

H53 Background noise to blog
3/23/72 Ernie Wolff on the History of Mining.
Historical Society into

1st ⁸⁰ yrs of AK - history mining started
with Klondike Stampede. After Next couple
of yrs history of AK was history of
mining. Russians more interested in
fur trading than mining. (gold?)

Durshin - mined coal in Kenai.
Coal in Kenai very easy to find - just
pick it up on the beaches.

Placer gold found round Sumdum
Bay in Southeast AK.

1871 - Cassiar, B.C. gold found
there. Asbestos mining.

1972 - Cassiar Asbestos Mining Corporation
has asbestos mine at Clinton Creek
close to mouth of Fortymile River.

1873 - 2 parties reached Interior
AK by way of Porcupine River
(Harper and McQuesten).

1873 - Windham Bay gold deposit
discovered in SE AK.

McSilva
1875 - Klipper Yukon reached by
Chilkoot Pass for the 1st time.

1877 - Stewart Mine built a
mill.

1879 - John Muir and Sir Hall
Yang made trip along SE coast and
went up into Glacier Bay by canoe.
Reported prospects for gold were good.

(2)

Joe Juneau and Richard Harris ^{were} sent out in 1880 up along SE Coast. Discovered gold at Juneau. Juneau had many small veins of gold, but not enough to keep big mine going. Unga Island - gold found there. Produced quite a bit of gold.

1884 - yr mining laws extended to AK. Juneau functioned with only miners' law for 4 yrs. 1st thing miners could do is organize a mining district, elect a recorder, adopt the laws (mainly concerned with mining) that they would abide by. Not able to jail lawbreakers, but could banish or execute them.

1886 - Burns Bay.

1886 - 1st gold found in Interior at Franklin Creek at 40 mile. Names (40 mile, 60 mile, 70 mile) refer to distance from Fort Reliance. ^(Reliant?) on upper Yukon.

1887 - Stampede to Yakutat and Montoya Bay (or beach) mining. Didn't produce much. ~~It~~ In those days if people could make \$3-4/day they were happy.

1888 - Resurrection Creek on the Kenai Peninsula.

1896 - Discovery of Gold in Klondike district.

1897 - Gold found on Seward Pen.

1898 - Klondike Gold Rush true beginning of modern AK.

1898 - Gold found at Nome.

Kobuk Stampede - 2,000 people went to Kobuk, landed at Kotzebue. Lot of them got scurvy that winter.

Next yr, many went to Nome. About a dozen or so that went upriver, crossed over to Nootak, found gold at head of Nootak.

198 - Hyder district.

1924 - Completion of railroad allowed industrialization of Interior Ak.

Only platinum produced in N. America at Coeur d'Alene Bay. Produced about \$400,000 worth of platinum in 1972.

1942 - Gold mining closed down because of WWII. Never really got started again.

1972 - Mining industry in recession, very little money for exploration, native land claims complicates issue.

Called it Lucky Six Strike. Stumpedeers
Went on to Teoyukuk and Chandalar.
1899 - Copper discovered at Kennecott.

Overshadowed by gold mining. Also copper
being shipped from LaTouse Mine
in Prince Wm Sound. Placer tin found
on Seward Pen. in 1900. Then tin
shipped to East Indies, Now ⁽¹⁸⁷²⁾ ~~its~~
shipped to TX.

1901-02 - Gold found on Peelo
Creek. Founding of Fbx.

Charlie Strandberg and his brother
were large mining operators in Dawson.
loaded up a couple of barges with
their families and mining outfits and
came down river in style. ~~Went over~~
Arrived at Chena in Oct., went over
to Ester, beat the freeze up,
set up their mining operation and
did ok.

1903 - Bonfield district. Valdez/
Susitna Creek. Kantshna district.
Copper mining - Prince of Wales Island.

1906 - Chandalar. Frank
Yasuda.

1906-07 - Innoko Creek, Yentna.

1907 - Ruby.

1909 - Tetikood.

1910 - Hughes.

1910 - Kludner.

1912 - Sushanna. 1913 - Melchina

1914 - Livengood. Last placer mine
discovery.