisition of materials.

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—who all passed away in 2015. 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. Karen Erickson became our newest '98'er in 2016. Included below are those that have contributed to 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	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	Gold	General	2015
Alaska Women in Mining	Gold	General	2015
Brian Rogers and 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
Karen Lapp	Copper	General	2015
Jeff Lapp	Copper	General	2015
William Groom	Copper	General	2015
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2015
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2015
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2015
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2015
John Cook	Copper	General	2015
Daniel Graham	Copper	General	2015
Six Anonymous	Silver	General	2015
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2015
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2016

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
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
Matt Hansen	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 ⁽¹⁾	Platinum	General	2016
Richard E. Wagner	Copper	General	2016
Harold Noyes	Gold	General	2016
Leslie Noyes	Silver	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	Copper	General	2016
Debbie and Jeff Johnson	Silver	In Memory of Walter 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	Gold	General	2016
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2017
Patrick Dolphin	Copper	General	2017
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	Gold	General	2017

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Fairbanks Branch, Alaska Miners Association	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

(1) Also listed as a 98er in back of newsletter

A majority of donations at the copper and silver levels are from the State of Alaska Pick-Click-Give Program. Gold and Platinum levels generally constitute separate contributions. The 2018 donations list is current as of March 15, 2018. Bolded years are new listings not included in our last Newsletter.

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.

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

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-Athabascan prospector who discovered Rampart district.

Felix Pedro: Discoverer of Fairbanks district in 1902.

Nome, Summer 1998

Induction Ceremony Honoring Pioneers of Nome Gold Rush

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

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

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

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

Juneau, Spring, 1999

Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Juneau District

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 1999

Induction Ceremony Honoring Mining Pioneers of Southern/Southwest Alaska

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

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

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

Fairbanks, Spring 2000

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early 20th Century Interior Pioneers

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

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

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

Juneau, Spring 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Government Role in Mining

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

Fairbanks, Summer, 2001

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

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

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Flat District

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

Fairbanks, Spring 2002

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

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

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

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 2002

Induction Ceremony Honoring Immigrant Pioneers

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

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

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

Fairbanks, Summer 2003

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 2003

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

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

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

Fairbanks, Spring 2004

Honoring Early Pioneers Associated with USSR&M Dredge Fleet

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

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

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

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 2004

Honoring Those in the Mining Legal Profession,

In Cooperation with the History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 2005

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

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

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

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

Fairbanks, Spring 2006

Honoring Two Pioneers Important to both Canadian and American Mining Communities

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

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

Juneau, Summer 2006

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 2006

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

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

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

Juneau, Spring 2007

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

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

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

Fairbanks, Summer 2007

Honoring Two of Alaska's Outstanding Mine Educators

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

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

Anchorage, Fall 2007

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

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

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

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

Fairbanks, Spring 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fairbanks, Spring, 2010

Honoring two-civic-minded 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 Tweiten: 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 in Alaska and Yukon Territory.

Donald Cook: An Oregon-born graduate of the University of Alaska, who pursued career in education.

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 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 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 provides 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 Tailleur 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; 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, earth science manager, and photographer.



William T. Ewing; from Oakland Tribune
January 17, 1912

William T. Ewing (1854-1923)

William T. Ewing was "one of the richest miners in the North," according to a newspaper article published by the Dawson Daily News in September 1908. He was "*known all the way from California to Nome and the Klondike as "Bill Ewing" the man of pluck and luck.*"

He was born into slavery to his parents David and Maranda Ewing in August of 1854 at Keytesville, Missouri. It is probable that the family took the last name of the slave owner William Nathaniel Ewing, to whom William T. Ewing's family belonged or was associated with in some other way. Just prior to the Civil War, William Nathaniel Ewing went to college, took many business courses and had an interest in the mining industry. No doubt William T. Ewing acquired some of this business knowledge from his white owner.

By 1880, he had moved to Des Moines, Iowa,

where he worked as a servant for Ebenezer J. Ingersoll of the Hawkeye Insurance Company. This job took him on travels with Mr. Ingersoll along the East Coast and as far south as Florida. was here that Bill Ewing further honed the business skills that would capacitate him to acquire a fortune later in his life.

In 1887, Ewing headed West, to Tacoma, Washington. While there he took up homesteading and secured a patent to a ¼ section located in nearby King County in 1890. Over the next few years, he worked several menial jobs until he found employment within the Tacoma Police Department, where one of his duties was driving the horse drawn paddy wagon. However, Tacoma did not offer the kind of opportunity Bill Ewing was seeking, so early in 1896 he left Tacoma and headed North in hopes of securing a better financial future.

He arrived in Alaska in March 1896 and by the fall, he was at Circle City on the Yukon River. This was right before the big Klondike gold strike. When the big news came downriver, Ewing joined many other miners and made his way to the fabulous new diggings. During his time there he mined on Bonanza, Hunker and several other creeks, as well as owning several mining claims within the Klondike mining district. His mining efforts were successful enough to afford a trip back to his Tacoma property in 1897 for a visit, then returning to the Yukon in 1898.

When news of the Nome strike hit Dawson, Ewing joined the great stampede to the new gold fields on the Seward Peninsula. He travelled over 1,200 miles by dog team, arriving there in April of 1900. Nome however, was not to his financial liking, so he returned to Tacoma by the fall of that same year.

The following spring Bill Ewing travelled back to Alaska and engaged in a mining partnership with Jesse Noble. They went to the Delta River country and built one of the first cabins in that area.

For the next couple of years, they prospected and mined in and around the Chesna Glacier, primarily focusing their efforts on Slate Creek. They arrived at Fairbanks in 1903 by coming down the Tanana River to investigate the promising ground located in the hills north of the new camp on the Chena River.

It was in Fairbanks that Bill Ewing finally achieved the financial success he was looking for. At that time, Fairbanks had a lot of men with more arriving daily, but few had any capital. The Fairbanks miners desperately sought monetary investment to purchase the winches, boilers and other equipment needed to drift mine the rich gold-laden paystreaks of the Fairbanks District. Many claim owners sat on millions of dollars of untapped pay, but could not get it out of the ground because they lacked the money for the equipment to accomplish the task. One of these impoverished claim owners was Daniel A. McCarty.

McCarty owned Discovery Claim on Fairbanks Creek which he staked on September 12, 1902. One year later, on September 10, 1903, he commenced work by sinking a prospect shaft on the lower end of the claim with his wife Sarah. They were living in small cabin they had built, had little food, and they were out of money. The prospect shaft showed six feet of pay that averaged about 2 ½ cents to the pan at an assay value of about \$17.00 per ounce. However, the McCarty's did not have the means to develop the prospect themselves, so it sat idle until December 1903. According to testimony given later in a court case, D. A. McCarty stated that he offered fifty percent to any man who would work with him that season. William Ewing not only took McCarty up on the offer, but he also possessed the needed capital to purchase provisions and the equipment to mine the claim, thus providing McCarty a grubstake in addition to the 50% business agreement. Ewing was one of the very few men in the Tanana

District who possessed any monetary reserves in 1903.

Beginning December 22, 1903, McCarty & Ewing, with the help of two hired hands, worked within twenty feet of the boundary line on the lower end of the Fairbanks Creek Discovery Claim, completing their drifting operations by April 17, 1904. They had worked ninety days, and Ewing's share of the profits amounted to \$40,000. In June of 1904, the Chena Herald noted that one cleanup from their winter dump netted 200 ounces in 2 ½ days of sluicing. Several years later, in an interview he did for the Oakland Tribune in 1912, Ewing described McCarty as *"an upright Alaskan, to whom he has always merited appreciation and retained a close friendship."*

When the gold started rolling into Ewing's pokes, he took his profits and purchased several empty lots in the new city of Fairbanks, which he sold several months later at a large profit. It was at this time that he began to apply the valuable business knowledge he had absorbed from his younger days. Ewing also purchased Alaskan mining claims and association interests in mining claims. He was well on his way to making his fortune.

Ewing left Fairbanks in the fall of 1904 and went back to Tacoma for a while, and then on to Oakland, California where he invested in more real estate. He purchased several properties in the city on Telegraph Avenue, Chestnut Street, West Oakland, and along Foothill Boulevard. Ewing also made further investments in mining and industrial propositions as well.

By the early 1920's Ewing was the president of the Trinity Mining Company located in Trinity County, California. All these investments gave him the financial security needed to live out the rest of his days comfortably on the ranch he purchased for himself near Hayward, California.

In January of 1912, the Oakland Tribune described him in an article about his remarkable life:

“Mr. Ewing is an exceptional example of his race, and his standing in the commercial world is of the highest. His remarkable success in life is due to his indomitable pluck and perseverance, his conscientious and conservative business policy, backed by a naturally faculty of financiering. Personally, he is a genial gentleman, ever faithful to a friend, and his word is as good as his bond. By his uniform courteous treatment to everybody, and his innate faculty of making and retaining friends, Bill Ewing has the reputation of having more friends in Alaska than any other man during his residence in that territory.”

When William T. Ewing passed away on April 18, 1923, he had no heirs and his estate was valued at \$100,000. In his will he left the entire estate to the Booker T. Washington Institute at Tuskegee, Alabama for the betterment of his race.

(The Booker T. Washington Institute or University is also known today as the Tuskegee Institute or University. Also, newspaper reports conflict about his total net worth, The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner estimated that it was \$150,000.)

The will was contested by his cousin and a woman who claimed to be engaged to Ewing at the time of his death. The engagement claim was later dismissed by the court due to a lack of evidence, and the cousin made a financial settlement with the trustees of the Tuskegee Institute for part of the estate proceeds in October of 1923.

William T. Ewing’s remains were laid to rest in Oakland’s Mountain View Cemetery in plot no. 52. There is a large masonry monument engraved with the name Ewing. There is also a gold pan and crossed pick & shovel to indicate he was a miner to the right of his name. On the other side of his name is a Maltese cross,

which is a symbol associated with the Civil War.

In front of this large monument is a smaller grave marker that states:

“William T. Ewing, b. 1854 – d. 1923, a native of Missouri, His estate left to educate his people.”

Ewing’s contribution to mining history is remarkable because his hard work and business acumen had put him in a position to seize opportunity when it came to him on Fairbanks Creek in 1903. He was one of the rare miners that left here with wealth that was not squandered or lost over the years that followed his initial luck. He also continued to be involved in mining ventures & real estate in Alaska, Washington and California until his death in 1923.

The fact that he had the desire to leave his entire estate to education for the betterment of his race rather than bestowing it upon a few individuals is indicative of his admirable progressive intellect. It also shows that because of William T. Ewing’s endowment, Fairbanks Creek gold was the source of the fortune that helped to build the Booker T. Washington University/Tuskegee Institute into the modern world class university it is today.

By Joan Skilbred, 2018

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Bureau of Land Management

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**The grave stone of William T. Ewing, in Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery, Plot #52, which states:
*"William T. Ewing, b. 1854 – d. 1923, a native of Missouri, His estate left to educate his people".***



**Kate Kennedy undated in Oregon
From Patricia Garrett files**

**Kate Kennedy
(1882-1969)**

Kate Kennedy lived for nearly three decades in the copper mining boomtown of McCarthy, Alaska. Her home was four miles from the mill to which the Kennecott mines would feed copper ore for the Kennecott Copper Corporation for 27 years. Her hotel and dining hall in McCarthy was within sight and easy walking distance from the Copper River and Northwestern (CR&NW) Railroad depot and turnaround yard. In the early 20th Century, Kate Kennedy, a divorced woman, became the largest property owner in the Chitina Valley and McCarthy's best known entrepreneur.

Kennedy's origins are sketchy. She was born in Utah. Her mother was from Utah and her father was from Missouri. Kate's maiden name is, at this time, unknown.

By the time Kate ascended Chilkoot Pass in July, 1898 to travel to the Klondike goldfields, she was 16 years old and married to Charles J. Kennedy.

Noted Canadian author Pierre Burton described the Chilkoot Trail in *The Klondike Quest: A Photographic Essay*. According to Burton, one million people made plans to stampede into the Klondike. About one hundred thousand actually set off, heading north on overloaded steamers packed with people, horses, dogs, goats, pigs, and miscellaneous freight. Many planned to buy gear in Dawson and find gold. For months, interior river valleys were said to resemble anthills (Berton, 1983, 1987). About 30,000 adventure seekers eventually made it to Dawson.

On the Chilkoot Trail, travelers were required to carry or have packers carry adequate supplies for one year per person. This often equated to about one ton of supplies or about 30-40 pack loads up the steep pass. The barest necessities became luxuries as a continuous line of climbers draped across the white-washed slopes.

Approximately one fifth of the gold seekers were women. Kate traveled to Dawson, Canada the same year as Martha Loiuise Black, who would become the 'first lady' of the Yukon. Martha and Kate reached the Klondike about one year after AMHF Inductee Fanny Quigley, a freight and round house operator best known for her future exploits in the Kantishna Mining district in Alaska.



**Chilkoot Trail, circa 1898 Photo Credit: McCord
Museum, California.**

Both Kate and Fanny operated primitive roadhouses near one another on Hunker Creek outside of Dawson.



Hunker Creek, Yukon, 1898, where AMHF inductees Kate Kennedy and Fanny Quigley operated kitchens for stampeding miners. Photo credit: Klondike Archives.

“By mid-summer, 1899, word of gold on the beaches of Nome emptied Dawson City” (Berton, 1987). Kate and Charles left Hunker Creek in the Yukon and traveled down the Yukon River and on to Nome. From there, they would continue onto Candle, a newly discovered mining district in the northeast corner of the Seward Peninsula. Candle would become well known for a dog mushing race known as the *All Alaska Sweepstakes* that covered over 400 miles from Nome to Candle and then back to Nome. This dog race, first undertaken in 1907, featured such famous mushers as Leonhard Seppala and Scotty Allen; and more recently, Rick Swenson and Mitch Seavey. Some of Kate’s dogs (she was a dog musher), including Whiskey, came from mushing stock from this race.

By 1909, Candle had a population of approximately 900. The 1910 Census reveals that Kate had nine boarders. Her husband worked as a miner, then a merchant, and he had political dreams. Both Kennedys invested in mining opportunities throughout the Seward Peninsula, including in the Cape Nome mining district.



Candle Alaska in 1909 shortly after discovery. Photo Credit: UAF Juke Box.

Hudson Stuck, the Archdeacon of the Episcopal Church of Alaska and Yukon, Canada, visited Candle by dog sled between 1910 and 1913. His diaries report that *assignments* took place in Kate’s boarding rooms. The term *assignment* refers to the role of a brothel’s madam in arranging for customers to meet with prostitutes. Kennedy was repeatedly accused of *assignments* during her tenure in McCarthy.

It is unclear how long she lived in the Candle mining district. But by 1914, she was residing in both Blackburn and McCarthy in the Chitina valley of the Wrangell Mountains. She had stampeded into the Wrangell Mountains during the 1912 Shushanna (aka Chisana) gold rush, which pulled in stampedees from across the Territory, including Fairbanks.

In 1912, Charles Kennedy, Kate’s husband, was elected to the first Alaska Territorial Legislature. He set a time record mushing his dog team from Candle to Juneau to attend the first Legislative session that began in January, 2013. In his first year, Kennedy voted for an 8-hour-work day for women working in laundries and wrote an amendment that would allow felons out on bail.

In 1914, Charles and Kate Kennedy were divorced in Seattle. Court documents indicate that Kate was awarded \$60/month in alimony. Regardless of the terms of the marital split, Kate showed up in McCarthy with more-than-adequate start-up funds to begin her many business enterprises.

Blackburn and McCarthy were small interior mining towns nestled in the Wrangell-St. Elias Mountain ranges. Less than one mile apart, they fought over which community would dominate for the mining company business. After the Copper River and Northwest (CR&NW) Railroad built a depot and rail yard in McCarthy, it became clear which community would win. McCarthy soon became filled with freight haulers, railroad men, road builders, bridge builders, big game hunters, adventurers, surveyors, miners, merchants, drifters, drunks, and dreamers. Many of these characters had already spent time in Dawson, Nome, Fairbanks, and other frontier Alaskan mining camps. Kate was no exception.

After running boarding houses near Dawson and in Candle, Kate knew that, with McCarthy's interior location, with its vegetable gardens, chicken houses, dairies, good drinking water and railroad to the coast, her work would be much easier than where she operated businesses in Dawson or Candle, north of the Arctic Circle.

The Seward Peninsula placer mining camps were serviced with freight from Nome, and interior Alaska districts like the Klondike and Fairbanks were serviced with river steamers. But the freight for these areas was only seasonally provided and at great expense. In contrast, McCarthy was a one day trip by railroad to the year-round ocean port of Cordova.



Kate Kennedy standing near the center of the photo, with her husband and Alaska Territorial Legislator Charles Kennedy with dog in front of her in Blackburn, then the rival community of McCarthy. Circa 1913. Photo Credit: McCarthy Kennicott Historical Museum.

Thus McCarthy was the ideal locale for Kate to build her hotel, home brewing facility, card rooms, and boarding units. She built a five bedroom log cabin with in indoor bathhouse. The log cabin burned down in 1920. Kate then moved her

business to *The Alaska House*, a large hotel and dining room on Shushanna Avenue, which became the commercial heart of downtown McCarthy.

Kate partnered with Sig and Marge Wold to run a taxi business. First using dog teams and later cars, they ferried workers from bone-dry Kennecott mine and mill town, where abstention was strictly enforced, to McCarthy to spend their money and leisure time.



From left to right Sig Wold, three ‘Kennecott kids’, and Kate Kennedy at ‘Alaska House’, circa 1920s. Photo Credit: McCarthy Kennicott Museum

Kate and Sig guaranteed the miners would make their shift on time. Kate also partnered with the local sheriff, Jack Reynolds. He left the jail house door unlocked. Miners could sleep it off in the warm jail and not freeze out in a snow bank. That also meant that it was also easier for miners to be picked up by a taxi cab driver.

According to some sources, Kate had prostitutes working for her in McCarthy. She allowed no drunks or violence, and she demanded that women under her employment be clean and stay healthy. She brought her sister to McCarthy to work as a semstress so that woman could dress fashionably. Her friend, Alvina Shultz, had a dress

shop in McCarthy. Previously, Alvina had been a chorus girl in Chicago and she was known for her love of exotic furs. Alvina’s store ads boasted: *“if you saw it in San Francisco, you can buy it here”*. Her husband, Henry Shultz, was a mining engineer and an investor.

Kate knew that Alaskan Mining Law restricted mine employment to an eight hour work day and that Kennecott Copper Corporation ran three eight hour shifts per day, seven days a week. The miners had spare time to spend money. She provided a setting to lonely workers that was clean, comfortable, and safe.

Her cooking was good and her dining hall was favored by locals and visitors alike. The staff at the Kennecott mines looked forward to spending time with Kate. She was a gracious hostess and had a following. The young nurses, teachers, and office workers wrote in their notebooks: *“going to Kate’s by dog team for tea. Had a lovely time and look forward to going again.”* (Nell, Stenographer, Kennecott Copper Corporation, undated).

During one of her arrests for *“lewd behavior”*, the crime for alcohol violations during prohibition, the Marshall reported Kate’s place: *“possessing a teapot smelling of alcohol and a half-empty bottle of alcohol sitting close by”*. The arrest further states: *“She was using a teapot to serve alcohol”*. During the 1920s, Kate’s Alaska House was a territorial speakeasy in a rich mining boomtown. She provided an escape from the isolation, homesickness, and severe weather conditions of interior Alaska. Her Victrola played the latest clay records. Wallpaper and linoleum were tasteful, and the town’s laundry provided clean aprons, table clothes, and towels.

Kate help miners down on their luck, especially old men that she had been with in the Klondike and Candle districts. She helped with financial backing for the Bremner mine after Pete Bremner first started it’s development.

Kate Kennedy generously supported fund drives for the Armenian orphans and the Red Cross during WWI and she supported the grade school in McCarthy. Although she lacked a formal education, she was literate and strongly believed in education. She was very fond of children, giving them treats whenever they visited. *"Oh our moms didn't care when we visited Kate. She was a nice lady and she gave us ice cream"*. (Ingar Ricci, a 'Kennecott Kid', undated). Another 'Kennecott Kid', Jeanne Moore-Morris, wrote that both of her parents liked Kate. *"They never had a bad word to say about her"*.



Kate Kennedy holding Molly Gilmore in front of the Alaska House, circa 1920s. Photo Credit: McCarthy Kennicott Museum

Kate liked dogs. Her favorite sled dog, Whiskey, came with her to McCarthy from Candle. Whiskey is buried at McCarthy at the dog cemetery; his grave is cared for today by locals who still know Kate's story.

Without women like Kate in frontier Alaska, it would have been more difficult for the people coming north for riches or for needed change in their lives. She started out with a humble roadhouse on Hunker Creek in the Yukon and and expanded her boarding capabilities in the

Candle district northeast of Nome.

When she arrived in 'metropolitan' McCarthy, she greatly expanded her lodging capabilities at the 'Alaska House' to include a dining room, a billiard room, card rooms, and a roulette table. Of course, she made whiskey and was involved allegedly in, as Hudson Stuck would say, *assignations* in her boarding rooms. Sig and Marge Wold and Kate provided for nearly all taxi services in the community.

Kate did constantly complain about the high freight prices that she paid to the CR&NW Railroad but never stopped using the valuable transportation service.

Kate appreciated the latest innovations and bought the latest DELCO generator in November, 1923. (McCarthy was not on the Kennecott electric grid). She invited folks over to look at the generator and moved structures closer to the wired-up Alaska House, including her home, so that she and others could enjoy the luxury of electricity.

It is often said in describing Alaska's Mining History that people liked Kate "mined the miners". Of course she did. Yet the benefits that she made available—providing comfort to those far from home more than justified the economic benefits that she obviously obtained. It is likely that Kennecott Copper Corporation would have had a harder time keeping people in the camp without the amenities provide by Kate. Some have said that the company actually subsidized her activities, but that can't be verified. It is well known throughout the We that mining firms tolerated prostitution, bootlegging, alcohol, and gambling in adjacent communities in order to keep men on the payroll.

Kennecott Copper Corporation finally stopped Alaskan production in 1938. In truth, making a go of a copper mine during the 1930s was difficult because of the low copper prices experienced during the Great Depression.

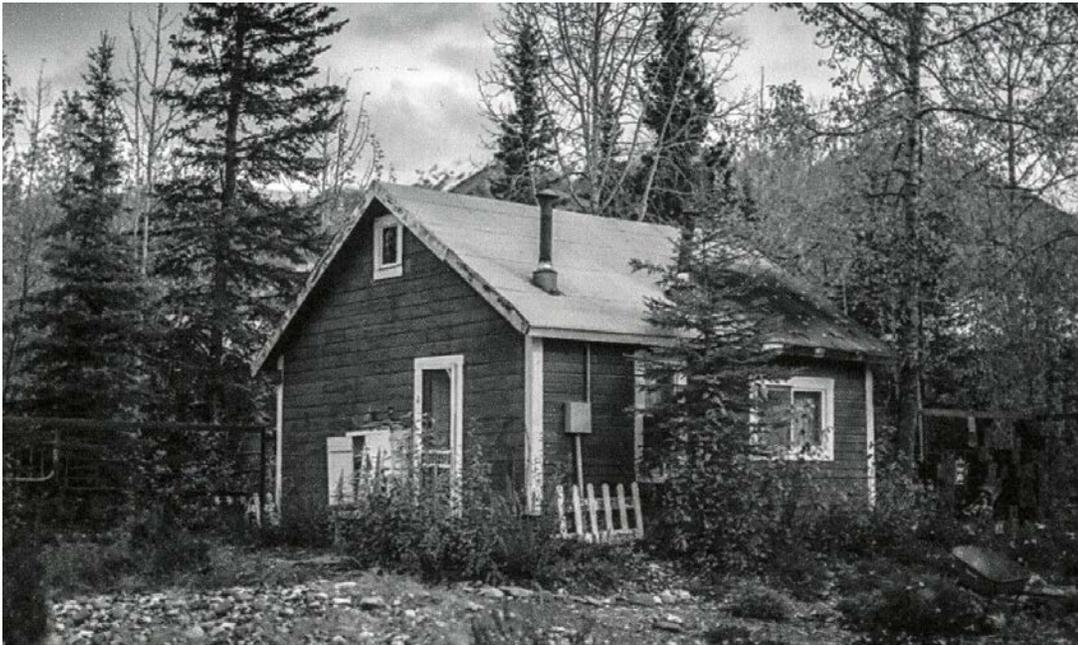
The pullout of the CR&NW Railroad began in late 1938 and was completed by late 1939. Kate's remarkable journey in the North was slowing down. She arrived in the 'copper country' in part by dog sled in 1912 and was flown out of McCarthy in 1938 to Chitina by the famed bush pilot Mud Hole Smith. From there, she boarded a Richardson Highway coach and traveled to Fairbanks to visit Sig and Marge Wold, her old business partners. The trip to Fairbanks took three days and you had to get out and push if necessary.

Then this unstoppable woman, who climbed Chilkoot Pass in 1898, moved to Oregon.

Kate's business center, The Alaska House, burned to the ground in 1940. She did not return to McCarthy. A McCarthy woman contacted her in the 1960s and asked about her years in McCarthy. Kate replied: "*Oh McCarthy, that was a long time ago. I don't want to think about it right now*".

Kate Kennedy passed away in Salem Oregon in 1969.

By Patricia Garrett 2018



Kate Kennedy's house in McCarthy, built in 1921 and moved to its present location in 1924. Photo by Paul Scannell, Dublin, Ireland, September, 2016.

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Eugene Swanson, from Fairbanks Daily News Miner, 1938

Eugene Swanson (1864-1943)

Eugene E. Swanson was reported to be the only consistently successful miner in the Rampart Mining District, according to a 1938 article published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. This achievement was the result of a lot of hard work and years of self-directed learning by reading everything he could on geology, mining engineering, and psychology from the extensive library he built for himself over the forty-plus years he resided in the Rampart area. It was said that he was one of the last mining men who were expert in the old ways of mining engineering prior to the advent of modern heavy machinery.

The details of Swanson's early life are a bit sketchy, with conflicting information in official records. In most records, he said he was born in December 1864 near Chicago, Illinois. However, in 1899, when he enlisted in the United States Army at Chattanooga, Tennessee, he said that he was born in 1873 at Rockford, Alabama.

Swanson said his father was a Baptist minister and a teamster. After the Civil War, his family was engaged in sharecropping, and they ended up living in the Chicago area while Eugene was still a boy. Swanson was consistent in his statements that his last name was taken from the owner of the plantation his family lived at and that he was born to a slave.

Swanson signed up for a three-year enlistment in the United States Army on April 10, 1899 and was assigned to the 24th Infantry, Company L, which is also known as the "Buffalo Soldiers," a famous regiment of black soldiers. At that time, he listed his occupation as being a painter. His physical description stated he was 5'11" tall, with black hair, brown eyes, and a light complexion.

One month after his enlistment, he arrived at Fort Wrangell in May 1899, on his way to his duty station at Skagway, where he served out the rest of his term. According to his official Army records, he was discharged with the rank of Corporal on April 9, 1902, at the end of his enlistment with an excellent service record.

In a later newspaper interview, Swanson stated that he was in Alaska prior to his military service. He also said he had enlisted at Seattle and served in the 9th Calvary. Those statements do not match the official information found in his service records. It is unclear why Swanson gave conflicting information regarding his life prior to his arrival at Rampart.

After his Army discharge, he went North to the Klondike, where he worked as a teamster for a couple of years. On October 19, 1903, he notified the Dawson City Post Office to forward any mail addressed to him to the Rampart Post Office. Swanson later stated in a 1942 newspaper article that after he left Skagway he went to Dawson for a couple of

years, then tried Nome for a short time, and ended up settling at Rampart in 1904.

By 1910, Swanson was married and had a daughter named Gracie who was born in Rampart. His wife was Amelia Buckworth, a widow that he met during his Army days in Skagway. Gracie grew up in Rampart and after she got married, she moved to Bethel, Alaska with her husband whose last name was Riley.

Together Eugene and Amelia Swanson owned several mining claims or interests in mining claims in the Rampart District during the teens and twenties. Some of the creeks they prospected and mined on were Little Minook Jr., Chapman and Hunter Creeks. During the mid-teens, Swanson had also secured a mail contract to deliver mail between Fairbanks and several Tanana and Yukon river communities, including Rampart, by dog-team.

It was while mining on Hunter Creek during 1920's and 1930's, that Eugene made a name for himself by running the most successful operation in the district. He mined the old pioneer way, by drifting, and using flumes and ditching, instead of relying on a lot of heavy equipment. Swanson stated that the key to successful placer mining was in careful prospecting, which would focus only on ground that payed at a profitable rate and not wasting time and money on lower grade dirt. Drift mining is the ideal method for implementing that philosophy.

By 1938 the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported that Swanson had the largest mining operation in the Rampart District, which employed a five-man crew that consisted of John Evans, Arthur Mayo, Will Woods, Bill Burke, Theodore Harwood and Katherine Evans as the cook.

A few years after the death of his wife Amelia, Swanson married Alice Graves in Fairbanks on January 17, 1935. In the fever of his new-found

affections, Eugene deeded ½ of his mining claims to Alice, who also worked as a cook for the mine. They were No. 14, 15, 16, 24, 25, and 26 above Discovery on Hunter Creek.

It was a short-lived marriage that ended when she abandoned him and left for Seattle in 1936. A couple of years later, Alice sued Eugene for ½ of the profits from the Hunter Creek mine. According to the court records the case was dismissed in 1939.

In the summer of 1939, Eugene Swanson ran a six-man crew on Hunter Creek. He was in his late seventies and it was to be the last sluicing season of his mining career. When the season ended, Swanson, along with his friend Estella Harris, relocated to prospect ground on Hess Creek in the Livengood District from late 1939 and into 1940.

After that Eugene Swanson moved to Fairbanks when his health began to fail due to cancer. While living his remaining days in Fairbanks, he put his affairs in order by drafting a last will & testament stating that he was leaving \$1 to his ex-wife, Estella and \$100 each to his three grandchildren residing in Bethel, from his deceased daughter Gracie Riley. The rest of his estate would go to his friend, Estelle Harris who, by that time, was living in Kodiak. In 1941 the Hunter Creek holdings were to be liquidated according to an advertised Marshal's sale notice published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

Swanson appointed AMHF Inductee E. B. Collins as executor of his estate. Collins, a former mayor of Fairbanks at the time, was also a respected miner and lawyer who served in the First Territorial Legislature as Speaker of the House in 1913 and much later, as a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention during the 1950s.

Eugene Swanson succumbed to cancer on December 30, 1942 at the age of 78. His

funeral was conducted by the Veterans of Foreign War. The funeral notice published in the newspaper said that *“Six Negro soldiers were pallbearers and gave a military flavor to the services.”* Swanson’s final resting place is in the old Fairbanks Cemetery located along Clay Street.

In the several newspaper articles that were published about Eugene Swanson, it was reported that he was a congenial man who was well liked by everyone, and that he always had a positive outlook on life. It can also be said that he was a diligent worker who reaped the many rewards of his efforts mining on Hunter Creek, where he lived the quiet and contented life of an old-time Alaskan miner.

By Joan Skilbred, 2018

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Mining Claim location notices for Rampart Mining District

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

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