

# The Alaskan Philatelist

The Journal of the Alaska Collectors Club • American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 218



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The Journal of the Alaska Collectors Club

ISSN #1096-5963

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## AWARDS

Colopex 2000—Silver-Bronze  
Colopex 2002—Silver-Bronze  
STaMpsHOW 03—Silver-Bronze





#### **HELP WANTED**

I am looking for information about the Anchorage Contract Station 11. I never found anything about it and I do have the numbers 10 and 12 and the existence of Number 11 is then logical. Dirk van Gelderen, Voorkade 74, 2771 ZB Boskoop, Netherlands. Email [c.esveld@tip.nl](mailto:c.esveld@tip.nl).

#### **WANTED**

Any old postal cards or covers from the Chitna, McCarthy, Kennecott area, 1890 - 1950. Please send list to: Thomas Kinzer, P.O. Box 107, Chitna, AK 99566-0107.

#### **HELP WANTED**

I am looking for mint and used postcards depicting ALASKA LIGHTHOUSES. Russell Bartlett, 5 Saint Clare Street, Braintree, MA 02184-8239.

#### **HELP WANTED**

We are looking for covers and other information on Wells Fargo & Company in Alaska during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We are specifically looking for any information on the location and history of the various offices in Alaska. George Hall, 13124 Stephenson, Anchorage, AK 99515.

#### **WANTED**

Any era postal cards (government preprinted stamps, not picture) used in Alaska. No philatelic, please. Don Glickstein, 1300 University St. #9G, Seattle, WA 98101. Email: [glickwolf@earthlink.net](mailto:glickwolf@earthlink.net).

#### **WANTED**

Censored civilian mail from Alaska and Western Canada from World War II. Eric Knapp, 4201 Folker Street, Unit C102, Anchorage, AK 99508. Email: [eknapp@gci.com](mailto:eknapp@gci.com).

### **TAP Deadlines**

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
<b>1st Quarter .....</b>	<b>February 1</b>
<b>2nd Quarter .....</b>	<b>May 1</b>
<b>3rd Quarter .....</b>	<b>August 1</b>
<b>4th Quarter .....</b>	<b>November 1</b>

## **Alaska Philatelic Cover Catalog Volume 1 & 2**

Volume 2 of the Alaska Philatelic Cover Catalog, covering the Alaska Collectors Club, the Gastineau Philatelic Society and the Northern Lights Stamp Club is now available.

The catalog features illustrations of all major and minor covers issued by the three clubs.

The catalog is 8 ½ x 11 loose-leaf format punched for a three ring binder.

Prices:

Volume 2:

\$25.00

Volume 1, Revised Edition:

\$25.00

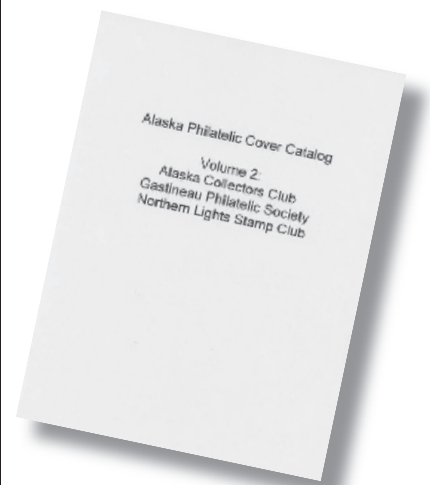
Original Volume 1 Update:

\$3.00

(All prices are postpaid)

For orders or more information, contact:

Eric Knapp  
4201 Folker St., Unit C102  
Anchorage, AK 99508



# President's Message

by Jim Zuelow (jimzuelow@aol.com)

Due to various reasons, our basic Alaska Collectors' Club website is still not ready. Please let me know if you would like to have the site include any particular links, or have any ideas you may not have previously communicated to me.

Frequently, when I go to stamp shows, antique stores, etc. and ask to see their Alaska material, I'm told it's a popular area and so the stock is limited. Of course, I also occasionally meet a dealer with lots of Alaskan stock who charges \$10.00 for an item that typically sells for \$1.00 or so in one of our ACC auctions! Probably like many of you, I also keep abreast of what is being offered on various websites, including e-Bay.

On December 9, 2004, I decided to check out the relative popularity of Alaskan postal history and stamps on e-Bay, as judged by the number of current offerings, with that of the other states. The results, I think, will interest you --- and keep in mind that only Wyoming has a population smaller than that of Alaska!

State	No.	State	No.
<b>ALASKA</b>	<b>140</b>	Alabama	27
Arizona	49	Arkansas	57
California	168	Colorado	57
Connecticut	44	Delaware	34
Florida	93	Georgia	40*
Hawaii	472	Idaho	36
Illinois	64	Indiana	79
Iowa	103	Kansas	152
Kentucky	52	Louisiana	86
Maine	107	Maryland	71
Massachusetts	32	Michigan	85
Minnesota	45	Mississippi	56*
Missouri	55	Montana	62
Nebraska	112	Nevada	87
New Hampshire	46	New Jersey	64
New Mexico	36	New York	541
North Carolina	31	North Dakota	28
Ohio	199	Oklahoma	32
Oregon	105	Pennsylvania	72
Rhode Island	24	South Carolina	24
South Dakota	30	Tennessee	50
Texas	148	Utah	49
Vermont	42	Virginia	141
Washington State	87*	Washington DC	17*
West Virginia	19	Wisconsin	92
Wyoming	49		

\*= Approximate state totals after deducting such entities as South Georgia, Geo. Washington, Trans-Mississippi, etc., etc. On the Canadian side on the same date and time, the Yukon Territory had 28 offerings, British Columbia 18, Ontario 27, and Quebec 87. I have noticed Alaskan e-Bay items have ranged from a low of about 120 to a high of over 180 offerings during the past six months. The allure of Alaska is very strong!

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

by Eric Knapp

Winter has arrived here in Anchorage, sort of. As I write this report it is about 45 degrees, raining and a strong south wind is blowing. We normally get at least one melt during the winter, so we can hope that this is it and it will get it over with quick. Driving and walking have been a real adventure.

Stamp collecting here has settled into it's winter routine. The local club here in Anchorage is starting preparations for APEX in February. I am in charge of exhibits for the show so if anyone wants to exhibit here, let me know. We would love to have your exhibits. Several people here are making plans to go to the Washington 2006 international show. It might be a good idea for us to book a meeting room like we did at Pacific 97, but we would need someone closer to Washington to coordinate that.

I had a real good experience recently. I was at a Scouting event and helped a lot of scouts with the collecting merit badges. There are three collecting merit badges, Stamp Collecting, Coin Collecting and Collections (which covers everything else). What I saw was a lot of enthusiastic young men collecting a lot of different things. There were enough Stamp Collectors to give me some more hope for the future of the hobby.

I have said before that I don't think stamp collecting is dying, but I do think it is changing. Remember several years ago when the "purists" decried the collecting of covers as somehow "wrong." And I won't even go into what they thought of us postal history collectors. So things change. Where they are going I have no idea, I am just going to enjoy the ride.

### New Member

We have received the following new member. Welcome to the ACC.

677 Franco Girdini  
Via Avigloana 72  
10096 Leumann (To) ITALY

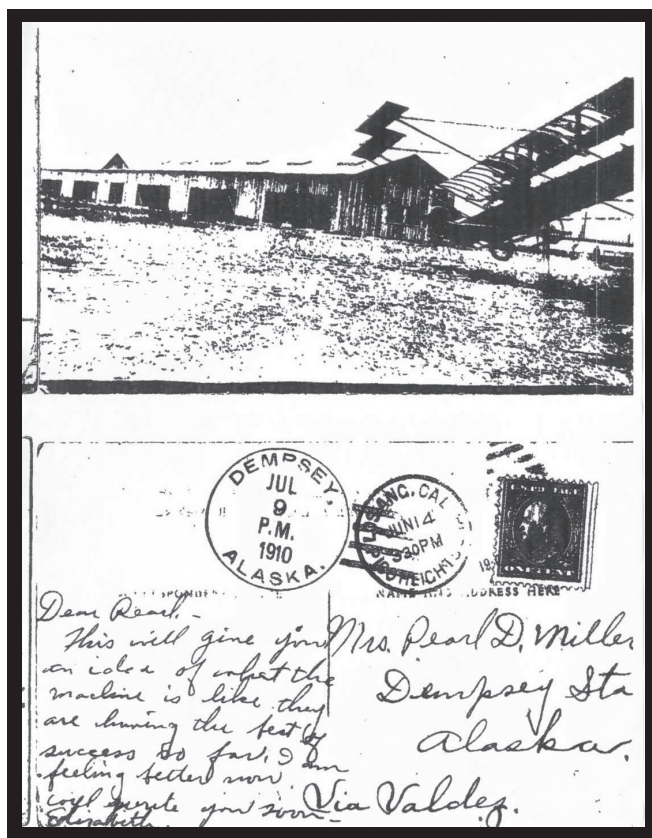
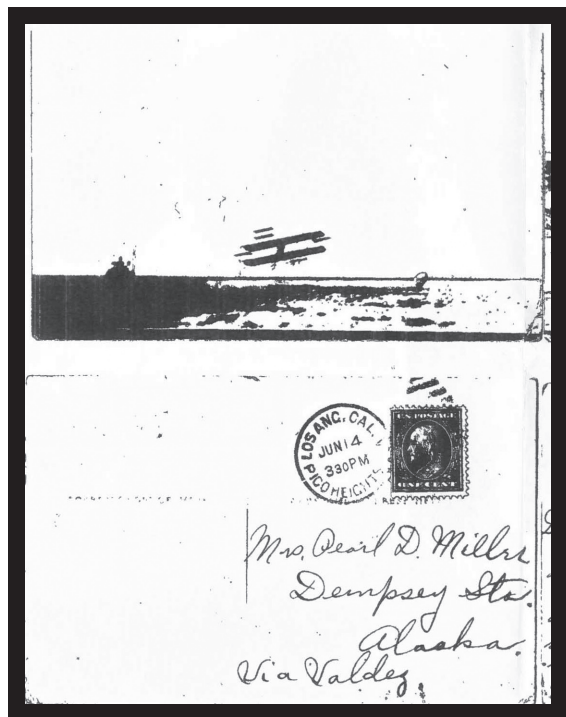
### Closed Album

We have received word that our member Per-Ravnsborg Gjertsen of Wilhelmshaven, Germany has died. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.



# Dempsey, Alaska Post Card Discovery

Arthur Olson sent a note and copies of the following post cards. Both are addressed to Dempsey Sta., Alaska has a Dempsey 4 bar cancel as a receiving mark. This is not an earliest known use but it is a very early use. Helbock lists the earliest date ad May 2, 1910.



## Gold Nugget

The fair sex was not exempt from “gold fever” - one out of ten stampedeers was a woman. Journalist Annie Hall Strong offered some advice for women headed to the Klondike. Her article, “Hints to Women,” first appeared in the December 31, 1897, edition of the Skaguay News and was reprinted in newspapers around the country. She wrote that “women have made up their minds to go to the Klondike, so there is no use trying to discourage them.” Speaking for the female stampedeers, Strong boasted that “when our fathers, husbands and brothers decided to go, so did we, and our wills are strong and courage unfailing. We will not be drawbacks nor hindrances, and they won’t have to return on our account.” Strong herself had been one of those who contracted what she termed “acute Klondicitis.” She arrived in Skagway in the late summer of 1897.

Over a thousand women crossed over the Chilkoot or White Pass trail between 1896 and 1900. Women went into the Klondike with male relatives and on their own. Some who traveled alone signed on to cook and clean for groups of men in return for help in moving their provisions across the passes and down the Yukon River.

The presence of women along the trails was noted in the letters and diaries of male stampedeers. In at least one instance, their presence encouraged one man to continue on. In a letter to his wife, Kitty, Fred Dewey wrote, “It is a big day’s work to haul 100 pounds a distance of four miles. There are three women alone on the trail and they are taking their own stuff in. I would be ashamed to back down before difficulties that those women surmount.”

# Even Slower... Slowest

by Seely Hall, Jr.

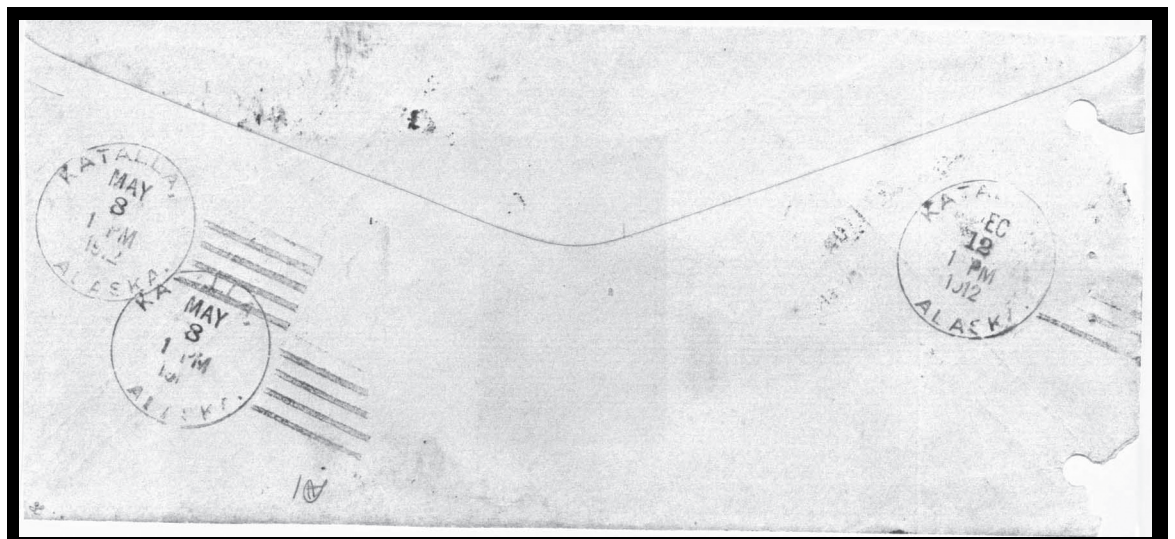
I wrote an article "Delivery Time Over 90 Years Ago." That appeared in TAP Vol. 39 No. 3 concerning delivery times then and now.

I recently acquired the illustrated cover and it puts all time lapses for handling to shame. The cover, registered, was posted in Juneau bearing AT-15, in magenta, on Nov. 16, 1909. This is not too long after the registry fee was raised from 8 cents to 10 cents on Nov. 1, 1909.

Being a registered letter I assume that the date in the cancellation is correct. Then, the new unlisted Katalla postmarks on the reverse side of the cover are puzzling. They show May 8, 1912 as the receiving date in Katalla

– 2 ½ years after leaving Juneau and then an additional 7 months before it was returned "unclaimed." Why such long gaps? Where was it all this extended time? If the Katalla cancels should have been 1910 the Dec. 12 date would make sense for the receiving date, Katalla is within 50 miles of Cordova, north of Juneau.

But then the return date should be May 1911, still 7 months before return to Juneau. So either some of the postmark dates are wrong or we show some of the worst time delivery periods imaginable. Any thoughts? Isn't this what makes our Alaska postal history collecting so interesting? ✂





# Women of the Gold Rush

*from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Museum website*

Though they were few, women lived in every mining camp in the Yukon River basin, and they had a disproportionate impact on life in the mining camps. Their presence signified the refined pleasures of home and the civilization of the outside world the men left behind. From Dawson to Nome and Skagway to Fairbanks, the women were instrumental in developing their communities with services like hospitals, schools, churches, and libraries.

While some women came north with their husbands, many others came alone and started their own businesses. The larger mining camps and the growing network of roadhouses and hotels provided more jobs for women as business owners or as cooks and waitresses. Other women picked wild blueberries to sell to restaurants. Some sewed and repaired clothes, or worked as store clerks. Of course, a few women came as prostitutes, and others took a turn as a dance hall girl to earn wages.

Women with capital to invest bought blocks of claims and put men to work digging mine shafts or cutting wood. The range of opportunities in the gold rush towns was limited only by a woman's vitality and imagination.

## Skagway and Dyea

Skagway served as the gateway to the White Pass Trail. Originally the homestead of Captain Moore in 1888, thousands of hopeful stampeders overran it from 1897 to 1899. They built stores, hotels, saloons, and cabins on the mud flat leading to the White Pass trail. The trail was later abandoned when the White Pass & Yukon Railway started passenger service to Carcross and Whitehorse. Skagway was a lawless town in contrast to Dawson which the North-West Mounted Police controlled. Skagway's thousands of transients made easy prey for criminals like Soapy Smith.

Dyea was located at the trail head of the popular Chilkoot Trail. Arriving stampeders had to off-load their provisions on the long tidewater beach at the head of



*Discovery City on Otter Creek was built in a couple of months. Men hauled in logs, lumber, and windows to make a row of stores and boardwalks. Many women took advantage of these new towns, including these two women who started a café, bakery, and lodging business.*

*UAF Archives, Vertical File Collection*

Dyea Inlet and pile their goods helter-skelter at the high tide line. While Dyea was the location of an existing trading post, newly arrived entrepreneurs built stores, hotels, and saloons, and they established a newspaper to accommodate the stampeders. Dyea was never as wild as Skagway, and it became a ghost town after the White Pass & Yukon Railway started passenger service from Skagway.

## Harriet Pullen, 1860 - 1947

Harriet Pullen left her husband and children in Washington state hoping to improve her life with the gold rush. When Harriet arrived in Skagway in 1897 she claimed to be a penniless widow. She started as a cook and earned three dollars a day. Then Harriet began to bake apple pies in pie tins made from discarded cans and used the tons of dried apples included in every stamper's outfit.

With the money made from her pies and cooking jobs, Harriet sent for her three sons and horses so she could go into the freighting business on the White Pass Trail. With grit, courage, and her knowledge of horses, she was successful in the freighting business. She survived the rough trail conditions and the corruption imposed by gangs of thieves.

With her profits Harriet bought Captain Moore's house and converted it into the most memorable hotel in Alaska, The Pullen House. She also fulfilled her dream of sending her children Outside to further their education.

Over the years Harriet collected enough objects of Skagway's past to have her own museum. She died in 1947 and was buried near the site of her once vibrant hotel.



*Helen Pullen  
photo courtesy  
of Candy Wau-  
gaman*

## Dawson City

Dawson City was built at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers, and it was constantly under construction. For the first few years of its existence, Dawson was a boom-town with wide-open saloons featuring dance hall entertainment and gambling. The North-West Mounted Police controlled the town and tolerated prostitution.

With the completion of the White Pass & Yukon Railway in 1899, the difficult trip over the White Pass

# Women of the Gold Rush

Trail from Skagway was but a nostalgic memory. As a result, many more middle class women arrived and changed the character of the new town. Business opportunities abounded for the women and men who met the mining and service needs of Dawson.

## Belinda Mulrooney, 1872 - 1967

Belinda Mulrooney was one of the great entrepreneurs of the north who capitalized on the rush to the Klondike. Belinda was single and 25 years old when she headed to Dawson in 1897.

She was among the first to realize that big money could be made on the gold creeks. She built the Grand Forks Hotel at the junction of Eldorado and Bonanza Creeks. The hotel was an immediate success, and she invested her profits in mining claims and built the Fairview Hotel, a first-class hotel in Dawson. Belinda ordered cut-glass chandeliers, silverware, china, linen, and brass bedsteads, and she personally accompanied the shipment over the White Pass Trail. The Fairview Hotel opened to rave reviews in 1898.

By the end of the year, Belinda gained a one-third interest in Big Alex McDonald's Eldorado and Bonanza Mining Company. She expanded her business holdings and started telephone companies in Dawson and Grand Forks and a new water delivery company in Dawson.

In 1900, Belinda married Charles Eugene Carbonneau. By 1904 he squandered much of her fortune and was indicted on charges of selling a salted gold mine. Belinda left her husband in Dawson and headed for the new strike in Fairbanks where she staked claims and opened a bank in Dome City with her sisters Margaret and Nellie. Belinda left the north in 1908 for Yakima, Washington where she died in 1967 at the age of 95.

## Nome

Gold was discovered at Anvil Creek on the Seward Peninsula in 1898. The discoverers, three newcomers of Scandinavian descent, were quickly dubbed "The Three Lucky Swedes." Although two of the men were naturalized citizens, miners at Council felt that immigrants did not deserve their claims, and a wild spree of claim jumping ensued. By early spring the following year a few hundred men had staked 1,500 claims. Nearly 3,000 more people arrived after breakup in 1899.

Disappointed to find that all the creeks were already staked, thousands of destitute people put up tents along the beach front. They soon discovered that the beach



*This steamer docks on the Chena River in front of the Alaska Commercial Company store which eventually bought out E.T. Barnette's trading post next door.*

*UAF Archives, Charles Bunnell Collection*

sands were rich in gold. Men and women mined the beach sands on claims only as wide as one shovel-width on each side of a rocker box.

Nome was a poor man's paradise. The gold fields could be reached directly from Seattle by ship without any overland travel. New arrivals saw a line of white tents stretched up and down the beach for ten miles in either direction. With no civil government to mandate sanitary measures, the residents of Nome endured foul odors and the threat of disease.

The Nome gold rush was a magnet for the criminal element which followed the gold seekers north. The North-West Mounted Police warned American authorities that former members of Soapy Smith's gang in Skagway and many of the worst criminals ever known on this continent were en route to Nome in the fall of 1899.

## The Tanana Valley

The search for gold in Alaska and the Yukon Territory intensified after the Klondike strike. Hordes of men and women traveled north to pursue their dreams of wealth. Since gold in the Circle and Fortymile Districts was found in streams flowing from the north side of the Tanana hills, it seemed likely that the south side of the hills must also contain gold. But this remote area was difficult to reach because of its distance from the Yukon River.

Felix Pedro and Tom Gilmore discovered gold in the hills north of the Tanana and Chena Rivers in 1901. By 1903 a new rush started, and prospectors staked thousands of claims. However, mining results were disappointing during the summer of 1903, with little gold recovered.

Then Dennis O'Shea struck it rich on Fairbanks Creek, No. 8 Above. This was one of the richest claims in the Fairbanks Mining District and paid as high as \$136 to the pan. Discoveries on Cleary and Ester Creeks followed, and almost two-thirds of the gold mined in the Tanana hills before 1910 came from these three creeks. Total production of gold was more than \$ 30 million. Towns grew on every creek with a combined population of 1,600 residents.



# Women of the Gold Rush

## Fairbanks: The Golden Heart City

Fairbanks began when Isabelle and E. T. Barnette established a trading post and a river connection to the Yukon River. After the gold discoveries, miners, prospectors, and business people flocked to the new town from Dawson and Nome. Fairbanks surpassed Circle City in size with 1,200 people and 500 houses and cabins. Its streets featured the signs from businesses that were started in Dawson. After almost ten years of pioneering, many men and women were ready to settle down and create a community for raising families.

One of the first community-wide developments was a school, followed by a hospital and churches. Women organized clubs and fund-raisers to support these community institutions. The city of Fairbanks grew steadily as gold production increased from \$ 40,000 in 1903 to \$ 600,000 in 1904, and finally \$ 6 million in 1905.

While output from the Fairbanks Mining District decreased after 1909, more discoveries at the remote districts of Iditarod, the Upper Koyukuk, and Kantishna insured Fairbanks a place as a major center of commerce.

## Isabelle Cleary Barnette, 1862 - 1942

Isabelle Cleary was 36 and living in Helena, Montana in 1898 when she married trader E.T. Barnette. Together they set off to find opportunities in the northern gold rush. Over the next 5 years, Isabelle accompanied E.T. on more than 13 trips in and out of Alaska while they set up their trading post in the Tanana Valley. Though she stood by E.T. through trying times in Fairbanks, Isabelle finally divorced him in 1920, claiming he was unfaithful.

Major gold discoveries were made in 1903 near the

fledgling trading post on the Chena River. Isabelle gave birth to her first child in July 1904 in a still primitive camp. Six years later, 48 years old and pregnant with her second child, Isabelle moved to Los Angeles anticipating a difficult birth.

As Fairbanks developed into the longed-for "Klondike in Alaska," the Barnettes' profited from E.T.'s many mining claims and business deals. In 1910 with

mining in decline, E.T. consolidated his Fairbanks Banking Company and the Washington-Alaska Bank. Three months later, the combined bank collapsed, swallowing the life savings of many Alaskans. E.T. was indicted for embezzlement, and though never convicted, the people of Fairbanks continued to hold him responsible.

After the divorce Isabelle retained custody of the two girls, and a property settlement made her a wealthy woman. She died at the Agnew State Mental Hospital in California at the age of 80.

## Lure Of The Wilderness

In the early days of the century, wilderness denoted an empty land waiting to be conquered as an untapped source of new resources. While Fairbanks became a mining center with goods arriving by riverboat and trail, new discoveries were made in more remote regions such as Wiseman on the upper Koyukuk River and Kantishna in the Alaska Range.

The Iditarod was a remote mining district between the lower Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers which boomed after gold was discovered on Otter Creek in 1909. The Chandalar Mining District was staked in 1903 and supplied from the village of Beaver on the Yukon River. Chisana, Livengood, and Ruby were among the last rushes between 1912 and 1915.

While mining was always the main attraction, some women were drawn to the wilderness because it represented the "Far Places" at the edge or beyond the bounds of civilization.

To our contemporary sensibilities, wilderness has its own value that merits preservation. The Kantishna claims are now a part of Denali National Park, while the Chandalar Mining District borders the Gates of the Arctic National Park. The Chisana Mining District is in the heart of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

## Fannie Quigley, 1870 - 1944

Francis (Fannie) Sedlacek was single and 27 when she joined the Klondike stampede in 1897. She made a living serving food and always traveled with her cook kit, which consisted of a Yukon stove, tent, food staples, and a sign that read "Meals for Sale." After her marriage to the dapper Angus McKenzie, she lived on Hunker Creek in the Klondike, and operated a roadhouse.

Fannie left Angus and the Klondike in 1903 and hiked 800-miles down the Yukon River to Rampart where she followed the stampede to Fairbanks.



*Isabelle Barnette drives the Golden Spike for the 1906 Tanana Valley Railroad which connects the towns of Chena and Fairbanks with mining camps in the Goldstream and Chatanika Valleys. UFA Archives, Terrence Cole Folder 76-38-2N*

# Women of the Gold Rush

The Kantishna stampede in 1906 was Fannie's last rush. She joined Joe Quigley, one of the discoverers, on Glacier Creek. Fannie staked numerous claims on this creek and operated a "roadhouse" where miners could buy a good meal. The area also attracted explorers who wanted to climb Mt. McKinley.

Joe and Fannie were married in 1918. Joe developed some hard rock claims, while Fannie worked her own placer claims. Their hard rock claims produced silver-lead-gold ore, and they leased the claims to the Red Top Mining Company. They split the income in a divorce settlement.

Fannie stayed in the Kantishna area, unable or unwilling to adapt to an urban lifestyle. In addition to her cooking skills, her drinking habits were legendary. She swore, used foul and gruff language, and wore rough men's clothing. She died alone in her Kantishna cabin and was remembered as dog musher, prospector, trapper, hunter, gardener, and a wilderness cook.

## Eneveloe Yasuda, 1883 - 1966

Eneveloe was the daughter of an Inupiaq whaling captain at Barrow. She married Frank Yasuda, a Japanese man and a former cabin attendant on the US Revenue Cutter Bear who settled in Barrow in 1888. Their marriage was a partnership which endured 60 years.

Eneveloe and Frank lived a nomadic subsistence lifestyle, and she recognized his leadership abilities when he helped her people during periods of starvation and influenza epidemics. When their first daughter died of flu, Frank felt that the coastal Inupiat needed a new location away from the influence of whalers and alcohol.

They joined Thomas Carter in 1904 and prospected for gold in the Chandalar River drainage. Eneveloe and her daughter found gold nuggets in Big Squaw Creek, which was named in her honor. The Yasudas and Carter shared profits from the mine to start the village of Beaver on the Yukon River. Their trading store and post office became the central supply point for the local miners.

Eneveloe and Frank encouraged Inupiaq families from Barrow to join them in Beaver because of the stability of the trading post, available seasonal work in the mines, and abundant game resources. The Yasudas raised two daughters and were active in community and cultural events. Their daughter Hana attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and taught in several schools throughout Alaska.

## Lonely Miners

Where there was gold, there was entertainment. Fortymile, the first white town on the Yukon, had a theater by 1895 operated by Anna and George Snow, and a year later they built a log opera house in Circle City.

When railroad and steamboats transportation became available from Skagway to Dawson in 1900, theater companies from Canada and the US scheduled performances. Legitimate theater and dance hall entertainments were featured on many stages in Dawson.

Dance hall girls, prostitutes, and actresses were always mentioned in the stories, guidebooks, and later accounts of the gold rush. Writers of the time glamorized their lives and their roles. While every man could get a job with a shovel, any woman with stamina could qualify as a dance hall girl, or percentage girl. For a dollar, a lonely miner could spend a few minutes whirling around the dance floor of a saloon and gambling house. The women earned forty to fifty dollars a week plus a percentage on the drinks they sold. The dancers and variety girls like Klondike Kate wore more revealing costumes on the stage and then changed to fashionable Paris gowns to sell drinks afterwards.

Many performers and actresses that toured Dawson took home a fortune in gold nuggets thrown on the stage as tips. The jewelers of Dawson made these into elaborate belts, which grew longer, more valuable, and heavier as the season progressed. Some women used the money as a grubstake to start other businesses.

## Matty Crobsy, 1884 - 1972

After 20 years in the north "Matty Tootsie" Crosby settled in Iditarod where she ran the Crosby, a bathhouse and brothel for over 30 years. The Crosby featured running water, a carbide generator lighting lamps of lavender glass, thick straw mattresses, lace curtains, and flowered wallpaper. She made a home-brew that was Iditarod's most popular drink.

Known as Miss Tootsie, Matty came north with a white family from Maine and did not see another black person for 30 of the 72 years she lived in Alaska. Matty was a successful business woman. She owned and managed placer gold claims, a café, and a dog boarding house in addition to the brothel. She nearly drowned three times getting to her mining claims and lost sight in one eye when



# Women of the Gold Rush

she froze her face driving a dog team. Her glass eye and red wig were her trademarks.

Once at a remote mining camp where she stopped for dinner, a boy looked her over and said that his family always washed up before eating. Matty replied that her skin wouldn't change color no matter how much she scrubbed. Matty died in Iditarod at the age of 88.

## In Summation

Women in the gold rush left a lasting legacy. Their children, grand-children, and great grand-children continue to participate in developing Alaska's communities. While the early gold rush stampeders were always on the move to the next big strike, there were many Native and pioneer women who were discontent with boom-town life. They wanted to develop communities where they could settle down and raise families.

From the early gold rush days women were especially concerned about education. They made sure their children attended schools run by missionaries, or they sent them to boarding schools Outside. When the University of Alaska Fairbanks offered courses in the 1920s, young women attended and graduated with four year degrees.

Independent women born in Alaska or those who made their way north were the role models for the younger women. Alaska women were on the forefront of the women's suffrage movement. The Alaska Territorial Legislature granted white women the right to vote in 1913. Eleven years later, Congress recognized American Indians as citizens with the right to vote.

This political empowerment gave Native and white women the chance to participate in democracy and help solve the community issues of education, raising families, civil rights, and ethnic diversity. Today's women participate as full partners at every level of decision making, whether it be in the state legislature, the board rooms of private businesses, or Native corporations.

The hopes of women who lived in the gold rush era have been mostly realized. The success of today's women can be traced through the threads of family connections to those women of vision and courage who had their start in the Klondike and Alaska gold rushes. ✂

# B-r-r-r-ief Notes



## *National Postal Museum Begins State Postal History Registry*

It was mentioned in the last *TAP* that we had been contacted about participating in a State Postal History Registry. As you can see from the following letter, it is up and running. The information is very basic at this time for most states, but looks to be a good start.

I gave them my name as coordinator to get it going, but if there is anyone interested in taking this job on for the club, please let me know. It looks like it might be a fun job. Here is a letter I received from the coordinator.

From: Richard Winter  
Subject: State Postal History Registry

### Coordinators:

We have gone on-line with the National Postal Museum's State Postal History Registry. The pages for 20 states have been completed with more on the way.

If you go to the NPM's home page, <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/> and click on the orange box which says State Postal History Registry, you will be taken to the registry pages. Here you can select individual states to see what information is available. I recommend that you examine your areas to see if there are any mistakes. Because the inputs from the coordinators varied so greatly in the area of literature, I decided to make up lists based on literature available from the three largest literature dealers. That is what is shown in the registry. Where I knew that state societies sold the literature that they published, I listed them along with the dealers. Again, if you have additions or corrections, please let me know.

We are off to a good start. Google searches will take people to our registry now.

I want to get all the states on the registry before we look at ways to increase the information available. Obviously, there are many more things we can include in the future for those coordinators who want to provide more information. Also, if you find other web sites helpful in your state areas, we should include them as well. ✂