

ED JANEAU

Ed Janeau was born June 1, 1883 in Delta County in north central Texas. He left home at the age of 17 and went to Oklahoma for awhile before drifting west. He was reared on a cotton farm.

When he reached San Francisco jobs for 20-year-old farm boys were hard to come by. He got in line where the captain of the whaling ship Karluk was hiring deck hands and other ship's helpers. For some reason the man doing the hiring liked Ed's answers to questions and hired him from a long, long line of job seekers. But Ed thought it over after he heard that the whaling ships sometimes didn't get back from Arctic trips for two years sometimes. For a farm boy that was too long on water and in the Arctic. So, Ed turned down the job. The Karluk put out to sea and was never heard from again, he said.

That same year, 1903, Ed stowed away on the vessel City of Seattle and jumped ship at Juneau. He got a job at the Treadwell Mine at Douglas. Stayed there about 6 weeks....long enough to get a little stake. Then he headed to the Yukon, arriving in Skagway in the summer of 1903.

The fare on the White Pass Railroad to Whitehorse was \$20.00. Ed didn't have much so he "mushed it" (walked) to Whitehorse, following the railroad bed. He met a Mountie on the way, and Ed didn't have the required \$50. He had only \$40. But the Mountie let him go through anyway.

At Whitehorse Ed teamed up with three "Slavonians" who were also headed for the Klondike. They bought a boat (14 ft.) and headed down stream. Not one of them knew anything about navigating except that water went down hill, normally. Dawson was down river, Ed reminded the "Slavonians" who thought they were getting lost many times.

REEL TWO

The four men arrived in Dawson. Ed found a pick and shovel job at 3 below Bonanza. On the way out to his job he found a leather bag that had fallen off the mail stage. Took it to the Forks and gave it to the Mountie. The man who owned it was in the Forks roadhouse and was glad to see his bag...not knowing it had fallen off the mail stage. It contained his "poke" of gold dust. Didn't even thank Ed for returning. Ed worked 6 weeks on the creek and then got a job on a sternwheeler on the Yukon. That winter he returned to Seattle for the the winter, but he returned to the north in the spring of 1904...going on to Circle District. He went to Mastadon Creek and "sniped" enough gold to live. He partnered up with Dick Palmer and the two went up the 40 Mile River. Janeau remained on the 40 Mile River all the time (of his working life) after that.

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