

# The PAYSTREAK

Volume 12, No. 1, Spring 2010

The Newsletter of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)

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## Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation New Inductees

### AMHF Inducts Two Civic-Minded Mining Pioneers Important to Interior and Western Alaska Development



John Philip Clum (1851-1932): Although he placer mined for gold in Alaska's Interior from 1898-1909, he was much better known as the Indian agent who peacefully received Geronimo into custody in Tombstone, Arizona after the great Apache warrior was captured by Clum's Apache police force in 1877. Clum also served as the mayor of Tombstone, and was involved with Wyatt Earp in 'The Gunfight at OK Corral' before traveling to the North Country. After arriving in Alaska, Clum became reacquainted with Arizona friends Nellie Cashman and Wyatt and Josephine Earp. Clum established at least ten post offices in Alaska, including a facility in Fairbanks in 1906. He became the Postal Inspector for Alaska. The Clum caricature appears in more than ten motion pictures and is the main subject of *Walk the Proud Land* where he was played by screen actor Audie Murphy.



Irving McKenny Reed (1889-1968): Anyone searching through archived Territorial mining records will come across the name Irving McKenny Reed. The son of Nome Gold Rush participant Thomas Reed, Irving grew up in the remote mining camps of Nome, Iditarod, Livengood, and Takotna. As a Territorial Mining Engineer active during the early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Irving Reed was trusted and respected by the entire Alaska mining fraternity. During the same time, Reed served on the Alaska Game Commission from 1927-1940 and was its chair for nearly 10 years. Reed is widely credited for introducing musk oxen on Nunivak Island, bison near Delta Junction, and elk on Afognak Island. In later years, he served as municipal project engineer for the City of Fairbanks - then Alaska's largest community. In 1952, Irving was elected to the distinguished position of Territorial Highway Engineer, a job he held until 1957. He spent the remainder of his life involved in the fight for Statehood and on Fairbanks area projects, including helping to secure the lease for Pioneer Park, which would become the 1967 Centennial Park (Alaska Land) in Fairbanks.

**Supported by the Alaska Miners Association  
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)  
Induction Ceremony, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Westmark-Fairbanks Hotel, Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Program**

**The general public is invited to the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) induction ceremony from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The induction will take place in the East Gold Room of the Westmark-Fairbanks Hotel. Coffee and donuts will be provided free of charge and there is no charge for admission.**

**Coffee and Donuts**.....6:30-7:00 PM

**Introduction and Purpose of the AMHF**

    President Mary Nordale..... 7:00-7:10 PM

**Presentation of Inductees**

    John Philip Clum, by Charles C. Hawley..... 7:10-7:40PM

    Irving McKenny Reed, by Thomas K. Bundtzen..... 7:40-8:10 PM

**Coffee Break**..... 8:10-8:30 PM

**Recollection of Inductees from the Audience**..... 8:30-9:00 PM

**Adjournment** ..... 9:00 PM

## **Introduction and Acknowledgements**

The March 11, 2010 induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features two civic-minded Alaskan mining pioneers important to the development of the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Often forgotten is how essential public service is in the development of the Alaska mining industry. Without these foundations, Alaska's economy and culture could not, and cannot, grow and sustain themselves.

Although often foremost remembered by western historians as 'the man who caught the great Apache warrior Geronimo' and for his involvement in 'the gunfight at OK Corral', John Clum's principle achievements centered on the establishment of reliable postal service throughout Alaska, which was absolutely essential to miners of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, even crucial to their success. Although Clum was also involved in gold mining, he spent much of his time in the North Country establishing nine post offices before being appointed Postal Inspector for the Alaska Territory in 1909, shortly before his departure south and retirement in the American Southwest. The U.S. Postal Service was a revered, respected, and efficient organization throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a recognition that we have sadly lost in this fast-moving digital age of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We can thank people like Clum for the success of the Alaska postal services.

Mining Engineer Irving McKenny Reed is renowned for his contributions throughout the Alaska Territory as an associate mining engineer. But in many ways, he is even better known as Chair of the Alaska Game Commission, as the Territorial Highway Engineer, and for his contributions to local Fairbanks area activities. He grew up in Nome, Alaska and never forgot his roots, carrying with him lessons learned during his early years for the rest of his life. Like Clum, Reed's most important contributions were those of public service - making Alaska a better and more interesting place to live.

Charles Hawley provided the summary of John Clum, using the voluminous material that has been created (even recently) about his life. T.K. Bundtzen wrote the biography of Irving Reed, drawing on on-line summaries, publications from the Territorial Department of Mines and the University of Alaska Mineral Industry Research Laboratory, and from records archived by the Pioneers of Alaska in Fairbanks.

Bundtzen and Tina Laird of Pacific Rim Geological Consulting, Inc. edited and produced the newsletter, and obtained many of the illustrative photographic images.

## Previous Inductees, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame

### *National Mining Hall of Fame Inductees*

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.

### *Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation Inductees*

#### 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” grubstaker for prospectors.

**Arthur Harper:** Well known and respected trader and prospector and promoter of the Yukon.

**Howard Franklin:** Fortymile prospector, discovered first “bedrock” placer gold in Alaska.

**John Minook:** Creole-Athabaskan 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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-20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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-20<sup>th</sup> 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 mi<sup>2</sup> 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.



*photo from [www.chronicleoftheoldwest.com](http://www.chronicleoftheoldwest.com)*

### **John Philip Clum (1851-1932)**

The year 1898 marked the height of the Klondike stampede and the beginning of the rush to Nome. The year before, important copper deposits had been discovered in Prince William Sound, where ill-advised Klondike gold seekers sought an all-America route to the Klondike. Although many of those would-be miners returned home empty handed, others spread out along Alaska's southern coast before ascending previously unexplored rivers to make gold discoveries in the Kenai, Willow, and Yentna basins. Laborers at the almost mature mines at Juneau and Douglas in Alaska's southeastern panhandle watched the northern developments to see if they should jump for Nome or travel into Alaska's Interior.

Communications were very important to the mining community, and the most reliable method was written, which were then carried by the U.S. Postal Service, an entity that would also safely carry physical gold bound for the U.S. Mint at a very reasonable cost.

The Postal Service needed to expand rapidly to keep up with the explosive growth of the territory. To do this rather Herculean task, they sent a middle-aged, rather slight, prematurely bald man whose previous wilderness experience had been in

the southwestern deserts. The man was John Philip Clum, who was designated as Postal Inspector for Alaska. His lack of northern experience was seemingly no handicap. In a five-month period, Clum traveled 8,000 miles, established seven new post offices, and equipped existing ones.

Tough assignments were nothing new to John Clum. On February 26, 1874, at the age of twenty three, Clum accepted a commission as Indian agent on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in southeastern Arizona. Clum was on the job by early August, and he quickly established an effective self-rule system, a first in any of the western reservations. In April 1877, backed up by his Apache police force, Clum captured Geronimo in a bloodless standoff. Unfortunately, Clum's effective management system, based on honesty and trust, could not survive venal civilian agents who managed only to line their own pockets, and a military whose aim was Apache genocide. Clum resigned on July 1, 1877, when he was only twenty-six years old.

Clum's early life was rather typical for his time, but judging from his educational history, probably on the prosperous side. Family heritage was Dutch. His father, William Henry Clum, married Elizabeth Van Deusen. John, who was born on September 1, 1851, had five brothers and three sisters. The family farm was near Claverack, New York where John attended the Hudson River Institute. In 1870, John entered Rutgers University, where he played on the second recorded intercollegiate football game between Rutgers and Princeton. Clum intended to return to Rutgers in 1871, but was quite ill that summer - likely the illness that caused John to lose his hair. (John's later Apache name was Nantan Betunnikiyeh meaning Boss with high Forehead.) Lacking funds to return to school in the fall, Clum joined the U.S. Army Signal Corps in September 1871, and became a weather observer in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Clum was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, which assumed management of the San Carlos Reservation in the early 1870s. Former classmates at Rutgers, aware of Clum's western location, volunteered him for a position as Indian agent, where he not only captured Geronimo and his lieutenants, Francisco, Ponce, and Gordo, but also accepted the peaceful surrender of Victorio's 400 member band. Clum was a bit of a showman. In 1876 he traveled to Ohio to wed Mary Dennison Ware, and took with him an Apache body guard of twenty-two San Carlos men who played 'Wild Apaches' on the way to cover expenses.



Apache agent John Clum in a group portrait with the Yuma Chief; photo from [www.postalmuseum.si.edu](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu)

Clum's enlightened management policies kept him in political hot water. As noted by one biographer:

*"In the three years that Clum had served as agent his salary was still \$1,600 per year. In that time four other reservations had been closed ...and Indians sent to San Carlos increased from 800 to 5000. Seven other agents had been fired as*

*they were not needed. . .a final blow came when the Indian Bureau moved the Army to periodically inspect Clum's charges.*

*The twenty-six year old Clum sent a brash telegram to Washington saying that if his salary was increased and he was allowed two more companies of Indian police, he would assume control of all the Apaches in Arizona and that all the army troops could be removed. Politicians could not allow this to happen as they were making a great deal of money because of the presence of the Army."*

Deciding to learn more about publishing, silver, and western boomtowns, Clum left his position as Indian agent on July 1, 1877.

Clum and his wife bought the weekly *Arizona Citizen* based in Tucson, Arizona Territory, and kept up a long-range editorial battle with the Army and with "the political double crossers in Washington." The Clums also kept their eyes on a rich silver strike at Tombstone, Arizona that seemed very newsworthy. In December 1879, they visited the wide-open boomtown, and on May 1, 1880, published the first edition of the surviving Tombstone *Epitaph* saying that "every Tombstone must have an epitaph". Almost immediately, Clum linked up with a minority reform group that wished to at least slow down the wide open pace of the town. In 1881, under a new city charter, Clum was elected mayor, and he soon appointed Virgil Earp as town marshal. The *Epitaph* continued to crusade against the Clanton-McLowry gang, who boasted that they would run the Clums and all the Earps, including Wyatt, out of town. The quarrel ended on October 26, 1881 with the famous 'Battle of the OK Corral'. Numerically, Clum and the Earps won, although both Virgil and Wyatt were wounded. On the other side, Billy Clanton and two McLowrys were dead. Money still ruled the town, however, and John Clum, Doc Holliday, and the Earps were marked for death. A few days later, a stagecoach

with Clum aboard was riddled with bullets, and then Morgan Earp was killed.

Mary Clum died while the Clums were still in Tombstone. Perhaps the death threats were too much, but in any event John sold the *Epitaph* and left Tombstone on May 1, 1882. From 1882 into the 1890s, Clum followed mining boomtowns in California and Nevada.



John and Mary Clum; photo from [www.postalmuseum.si.edu](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu)

From 1898 until 1910, Clum was in the Alaska-Yukon region. He was appointed Postal Inspector for Alaska in 1898, and moved to the booming territory. On a stopover in Dawson City, Yukon Territory on his way to Alaska, Clum met an old acquaintance, Nellie Cashman, who had been part of the Law and Order League in Tombstone (and who is an inductee into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame).

Unlike Alaska Postmasters, who have been studied in great detail by postal scholars, little is written about the Postal Inspectors. Fortunately, a Seattle postman on a prospecting jaunt to Nome in 1900, left a detailed record of Clum's role in

Nome in the summer of 1900. Fred Lockley and a buddy in the Seattle Post Office requested a leave of absence so they could join the Nome stampede. After a voyage of 23 days they arrived at Nome. The men went ashore where they sought opportunities to mine or prospect. Finding opportunities either too sparse or not to their liking, they decided to try the post office. They found that Postmaster George Wright was absent 'Outside', but that John Clum, the Inspector, was running the Nome post office. After discussing their past experience in some detail, Clum told Lockley and partner to report for duty in a few hours. When the men returned they found that Clum had typed out instructions:

*"A system of free delivery has been established in connection with the Nome Post Office which will be inaugurated on a portion of Front Street and extended as conditions exist. The bearer (Fred Lockley, Jr.) has been appointed a clerk in the Nome Post Office and is authorized to take the names and addresses of persons who may be entitled to obtain service within the prescribed district. Only those who are unable to obtain boxes in the Post Office will be served by the carriers.*

*Signed John Clum  
Post Office Inspector  
Nome, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1900"*

Lockley found an incredible level of activity. The boom on the Nome 'general delivery' service was said to be the largest in the United States. The two young men picked up their mail from a 12' x 12' room manned by eleven sorters - twenty-two counting the night shift, running seven days a week (with a short day on Sunday). Clum had authorized clerks to take placer gold dust, valued at about \$16 per ounce, for mail orders, and in the month of July alone, intake exceeded \$130,000. Clum even found old friends from Tombstone nearby - Wyatt and Josephine Earp were running the roadhouse at Dexter a few miles east of Nome.



**John Clum (right) and Wyatt Earp in Nome, Alaska, 1900; photo from [www.tombstoneepitaph.com](http://www.tombstoneepitaph.com)**

In 1906, Clum was back in Interior Alaska. On January 17, 1906, he was appointed to be the second Postmaster of Fairbanks, Alaska, preceded by the founder of Fairbanks, E. T. Barnette, who had been appointed on April 10, 1903. Clum's appointments show some political importance. In the shorthand adopted by postal students, an appointment shown as P & S means a Presidential Appointment that was also approved by the U. S. Senate. (Most of Alaska's early Postmasters only show an A for their appointments). President Theodore Roosevelt personally authorized Clum's appointment.

While in Alaska, John Clum mined for placer gold near Fairbanks and in the Nome area, and was probably associated with dredging. However, his main qualification for induction into the Mining Hall of Fame is his participation in establishing reliable mail service in a wild territory, a necessity for an efficient mining industry. James Wickersham wrote:

*“No hardier, braver, or more capable men ever drove a stage across the plains to California than the pioneer mail carriers of the Yukon.”*

These men were directed for a while by John Clum, whose own bravery and inherent honesty had been well documented on the San Carlos Reservation and on the dusty streets of Tombstone long before he came north.

John Clum left Alaska in 1909. He then spent several years lecturing and publicizing passenger and tourist services on the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1928, he moved to Los Angeles, where he died in on May 2, 1932. Clum was survived by his third wife Florence, a son, Woodworth, and a daughter, Carol Kingsland Clum Vachon. Clum's adventurous life has been documented in at least ten motion pictures and on television. In 1956, Clum was played by Audie Murphy in *Walk the Proud Land* based on the book *Apache Agent* written by Woodworth Clum.

By *Charles C. Hawley, February 27, 2010*

#### **Sources:**

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*undated photo from the Reed family files at  
Pioneers of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska*

### **Irving McKenny Reed (1889-1968)**

Anyone searching through archived Alaska Territorial mining records will come across the name Irving McKenny Reed. The son of Nome Gold Rush participant Thomas Reed, Irving grew up in the remote mining camps of Nome, Iditarod, Livengood, and Takotna. As a Territorial Mining Engineer active during the early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Irving Reed was trusted and respected by the entire Alaska mining fraternity, and played a professional role in the development of the Goodnews Bay placer platinum deposits. During the same time, Reed served on the Alaska Game Commission, and was instrumental in getting musk oxen reintroduced into Alaska (on Nunivak Island), bison introduced (near Delta Junction), and elk (on Afognak Island). In later years, he served as municipal project engineer for the City of Fairbanks - then Alaska's largest community, and was elected to the then distinguished position of Alaska Territorial Highway Engineer, a job he held from 1953-1957.

### *Alaska Beginnings*

Irving McKenny Reed was born on July 13, 1889 in Seattle, Washington to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Reed. Both parents had distinguished American backgrounds. Thomas Reed's father was a California Forty-niner, and his great-great grandfather helped Daniel Boone settle Kentucky. Irving's mother was the daughter of a high-ranking Civil War officer fighting on the Union side of the conflict. Irving's father would become a lawyer who participated in the Cape Nome Gold Rush, who would subsequently serve as a U.S. Commissioner under Judge James Wickersham, then as a clerk of the Alaska Territorial Senate, and eventually as U.S. District Court judge for the First Judicial District in Juneau.

In May, 1900, ten-year-old Irving, with his mother and younger sister, Donna, traveled to Dutch Harbor, Alaska to meet Thomas. The trip from Seattle on the steamer *Oregon* took 34 days and was a storm-tossed voyage. Passage was arranged by Irving's uncle, Mark Reed, who owned about 40 percent of the *Oregon*. Irving's father was not seeking gold in the Aleutians. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the great deposits of sulfur in Louisiana and East Texas had not yet been discovered, and United States industry depended on sulfur imports from Sicily, Cyprus, and Asia. So when Thomas Reed discovered deposits of nearly pure sulfur high on the slopes of Makushin Volcano (elevation 6,680 feet) on Unalaska Island in 1899, sulfur was a valuable industrial commodity of interest to investors. During the winter of 1899-1900, Thomas Reed and his wife traveled east, where they found a wealthy Philadelphia investor interested in developing the Makushin sulfur deposits.

When young Irving stepped foot on Amaknak, Unalaska, and Akutan Islands, his father had already established a large base camp at tidewater on Unalaska Island designed to facilitate the exploration and development of the sulfur deposit.

In addition, a small pilot reduction plant was constructed at tidewater on Akutan, and a few tons of 'high grade' sulfur ore were processed.



**The sulfur reduction pilot plant built by Thomas Reed on Akutan in 1899; photo taken by Roger Mercer in 1983**

Irving's first memories of Alaska were of the wide variety of marine mammals plying the harbors and eddies of Amaknak, Unalaska and Akutan Islands, the enormous populations of sea birds, the huge runs of salmon in the streams draining the islands, and the often-stormy weather conditions. Thomas Reed put his young son to work managing a string of burros used to transport supplies up to the sulfur deposits, which occurred at an elevation of nearly 5,000 feet within the crater of the volcano. Perhaps signaling his future professional interests, young Irving created a topographic map of Makushin Volcano and environs because there were no published maps available. Years later, the sketch map was still considered a useful depiction of the

terrain, even though it had been created without the benefit of a transit or plane table.

After a period of delays, the Philadelphia millionaire arrived in Dutch Harbor to take a look at the sulfur deposit, and to provide additional expenditures. Irving's father left for the sulfur deposit with his investor, but much to the surprise of the Reed family, the party returned after only three days - with the millionaire on a stretcher. The nearly 5,000 feet of altitude and extreme exertion of the climb triggered a heart attack, and despite being attended by four doctors and even more attendants, Thomas Reed's sulfur mine backer died in the hospital at Dutch Harbor. Irving's father took the death of his financial backer as a bad omen, and he permanently terminated the development of the Makushin sulfur deposits. He then decided to move his family to the gold rush town of Nome on Norton Sound.

After sending his wife and daughter to Seattle via the steamer *Roanoke*, Thomas booked passage for his son Irving and himself aboard the steamer *C. D. Lane* bound for Nome. Although the 12 day passage included a blow off Saint Lawrence Island that threatened to sink the boat, the *C.D. Lane* arrived at Nome on August 2, 1900. Irving stayed with his father in the West End Hotel in Nome until his father could find a house for the family. His mother arrived in Nome from Washington State on the last steamer of the season. Sister Donna, who wintered in Olympia, would join the family the next year. Irving witnessed the great storm of September 11, 1900, when scores of vessels of all descriptions were driven onto the beach at Nome, with substantial loss of life. Irving's father saw two men drown in the breakers that day, and Thomas became depressed afterward because he had not been able to save them. 1900 was a tough year for Thomas Reed.



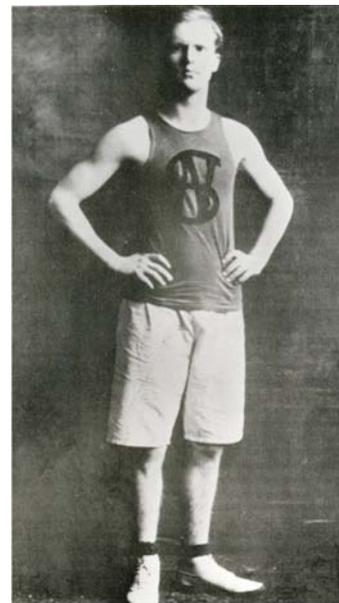
**Donna and Irving Reed with their dog, Lassie, in 1901; photo from the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory files**

### The Nome Years

Memories of Nome would stay with Irving for the rest of his life. When he arrived there in 1900, he had just reached his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Irving remembered his graduation from the primary school grammar department on May 29, 1903, when he delivered an oration entitled 'The American Flag'. Reed entered Nome High School in the fall of 1903 with 38 other students. Although he spent part of one year in a California military academy, he returned to Nome to graduate in 1907. Soon after its establishment in 1901, the Nome High School quickly focused on preparing students for college, and became an accredited school for college entrance. Much of this was the result of strong leadership in the Nome Public Schools, which included Seward Peninsula newspaper man J. F. A. Strong, and champion dog musher and school board member Scotty Allan. Irving's coursework included three years of Latin, three years of German, three years of mathematics, including algebra and geometry, physics, English literature, professional writing, ancient history, geography, music, and physical education. For the 12 year period from 1901-1913, the Nome public school system was so

highly regarded that high school graduates could be admitted without entrance requirements to Stanford University, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of Minnesota, the University of Washington, the University of Oregon, and Washington State University. In 1966, two years before his death, Irving would say that his education at Nome had been more than sufficient to prepare him for the rigors of his future mining engineering curriculum at the University of California-Berkeley.

Nome High School organized both men's and women's basketball games, with the former team playing games at the high school gymnasium and latter team playing games at the Arctic Brotherhood Hall. Although he had never played basketball before, Irving became the captain of the men's basketball team by his senior year. Interestingly enough, Alice Clum, the daughter of John Clum - an inductee of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame - was captain of the women's basketball team during the same year. In addition, skiing and tobogganing were encouraged by the school faculty, which proclaimed: "*any boy or girl who cannot slide down a hill on a pair of skis is behind the times*".



**Irving Reed as captain of the Nome High School basketball team in 1907; photo from the Reed family collection**

During his boyhood years in Nome, Irving never personally met the ‘Three Lucky Swedes’ - Erik Lindblom, Jafet Lindeberg, and John Brynteson - but he did know their crucial supporter, Charles D. Lane, the namesake of the boat on which he had arrived. Irving remembered Lane as “*a tall, raw-boned man with white whiskers stained with tobacco juice*”, who was “*farsighted, with the instinctive desire to build and expand the country he was operating in*”. In later years, Irving remembered the infamous Judge Arthur H. Noyes as “*a fat old man with graying hair*”. Yet the Reed family sympathized with the disgraced judge, who would soon afterwards “die of a broken heart”. Thomas Reed would later remark that if Judge Noyes “*had just shown a little strength of character, he would have cleared the (claim jumping) mess up in one week*”. Judge Noyes’ widow became a close friend of the Reeds’, and would stay with the family for an extended period of time. Upon Mrs. Noyes return to Nome, the Reeds arranged to have a special picnic in honor of her reinstatement into the community - there were no hard feelings, and “*all was forgotten and forgiven concerning the judge’s misdeeds*”. During a panning party on Caribou Bill’s mining claim at the head of Anvil Creek, Mrs. Noyes panned a ½ ounce gold nugget, the largest found by the party that day.

Others of Irving’s acquaintance included gold rush pioneers Rex Beach, Wyatt Earp, and Bill Betteley. Irving also fondly remembered his association with J.C. Brown, who discovered the famed *Third Beachline*, also known during the gold rush era as the *Third Beach Bonanza*, where nearly 70 percent of all the placer gold in the Cape Nome district was recovered. Irving thought Brown was the best prospector ever to explore the Seward Peninsula. The Cape Nome district is famous for the concentrations of economic quantities of placer gold in ancestral marine strandline deposits, and placer gold discovered in 1899 at the modern beach level precipitated international attention in mining and geological circles. But gold concentrations found

more than two miles inland from the coastal plain became among the most important placer deposits ever discovered in the Nome area.

Brown was a tall, blue-eyed, Iowa native who staked the Discovery claim on Little Creek, a barely discernable depression in the tundra on the slopes of Anvil Mountain. Brown tested Little Creek with a deep shaft into frozen substrate. At approximately 150 feet below the surface, Brown encountered what became known as the *Bessie Bench*, a 3-inch-thick seam of garnet-rich, ruby sand full of visible gold. In *Bessie Bench*, Brown recognized similarities to the gold concentrations found on the modern beach deposits along the Nome coastline, even though early U.S. Geological Survey geologists Arthur Collier, Phillip Smith, and Alfred Brooks were not initially convinced that the Little Creek discovery was a marine strandline. The *Third Beachline* would yield large yardages of auriferous sands, which were initially exploited with underground drift mines, and later with bucketline stacker dredges operated by the USSR&M Company. The *Third Beachline* was the first placer deposit in Alaska to be developed with large scale drift mines, and the mining techniques perfected there were later used in the Fairbanks district and at other locales in Alaska.



**Panoramic view of Little Creek, Alaska, Third Beach Line at Brown Discovery Claim, circa 1906; photo from the University of Alaska Museum**

At the invitation of Brown, Irving and his father went down the discovery shaft on Dry Creek, and

observed first-hand the rich, gold bearing, red beach sands that were speckled with visible gold. After Irving became a mining engineer, he did some engineering and mineral survey studies for the then elderly Brown on other properties in the Nome area.

Irving Reed attended college and obtained a degree in Mining Engineering at the University of California-Berkeley. While attending Berkeley, Irving worked for a short time in a northern Californian underground quartz-gold mine operated by Nome pioneer Jafet Lindeberg. Irving returned to Nome in 1913, and established an assaying and mineral surveying business there. Between 1913 and 1917, he traveled throughout Alaska and established temporary living quarters in various remote mining camps, including Livengood, Flat, and Takotna (a bedroom mining community near Ophir), but kept his office headquarters in Nome.

In 1917, at the onset of World War I, Irving Reed left Nome to enlist in the U.S. Army. While waiting to be officially accepted by the military in Washington State, Irving took a temporary job as an assayer at the ASARCO smelter in Tacoma. Although details are not known, an accident occurred on the job and Irving was nearly killed. He was incapacitated and bed-ridden for more than a year. The industrial accident ended any chance of military service for Irving Reed.

### Marriage And On To Fairbanks

After recovering from his injuries, Irving Reed returned to Alaska in 1919 or 1920. His life became greatly enriched by Eleanor Doris Stoy, born in 1897 in Seattle, Washington. Eleanor came to Alaska after World War I for adventure, met Irving there, and married him in San Francisco on January 7, 1923. Eleanor was an accomplished writer and artist, and her understanding of the nuances of story telling rubbed off on Reed. He later wrote remarkably complete accounts of mining activities throughout

the Alaska Territory, and attributed some of his prose to the influence of his wife. After marriage, the couple would live in Nome for a year, before deciding to move to Fairbanks, where they lived for the rest of their lives. The couple would have two children, Irving Stoy Reed Junior and Nancy Reed Bauer, and eleven grandchildren. Besides art, Eleanor was an accomplished skin sewer. In the 1940s she made a parka out of rabbit skins, which Irving wore until his death in 1968.



**Painting of Eleanor Reed by Claire Taylor, circa 1928; photo from the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory files**

### Irving Reed's Professional Achievements

In 1925, the U.S. Department of Agriculture created the Alaska Game Commission (AGC). One individual from each of the four judicial districts was appointed to the AGC, with the fifth being from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Irving Reed was appointed to represent the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Division in Fairbanks, and served on the AGC from 1927 to 1940. For about half of that time, Reed served as Chairman of the AGC, and was sometimes referred to, inaccurately, as the 'Game Commissioner'. Reed is widely credited with securing legislation for the reestablishment of musk oxen in Alaska (on Nunivak Island), the establishment of bison (near Delta Junction), elk (on Afognak Island), snowshoe hares (on Kodiak Island), and Sitka black-tailed deer (near Cordova). He would later

say that his motivations were the desire to offer new big game hunting opportunities and the chance to provide 'red meat' in remote parts of Alaska where high protein foods were in demand and game was scarce. As a youth growing up in Nome, Irving witnessed the dramatic decline of caribou in the Brooks Range and on the Seward Peninsula, and the subsequent near-starvation and forced displacement of Inupiat Eskimos, who depended on the caribou for meat. The food crisis prompted Sheldon Jackson to bring Saami (Scandinavian) herdsmen and Siberian reindeer to Alaska to provide a red meat protein source for rural Alaskans. Reed was also responsible for the establishment of the first game and fur management units in Alaska, from which he sometimes borrowed concepts used in the determination of Alaska's mining district boundaries. In 1927, Territorial Governor George Parks named Reed Alaska's first Fire Warden, and awarded him a \$150 dollar annual budget to fight wildfires in the Interior.



**Bison at Darius Creek, Big Delta, Alaska, October, 1937;**  
*photo from the Alaska State Archives*

In 1929, Territorial Department of Mines Commissioner B.D. Stewart selected two associate mining engineers to oversee the mining industry throughout the vast Alaska Territory: Earl Pilgrim and Irving Reed. During a thirteen-year long career, Reed would cover mineral districts throughout the Interior, in the Brooks Range, on his old home turf, the Seward Peninsula, and in the Kuskokwim Mountains, including the Goodnews Bay platinum district.

His more than twenty report filings included classics like the comprehensive, 200-page-plus, 1938 report on the gold mines of the Wiseman, Chandalar and Bettles area, his 1931 account of the lode and placer platinum mineralization in the Goodnews Bay area, and several 1930s reports on mining activities in the Kobuk and Squirrel River areas of the western Brooks Range.

When Irving Reed inspected the bedrock geology enveloping the small surface placer mine at Goodnews Bay in 1931, he published the following observation:

*“various types of ultrabasic rocks have a rough zonal arrangement around Red Mountain, in which a gradational contact occurs between diorite, gabbro, and darker, more ultrabasic rocks.....The theory is advanced that this arrangement is zonal, that originally the less basic rocks lay next to the contact with sedimentary rocks and the more basic rocks lie towards the interior of the intrusion due to magmatic differentiation”*

This remarkably accurate description would pre-date modern petrologic classification of the Goodnews Bay intrusion as a ‘Ural-Alaska’ zoned complex by nearly 50 years. The name Ural-Alaska is derived from type localities in the Ural Mountains of Russia and examples in Southeastern Alaska. The published observation also reveals that mining engineer Irving Reed was well-versed in geologic terminology, typical of educated professionals of that time period. The Fairbanks Daily News Miner reported in the 1960s that Reed was instrumental in establishing the platinum industry of Southwest Alaska. Although Reed retired from the Territorial Department of Mines in 1941, he continued to make report contributions late into the 1940s, including examinations of industrial minerals as well as metals. He would provide consulting advice as a mining engineer into the early 1950s.



Irving Reed enroute to the Goodnews Bay region in 1931; photo from Alaska's Digital Archives

In 1952, as a Republican, Irving Reed ran for and was elected to the position of Territorial Highway Engineer. The 63-year-old pioneer obtained the sought-after position by defeating the popular Democratic contender Donald McDonald. As with the Alaska Game Commission, he was often referred to as the Territorial Highway Commissioner. In addition to overseeing surface road networks, his duties included oversight and development of the fledging marine highway system of coastal Alaska, which would bloom in the years following Statehood. He was instrumental in establishing floating docks and wharves throughout southeast and south-central Alaska. In 1954, Irving became involved in an industrial development plan for southeast Alaska and northwestern Canada, and assisted in the transportation planning part of the effort.

#### Later Years

During and immediately after his retirement from the Highway Engineer position, Irving and Eleanor became involved in the fight for Alaska Statehood. Alaska's Delegate to Congress, Democrat E.L. Bob Bartlett, reasoned that getting the support of influential Republicans from Interior Alaska, including journalist C.W. Snedden, E.B. Collins, and Irving and Eleanor Reed, might be important to the success of selling

the idea of Alaska Statehood to the skeptical Republican administration of President Dwight Eisenhower. The problem was that both Hawaii and Alaska were strongly aligned with the Democratic Party, and if both states were admitted into the Union at the same time, it might create a 'super majority' for the Democrats in the U.S. Senate. In addition, Pentagon planners had asked the administration to set aside vast acreages of northern Alaska for new military reservations and training areas, and Statehood could

complicate these plans.

Telegrams strongly supporting the merits of Alaska Statehood were sent by both Eleanor and Irving Reed to Speaker of the House Joe Martin, U.S. Senator Hugh Butler, Chair of the Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs and Senator Guy Gordon, a member of that Committee Anthony Lausi, the Deputy Director, Office of Territories, Department of Interior, and to President Eisenhower himself. Generally positive responses were received from all those who received telegrams from the Reeds. In addition, Eleanor sent personal letters to Senator Neuberger and to Senator 'Scoop' Jackson of Washington State, the letter written to the latter to refute the contention that "*western and northern Alaska were just wastelands*". No one can say for sure how important these lobbying efforts were, but they certainly didn't hurt the cause for Alaska Statehood.

Irving Reed's remaining active years centered on local Fairbanks issues. Reed served on the Fairbanks City Council for eight years, and also served as municipal project engineer for Fairbanks. In civic and pioneer affairs, he helped negotiate the lease that created Pioneer Park - where the 1967 Centennial Park (Alaskaland) was built. Reed was President of the Pioneers of

Alaska Igloo #4, and later was appointed to a three-year term as Trustee of the Order. In 1963, Reed served as King Regent for the Winter Carnival and Golden Days Celebration in Fairbanks. In his last public participation as a professional engineer, he testified during late 1967 hearings on the technical merits of building the proposed Moose Creek diversion dam in order to protect Fairbanks from flooding such as occurred during the August 1967 flood.

Irving and Eleanor Reed lived in a two story log home near Ballaine Lake off Famers Loop Road west of Fairbanks. In retirement years, both could be seen walking two to three miles per day along the side of the road, often in sub-zero temperatures. When asked if they needed a ride, the reply was always 'no thanks', with a smile. In January, 1968, Irving Reed died suddenly and unexpectedly at his Ballaine Lake home. Both Eleanor and Irving were planning on entering the Fairbanks Pioneers Home later that year. On January 24, 1968, the Fairbanks Daily News Miner included the following in his eulogy:

*“Mr. Reed never espoused any borrowed ideas. They were always his own and during his long and varied career as a public servant in the city and throughout Alaska, many of his ideas reached constructive fulfillment.....Not many of us will have as many original ideas to live on as those of Irving McKenny Reed.”*

*By Thomas K. Bundtzen, March 2, 2010*

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**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 nineteen (19) persons who have each contributed \$1,000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampeders to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

**The 98ers**

Dr. Earl Beistline	John Mulligan
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Wendell Hammon Jr.	Dr. Robert H. Trent
Dr. Charles C. Hawley	Mitch Usibelli
Dr. Walter Johnson	Joe Usibelli, Sr.
Wallace McGregor	Dr. William Wood (d)
James Moody	Dr. Kenneth L. Zong
	Neil McKinnon

(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. Dr. Walter Johnson's career was mainly in Native public health, but he knew many pioneer Alaskans. His own research has taken him to Sweden and Norway in search of the true story of the so-called "three Lucky Swedes" of fame at Nome.

The Foundation is seeking about ninety more 98ers, but it welcomes contributions at every level. For further information contact:

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