

The PAYSTREAK

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

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Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation New Inductees

AMHF Honors Two Pioneers Active in South-Central Alaska Mining and Economic Development



Martin Radovan: Martin Radovanovitch, whose name was shortened to Radovan when he entered the United States at Ellis Island, New York, in 1900, was one of many Croats who entered the United States near the turn of the century hoping for a better life. Martin worked his way across the United States, and was in California at the time of the 1906 earthquake. After hearing about the planned Copper River and Northwest Railway construction project, he traveled to Cordova, Alaska, in 1908, where he found work on the project. He stayed in Alaska after the project's completion in 1911, working at the Kennecott mines and at the Dan Creek placer operation south of the Nizina. In the 1920s, Martin began to search for copper near the contact of the Nikolai Greenstone and the Chitistone Limestone, and found many prospects. Martin first came to public attention when he located the Binocular copper deposit, located on a near vertical, 3000 foot high cirque headwall. In 1914, he married Augusta Louise *nee* Iverson at McCarthy. From their camp at Glacier Creek, Augusta acted as the formal breadwinner, while Martin prospected and built trails and tramways. Martin's dreams for mines in the Glacier Creek area never gained fruition, but he never gave up, even after Augusta's death in 1944.



Arthur Shonbeck: Arthur A. Shonbeck joined the gold stampedes to Nome in 1900, Fairbanks in 1905, and to the Iditarod after 1908. For his entire life, he claimed mining as his occupation, and he made some money as a miner, but he was a much better business man and Alaskan civic leader. In 1906, Shonbeck married Anna *nee* Peckinpaugh. The couple opened a store in Flat in 1910, before moving to the railroad town of Anchorage in 1915. The Shonbecks participated in every aspect of Anchorage. Arthur helped establish a bank and a newspaper in Anchorage, and helped open the Evan Jones Coal Mine near Palmer. He owned a farm in the Mat-Su valley, and founded Anchorage's first airline company, the Alaska Air Transport Company. In 1920, the Shonbecks built a three story building that housed Ford and Standard Oil dealerships, and a farm produce store. Shonbeck became president of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, while Anna helped establish the Christian Science movement in Alaska. Arthur was a regent of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. During the Depression years, Shonbeck worked with local mining engineer Wesley Earl Dunkle on mining prospects throughout Alaska. During the late 1930s, the Shonbecks were among a group of Anchorage citizens who founded Providence Hospital. In 1945, Shonbeck died tragically, along with his good friend, John Beaton, when the men drowned after their truck plunged off a bridge and into Ganes Creek, west of McGrath.

**Supported by the Alaska Miners Association
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)
Induction Ceremony, November 10, 2011
Anchorage-Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage, 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 November 10, 2011. The induction ceremony will take place in the 3rd Floor Ballroom of the Anchorage-Sheraton Hotel. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served.

Coffee and Donuts	6:30-7:00 PM
Introduction and Purpose of the AMHF by Tom Bundtzen.....	7:00-7:10 PM
Presentation of Inductees	
Martin Radovan, by Katherine Ringsmuth.....	7:10-7:40 PM
Arthur Shonbeck, by Charles Hawley.....	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 November 10, 2011 induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features two pioneers who were involved in mining, civic, and business activities in the south-central region of Alaska. But the lives and individual accomplishments of Martin Radovan and Arthur Shonbeck differed markedly; the only thing they had in common was the region of Alaska where they lived and worked.

Martin Radovan typified many North Country mineral prospectors. He emigrated from Europe (Croatia) at the turn of the 20th century, and for a while lived and worked in the contemporaneous lower United States. Taking advantage of Alaska's first large scale modern resource development project, he traveled north in 1908, and helped with the construction of the 186-mile-long Copper River and Northwestern Railroad, which was built to develop the rich, but infrastructure-challenged, copper deposits of the Nizina mining district in the Wrangell Mountains. He labored as a skilled machinist for Kennecott Copper Corporation, the firm that developed the copper lodes, then mined placer gold on Dan Creek, and ultimately became one of the best copper prospectors in Alaska before his death in 1975.

In contrast to Radovan is Arthur Shonbeck, who first mined gold during the Fairbanks and Iditarod gold rushes, and later became an outstanding business and civic leader of Anchorage, Alaska. Late in his life, Shonbeck would revisit the occupation that he loved - gold mining - an industry that brought him to Alaska from his native home in Wisconsin. Tragically, he and his long time friend, John Beaton, lost their lives in 1945, when they drowned after a vehicle accident at Ganes Creek in the Innoko mining district west of McGrath.

The biographical sketch of Martin Radovan was written by U.S. National Park Service employees Katherine Ringsmuth, Daniel Trepal, and Logan Hovis, who benefited from federal funding made available from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In 2008, co-author Hovis provided a biography of AMHF inductee Frederick McClellan, who is credited with leading the discovery team to the Bonanza copper lode, the original core asset of Kennecott Copper's mines in the Wrangell Mountains.

AMHF Honors Committee Chair Charles Hawley provided the biography of Arthur Shonbeck, using his own records and online photographic materials.

Acknowledgments for production of this *Paystreak* go to Tina Laird, who formatted and edited the document, and to Paul Adasiak at the Alaska and Polar Regions Archives at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks for his assistance with obtaining access to photographs. Pencia Rose Beaton provided valuable clippings and support documentation on Shonbeck's relation with the Anchorage Times Publishing Company and Providence Hospital. Tom Bundtzen completed a final edit of this document prior to its release.

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 20th 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 20th 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-20th 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 19th and early 20th 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-20th 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 mi² 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.

Fairbanks, Spring 2010

Honoring Two Civic-Minded Mining Pioneers Important to Interior and Western Alaska Development

John P. Clum: Long after his involvement with the capture of Geronimo in Arizona, Clum established reliable postal service in Alaska, and became the Postal Inspector of the Alaska Territory.

Irving McKenny Reed: Notable Associate Mining Engineer for the Alaska Territory and a pioneer of Nome; was Chair of the Alaska Game Commission prior to World War II and the Territorial Highway Engineer just before Alaska Statehood.

Anchorage, Fall 2010

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Seward Peninsula Gold Dredging Industry

Nicholas B. and Evinda S. Tweet: Partners in marriage and partners in mining, they created a family-owned firm that has mined gold in Alaska for over one hundred years.

Carl S. and Walter A. Glavinovoch: A pair of brothers who, collectively, devoted more than one hundred years of their lives to the prospecting, deciphering, drilling, thawing, and dredging of the Nome, Alaska placer gold fields.

Juneau, Spring 2011

Induction Honoring an Outstanding Pioneer Associated with Lode Gold Mining in the Juneau Gold Belt

Thomas Mein: A Scottish immigrant and key figure in the development of lode gold mining in Southeast Alaska. He first managed hydraulic placer mines near Nevada City, California in the 1860s. He later arranged for the purchase of the Alaska-Treadwell Gold Mining Company in Juneau, Alaska in 1886, which quickly became the world's largest gold mining company. In 1896, Mein and others purchased the assets of the Alaska Juneau gold property, which was mined on a large scale until 1944.



Martin Radovan, date unknown; photo from the Radovan family collection.

Martin Radovan (1881-1975)

During the summer of 2010, the Alaska Region of the National Park Service (NPS), through its Abandoned Mine Lands program, with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, initiated the process of physically closing dangerous mines at Radovan Gulch, located in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Before NPS personnel could begin sealing adits, the agency had to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, and determine if the properties were eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. After fieldwork and archival research, an interdisciplinary team determined that the camps, prospects, artifacts, roads and trails at Radovan Gulch maintained historical integrity, and were historically significant on a local level. But the story went far beyond compliance; the examination of the site revealed a remarkable time capsule, preserving the life and work of an enduring copper prospector, Martin Radovan.

Martin Radovanovich departed Croatia for the United States in 1900, when he was 19 years old. He arrived at Ellis Island, where his surname, 'Radovanovich' was transliterated to 'Radovan'. He gained railroad experience in New Jersey and in California, and after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Martin moved to Seattle. While there, Martin learned of a railway being constructed into the Interior of Alaska by two giants of American business: J.P. Morgan and the Guggenheims (*M. Radovan ca. 1974*).

Martin arrived in Cordova, Alaska in 1908, and found work building the Copper River & Northwestern Railway. After completion of the railway in 1911, Martin stayed in Alaska. He worked as a machinist for Kennecott Copper Corporation, and, eventually, took a job with a hydraulic mining company at Dan Creek, south of present day McCarthy in the Nizina mining district, where he began prospecting nearby creeks and benches for gold. In the 1920s, Martin began searching for copper in an ice-filled cirque on Glacier Creek, a tributary of the Chitistone River, later named Radovan Gulch in his honor.

By the late 1890s, copper was a coveted metal, made increasingly valuable by America's desire for electric power. In 1900, Kennecott's world-famous Bonanza copper deposit was discovered in the Chitistone Limestone above the Nikolai Greenstone, a formation that dominates much of the visual landscape on the south side of the Wrangell Mountains (*Winkler et al. 2000*). Federal geologists and successful prospectors encouraged others to look for copper where the two distinctly colored rock types met (*Moffit et al. 1911*). Martin Radovan, like nearly all the copper prospectors working the Nizina district for years before him, began to scrutinize every accessible linear foot of the contact zone.

Martin gained notoriety as a prospector when he laid claim to the Binocular prospect, a copper outcrop above the greenstone-limestone contact, high on the face of a cliff overlooking a glacial cirque. The U.S. Geological Survey had known about the outcrop, and had studied it - through binoculars - since the turn of the century. The vertical face of the cirque wall, and the location of

the outcrop, over 3000 feet up, had prevented geologists from inspecting and sampling it. In 1929, the Kennecott Copper Corporation, always looking for more ore in the Nizina district, sent European mountain climbers to try to reach the Binocular prospect. After a summer of attempts, the climbers failed to reach the contact (*Casley. 1972*).

Martin managed to do what Kennecott could not. He reached the Binocular prospect by following a precipitous route along the cliff wall toward the target. Martin was supported in his endeavor by his wife, Augusta Louise Iverson, a person of great significance in Martin's life. Somehow Martin, a brown-eyed, black-haired Croatian, who spent more time in a tunnel than in town, caught the attention of an attractive Norwegian bookkeeper who worked at the Kennecott Milltown. Martin and Augusta were married in McCarthy in 1914. Moving seasonally between the cabin at Dan Creek and the camp at Glacier Creek, she made a life with him in the Nizina country.

Augusta not only helped Martin build the steep trail to the Binocular prospect, but it was her professional skills and steady income that allowed Martin to spend his time prospecting at Dan and Glacier Creeks. While Martin remained steadfast in working his surrounding claims, Augusta interacted with the larger community of miners and their wives. Augusta fished, baked bread, sluiced for gold, cut wood, called on neighbors and friends, traveled to town, usually on foot, scheduled daily life around the mail, and had a naturalist's eye for wildlife. Besides working at Kennecott from time to time, she supplemented their earnings by running the

Blackburn roadhouse with Martin during the Chisana gold rush, washing miners' laundry, and assisting as the local postmistress and notary. Though her income was not high, she still managed to send money to her mother in Seattle. Martin also took part-time jobs when money ran short. Although their daily routine was gender-specific, Martin and Augusta shared a common vision. She not only made his dream possible, she believed in it, too (*A. Radovan. 1930*).

Augusta died unexpectedly in 1944, but Martin continued his search for copper for the next three decades. Besides the Binocular prospect, he discovered and staked other claim groups: the Low-Contact, the Greenstone, and the Triassic. He built a substantial camp on the banks of Glacier Creek near the mouth of Radovan Gulch. Alone and unaided, he hauled 400 feet of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch steel



Augusta Radovan (right) at Dan Creek, snowshoeing with the wife of another miner; photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

cable six miles upriver on a hand sled and then succeeded in stretching it 325 feet across Glacier Creek for a tram he built to pull himself across to his creek-side camp (*Edwards. 1965; Sykes. 1980; Green. 1994; Smith. 2006*).

By a twist of fate, Martin was reunited with his long-lost brother Jack Radovich of Delano,

California in 1951 (*Anchorage Daily Times*. 1951). Jack, a wealthy vineyard owner, flew to Glacier Creek in hopes of reuniting with his brother Martin, whom he had not seen in fifty years. Jack wanted his Sourdough brother to return with him to Delano, but the family reunion did not deter Martin from his mining aspirations. After a string of disappointing leases and business arrangements between the 1950s and the late 1960s, the Geneva-Pacific Corporation purchased Martin's prospects in the early 1970s, giving Martin hope that the Binocular prospect would finally be mined, and his life work validated. In 1974, at age 91, Martin left Alaska to spend time with his family. The following spring Geneva-Pacific reached the Binocular prospect using a helicopter. Before the company's findings were reported, Martin died. In their report, the sampling team stated that they were stunned to have discovered tools used in 1929 by Martin Radovan at 7,000 feet (*Geneva Pacific*. 1979).

Today, Martin Radovan's life continues to intrigue students of frontier Alaska. The Binocular story has inspired popular articles, chronicling Martin's life at Glacier Creek. He has left his name on the map, and geology reports tell and retell the story of the Binocular prospect, perpetuating Martin's feat in the collective imagination. Still, since Martin Radovan's death in 1975, Radovan Gulch has been abandoned. Over the past 35 years, natural weathering has damaged the structures, many beyond repair. During a routine site assessment in 2010, NPS researchers observed many deteriorated buildings. Unless the remaining structures are stabilized, they will collapse in the near future. Significantly, the site has not been disturbed by vandals, and Martin's possessions at the camp and adits remain much as he left them. These artifacts connect the place to the person and his lifestyle, and even the ruins present clear evidence of the prospector's presence. Thus, the seemingly valueless things Martin left behind provide us fresh insight into the park's mining past.

In many ways, Martin's life at Radovan Gulch fits a frontier image of a rugged individual, but Martin never lived independently of the outside world. Though Martin lived seemingly isolated in his wilderness home, he consumed canned foods purchased through an industrial network that connected Radovan Gulch to distant markets. He used Gillette shaving cream, wallpapered his cabin, and seasoned his food with spices from around the world (*Spude et al.* 1984). He remained a creature of an industrialized economy, taking trains or planes to towns like Cordova, Chitina, Kennecott, and McCarthy, towns that replicated the material, institutional, and ideological culture of rural America. Rather than evading civilization, Martin fully participated in an industrial process that transported twentieth century American life into the heart of Interior Alaska.

Still, unlike many who left Alaska with dashed dreams, Martin stayed. Even after Kennecott abandoned its mines and railway in 1938, after McCarthy deteriorated into a ghost town, and after Augusta's untimely death in 1944, Martin remained at Glacier Creek. Immersed in a perilous landscape day after day, Martin picked through tons of rock and, over time, came to know in profound ways the natural environment between his creek-side camp and his tunnels dug deep in the mountainside. By employing rudimentary tools and near-obsolete technology, Martin perfected climbing, construction and prospecting skills at Radovan Gulch that inspired awe and respect from people who knew him.

The Binocular prospect, although it never produced ore, reflects Martin's courage, his ingenuity, and his position as the little guy, pitted against one of the most financially successful operators in Alaska history. Likewise, the Low Contact property, exposed in a slide path, reflects Martin's famed persistence and tenacity, and how he embedded himself in a dangerous and perilous natural landscape. Finally, the Greenstone prospect and camp reflect how larger, better-capitalized corporations, such as the Alaska Copper Company

and the Geneva-Pacific Corporation, pigeonholed Martin's prospecting knowhow in his twilight years.

Indeed, the rationalization and scientific professionalization of mining after World War II rendered prospectors with his practical knowledge outdated. While the modern industry was still happy to examine the old-timers' claims and prospects, it increasingly applied the expertise of university-trained engineers and geologists to determine where and how to build mines in order to efficiently and profitably extract copper. For most of his prospecting life, Martin was completely dependent upon scientists to validate his claims, technocrats to mine them, and ultimately, absentee investors for the capital and ties to international markets to develop and sell the ore.

We can learn much from Martin Radovan. His story reflects boarder episodes and themes that shaped Alaska's past, such as the contributions made by early twentieth century immigrants; the role of big business and the Americanization of Alaska; the dependency of the so-called rugged-individual on science, industry, and corporatism; and, through his hard-working wife, Augusta, the role of women at mining camps. But in the end, Martin came to Radovan Gulch because of a dream - a dream which, in 74 years, he never achieved.

Perhaps the most compelling question, then, is why did Martin stay? One clue comes from Gary Green, a McCarthy resident who befriended Martin during his last years at Glacier Creek:

“Martin was a prospector, and a prospector always has to believe there is something to find” (Green. 2010).

Martin's longtime friend Jim Edwards agrees,

“He was a prospector; he had a prospector's head...he never gave up” (Edwards, 2010).

Indeed, Martin was an ordinary man who accomplished extraordinary feats. Although he never found his copper mountain, the real value of Martin's uniquely preserved properties is the history they can convey to visitors about a way of life in the Wrangell Mountains. To residents who knew Martin, or simply knew of him, Martin's value is his unwavering faith in his way of life, a way of life that local residents - ordinary individuals themselves - continue to seek in pursuit of their own extraordinary dreams.

By Katherine Ringsmuth, Daniel Trepal, and Logan Hovis

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Arthur Shonbeck (top right) and others watch as Governor Troy approves an Act to create the University of Alaska, March 12, 1935; photo from UAF-1958-1026-794, Charles Bunnell Photographic Collection.

Arthur A. Shonbeck (1878-1945)

Arthur A. Shonbeck, sometimes known as 'Double A', was a gold miner, a business man, a civic leader, a philanthropist, a farmer, a politician, and a backer of things aeronautical. He was a gold stamper when he entered Alaska in 1900, and a mine owner and operator when he died tragically near McGrath, Alaska, in 1945. He was associated with some of the premier miners in Alaska, three of whom have been inducted into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame: Evan Jones, Wesley Earl Dunkle, and John Beaton. Shonbeck and another inductee, Harriet Hess, were both long-time Regents of the University of Alaska (or its predecessor the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines.)

Shonbeck was born in Clayton, Wisconsin in 1878. At the age of twenty-two, he responded to the call of the north, and stamped to Nome, where he mined and labored without notable success. Hearing of a new gold strike in Interior Alaska, Shonbeck moved to Fairbanks, where he established a store in the settlement of Chatanika, a supply point in the Fairbanks area. He left Alaska and moved to Seattle for a time, but, in 1906, as Fairbanks was beginning to boom, Shonbeck returned to Fairbanks with his bride, Anna *nee* Peckinpaugh. In 1910, the Shonbecks moved to the Alaska's newest gold discovery at Flat, a few miles away from Iditarod. At Flat, Shonbeck met John Beaton, who was one of the two discoverers of the camp. Shonbeck and Beaton became lifelong friends. The Shonbecks opened a store in Flat to provide retail merchandise to the mining community. They opened another store in a new railroad camp on Cook Inlet, which became the town of Anchorage in 1915. For a few years, the Shonbecks concentrated on the Anchorage retail business, seasonally selling produce from another Shonbeck venture, a farm in the Matanuska Valley. They were, however, active in many business ventures of the new railroad city, including the formation of the Bank of Alaska. In the early years, most banking in Alaska was carried out by trading companies, but, as stated by bank historians Terrance Cole and Elmer Rasmuson,

“ . . . other independent merchants in town had no desire whatsoever to deposit money in a bank run by their biggest competitor.”

Andrew Stevenson, an entrepreneur with financial roots in New York, recognized that Alaska was ripe for a system of branch banks including one in Anchorage. Stevenson selected an agent to establish a branch of the Bank of Alaska in Anchorage, a sometime medical doctor named Julius T. Westermann. In Westermann's eyes, Anchorage's best business man, and the one he wanted to work, with was A. A. Shonbeck. The situation was competitive, as another group was seeking to form the Bank of Anchorage at the same

time, and the first bank to open would likely capture the bulk of the banking business. In 1916, Shonbeck constructed a little bank building for the Bank of Alaska (which later became the largest Alaskan bank - The National Bank of Alaska), and was an early, if not the first, depositor. Later Shonbeck became a director of the bank.

and Standard Oil gasoline and other products out of the side door.”

He also sold other necessary items for mining, such as carbide in 20# lots. In the early days, gasoline sold for 16 ½ cents per gallon.

Mining ventures were not neglected. In 1920, Shonbeck and other Anchorage pioneers Ike Bayliss, Oscar Anderson, Gus Gelles, and Evan Jones, formed Alaska’s first successful privately owned coal mine - The Evan Jones Coal Company - near Wishbone Hill east of Palmer. Aviation consumed Shonbeck’s interest from the early 1920s on. He realized that an airfield was essential if Anchorage was to claim primacy in the new transportation medium. As given in Anchorage’s official aviation history:



Fourth of July parade in Anchorage, Alaska showing the A. A. Shonbeck General Merchandise store on the left hand side, circa 1918; photo from Alaska’s Digital Archives.

In 1920, the Shonbecks purchased the burnt-out site of the former Labor Temple at 4th and H Street in Anchorage, where they built a three story building. The upper two stories were reserved for apartments, and the ground floor for their numerous other businesses. The Shonbeck Apartments were the finest in Anchorage, and the Shonbeck businesses flourished. As later described by Anchorage historian John P. Bagoy:

“Art became the Ford dealer. . . selling Ford tractors and Ford cars. He was appointed agent for the Giant Powder Company so he sold dynamite out the backdoor, cabbage and cauliflower out the front door, Ford cars from the order desk,

“With only his imagination and U.S. Army’s pathfinding expedition from New York to Nome, [as guides] Arthur A. Shonbeck led the crusade.”

With only wilderness beyond 9th Avenue, Shonbeck organized the entire town to clear a field of stumps, trees and moss. On May 23, 1923, *The Anchorage News* described the project:

“Men whose hands had not been sullied by anything heavier than a pen for many years grappled the mattock and axe and shook the kinks out of their flabby muscles. Ladies with rakes . . . cleared away the small debris while others piled it upon the small mountain of stumps ready for the torch.”

The field was ready for Noel Wien's first flights a year later, and served as a landing field for bush pilots, with room for a nine-hole golf course.

Shonbeck, with co-venturers Gus Gelles, Ike Bayless, and Oscar Anderson, then founded Anchorage's first airline business, the Alaska Air Transport Company. Two Travel AirTM airplanes, the *Anchorage #1* and the *Anchorage #2*, arrived in eleven crates in Anchorage on March 1, 1927, and were quickly assembled. The new company hired Russel Merrill as chief pilot, and Alonzo Cope as mechanic. With Cope, who was always busy, Alaska Air Transport could usually keep one aircraft flying. Air transport to remote mines had always been part of Shonbeck's vision. Chief pilot Merrill was lost over Cook Inlet while on a supply run to a placer mine near Nyac, east of Bethel.

The partners abandoned their flying business after Merrill's loss, but within a few years, Shonbeck was backing aviation again, this time (around 1932) as a director of Wesley Earl Dunkle's Star Airlines. Lacking accommodations, Dunkle's young pilots, Mills, Ruttan, and Waterworth, moved into the Shonbeck Apartments as they provided instruction in the art of flying to the citizens of Anchorage, and flew scheduled flights to Dunkle's Lucky Shot Mine in the Willow Creek district. It was easy to convince Shonbeck that flying had arrived in Alaska, that it would become a necessity to the developing mining industry, and that it could be done with relative safety.

Shonbeck was one of Anchorage's steadfast civic leaders. In 1923, he was elected to the city assembly (on which he served again in 1932). Shonbeck missed being elected mayor by four votes in 1924. He was a charter member, and sometime president, of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, a president of Igloo #15 of the Pioneers of Alaska, and a faithful member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. Shonbeck was also a regent of the University of Alaska, serving for more than ten years, through the transition from the original Alaska Agricultural

College and School of Mines, to the present day University of Alaska. Politically, Shonbeck was a Democrat, and during the 1930s, a Democratic National Committeeman. He strongly endorsed the Matanuska agricultural experiment. He had his own successful valley farm to point to - an effective endorsement of the experiment. Anna Shonbeck was also active civically, especially with Anchorage's Christian Science Church. Because the men of the congregation were absent so much of the time, the women oversaw the construction of a new church, with Anna often in the lead.

In 1927, Shonbeck organized and served as a director in a newspaper venture, The Anchorage Times Publishing Company. As required by an Act of Congress of 1912, the company named its publisher as the company, and R. G. Southworth as editor (*Anchorage Daily Times*, April 26, 1927). Individuals owning more than 1% of the company included Shonbeck, Frank Reed, Barney Gottstein, 'Cap' Lathrop and several others. Later additions to the company structure included E. A. Rasmuson, and a new owner, Robert Atwood, in the 1930s. The *Anchorage Daily Times* served Anchorage and all of Alaska for decades.

Gold mining in Alaska picked up with the advent of the Great Depression, because, in 1934, the price of gold increased from about \$20 an ounce to \$35 an ounce. Shonbeck sold heavy equipment, food stuffs, dynamite and fuel to the miners, while also becoming more active in hardrock and placer mines himself, usually in collaboration with Beaton or Dunkle. He was noted as a soft touch for miners who needed a grubstake.

With support from Beaton, Shonbeck took over, and successfully operated, a rich placer mine at Ganes Creek in the Innoko district west of the City of McGrath. In the early 1940s, Shonbeck added E.A. Rasmuson as a partner in a bucket line dredge operation. Shonbeck's businesses backed Wesley Dunkle's ventures at Golden Horn, Flat, and Slippery Creek (now deep in Denali National Park), as well as at the Golden Zone Mine. The

Golden Horn project, in the Iditarod district, began as a Joint Venture with Partners Mines of New York, who had backed Wesley Dunkle at the Lucky Shot Mine. Although the project failed in the end, it did produce some spectacular ore. Shonbeck earned some return on capital through his role as a supplier of Standard Oil products and Giant blasting agents to the project. The Slippery Project involved some of the most complex logistics of any of Dunkle's projects, and needed the support of Star Airlines, another venture on which both Dunkle and Shonbeck were directors. To get to the remote Slippery project, Dunkle and his pilot-mechanic, A. Aho, disassembled a bulldozer and flew it piece by piece from Golden Zone over the Alaska Range to Slippery Creek. Shonbeck was the dealer for the Allis-Chalmers line as well as for Caterpillar. Many thought that the project had merit as a viable gold prospect, and it had early support from Reno Sales of Anaconda, but it failed in the end, at least in part because of the refractory nature of the ore, which could be traced for miles along the Alaska Range.

Shonbeck's involvement at Golden Zone was extensive and critical. He sold equipment and supplies to Golden Zone, he was a shareholder, with both common and preferred shares, and he was a member of the Board of Directors of Golden Zone Mine, Inc. Furthermore, Shonbeck shared membership in Dunkle's 'kitchen cabinet' with other movers and shakers of Anchorage, including attorney Warren Cuddy, banker E.R. Tarwater, Alex McDonald, agent of Alaska Steam, and Anchorage-Seattle equipment dealer and placer miner Glenn Carrington, another Dunkle partner.

Golden Zone began production with a scaled down mill in early 1941, and operated until about February, 1942. During the waning days of World War II, the project was optioned by St. Eugene, a subsidiary of Ventures Ltd., whose president, Thayer Lindsley, was one of the Twentieth Century's most prominent mine developers. There were, however, both internal and external problems with the mine. The National Bank of Alaska held

a note on most of the equipment, and wanted an early payback. Dunkle wanted to get the mine opened as quickly as possible. In complex negotiations, Shonbeck was the only person who had the financial muscle to stand up to the bank and maintain Dunkle's position. The project ultimately failed because of World War II inflation and a fixed price for gold, but Shonbeck proved to be an independent partner and supporter.

Perhaps Shonbeck's last substantial contribution to the Anchorage community was through Providence Hospital in 1939. The new hospital, founded by the Sisters of Charity, needed substantial civic help, and Shonbeck helped provide it. A site was selected, and preliminary arrangements for construction were completed by a select committee led by Harry Hill, and including Warren Cuddy, Father O'Flanagan, Shonbeck and other civic leaders. Anna Shonbeck was one of dozens of Anchorage women who founded a hospital Auxiliary that was active in furnishing the nursery. Star Airlines bought a full page advertisement noting:

"It will be a pleasure bringing patients here from far corners of Alaska."

On June 20, 1945, Shonbeck and Beaton were in the Innoko district, working on plans to renew placer mining operations at Ganes Creek. On the way to the property, their truck struck a bridge abutment, and careened into Ganes Creek. The two men were trapped and drowned.

Shonbeck was a man of action. He provided services, equipment, transportation, financing, and hands-on mining experience to Alaska's mining industry. He was a true civic worker and leader. He proudly thought of himself as a mine owner and operator.

E. A. Rasmuson, in a 1945 letter to his son, Elmer, immediately after Shonbeck's death, wrote:

"Shonbeck was, I am told, the first customer the bank had in Anchorage and

when I took over he was the endorser of about one-third of all the notes in Anchorage. He was trustworthy and loyal. He was never small."

Evangeline Atwood, in her book, *Anchorage - All American City*, placed Shonbeck first among equals: the men and women who came to Anchorage as pioneers,

"... envisioned a bright new future for the Territory That indomitable spirit can be seen threading its way through the history of Alaska's No. 1 city. Such individuals as A.A. Shonbeck, Ike Bayless, Frank Reed, Joe Conroy, Ray Larson, E.A. Rasmuson, "Cap" Lathrop, Zac Loussac, Tony Wendler, Charley Herron, Tony Dimond, James Wickersham, Tom Price, Bob Bragaw, Leopold David, and Oscar Gill kept Anchorage alive. They weathered the early storms which determined the town's destiny."

A fitting tribute to one of Alaska's great men, who well deserves to be inducted into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation.

By Charles C. Hawley, October 2011

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Notes: Anna Shonbeck is sometimes given as Ann or Anne Shonbeck.

I am indebted to Pencia Rose Beaton for her interest in Shonbeck, her grandfather's great friend, and for clippings and support documents on Shonbeck's relation to the Anchorage Times Publishing Company and Providence Hospital.

**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 twenty-one (21) persons who have each contributed \$1,000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampedeers to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

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

(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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