

The Alaskan Philatelist

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



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The Alaskan Philatelist

The Journal of the Alaska Collectors Club

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Membership information and sample issues of this journal are available from the Secretary/Treasurer. Price of a sample issue is \$2.00 (stamps OK). Membership levels are as follows:

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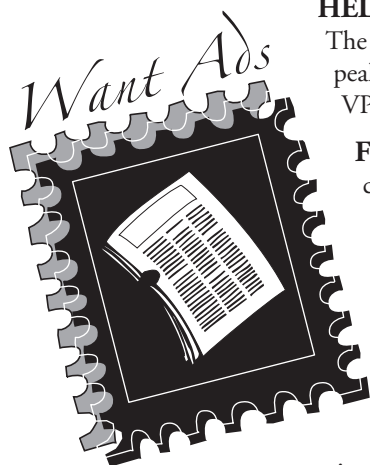
AWARDS

Colopex 2000—Silver-Bronze
Colopex 2002—Silver-Bronze
STaMpsHOW 03—Silver-Bronze
Canada's 7th National Philatelic Literature
Exhibition 2005—Silver Medal
NAPEX 2007—Silver Medal
APS Stampshow 2008—Silver Medal



Closed Album

Word has reached us of the passing of member Jack Guyer of Oak Harbor, WA. We extend all of our sympathies to his family and friends.



HELP WANTED: Enjoy working with computers and websites? The ACC NEEDS YOU to help keep our website current and appealing! Check our site at www.alaskaphilatellic.org/ and contact VP Angela Watson for more information.

FOR SALE: "Grandfather's Collection" Beautiful Alaskan covers, mostly older, 7 hand colored/ drawn cachet with each order. Nice Alaskan covers. 35 covers \$110.00 Guaranteed. Victor Schwez, 10519 Casanes Ave., Downey CA 90241

INFO: ACC member Bob Beeman would like to hear from any member who could inform him about past ACC member Paul E. Smith, ACC Member 165, who previously lived at 305 Waldman Drive, Park Forest, Illinois 60466. Smith had, in 1966, been

active in promoting the issuance of a stamp commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska with then Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois.

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: info@esveld.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

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

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.net

WANTED: Mail from the gold rush era Alaska forts. Eric Knapp, 4201 Folker Street, Unit C102, Anchorage, AK 99508. Email: eknapp@gci.net

LOOKING FOR JFK FDCs: I notice that my interest in the 5-cent JFK commemorative stamp issued nationally appears on your web-site. So I ask: Do you have or do you know anybody who might have any 5-cent JFK FDCs from Alaska (i.e. covers postmarked May 29, 1964 with the 5-cent Kennedy stamp? By the way, two more cities can be added to this list: Moose Pass and Seward. Contact Henry B. Scheuer at 800-444-1155.

WANTED: Are there collectors of new modern postcards? I am looking for postcards of Aleut Islands, Nunivak, Diomedes, St. Lawrence, King, Pribilofs. Any offer will be welcomed. I can buy or exchange for other postcards. Please email me at: npc@volny.cz Thanks and best regards, Peter Pindak

WANTED: I am looking for commemorative covers or philatelic items that feature Alaska dog sled team postmarked in the 1940s and 1950s. Also, if anyone has information specifically on the covers featuring Fay Muridge cachets, I would be interested in that as well. I can via Paypal or via credit card on a secure website. Please contact me at 10 Grand Rue, 34290 Lieuran les Beziers, FRANCE or label34@live.fr. Thank you, David Thierry.

TAP DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE
1st Quarter	February 1
2nd Quarter	May 1
3rd Quarter	August 1
4th Quarter	November 1

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

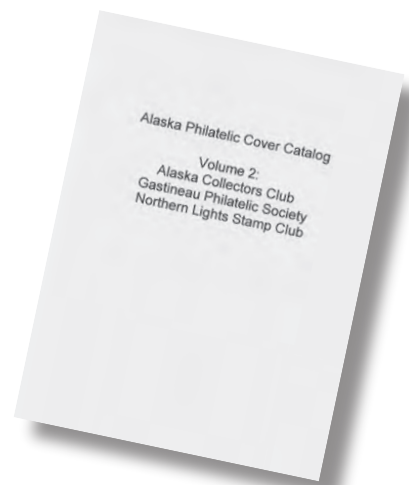
(All prices are postpaid)

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)

The Alaska Collectors' Club has advanced to a level where I believe we now should try to become a U.S. Internal Revenue Service Section 501(c)(3) organization. Doing so would potentially allow a contributor to the ACC—who already itemizes on his/her annual US taxes—to recoup part or most of the cost of a contribution made to the Club above and beyond the cost of membership on their federal tax return.

The immediate reason for this recommendation is Eric Knapp's initial completion of his monumental effort to index all past issues of *The Alaskan Philatelist*. Eric has sent a CD of his initial index to several ACC members for their review and recommendations. Once completed, this will be a great boon to anyone interested in Alaskana and/or Alaskan postal history. At the very least, Eric should be able to claim at least some of his expenses associated with this effort on his federal tax return(s)!

The instructions (Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) are contained in a 38 page document. The application itself (Form 1023) consists of another 28 pages. After discussing this matter with some of our current members, I believe we should hire an attorney to prepare the necessary application and advise us to what changes, if any, need to be made in the organization of the ACC.

Since this is a matter of significant consequence for the ACC, I thought the subject should be brought to the attention of the membership before the Board of Directors considers the matter. Since an annual report must be filed with the IRS, and other forms provided eligible donors, I believe this effort must be based in Alaska and at least reviewed, if not supervised, by an Alaskan attorney.

I know of other organizations who have attempted to do all the work themselves but who later regretted this approach. I'm also somewhat familiar with the annual reporting that must be accomplished going back to the days when I was the secretary-treasurer of an Arizona Lions Club.

This topic has been mentioned in some of my previous reports. It is a great testimony to the dedication and quality of our membership that so many members have been willing to contribute to the ACC "above & beyond" normal levels even without the ACC previously qualifying for 501 exemption status! Obtaining such an exemption would at least partially reward and perhaps even encourage future contributors and donors to do even more to advance the Alaska Collectors' Club.

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Eric Knapp (eknapp@gci.net)

Hello everybody. It is a bright and sunny March day here in Anchorage. It is the day before the start of the Iditarod and I am sitting at the Anchorage Senior Center at the memorabilia sale. Our local stamp club has a booth where we are showing some of the exhibits from last weeks APEX. We are talking to a lot of people about stamps and stamp collecting.

The club has started the New Year well. We are in good shape financially and our membership is stable. The board has been discussing several ideas for club projects. More on these as the ideas develop.

The following members have given donations beyond the normal dues: Wayne Selmar, Steven Berlin, Bob Spaugy, Mike Senta, Alice Fitzgerald, John Beirne, Peter Tompkins, Bill Strauss, and Jim Zuelow. Thanks to you all.

We would like to announce the following new members to our club:

#701 • Chet Walukiewicz

Anchorage, AK

Interests: Postal History, Territorial Era, Statehood Era, APOs, FPOs, Aerophilately, Dog Team Mail, Postcards, RPOs, Expeditions and Explorations, FDCs in Alaska, Literature, General History, Exhibiting.

#702 • W.T. Averbeck

Edgewood, KY

Interests: Postal History, Territorial Era, Aerophilately, Postcards, DPO's, RPO's, Expeditions and Explorations, Yukon Territory, Literature

We also have a returning member:

#437 • Kenneth Simon

Lake Worth, FL

Interests: forthcoming

Until next month, happy collecting.

Please contact me with your thoughts and recommendations on this topic and, if you can, discuss the matter with one or more of the Directors. You can learn more about the process by going to www.irs.gov for forms and information for exempt organizations.



P.S.: I'm still looking for members who are willing to serve on our Nominations Committee or who are willing to be a candidate for office.

Letters to the Club

An Idea for Post Card Books

Hello, my name is Kelly and I am an editor with Arcadia Publishing. We print photo history books on communities all over the country, including our series of vintage postcard books.

I came across your website and was curious if anyone in your club might be interested in working with us on a postcard book on Anchorage, or other communities in Alaska. I would be happy to send a sample copy of one of our book along with more information if you'd like to learn more. I hope this finds you well, thank you for your time.

Kelly Reed
Arcadia Publishing
kreed@arcadiapublishing.com • 415-834-9283

Letter from the Universal Ship Cancellation Society

Dear Mr. Knapp:

I noticed the nice article about ACC in the *American Philatelist*. Since your members are clearly interested in all things philatelic about Alaska, may I share with you another possible avenue of Alaska collecting interest...covers to and from Navy ships named for Alaska places.

You may be aware of your "sister" APS affiliate, the Universal Ship Cancellation Society (USCS). We mainly collect Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard covers. One of the tools I developed to aid collectors is a list of ships named for places in every state. Attached is a copy of the whole list. You will see, that although Alaska is a relatively small state in terms of population, its importance to the nation is recognized by a very high proportion of ships named for Alaska places. Alaska, for example, has as many

ships named for her as Alabama, and almost double those of Arkansas and Arizona.

Collecting Naval covers is exciting and rewarding. It is still an affordable philatelic hobby, with most covers being less than \$5.00, and many less than that. It is relatively rare for one to cost much more than that. Covers with Alaska names vary in availability. Some are easy to find (USS Alaska SSBN-732, USS Anchorage LSD-36, and the three Juneaus, for example), and many are illusive enough to drive a collector to distraction (collectors enjoy a challenge, right?).

I have also just finished an exhibit that tells the story of the American light cruiser, USS Juneau CL-51, her loss in the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, and her survivors fight for life. A couple of pages of that exhibit are also attached. If you would like a CD of the entire exhibit, I would be delighted to send it to you. It might make a good "program" for one of your club meetings. This exhibit will be on display in the near future in the City Museum of Juneau/Douglas. Also attached is the written story of Juneau.

If your members would like to learn more about your "sister," the USCS, please go to: www.uscs.org. Another good place to learn about collecting naval covers is our fledgling Naval Cover Museum (online). It is constantly being improved and added to, but will give anyone interested a very good overview of our part of our great hobby. Its link is: <http://www.navalcovermuseum.org/>

Best wishes to our philatelic friends of the ACC! From the historic Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania, where it is 45 degrees and sunny!

Glenn Smith
USCS 8073 & APS 94213

Editors Note: Mr. Smith also sent two articles, which I will be using in future issues of TAP.

Thank you to all who provided material to make this issue possible. They include: Jim Zuelow, Eric Knapp, Angela Watson, Don Glickstein, and Bob McKain.

Anchorage After Pearl Harbor

by Eric Knapp

I will start by admitting that I purchased this cover for the date. The cover is postmarked December 10, 1941, two days before the start of general postal censorship of mail to and from Alaska. I did not expect to find a letter in the cover, but I did. The letter is reprinted below. This is a letter that would not have been allowed after the 12th. The contents would have caused the censors to send it back. It is an interesting peek into the early days of the Second World War.

Anchorage, Alaska
December 9, 1941

Dear Ma:

I suppose you are hearing a lot of news about Alaska by now. Well nothing has happened here yet but we expect anything.

This morning when I went to work everyone was driving without lights and the building I work in was dark so we had to sit around for a couple of hours until day light.

There was an air raid alarm this morning but nothing happened. I think it was just an experiment.

The town has been dark for three nights and to nite they seem to be more strict than ever. I was up to see Marilyn and a guard came up and said all lights out. That means covering the windows so no light shows. So

it is hard to walk on the streets. For there is no lights at all and I think it will be that way every nite for a long time.

I put tar paper over my windows. I am never home in daylight so don't have any use for light. Even the Anchorage radio is off at nite so planes can't find the town by it. But even with all this scare I would rather be here than in Portland or any town down there.

This after noon they put tar paper on the windows of the building I work in so we can have lights in the morning.

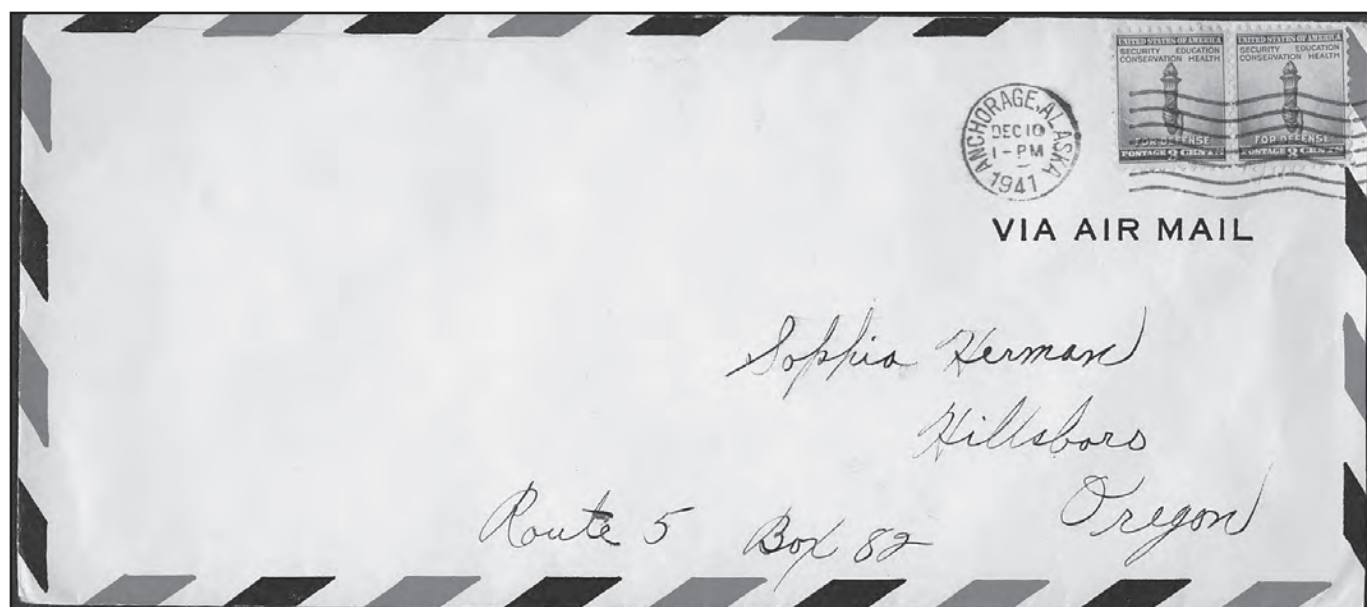
The weather has been around zero for the last two weeks but today it was cloudy and warmer. We have about 7 inches of snow.

How are the walnuts this year? I would like to have a half sack if you have any. Don't send a full sack because I don't really know how long I will be here. I suppose I can work out here at the fort all winter if I don't get in the army.

Heard to nite on the radio they want to pass a law to take every one over 28 to 35 so that would mean me. Also heard the President talk. Did you? He said don't believed everything you read in the paper, so if you *have* heard of Alaska being bombed don't believe it.

Will close for this time. Wishing you a merry Xmas and a happy new year.

—Jack



Newly Found Cancells

New Anchorage Cancel

Anchorage has started to use a new flat roller cancel. It first went into use in late 2008.

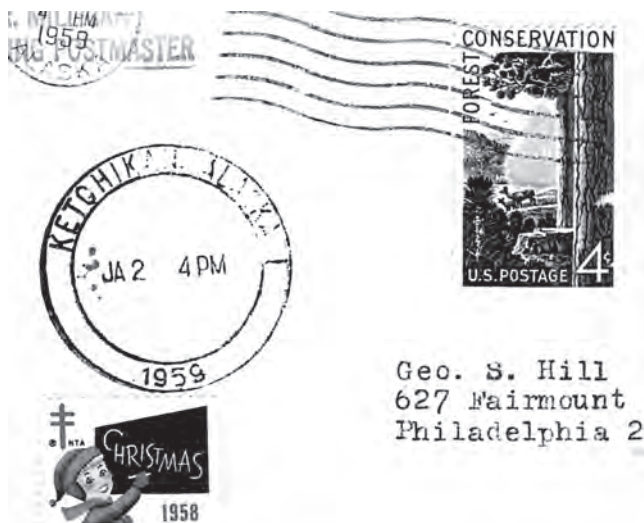


Newly Found Ketchikan Station 1

Steve Sims reports the finding of 3 new cancels from Ketchikan Contract Station #1.

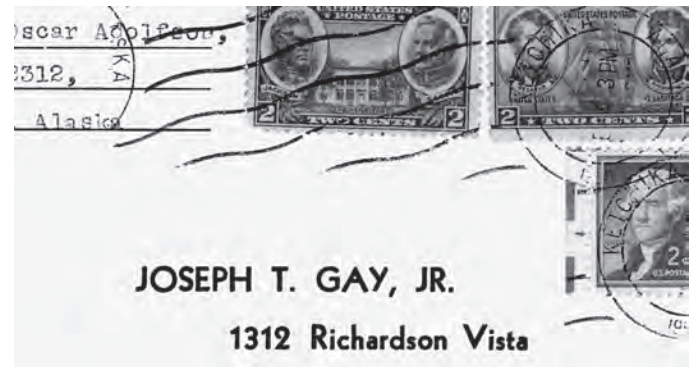
New Type

Diameter 35 mm • Dates: 8-18-1958 and 1-2-1959



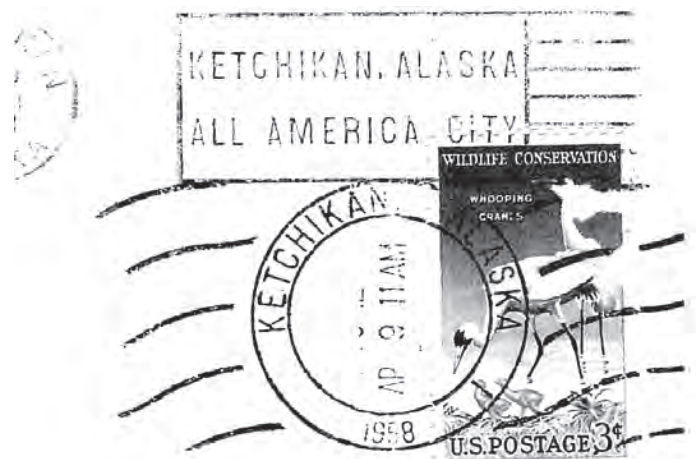
New Type with Roller Bars

Diameter 31 mm • Date: 12-4-1958



New Type with Roller Bars

Diameter 32 mm • Date: 4-9-1958



Gold Nuggets

"Palmer House, Sheep Camp • April 8, 1898

My dear friend Mr. Arthur,... I wish you could be here for a day or two just to see the busy scenes on the hills. It is impossible for me to describe them to you. Imagine a narrow trail over the snow, then crowd on it men with sleds, men with packs on their backs, dogs in trains of from two to eight horses, mules and oxen, some drawing sleds and others with packs on their backs. All in an endless procession, going and coming. Now everything going smoothly, then all in confusion when some dogs get tangled up or a

horse gets a little out of the trail and floundering up to his belly in the snow. They all toil up the hill... Yesterday I saw two women pulling a sled downhill and the one on the other end of the rope going up. These women have brought their stuff all the way from Dyea unassisted. A great case of pluck, push and perseverance. No one could doubt it who has been on the trail an hour. Women are quite plentiful on the hills and trail, but mostly in company with husbands or some relatives, I think."

Alfred G. McMichael, from a letter describing a scene along the Chilkoot Pass trail. "Klondike Letters: The Correspondence of a Gold Seeker in 1898," edited by Juliette C. Reinicker.

2° Worth



Anywhere else but Alaska, these would be called 2¢ Worth, but up here, you know, we just have to be different. Thus, we present 2° Worth, shorts and notices from the club and the members to each other about interesting related functions and news items. Please submit anything you run across that is Alaska related to the Editor. Thanks!

50 Years Ago...

by Eric Knapp

(Editors Note: Linn's Stamp News has had a short column for many years looking back at past issues of the paper. Since this is the ACC's 50th Anniversary I thought such a column would be an interesting addition.)

On January 12, 1959 the first issue of a newsletter, provisionally titled *The Alaskan Collector*, was sent to an initial membership of 29 members. The first issue reported on the results of a questionnaire that had been sent to the members on what the club should do. The first thing to be decided was the club's name. The two most popular choices were listed and a vote was called.

The issue contained the first town study. This covered the village of Afognak. It also contained information on the 7 cent Statehood stamp, 2 plane crashes and recent prices noted on Alaska material.

The second issue of *The Alaskan Collector* came out on March 1, 1959. It announced the selection of the name, The Alaskan Collectors Club, for the new club. The issue contains additional information on Afognak and new town studies for Adak, Akiachak, Akiak, Akulurak, Akutan and Alakanuk.

Back Issues of TAP

1959 - 1973: Computer scanned & edited copies

1976 - 1984: Quality photocopies

1984 - 2001: Originals & quality photocopies

\$10.00 for six issues or calendar year.

\$2.00 for single issues

Shipping charges: \$2.00 for first 6 issues, \$1.00 for each additional six issues or portion thereafter, \$5.00 maximum on any order. Limited quantities available. Refunds for those not available. Donations of back issues appreciated.



WANTED: *Someone with web technical expertise who would be willing to occasionally update the ACC website. Would require general web maintenance knowledge (nothing too complicated!) and perhaps a couple of hours 3-4 times a year. Please contact Jim Zuelow.*

Leaving a Stamp on The Quest

by Tom Moran, for the Fairbanks News-Miner

Published February 10, 2008

After 25 years, Carufel's cachets are a race tradition...

Caye Carufel smiles as she visits during the Legends of Mushing social event at the Fairbanks Community Museum. (Photo by Sam Harrel.)

Caye Carufel has never run a Yukon Quest. But a little piece of her travels with every musher who's ever entered the race.

Carufel is responsible for putting together the Yukon Quest International Dog Sled Race cachets, sets of commemorative envelopes carried by every musher in the contest. What started out as a lark for the Fairbanks resident has turned into an annual enterprise, one she's undertaken through thick and thin every year since the Quest began in 1984.

"I just think it's fun," said the spry 82-year-old. "I love to do things like this. If I make money, OK, if I don't make money, OK. If I don't sell them all I don't care, it's just a fun thing."

Cachets are popular collector's items among philatelists: they're stamped, decorative envelopes issued to commemorate an event, like an inauguration or unveiling, or a new stamp's first day of issue. Carufel got in on the ground floor when two members of the now-defunct Northern Lights Stamp Club proposed the Quest cachet idea in 1984, in part because the race follows an old mail route.

"Two fellows and myself decided, let's do a cachet for the race, and the mushers can carry the mail across on the mail trail," she related.

Both partners have since moved on, and Carufel has been tackling the complex endeavor solo for more than a decade. Each year she enlists an artist to design artwork for the envelope, with designs so far ranging from dramatic paintings of mushers, to atmospheric photographs, to comic sketches of dogs.

Carufel designs the overall look of the cachet, has 500 copies printed — though she's downsized it to 300 this year — puts a United States and a Canada stamp on each and has the post office at the race's start, either Fairbanks or Whitehorse, cancel one of them. Then she delivers a packet of envelopes to the mushers, who carry them to the end of the trail — and a waiting Carufel, who retrieves them at the Quest banquet and has them cancelled again in the ending city.

Ron Inouye, a retired University of Alaska Fairbanks library employee who collects the cachets, said he admires the inordinate amount of labor Carufel puts into them.

"The work is magnified many times by the work being done that way," he said of the elaborate process. "That really takes a lot of care and a lot of motivation."

This year, each musher received 11 envelopes, of which they were required to sign 10. Each musher can keep the unsigned envelope as a souvenir; the rest Carufel sells for \$10 each, mostly to mail-order collectors as far away as Russia and Japan.

At least, she tries to sell them. "I never sell them all," she admitted. "I just stash them away ... I have a big bookcase in the back room, and I have 25 years of shoeboxes from every year for the cachets."

And there are sometimes a few she can't put on the market for other reasons. "I've had some with a corner torn off by the dogs, some have gotten dropped in the water through the years, things like that." Carufel has learned her lesson from such ruined cachets: Today, the envelopes are bundled up, covered in plastic wrap, ensconced in Masonite boards, covered in duct tape, and placed inside the mushers' veterinary bags. The mushers are required by the Quest to carry the cachets, and race officials look for them at checkpoints.

A different cachet has been made for each year of the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race.

The Quest has always happily obliged the requests of Carufel and her cohorts for the mushers to carry the cachets, principally because the practice commemorates the history of the Quest route as a mail trail. Dog mushers delivered winter mail along parts of the remote and hazardous route for decades, from gold rush days until mail planes put them out of business around the late 1930s. Mail routes stretched from Fairbanks to Dawson and points in between, with mushers hitting the trail each fall soon after the riverboats stopped running.

"From Central to Circle, on the Yukon River basically, that was the old mail route," noted Leroy Shank, one of the founders of the Quest. "The frozen Yukon River has probably been a highway since man existed."

Shank said mushers have never complained about carrying the tiny loads, and that many — himself included — appreciate the free souvenir.

"It was something people went along with, because people wanted them — the mushers wanted them for themselves," he explained. "Especially if you didn't win any



prize money, you didn't get much else out of it. It's just an expensive vacation."

It's something of a mystery what Carufel herself gets out of her efforts. While Carufel is many things — mother of five, grandmother of eight, retired land manager, former resident of California, North Dakota, Arizona, and Massachusetts, and inveterate collector of mugs, magnets, plates, Quest pins, and assorted doodads — she's never much been into postal collecting, which has always been her husband Louis' interest. But when she and Louis moved to Fairbanks in 1984, he got involved in the Northern Lights Stamp Club and she just came along for company.

"I went there to look at the pretty pictures," she laughed. "I just fell into (the cachets)."

However nebulous her initial rationale, Carufel has enjoyed the task: the annual trips to Whitehorse, the chance to meet and befriend some of the mushers, and the opportunity to play a minor role in one of the world's toughest races. Though she admits to not being an obsessive mushing fan, Carufel nonetheless has her favorites: she's long been friends with Quest veteran Frank Turner, and she also always "root(s) for the girls."

Over the years, Carufel has created a noteworthy body

of work, and this year was asked by the Fairbanks Community Museum to put together a display of the covers. The result is a colorful collage of men and women in heavy parkas, auroras dancing over sleds, and dozens of dogs — running, resting, and even playing roulette. On No. 6 envelopes, Carufel has crafted a comprehensive memento of the history of the race.

The display may prove the summation of Carufel's cachet career. While she is still plenty energetic, she hopes to hand off the reins soon.

"I've been trying to find somebody to take over, because I'm really not that young anymore," she said. "Can't run as fast as I used to."

That someone might be Inouye, who gave her a hand prepping the cachets this year. Inouye said he'd consider taking over, but not before he learns more about the process and hopefully finds a partner or two.

"I'm sure it will continue on in some form," he said. "There's got to be more people to come forward and help with it."

Tom Moran is a former News-Miner reporter and currently a master's of fine arts student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Gold Nuggets

"Hotel Ballard, Dyea, March 31, 1898

This morning I went over to Skaguay, five miles from here [by water], and was repaid by finding letters from you and Nathalie. . . . I had to walk about a mile and a half, as the tide was out; then two men rowed me over to land. . . . Fare each way was \$1.00.

Your letters were the most expensive letters I ever received but they were worth every cent and more. Mail is very uncertain here and I was hoping that there would be more waiting for me.

Skaguay is much larger than Dyea and seems to be way ahead in improvements, but the mud is awful. Dyea is on a sandy flat and the streets are decent, but there it is muck and clay and the streets wind in and out around stumps. There are some sidewalks and cross walks, but the rest is mostly mud. The streets are lined with saloons and restaurants, mostly saloons, on both sides."

—*Alfred G. McMichael, from a letter home. "Klondike Letters: The Correspondence of a Gold Seeker in 1898," edited by Juliette C. Reinicker.*

Stamps of Alaska Marks 50th Anniversary

On January 3, 2009, the U.S. Postal Service released a new 42-cent commemorative to celebrate the 50th anniversary of statehood for Alaska, "America's Last Frontier." In conjunction with that anniversary, the American Philatelic Society is pleased to offer a new 15-page Stamps of Alaska album. The album was created to promote the hobby to adult and juvenile beginners who have an interest in the history of the Land of the Midnight Sun. In addition, text on the rear cover promotes the Alaska Collectors' Club as well as APS AmeriStamp Expo/Texpex 2009 February 20-22 at the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington, Texas.

The mini-album showcases United States stamps that are related to the Alaska's distinctive history and geography, its people, plants and animals. Created for free use in the public domain — with generous permission from Scott Publishing Co. to use its copyrighted catalogue numbers — it is available as a pdf file that can be viewed or downloaded and printed. Visit the APS website to get a copy.

The album has spaces for 59 stamps including a 10-stamp Nature of America pane. Facing pages of text describe how the issues relate to the Alaska, from the arrival of the earliest peoples in this continent via the Bering Land Bridge as the last ice age ended to the state's modern prosperity tied to its mineral wealth.

Pages include "Alaska Prehistory and Early History," "The Alaska Purchase & Gold Rush Days," "Alaska from U.S. Territory to 49th State," "More Alaskan History and Geography," "Alaska Flora and Fauna," and "More Alaskan Wildlife." A blank "Alaska" page with a matching border is also available at the end of the album, which collectors may use as they choose, including printing multiple copies they can use to mount First Day Covers or Alaska postmarks.

The earliest stamp is the perforated 1909 2¢ Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition commemorative (Scott 370). The most recent is the 42¢ Alaska 50th Anniversary commemorative issued this week. Famous people with an Alaska connection on stamps in the album include two U.S. Presidents, explorers Captain James Cook and Adolphus W. Greely, William Seward, Wyatt Earp, John Muir, Jack London, and Billy Mitchell.



The album is not exhaustive. It was created with places and text for affordable U.S. issues, to appeal to beginners and interested non-collectors, including teachers, scouts and students, as well as general collectors who have an interest in the history of the state. The 2009 Scott catalogue value of all items needed to fill every space is \$43.95 mint, and just \$22.00 cancelled.

The Stamps of Alaska album is number 5 in a series, following albums for North Carolina, Connecticut, Texas, and Arizona. All of these along with other APS albums are available to be viewed or downloaded and printed. Future albums are planned in conjunction with 2009–2011 APS shows in Pennsylvania, Virginia, California, South Carolina, and Ohio.

Post World War II APO Genesis

by Bob McKain (57-vette@comcast.net)

Clear Air Force Station/Branch (BMEWS)

In 1959 a strip of wilderness at Clear was appropriated to become Site II of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS). Groundbreaking for the new radar took place in May 1959. Construction would take place for the better part of the next 2 years. Operational capability was achieved in 1961. Although the site belonged to the Air Force, civilian contractor personnel actually performed the missile-warning mission to 1964, when Air Force personnel permanently manned the station. Clear was one of only three BMEWS sites, the other two being located in Thule, Greenland and Fylingdales, England. The construction of Clear had a final price tag of \$360,000,000.

In addition to the technical site which consisted of the radars, radar support buildings and power plant, two permanent dormitories, mess hall, recreation area and administrative area were also completed nearby. Initial operational capability was achieved on July 1, 1961 with full operational capabilities three months later. In November 1961, the Air Force's Air Defense Command accepted the facilities from Air Force Systems Command who had been overseeing construction. The responsibility for operation lay with the 2nd Detachment of the 71st Missile Warning Wing. On January 1, 1967, Detachment 2 became the newly created 13th Missile Warning Squadron (MWS). Throughout the '60s and early '70s, Clear played a part in a series of experiments affecting its radars.

In 1971, the 13th MWS was reassigned from the 71st Missile Warning Wing to the 14th Aerospace Force. In 1981, Clear underwent a major modification when it was feared that the radome, housing the tracker radar was unsafe, as a nearly identical radome had recently burned to the ground in Thule. On May 1, 1983, the 13th was once again reassigned to Space Command's 1st Space Wing. When Thule and Fylingdales were converted to phased ar-

ray radar systems, Clear became the last mechanical missile warning system in the US. It was decided that Clear would be upgraded with phased array as well, and the Clear Radar Upgrade (CRU) was born.

Rather than build completely new radar, the CRU utilized existing radar components from the deactivated PAVE PAWS SLBM warning site at Eldorado Air Force Station, Texas. Ground was broken for the new radar in April 1988. The new radar was known as the Solid-State Phased-Array Radar System (SSPARS - pronounced "ES-pars") and was built at a cost of \$106.5 million. On December 15, 2000, after nearly 40 years of operation, the last of the original BMEWS radars ceased transmitting, and the SSPARS began 24-hour operations. Initial Operational Capability was declared on January 31, 2001.

In 2001 Clear began its transition from an active duty, dependant restricted, remote short tour to a full time active Alaska Air National Guard unit, the 213th Space Warning Squadron, which was activated on August 30, 2006. Clear personnel is currently composed of active duty Air Force, Alaska Air National Guard, Canadian Air Force, civilian and contractor personnel.

Clear AFS had APO status from 01 January 1968 (APO 99704) through 01 September 1994 (APO 96509).

Sources note that both civilian and military postmarks were used at the CLEAR AIR FORCE BRANCH / STATION as noted above and in the illustrations. It appears that the Branch/Station designation was also used interchangeably. One source also indicates that the APO as established was given the designation APO 98704, however, no observed covers at this time have not been seen utilizing this APO and zip code combination. As shown above, the Post Office, from the advent of zip code implementation in 1965 used zip 99704 per the Postal Bulletin. After cessation of APO 96509, the zip code returned to 99704.

Gold Nuggets

Word that Americans were starving in Dawson set a truly wacky idea into motion. Determined not to allow Americans to starve to death, American officials decided to import a herd of reindeer from northern Europe to Alaska.

The theory was that the herd would provide a sustained food source for the population. Unfortunately, transporting the reindeer herd to Alaska took more time than anticipated. It arrived there long after the starvation threat had disappeared. Some of the animals were used to carry the mail in subsequent years.

Clear AFS, AK (Post WWII Postmarks)

by Bob McKain

CLEAR AIR FORCE STATION (BMEWS), ALASKA (POST WWII POSTMARKS)

Under Civilian Parentage

Established:	15 Jun 59	As Rural Station of Fairbanks, Alaska
Discontinued:	11 Aug 60	
Reestablished:	15 Aug 60	As Fairbanks MOU (Money Order Unit) #1
Discontinued:	31 Dec 62	Named changed to Clear MOU effective 01 Jan 63
Name Change:	01 Jan 63	Became Clear MOU
	04 Oct 80	Parent office changed to Nenana, Alaska with zip code 99704

As a Designated Army Post Office (APO)

APO 99704

Established:	01 Jan 68
Redesignated:	15 Jul 91 as APO 96509

APO 96509

Established:	15 Jul 91	Was APO 99704
Discontinued:	01 Sep 94	As an Army Post Office

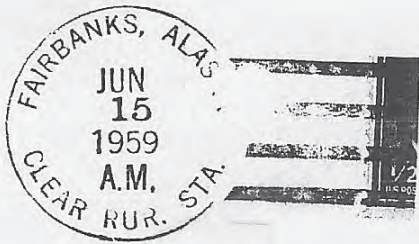
Currently open and listed as a Classified Branch of Nenana, Alaska with zip code 99704

Postmarks Reported:

Ty 1	15 Jun 59 – 17 Jul 59	FAIRBANKS, ALASKA/CLEAR RUR. STA.
Ty 2	30 Aug 60 – 31 Dec 62	FAIRBANKS, ALASKA/M.O.U. NO. 1
Ty 3	01 Mar 61 – 27 Aug 65	CLEAR/ALASKA (machine cancel)
Ty 4	12 Feb 65 –	FAIRBANKS, ALASKA CLEAR MOU/USPO
Ty 5	16 Apr 72 – 19 May 77	CLEAR, AK/99704 (machine cancel)
Ty 6	21 Oct 75 – 11 Mar 81	FAIRBANKS, AK CLEAR MOU/USPO
Ty 7	25 Jul 83 – 25 Mar 86	C L E A R, AK/99704 (wide spacing)
Ty 8	26 Mar 86 –	CLEAR, AK/USPO
Ty 9	01 Feb 88 –	CLEAR, AK/99704 (narrow spacing)
Ty 10	08 Jun 90 –	CLEAR, AK/USPS
Ty 11	06 Nov 91 –	U.S. AIR FORCE/APO 96509
Ty 12	03 May 93 – 08 Dec 93	NENANA, AK CLEAR BR./99704-9998
Ty 13	07 Dec 99 –	NENANA AK CLEAR STA/99704
Ty 14	07 Dec 99 – 23 Oct 03	NENANA AK CLEAR BR/USPS
Ty 15	23 Oct 03 –	NENANA AK CLEAR BR/99704
Ty 16	21 Nov 08 –	NENANA AK CLEAR BR 99704/USPS

Clear AFS, AK (Post WWII Postmarks)

Clear Air Force Branch/Station Reported Postmarks



1



2



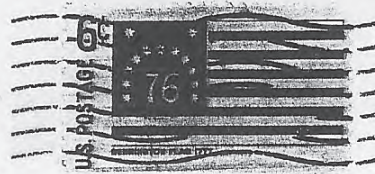
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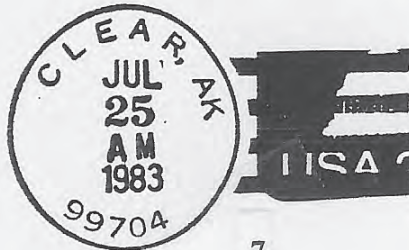
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5



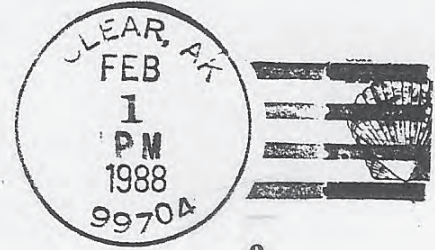
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7



8



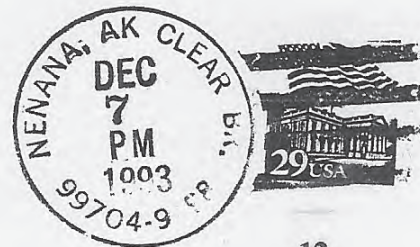
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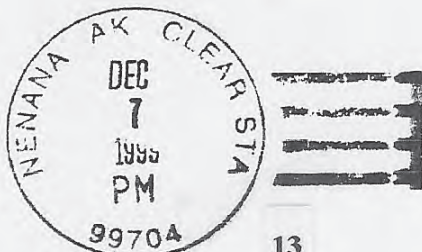
10



11



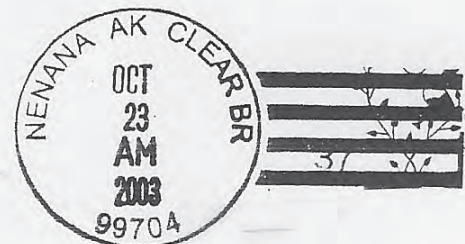
12



13



14



15



16

19th Century Post Card Inventory

compiled by Don Glickstein

Editor's Introduction: Don has collected postal cards as long as I have known him. He has a great collection of these cards. This listing is his efforts at creating an inventory of all of the postal cards known to have been mailed from Alaska in the 19th century.

If you have any cards that can help Don with this effort please contact him at the address below:

Don Glickstein

1300 University Street, #9G

Seattle, WA 98101

I was interested to read in Jim Zuelow's column about the interest in doing a census of 19th century covers and cards.

I have created what I think is a fairly comprehensive census of postal cards with 19th century uses. Bob McCain generously shared his list, which I supplemented with my own information. As a nonphilatelic Alaska postal card specialist, I'm always interested in learning of new 19th

century cards—and trading for or buying virtually any nonphilatelic card from any era in Alaska.

A little explanation of the column categories:

UX Scott catalog number

Date Date of cancellation

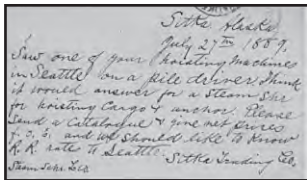
hb Helbock type

City City of cancellation

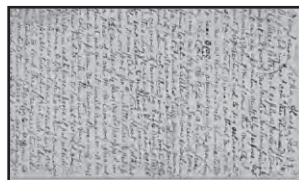
\$\$\$ price of the card in either the latest sale or auction Addressee To whom the card was sent

(ill) source Whether I have a photo or scan of the card, and the source of my information, generally either from an auction or sale by a dealer.

Column 1 The full message written on the card, if known.



FT. WRANGEL • JULY 27, 1889



SITKA • FEBRUARY 24, 1884

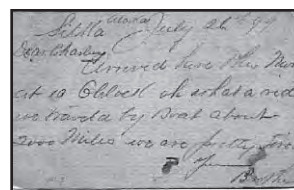


SITKA • JULY 14, 1891

SITKA • APRIL 18, 1898



FT. WRANGEL • 1893



SITKA • JULY 26, 1899



EXAMPLE OF SITKA, CIRCA 1894

FDC Ceremony for Alaska Stamp Issue

by Eric Knapp

On a nice, brisk (OK, it was darn cold!) January day in Anchorage, people of all kinds came together to welcome a new stamp and to celebrate the 50th birthday of the state of Alaska. The ceremony occurred on the actual anniversary date as part of a much larger celebration throughout downtown Anchorage.

The ceremony was held in the main ballroom of the Captain Cook Hotel. It turned into a standing room only event.

Local meteorologist and lifelong Alaskan Jackie Purcell was the Master of Ceremonies. USPS District Manager Dianne Horbochuk represented the Postal Service and dedicated the stamp. Both Governor Sarah Palin and Senator Lisa Murkowski spoke. The photographer Jeff Schultz talked about taking the photograph and everything that was involved, including a mad dash through Rainy Pass on a snow machine to get to just the right spot with just the right light.

The ceremony also featured the attendance of every living former governor of the Territory of Alaska and the State of Alaska.

The only “controversy” of the day was the identity of the musher on the stamp. The official press releases from the Postal Service just list the subject as “a musher” traveling through Rainy Pass on the Iditarod. Once the stamp image was released, people here quickly figured it was a picture of DeeDee Jonrowe. The Postal Service then confirmed this.

The controversy was over whether you could picture a living person on a stamp or not. Several of us collectors at the event spent a lot of time explaining that the rule was that a living person could not be honored on a stamp, liv-



The cover makers at work. Chet Walukiewicz is in the foreground. David Schwantes is at the back table.

ing people can be pictured in honoring an event or a place. And this was the case here.

DeeDee took it all in stride. She attended the ceremony and, while not an official part of the program, she talked with many of her fans and graciously autographed everything put in front of her.

The Alaska Collectors Club has produced two cover projects featuring the new stamp. The first one you received with this issue of TAP. This is a cover honoring the 50th Anniversary of both Alaska and the Alaska Collectors Club. We are sending this cover to every member of the club as a thank you for being a member in this historic year. The second project is our annual Sustaining Member Cover. This will be sent to Sustaining Members later this year.

I will not try to guess the number of covers that were produced for this event nor the number of cover makers. The Postal Service produced a cover and the Anchorage Philatelic Society and local ACC members David Schwantes and Duane Heverling produced covers that were sold at the show. I have since seen innumerable different covers being sold online. There will be a lot of opportunities to collect this stamp on cover.

There will also be a lot of these stamps in the regular mail stream. The Postal Service locally has reported that the stamps have been very popular with the public. So check your mail from Alaska, you will most likely see them. Just don't try to soak it off. I am told that this is one that won't soak well.

It was a good day and a good bunch of projects and a good way to spend a cold January day.



Attendees peruse the stock at the Postal Service booth.

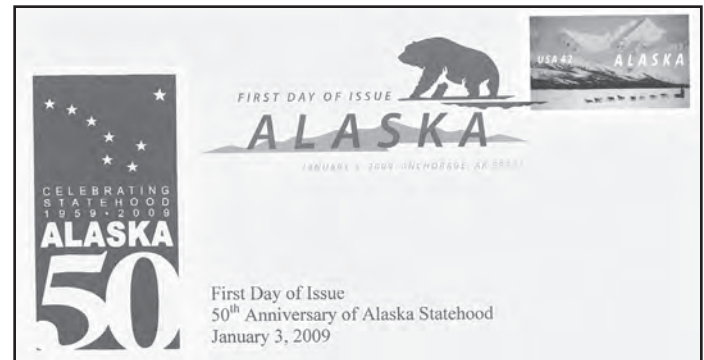
FDCs Available for Alaska Stamp Issue



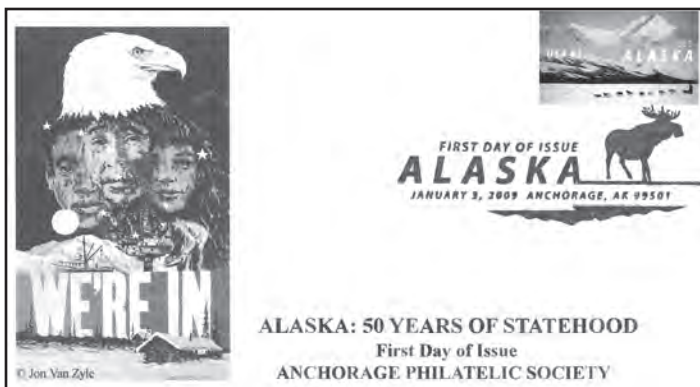
The official unveiling. (left to right): Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Gov. Sarah Palin, USPS District Manager Dianne Horbochuk, and photographer Jeff Schultz.



Cover produced by the USPS. As these were very popular, it is unsure if any are still available.



Cover with the color digital cancel featuring a bear. The consensus is that this is a Brown Bear. This was the editor's project and none are available for sale.



Cover produced by the Anchorage Philatelic Society. Available for \$3.00 plus SASE from: Anchorage Philatelic Society, P.O. 10-2214, Anchorage, AK 99510.



Cover produced by Duane Heverling. Available for \$4.00 plus SASE from: Duane Heverling, 3801 Dee Circle, Anchorage, AK 99516

Celebrating Alaska's 50th, ACC Style!



"This First Day Cover was created by the Alaska Collectors' Club to honor the 50th Anniversary of the State of Alaska and the 50th Anniversary of the ACC. It was given free to all club members."

Insert text:

50th Anniversary of the State of Alaska

50th Anniversary of the Alaska Collectors' Club

On January 3, 1959, after a decade's long struggle, Alaska became the 49th State of the United States.

That same year, a small group of collectors led by William Rolke of Saint Paul, Minnesota started a club to study the postal history of the new state.

The group, originally called the Alaskan Collectors Club, has grown into today's Alaska Collectors' Club.

This cover has been created as an anniversary gift to the membership of the ACC. A way of saying thank you for the last 50 years and let's do great things for Alaskan Philately in the next 50 years.

The cachet is from an original artwork by Angela Watson. The insert was written by Eric Knapp.

Father William Judge, Saint of Dawson City

by Angela Watson (bleumoon@charter.net)

Born April 28th 1850 in Baltimore, William Henry Judge was an ancient (by the day's standards) age 25 when he was admitted to the study of the Jesuits. Ten years prior to this, he had begun studies at Loyola, but quit due to poor health. He subsequently began work as a clerk at a major planing mill in Baltimore, and learned much about woodworking, which would serve him well in the harsh conditions of Alaska.

When admitted to the novitiate in 1875, he truly felt his heart's desire had been accomplished. Ordained in 1886, he spent many years teaching in and around the Northeast, and in 1889 he departed for the Northwest where he served in and around Denver, Colorado, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Spokane, Washington.

In mid-1890, he finds himself in San Francisco, readying for the journey to Alaska, well before gold is discovered in the Klondike. He boards the S.S. St. Paul in San Francisco for 13 days of rough seas and little nutrition





ST. MARY'S CHURCH, DAWSON, ALASKA, CIRCA 1899

(he being able to keep precious little down) as he heads towards the Alaskan Mission at St. Michael, Alaska.

On the portion of the trip from Unalaska to St. Michael, his ship must keep nearly 40 miles away from shore to avoid the shallow and dangerous shoals that are created by the confluence of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. They then steer north and then curve northeast towards Capes Nome and Darby and then descend into St. Michael.

He was in the 40-mile district of the Yukon when news of Klondike gold reached the outside world. During the “hunger winter” of 1897-98, Father Judge packed his sled with medical supplies and other essential and headed for Dawson.

Here he combined his medical, spiritual and architectural abilities to build both a church and St. Mary's hospital. The church was opened in September of 1898. When it burned down, Catholics and non-Catholics alike pitched in to help Father Judge build a new one.

Judge's humanitarian work became known due to the writings of Jack London, whose health — and possibly his life — was saved by the priest. As later described by himself, London — like many others involved in the Gold Rush

— became malnourished and developed scurvy. His gums became swollen, eventually leading to the loss of his four front teeth. A constant gnawing pain affected his abdomen and leg muscles, and his face was stricken with sores. Due to Judge's ministrations, he and many others recovered their health.

The Klondike Nugget wrote glowingly about Father Judge and his hospital saying neither religious belief or skin color mattered when it came to treatment of the sick or injured.

When he died in January of 1899, his church, St. Mary's, was overflowing with mourners. Many houses were shrouded in black and the saloons and shops in Dawson were closed for the day. Father Judge, the Saint of Dawson City, was just 49 years old.

Sources include:

1. Les McLaughlin, *Yukon Nugget* contributor
2. Wikipedia.org
3. *An American Missionary*, by Rev. Charles S. Judge published 1904 by the Catholic Relief Society Publishing House, Boston, MA

Gold Nuggets

Dr. E.M. Riniger had run a small hospital near the Chilkoot Pass in 1898 before he moved, first to Dawson, and then later to Nome. During these years, he treated 177 cases of typhoid fever. He wrote up his experiences for a medical journal in 1906.

“During seven years of practice in Alaska, I cared for 177 cases of typhoid fever. . . . The great majority of these cases were typical; the general run of symptoms encountered were the same. A large percentage had nosebleed, right iliac tenderness and the usual course of fever; the rose spots were present in nearly every case, and in six of them so numerous as to produce the appearance of general rash.”

“Northwest Medicine,” September 1906

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