

The PAYSTREAK

Volume 23, No. 2, Fall, 2023

The Newsletter of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation

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Honoring Two Pioneers Associated with Development of Strategic and Critical Minerals



Lenhart J.H. Grothe (1935-2006) was born in New York City, the eldest of three children born to German immigrants. Grothe attended Montana School of Mines and worked as an underground miner in Butte. In 1955, he transferred to the University of Alaska School of Mines and graduated with honors, receiving a BS in Mining Engineering in 1959. During and after graduation, Grothe worked as an underground miner at Alaska’s Red Devil mercury-antimony critical metal mine. In 1960, Grothe secured, by bid, all assets of the abandoned lode tin mine at Lost River west of Nome. From 1965-1990, Grothe’s firm, Lost River Mining Company, became the nation’s primary domestic source of mined tin from several placer mines on the western Seward Peninsula. In 2007, the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Alumni Association created the *Lenhart J.H. Grothe Resources Award* to be given posthumously to a UAF alumnus who made significant contributions in the forestry, fishing, mining, or agricultural fields. Grothe was the first recipient of the award.



William T. (Bill) Ellis (1947-2022) was born in the California mining community of Grass Valley and grew up hunting, collecting rocks and inspecting many of the old gold mines of the area. He graduated from the University of Nevada-Reno with a BS in Geology in 1972. Prior to that, he served in the Vietnam War, where he received the Silver Star for bravery. After graduation, he worked in the Silver Valley of Idaho for Sunshine Mining Company, which helped launch his Alaskan career when Sunshine acquired claims in the Ambler Mineral Belt. Bill’s extensive 45-year Alaskan career was launched with Anaconda Minerals acquiring those assets as well as many others across the 49th State. Bill Ellis worked everywhere in Alaska for a variety of firms and explored for many metals, including gold, silver, copper, lead, and critical metals zinc, tin, chromium, platinum group elements, cobalt, and nickel. In 1999, he became a principal in the Anchorage firm Alaska Earth Sciences, serving as an important mentor for younger staff engaged in mineral exploration throughout the 49th State.

**And Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF)
Induction Ceremony, November 8th, 2023
Marriott Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska**

Program

The general public is invited to Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) induction ceremony from 7:00-to-9:30 PM on Wednesday, November 8th in 2023. The ceremony will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska.

Power Point Presentations will be presented for the two new inductees. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments (coffee and tea and cookies/donuts) will be served.

Coffee and Donuts----- 7:00-to-7:15 PM

Introduction by Tom Bundtzen, President of AMHF and a review of
past inductees involved with critical mineral development----- 7:15-to-7:45 PM

Presentation of new Inductees

Presentation of Lenhart Grothe, by Tom Bundtzen----- 7:45-to-8:15 PM

Presentation of William (Bill) Ellis by Robert Retherford----- 8:15-to-8:45 PM

Coffee Break----- 8:45-to-9:00 PM

Recollections of Inductees from the General Audience----- 9:00-to-9:15 PM

Adjournment----- 9:15 PM

Introduction and Acknowledgements

The November 8th, 2023 induction ceremony of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) features two that figured into the acquisition and production of strategic and critical minerals. They join a list of fifteen (15) AMHF inductees that produced, explored for, and studied critical minerals during times of national and international needs.

Lenhart (Len) Grothe was born in New York City in 1935, the eldest son of German immigrants. After high school he attended Montana School of Mines in Butte and worked as a miner there while attending classes. In 1955 he transferred to the University of Alaska School of Mines and graduated there with honor in 1957. He began his career in the Alaskan mineral industry as an underground miner at the Red Devil mercury (antimony) mine in southwest Alaska—both classified as critical minerals by the U.S Government. It was there that he heard of an abandoned lode tin mine for sale at Lost River on the Seward Peninsula. After acquiring the Lost River property, Len began to systematically explore and then develop placer tin mines in several areas of the Seward Peninsula. From the mid-1960s-to-1990, Grothe's Lost River Mining Company was the largest producer of the critical metal tin in the United States. Buyers from both domestic and overseas markets valued the high-quality tin concentrates produced by Grothe especially at Cape Creek. After his passing in 2006, the University of Alaska-Fairbanks created the *Lenhart J.H. Grothe Resources Award* to be given posthumously to a UAF alumnus who made significant contributions in the forestry, fishing, mining, or agricultural fields. Grothe was the first recipient of the award.

No one in the Alaskan Mineral Exploration industry can forget the enormous contributions made by William T. (Bill) Ellis. The Vietnam war veteran, who won a Silver Star for bravery for his services to the United States in that conflict, came to Alaska as an exploration geologist for Idaho-based Sunshine Mining Company and subsequently worked for Anaconda Minerals, the exploration subsidiary of Anaconda Copper Company. Ellis explored for chromium on the Kenai Peninsula, and platinum, cobalt, nickel, copper and precious metals in a variety of geological settings for a number of mining companies during his 45-year career in Alaska. His work is now being used in such areas as the Fish Lake Complex in the Paxson area, at Red Mountain near Seldovia, and throughout Southeast Alaska.

This induction ceremony will also feature the role of other AMHF Inductees in the developing and exploring Alaska's critical minerals. They include Earl Pilgrim (antimony), Walter Stoll (tungsten), Nicholas and Evinda Tweet (graphite), Robert F. Lyman (mercury and antimony), Herman Tofty (tin), Ed MacKevett (mercury, antimony, REEs), Wallace Cady (mercury and antimony), Wise Mike Stepovich (tungsten), Walter Smith and Henry Wuya (platinum), John Schaefer (zinc), John Mertie Jr. (platinum), Ed and Andrew Olson (platinum), and Irv Tailleur (zinc).

Tom Bundtzen wrote the biographic sketch of Len Grothe. Robert Retherford wrote the biography of Bill Ellis. Travis Hudson, Sam Dashevsky, Steve Masterson and John Proffett contributed to the biographies. Bundtzen prepared the Newsletter for publication.



Contributions to the AMHF

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation is funded through donations of money, time and effort, and through sales of books and other paraphernalia. The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization, so all donations are tax deductible.

Donations to the Foundation should be mailed to:

Karl Hanneman, Treasurer
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation
P.O. Box 81108
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Contributions to the Foundation

Contributions help the Foundation produce, publish and update the AMHF website, and operate our new museum at 406 Cushman in downtown Fairbanks (see accompanying article). We were able to reproduce all *Paystreak* Newsletters from 1997-to-Present. The thirty-seven (37) *Paystreak* newsletters can be downloaded from the website, which is: www.alaskamininghalloffame.org.

We thank all contributors, regardless of the level of their donation, which are: Copper (\$1-\$99), Silver (\$100-\$499), Gold (\$500-\$999); '98er, (\$1,000) and Platinum (>\$1,000). Some of the more recent contributions have been in memory of legislator, and placer gold miner Robert Bettisworth, gold miner Walt Wigger, mine educators Ray Smith and Jim Madonna and John Usibelli. The AMHF especially thanks Teck Resources, operator of the Red Dog Zinc-Lead-Silver Mine, the Usibelli Foundation, Margaret Cox Rich, Taiga Mining Company (Taiga), the Bill Stroecker Foundation, Design Alaska Inc., Robert Tsigonis, Larry and Darlene Peterson, June and Norman McAtee, Jeanne Ostnes, and Dave and Pat Carnes for their generous donations during the last several years. Also included below are those that have contributed through the Pick-Click-Give Program by year. We highlight contributors in bold below that have contributed since release of the last AMHF newsletter in March, 2023.

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Lynden Transport	Platinum	General	2013
Teck Resources Red Dog Mine	Platinum	General	2013
Doug Colp Family	98er/Gold	General	2013
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2014
Malie Gray	Copper	General	2014
Clark Milne	Copper	General	2014
Peter Montesa	Copper	General	2014
Jules Tileston	Copper	General	2014
Six Anonymous	Silver	General	2014
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2014
Candy Waugaman	Platinum	General	2015
Karen Erickson	Copper	General	2015
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2015
Alaska Women in Mining	Gold	General	2015
Brian Rogers, Sherry Modrow	Gold	General	2015
Marty K. Rutherford	Gold	General	2015
Karen Purdue	Gold	General	2015
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thurman	Silver	General	2015
Karen Clautice	Copper	General	2015
Christine and Corbette Upton	Silver	General	2015
Bill Brophy	Copper	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Leo and Fredi Brown	Copper	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
George Horner-Trust	Silver	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Laurence Peterson	Silver	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Sigwald and Arlene Strandberg	Silver	In Memory of Bob Bettisworth	2015
Laurence Peterson	Gold	In Memory of Jim Madonna	2015
Lisa and Milton Behr	Gold	In Memory of Walt Wigger	2015
David and Aldean Kilborn	Silver	In Memory of Walt Wigger	2015
Nathaniel May	Copper	General	2015
Michael Whelan	Silver	General	2015
Aaron Pfeil	Copper	General	2015
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2015
Karen Lapp	Copper	General	2015
Jeff Lapp	Copper	General	2015

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2015
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2016
Joel Stratman	Copper	General	2016
Michael Whalen	Silver	General	2016
Richard Hughes	Silver	General	2016
Karen Lapp	Copper	General	2016
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2016
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2016
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2016
Jeff Lapp	Copper	General	2016
John Cook	Copper	General	2016
Mark Hottman	Copper	General	2016
Two Anonymous	Silver	General	2016
Sarah Isto	Silver	General	2016
Tom Bundtzen	Silver	General	2016
Chris Olsen	Silver	General	2016
David and Heidi Doudna	Gold	General	2016
Karen Purdue	Gold	General	2016
Karen J. Erickson	Platinum	General	2016
Richard E. Wagner	Copper	General	2016
Harold and Leslie Noyes	Gold	General	2016
Karen Clautice	Copper	General	2016
Winston and Glenda Burbank	Silver	General	2016
Joseph and Victoria LeTarte	Silver	General	2016
Richard and Cherie Solie	Silver	General	2016
Debbie and Jeff Johnson	Silver	In Memory of Walt Wigger	2016
Helen Warner	Copper	General	2016
Laurence and Darlene Peterson	Silver	General	2016
John and Arlene Orbeck	Copper	General	2016
Lyman Family	Silver	General	2016
Ruth Ibbetson	Silver	General	2016
Alaska Women in Mining	Gold	General	2016
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2016
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2016
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2017
Patrick Dolphin	Copper	General	2017

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2017
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2017
Joel Stratman	Copper	General	2017
Terry Taylor	Copper	General	2017
Michael Whelan	Silver	General	2017
3 Anonymous	Silver	General	2017
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2017
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2017
Fairbanks Branch, Alaska Miners	Gold	General	2017
Don Gray	Copper	General	2018
Richard Hughes	Silver	General	2018
William Kinne	Copper	General	2018
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2018
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2018
Michael Whalen	Silver	General	2018
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2018
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2018
Mark Hottman	Copper	General	2018
Jamison Parry	Copper	General	2018
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2018
Usibelli Foundation	Platinum	General	2018
Terry Taylor	Copper	General	2018
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2019
Larry and Darlene Peterson	Silver	General	2019
Jason Brune	Copper	General	2019
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2019
Gay Ellen Heath Griffin	Copper	General	2019
William Kinne	Copper	General	2019
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2019
Jameson Parry	Copper	General	2019
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2019
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2019
Michael Whalen	Silver	General	2019
Margaret Cox Rich	Platinum	In Memory of Ray Smith	2020
David and Patricia Carnes	Platinum	General	2020
Larry and Darlene Peterson	Platinum	General	2020
Taiga Mining Company	Platinum	General	2020
Scott Bothwell	Copper	General	2020
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2020
Don Gray	Copper	General	2020

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2020
William Kinne	Copper	General	2020
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2020
Heath Nowak	Copper	General	2020
Jameson Parry	Copper	General	2020
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2020
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2020
Michael Whelan	Silver	General	2020
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2021
Taiga Mining Company	Platinum	General	2021
Phil Younker	Silver	In Memory of Ray Smith	2021
Anonymous 1	Silver	General	2021
Anonymous 2	Silver	General	2021
Larry and Darlene Peterson	Silver	General	2021
Rob and Donna Brady	Copper	General	2022
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2022
Patrick Dolphin	Copper	General	2022
Matthew Hanson	Silver	General	2022
Richard Hughes	Silver	General	2022
William Kinne	Copper	General	2022
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2022
Jameson Perry	Copper	General	2022
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2022
Jerry Sadler	Copper	General	2022
Anonymous 1	Silver	General	2022
Anonymous 2	Silver	General	2022
Teresa Chepoda	Silver	In Memory of John Usibelli	2022
Ann and Mike McCann	Silver	General	2022
Bill Stroecker Foundation	Platinum	General	2022
Design Alaska Inc.	Gold	General	2022
Taiga Mining Company	Platinum	General	2022
Robert Tsigonis	Gold	General	2023
Jeanne Ostnes	Platinum	General	2023

Name	Contribution Level	Dedication	Year
Don Gray	Silver	General	2023
Shirley Liss	Gold	General	2023
Jeanne Ostnes and Tim Benintendi	Platinum	General	2023
Laurence and Darlene Peterson	Platinum	General	2023
Jason Brune	Silver	General	2023
Anonymous	Copper	General	2023
Patrick Dolphin	Copper	General	2023
Malie Gray	Copper	General	2023
Matthew Hanson	Copper	General	2023
William Kinne	Copper	General	2023
Sonny Lindner	Silver	General	2023
Clark Milne	Silver	General	2023
Jameson Perry	Copper	General	2023
Patricia Peirsol	Copper	General	2023
Judd Rutledge	Copper	General	2023
Michael Whelan	Silver	General	2023
Bill Tweet	Silver	General	2023
Nick Stepovich	Silver	General	2023
Robert Fithian/Sundance	Gold	General	2023

Activity Summary, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation Museum

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation have completed our first year operating a museum at 406 Cushman in Downtown Fairbanks, Alaska. Table 1 provides a statistical summary of the number of people that entered the museum doors from October 8th, 2022, when the museum was opened. During the period ending October 31, 2023, an estimated 2,099 visitors entered the premises of the museum. This includes: 1) guests that signed in on our guest book; 2) additional visitors that did not sign in but were none-the-less counted by volunteers; and 3) those attending the Wednesday Evening Lecture series, or other planned events. An estimated 1,228 or 59 percent of the total came to the museum to listen to twenty-one (21) highly diverse topics at the ‘Wednesday Evening Lecture Series’ (see Table 2) presented by seven (7) speakers: Joan Skilbred, Tom Bundtzen, James Deininger, Ed Armstrong, Paul Metz, Margaret Merritt, and Leslie Thomas; Others came to attend the annual AMHF X-mas party, a spring AMHF induction ceremony, as students at the University of Alaska-sponsored, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Classes, as members of the Fairbanks Genealogical Society and as members of the Fairbanks Branch of the Alaska Miners Association. Some museum visitors came to purchase mining history books and other paraphernalia that are for sale at the museum. Those who visited the museum came from 35 U.S States and 16 foreign countries.

A team of volunteers, most of them from North Pole-based Santa’s Seniors, insured that the museum was open to the public. They include Barbara Sevier (team leader), Goldie Southwood, Jo Small, John Halbert, Frank and Ida Rhines, and Caroline Crone. Scott Southwood has provided valuable IT services to the Foundation, including the rendering of historic films into digital formats and installing internet service at the museum. The museum’s hours are Monday through Saturday, 10AM to 4PM during the period May 15 to September 15 and dropped back to 12:30PM to 4:30PM for fall and winter hours.

Head Count and Guest Book Normal Hours (11AM-5PM), Evening Lectures, and other activities, AMHF Museum, October 2022 to October 2023

Month/Day	Daily Guest Book Sign-Ins	Additional Head Count (not signed in)	Evening Lectures and scheduled events	Total
October	34	18	68	120
November	5	12		17
December	14	17	80	111
January	15	16	29	60
February	15	18	8	41
March	24	10	215	249
April	6	16	157	179
May	35	25	110	170
June	43	30	134	207
July	105	47	119	271
August	118	55	129	302
September	87	37	84	208
October	47	22	95	164
2023 TOTAL	548	323	1,228	2,099

Scheduled Individual Events at AMHF Museum, including ‘Wednesday Evening Lectures’ and other get-togethers, October 2022 to October 2023

Count	Date	Lecture Title and Presenter	Attendance
1	10 08 2022	Opening of Museum	68
2	12 14 2022	Roshier Creecy, by Margaret Merritt	21
3	12 17 2022	AMHF Christmas Party	47
4	12 21 2023	<i>The Great Tanana Raft Race</i> by Joan Skilbred	12
5	01 25 2023	<i>African Americans During Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush</i> Tom Bundtzen	29
6	02 28 2023	Fairbanks Genealogical Society	8
7	03 09 2023	Tour of museum for OLLI Group from Anchorage by Tom Bundtzen	26
8	03 17 2023	Fairbanks Branch AMA/ <i>Keystone Canyon</i> by Joni Skilbred	45
9	03 24 2023	Lecture 1 OLLI Critical Minerals class by Tom Bundtzen	28
10	03 28 2023	Fairbanks Genealogical Society	9
11	03 29 2023	AMHF Induction Ceremony of Lowe, Currier and Aylward	77
12	03 31 2023	Lecture 2 OLLI Critical Minerals class by Tom Bundtzen	30
13	04 07 2023	Lecture 3 OLLI Critical Minerals class by Tom Bundtzen	34
14	04 14 2023	Lecture 4 OLLI Critical Minerals class by Tom Bundtzen	34
15	04 19 2023	<i>Early Fairbanks Dredging</i> by Joan Skilbred	89
16	05 03 2023	<i>Early Fairbanks Dredging (Again)</i> by Joan Skilbred	24
16	05 23 2023	Fairbanks Genealogical Society	11
16	05 24 2023	<i>The Great Tanana Raft Race</i> by Joan Skilbred	57
17	05 31 2023	<i>Adventures of an Alaskan Woman Biologist</i> Margaret Merritt	18
18	06 07 2023	<i>Alaska’s Critical Minerals</i> by Tom Bundtzen	38
19	06 14 2023	<i>Roshier Creecy</i> , by Margaret Merritt	17
20	06 20 2023	Fairbanks Genealogical Society (Last Meeting until Fall)	11
21	06 22 2023	<i>Bridget Aylward Trip to Napoleon Creek</i> Leslie Thomas	27
22	06 28 2023	<i>Fairbanks Wood Famine</i> by Joan Skilbred	41
23	07 05 2023	<i>Geologists Odyssey</i> by Ed Armstrong	37
24	07 19 2023	<i>Wimbish Cooper Gilmore Creek Murder Story</i> by Joan Skilbred	39
25	07 26 2023	<i>Hollistic Alaska Dredging Industry</i> by Tom Bundtzen	43
26	08 09 2023	<i>Drift Mining on Linda Creek</i> by Jim Deininger	53
27	08 16 2023	<i>Gin Pole Mining Woodchopper Creek</i> by Jim Deininger	32
28	08 30 2023	<i>The Blue Parka Man</i> by Joan Skilbred	44
29	09 13 2023	<i>The Notorious Leroy Tozier</i> by Joan Skilbred	46
30	09 26 2023	Fairbanks Genealogical Society (Resumes winter meetings)	9
31	09 27 2023	<i>The Mineral Resources of Greenland A Review</i> by Tom Bundtzen	29
32	10 11 2023	<i>Guts Greed and Gold</i> by Joan Skilbred	44
33	10/24/2023	<i>Black Sand and Clean Energy</i> , by Paul Metz	26
34	10 27 2023	Fairbanks Branch Alaska Miners Association	25
	TOTAL	34 Events	1,228



A



B



C



D



E



F

Photographs illustrating activities at the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Museum in Fairbanks during 2022-2023; A—October 8th, 2022 opening of museum featuring Governor Dunleavy; B—those attending one of our Wednesday Evening lectures, this one titled ‘The Great Tanana Raft Race’ on December 21 2023, by Joan Skilbred; C—Location on Cushman Street of the museum in the ‘Cole Building’; D—Another lecture by Joan Skilbred titled ‘Keystone Canyon Shootout’ on 03 17 2023; E—March 29 2023 induction attendees featuring Zoom presentation from Ireland honoring inductee Bridgett Mannion; F—Paul Metz presents ‘Converting Black Sand to Clean Energy’ on October 24, 2023.

Previous Inductees, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame

Fairbanks, Fall 1997

Six charter members of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation were previously elected to the National Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville, Colorado.

Clarence J. Berry: Prominent Klondike and Interior Alaska miner; noted businessman of the north.

Stephen Birch: Founder and developer of Kennecott Copper Mines.

Frederick Bradley: Successful manager of Treadwell and A-J Mines, Juneau.

Alfred H. Brooks: Chief Geologist of U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska during Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush Era.

Ernest Patty: University of Alaska renowned teacher and later president, and manager of dredge firms in the Coal Creek-Woodchopper district.

John Treadwell: Founder of Treadwell Mines, Juneau.

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” grubstaked many prospectors.

Arthur Harper: Respected trader and prospector and promoter of the Yukon; his son Walter, first stepped foot on the summit of Mount McKinley (Denali).

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

John Minook: Creole-Athabaskan prospector who discovered the Rampart and Melozitna districts—became an important inspiration for Indigenous rights, including US Citizenship.

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 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 district character.

Juneau, Spring 2001

Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Government Role in Mining

Benjamin D. Stewart: State and Federal mining administrator, mine safety proponent, 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: Water engineer that 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—his namesake is ‘Tofty Tin Belt’.

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 Inupiat 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 Alaska-Yukon 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 helped develop initial plans for FE Fairbanks dredging 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 lode 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: was born to Yupik parents in Quinhagak on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Wuya was proficient in English when few Yupik people 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 of Cancer 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, named after his son, another transportation pioneer, 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. Eastaugh was appointed to the Alaska Minerals Commission in 1991 by Governor Walter Hickel. Upon Eastaugh's death, 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: was one of the premier miners of his generation. Educated at the School of Mines in Fairbanks, he mined placer gold deposits 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.

Rheinart M. (Rhiny) Berg: Berg's strength and stamina were legendary during most of his 86 years of life. He discovered the Bornite copper-cobalt deposit. He later developed the Candle placer district.

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. Faulker was an important lobbyist during the early years of the Alaska Miners Association. 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 was 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.

Ernest 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 copper 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 copper 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. He later retooled the Independence mill to recover tungsten, a strategic metal during WWII.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2010

Honoring two-civic-minded pioneers important to Interior and Western Alaska Development

John P. Clum: Long after his involvement with the initial capture of the Apache leader Geronimo in Arizona, Clum established reliable postal service throughout Alaska—he became the Postal Inspector for the Alaska Territory.

Irving McKenny Reed: Prolific Associate Mining Engineer for the Alaska Territory known for his excellent descriptions of Alaska's remote placer districts and true pioneer of Nome; was chair of the Alaska Game Commission prior to WWII and the Territorial Highway Engineer prior to Statehood. Surveyed much of Fairbanks townsite as the town grew.

Anchorage, Fall, 2010

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Seward Peninsula Gold Dredging Industry

Nicholas B. and Evinda S. Tweet: Partners in marriage and mining, they created a family-owned firm that has mined gold in Alaska for more than 100 years. Developed and mined graphite in the Kigluaik Mountains during WWI—now the site of a world-class graphite project.

Carl S. and Walter A. Glavinovich: Brothers who devoted more than 100 years of their collective lives to dredging in the Nome district, one of Alaska’s Premier placer gold districts.

Anchorage, Fall, 2011

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

Martin Radovan: A Croatian prospector who prospected the Chitina Valley for decades and found the high grade but also high altitude ‘Binocular’ copper prospect. He never made a mine but his dreams live on.

Arthur Shonbeck: He joined numerous stampedes during the Alaska-Yukon Goldrush and was an outstanding civic leader of Anchorage. In 1945, he drowned with AMHF Inductee John Beaton in Ganes Creek west of McGrath.

Fairbanks, Spring 2012

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Mid-20th Interior Placer Mining Industry

Oscar Tveiten: Arrived in Fairbanks during the Great Depression and mined on Cleary Creek in the Fairbanks for more than 50 years.

Glen D. Franklin: A gifted athlete who studied business administration at the University of Alaska in the 1930s; mined with others throughout Alaska and Yukon Territory for several decades.

Donald Cook: An Oregon-born graduate of the University of Alaska, who pursued a stellar career in Education at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. He was an expert on USSR&M Gold dredges.

Anchorage, Fall, 2012

Honoring Pioneers Important to the Iditarod and Innoko Districts of Southwest Alaska

Merton Marston: Indiana newspaper man who became wealthy as a result of grubstaking the discoverers of the Iditarod district—becoming a gold millionaire—later managed hotels in the Pacific Northwest, including the Sorrento in Seattle, Washington State’s oldest operating hotel.

Mattie ‘Tootsie’ Crosby: Beloved personality in Flat, the center of the Iditarod district for more than 50 years—the only Afro-American who lived and worked in that district. A gifted musician as well as astute businesswoman.

Toivo Rosander: Finnish immigrant who mined in the Ophir-Innoko area for 70 years with wife Dyna and boys Ron and Ken. Managed to convince many skeptics, including leaders in the conservation movement, about the economic and social value of placer mining.

Juneau, Spring, 2013

Honoring Two Pioneers Important to Mineral Development in Southeast Alaska

Alexandre Choquette: French Canadian prospector who began in the 1849 California Gold Rush and ended in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896. At the time of his death, Choquette was a true north-country legend.

John F. Malony: Was important to early mineral development of Southeast Alaska—served as mayor of Juneau and helped form Alaska Electric Light and Power, Alaska’s first modern electric utility.

Fairbanks, Summer 2013

Honoring an outstanding citizen, educator and placer mine expert

Doug Colp: Born and raised in Southeastern Alaska, Colp became a legendary expert on placer mine technologies, a UAF Educator, and, with his wife Marcel, a civic-minded resident of Fairbanks.

Anchorage, Fall, 2013

Honoring Geologists from the U.S. Geological Survey

Arthur C. Spencer: Provided the first geologic descriptions of the Kennecott Mines in the Chitina Valley and authored a classic: USGS Bulletin 287—The Juneau Gold Belt—in 1906.

Josiah E. Spurr: Forged a career as a renowned economic geologist—and helped found the Society of Economic Geologists. Best known for his pre-Klondike adventure—*Through the Yukon Gold Diggings*.

Stephen R. Capps: An outstanding regional geologist that specialized in the study of Alaskan placer gold deposits in glaciated areas. His work is cemented in studies along the Alaska Railroad corridor, where he provided information on resources for use in that corridor. Capps among the first federal geologists to study and evaluate ‘strategic minerals’.

Fairbanks, Spring 2014

Honoring Three Early Mining Pioneers Important in the Alaskan Mining Industry

‘Wise Mike’ Stepovich: Self-educated immigrant from Montenegro came to Fairbanks shortly after the 1902 discovery and mined gold on Fairbanks Creek for 40 years; his son Mike Stepovich II would be Alaska’s last Territorial Governor. Wise Mike played an important role in the development of the critical metal tungsten in the Fairbanks district before WWII.

Helen Van Campen: Had a remarkable career in Alaska that included equestrian sports, journalism and gold mining mainly on the Kenai Peninsula. Helen Van Campen Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks has provided journalism students with funding to help start their careers.

Peter Petrovich Doroshin: A brilliant Russian Mining engineer that discovered and mined placer gold on the Kenai Peninsula during 1849-1851; found industrial minerals for use in the colony; and was a pioneer in investigating Alaska’s abundant coal resources. Would later play an important role in Russia for the Imperial Russian Naval Mining office and mine gold in the Ural Mountains.

Anchorage, Fall, 2014

Honoring Three Pioneers Associated with the Kennecott Mines in Alaska

Alan Mara Bateman: Important Kennecott consultant at McCarthy; Editor of *Economic Geology* for more than five decades.

Edward M. MacKevett Jr. Pioneer geologist of Kennecott deposits near McCarthy and Alaska's premier mercury-antimony and REE-Th-U districts.

William H. Seagrave Best known for his management skills in the early Kennecott mines of Alaska, in both Prince William Sound and in the Chitina Valley.

Anchorage, Fall, 2015

Honoring Pioneers Associated with the Red Dog Zinc-Polymetallic Mine and a Hatcher Pass Pioneer

Robert (Bob) Baker: The Kotzebue-based bush pilot and amateur prospector who is given credit for the co-discovery of the Red Dog zinc-polymetallic deposit (with Irv Tailleir) , currently Alaska's most important metal mine.

Irv Tailleir A legendary U.S. Geological Survey Brooks Range geologist who followed up on Baker's recommendations and inspected mineralization in 'Red Dog Creek'; wrote the open-file report documenting the importance of the Red Dog deposit.

Don S. Rae: Respected prospector and assayer who worked in Southeast Alaska and Hatcher Pass.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2016

Honoring Pioneers Associated with Alaska's Gold Dredging Fleet

Patrick H. O'Neill: Born into a large Cordova family of Irish descent, O'Neill would graduate from the University of Alaska with several Engineering degrees, become dredge superintendent for the FE Company in Fairbanks, and complete a remarkable career operating fleets of gold-platinum dredges in South America. He was a strong supporter of the University of Alaska for his entire life.

Walter W. Johnson: His firm, the Union Construction Company, would construct one third of all the bucketline stacker dredges that concurrently operated in Alaska (32). UCC operated dredges elsewhere.

Anchorage, Fall, 2016

AMHF Honors Three Pioneers Associated Placer Mining, Invention, Mineral Industry Management, Scientific Inquiry, and Public Service

John Arthur Miscovich: Renowned second-generation placer gold miner from the Iditarod Mining district; John was perhaps better known for his *Intelligent*TM and other water technology inventions.

Cole Edwin McFarland: combined the hard work of a pioneering Alaskan placer mining family with the responsibilities of being President of Placer Dome U.S. Inc., a successful international mining firm.

Donald John Grybeck: had a distinguished career as a scientist, teacher, miner, and earth science manager. His lasting legacy is the USGS Alaska Resource Data Files (ARDF), which he designed.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2018

AMHF Honors Three 'Minority' Mining Pioneers involved in all aspects of the mining lifestyle

William T. Ewing: was born into slavery in 1854 in Keytesville, Missouri. After working his way across the United States, Ewing joined the Tacoma Police Department. He stampeded to Alaska in 1896, and in 1903, struck it rich in the Fairbanks District with partner James McCarty. After he passed away in 1923, his entire estate went to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Kate Kennedy: lived in the copper mining boomtown of McCarthy, Alaska for nearly three decades. In the early 20th Century, Kate Kennedy, a divorced woman, became the largest property owner in the Chitina Valley and was McCarthy's best-known entrepreneur.

Eugene Swanson: was reported to be the only consistently successful gold miner in the Rampart District, according to a 1938 article by the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. He served as a Buffalo Soldier during the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush. An honor guard of black soldiers from the U.S. Army attended his 1942 funeral in Fairbanks.

Anchorage, Fall, 2018

AMHF Honors Frontier Mining Camp Pioneers

Joseph B. Quigley: Born in Pennsylvania, Joe Quigley would ascend Chilkoot Pass in 1891, years before the Klondike Gold Rush. Quigley is best known for his work in the Kantishna District in the shadow of Mount McKinley (now Denali).

Tekla M. Kanari: was a Finnish Immigrant who, along with husband John, formed and operated Trinity Mining Company in the remote Kougarak Mining district north of Nome. She made many wire transfers of funds to relatives and friends in war-torn Finland during WWII.

Alvin H. Agoff: Son of a Russian immigrant, Alvin Agoff mined gold, trapped, and freighted with sled dogs in the Iditarod Mining district for more than 50 years. His family legacy lives on with Prince Creek Mining Company, the last heritage mining operation in the Iditarod.

Anchorage, Fall 2019

AMHF Honors Pioneers of the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM)

Thomas L. Pittman: was a noted metallurgist, and minerals officer for the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Juneau; at the time of his passing, was the longest serving employee of the USBM in Alaska.

John Joseph Mulligan: Born in New York, Mulligan arrived in Alaska in 1949 and worked in the Territory on many strategic mineral projects in Alaska. He became Chief of Field Operations for the USBM in Alaska in 1970, a position held until his retirement in 1985.

Donald Paul Blasko: came to Alaska as a USBM new petroleum resource officer, and served as a safety officer for the Evan Jones coal mine near Palmer in the early 1960s. Later, Blasko managed many USBM studies during the D-2 Lands debates and played a role in the Red Dog deposit discovery verification. Upon retirement in 1993, he returned to Idaho spending much time volunteering for non-profit organizations before his passing in 2009.

Fairbanks, Summer, 2020

AMHF Honors Pioneers Associated with Interior and Northern Alaska Gold Mining

Roshier Creecy: Born in Virginia in 1866, he sought to escape a southern Culture intent on retaining racial hierarchy. Roshier was a Buffalo Soldier for the 9th Calvary and mined in Wiseman district of Northern Alaska for decades.

Arnold Nordale: The civic minded mining engineer was born in Juneau in 1896 and grew up in Fairbanks. Nordale worked for the Alaska Road Commission and ultimately the USSR&M dredging company in Fairbanks and the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation in Dawson—managing a dredge fleet of similar size to the USSR&M fleet in Fairbanks.

Raymond L. (Ray) Smith: Born and raised in Maine, Smith came north to Alaska in 1939 and obtained a mining engineering degree at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He became President of Michigan Technological University in 1965, and is widely credited for fundamentally improving the quality of the educational institution. Upon his retirement, he remained in close contact with friends and colleagues in Alaska for the rest of his life.

Anchorage, Fall, 2022

AMHF Honors individuals associated with modern Alaskan mineral resource development

John Qipqina Schaeffer Jr. A visionary Inupiaq leader from Northwest Alaska that was instrumental in negotiating a 1982 agreement with Cominco Limited for NANA Regional Corporation, which developed the Red Dog Mine, one of the world’s largest zinc producers

Charles Griswald (Riz) Bigelow is widely recognized as one of the most successful mineral exploration geologists in Alaskan history. Bigelow put together teams that discovered the Arctic, Greens Creek, Pogo, and other properties, several of which have become producing mines.

Charles Caldwell Hawley Born in Evansville, Illinois, Hawley became one of the most respected Alaskan geologists and mine historians of his generation. Wrote the now classic book ‘A Kennecott Story’, which provides a summary of Kennecott Copper history.

Fairbanks, Spring, 2023

AMHF honors two women miners and a Pre-Felix Pedro Tanana Basin Explorer

Emma Grace Lowe has the distinction of being one of the only woman miners in Interior Alaska during early post-gold rush years. While Grace may not have been what some would call “ladylike”, she held her own in a male-dominated profession and made her mark in Alaska’s mining history.

Frederick James Currier was one of those persistent early Tanana Basin miners during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush. He was in the 40-Mile and Circle districts during times of discovery and explored the Chena River basin years before the arrival of Feliz Pedro.

Bridget Mannion Aylward emigrated from Ireland and mined gold in the 40 Mile district with husband Edward years before the Klondike discovery. She established an educational fund in Ireland with 40 Mile gold, which exists to this day.



Lenhart J.H. Grothe

April 15th, 1935-January 7th, 2006

On January 7th, 2006, Lenhart J.H. (Len) Grothe, aged 70, died peacefully in Kodiak, Alaska, surrounded by friends and family members. Len was a major contributor to the extraction of Alaska's critical minerals at a time when overall mineral development in Alaska had been in decline.

Early Years and Education

Grothe was born April 15th, 1935 in Queens, New York City, the eldest of three children born to German immigrants Alexander and Carola Grothe. Prior to his arrival in Alaska, Grothe attended Montana School of Mines in Butte (now Montana Technological University) and worked underground in one of Anaconda Copper Company's mines there while attending that school. Upon traveling to Alaska in 1955, Grothe fell in love with the 'Last Frontier' and enrolled in the School of Mines at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He listed his home as Orlando, Florida.

Lenhart Grothe established Northern Exploration and Equipment Company while still a student at the University of Alaska, a business platform from which he conducted work for a number of years later in his life, including real estate and construction projects in Kodiak. He graduated at the top of his class with a Bachelors of Science (BS) degree in Mining Engineering in 1959.

Grothe's Career Mining Critical Minerals

During his school years and after graduation, Grothe worked as an underground miner at the Red Devil mercury (antimony) mine in Southwest Alaska. Mercury mining in Alaska began during the late stages of the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush period and continued intermittently until 1986. In 1942, the U.S. Government declared mercury a strategic mineral, which caused a flurry of activity in Alaska's Kuskokwim Mineral Belt. The Red Devil mine was Alaska's chief mercury producer among a dozen active properties. Byproduct antimony, also classified as a critical mineral at the time, was also produced with mercury at Red Devil, especially in later years, when Grothe worked there in the late 1950s, and also between 1969-1971.



Surface plant of the Red Devil mercury-antimony mine as it existed in 1959, when Grothe worked as an underground miner. From T.K. Bundtzen files

AMHF Inductee Donald J. Grybeck, a former University of Alaska instructor and long-time member of the Alaska Branch of the U.S. Geological Survey, was a close friend of Grothe first as a fellow student at the UAF School of Mines and later as a fellow miner at Red Devil mine. They became life-long friends. Grybeck and Grothe shared a small cabin behind the main Red Devil mine workings for nearly a year. AMHF inductee Robert Lyman was managing the mine when Grothe was there, while Gordon Herreid served as the mine's geologist. Herreid would later become the first economic geologist hired by the newly formed Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mines and Minerals—now the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. Roger Markel, who would eventually become the head of the U.S. Bureau of Mines nationwide (in 1978), managed the Red Devil mine prior to Bob Lyman's turn at the helm. Grybeck recalled:

“Len was a really good underground miner”.

While working at Red Devil, Grothe became interested in an abandoned tin mine on the Seward Peninsula. From 1951-1956, the United States Tin Corporation (USTC) unprofitably operated a relatively high-grade underground tin

mine at Lost River, about 40 miles west-northwest of Teller. The project was plagued with technical problems, including inadequate water for processing and very poor tin recovery in the mill. When USTC defaulted in 1956, they left the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration or DMEA, a federal agency charged with supervising critical mineral development nationally, with many unpaid bills. Subsequently, the DMEA attempted to auction off the USTC property without much success. In 1960, Len Grothe submitted a bid and acquired the Lost River property 'sight unseen' for \$21,777 USD through an auction held by the General Services Administration.

Grothe's colleague and friend, Don Grybeck, had actually seen the Lost River tin mine before Grothe had acquired it while working as a field assistant for famed USGS economic geologist C. L. Pete Sainsbury and was intrigued with the geology of the tin-polymetallic deposit. Hence Don and Len traveled together with Pete Sainsbury to Lost River to inspect Grothe's new mine acquisition. The group encountered massive snowbanks, the result of the snow drifting over mine equipment and buildings. Just emerging from the snowbanks were Caterpillar diesel generators, mill equipment, and many cases of dynamite.

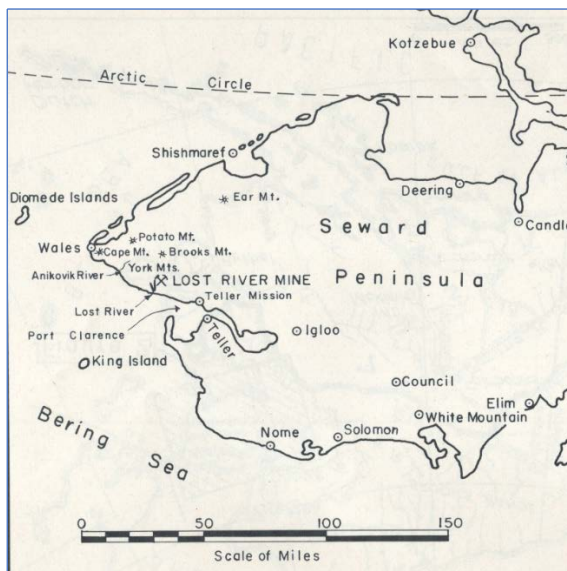


United States Tin Corporation Lost River tin mine, western Seward Peninsula, winter of 1956, mirroring conditions that Grothe encountered during his 1960 inspection of the property. From Bundtzen (1983)

Grothe managed to sell off much of the mine equipment at Lost River, which more than paid for his bid price. Afterwards, Grothe initiated a long career of placer mining for tin on the Seward Peninsula and created Lost River Mining Company (Lost River) with partner Tom Pearson. Lost River initiated production of placer tin at Cassiterite Creek near the Lost River lode tin-polymetallic mine.

In 1964, Grothe and Pearson leased the Lost River lode tin property to the United States Steel Corporation, which conducted exploration drilling on the property for several seasons. In 1972, Grothe and Pearson sold all of their interest and mining claims associated with the Lost River lode tin-polymetallic lode deposit to Watts Griffis and McQuat Inc. (WGM) of Anchorage, which immediately began an aggressive exploration and development program designed to bring the tungsten-silver-fluorite deposit into production.

Lost River began systematically testing placer tin resources in the Western Seward Peninsula region, including Tuttle and Pinochle Creeks on the flanks of Ear Mountain; and Buck Creek and streams near Potato Mountain.



Map of Seward Peninsula showing locations of selected tin deposits described in the text. From Lorraine et al (1958)

Eventually Grothe developed a long-lived placer tin mine on Cape Creek, a stream on the east side of Cape Mountain, in the western-most part of the Seward Peninsula adjacent to Bering Strait.

Lost River operated the only primary tin mine in the United States intermittently between the mid-1960s and 1990. During most of this time, Grothe spent approximately 6 months a year mining tin on the Seward Peninsula while wintering in Kodiak, Alaska. Grothe's most productive years occurred when tin prices were relatively high, buoyed up by the price controls administered by the International Tin Council headquartered in London and in Malaysia. Total past production of tin by Lost River at Cape Creek from 1975-1989, as derived from Alaska State questionnaire records, was 2,072,000 million pounds (939,859 kg) tin produced from both stream deposits in Cape Creek and strandline (beach) placer deposits at the mouth of Cape Creek. Concentrates were sold both domestically and internationally, including New Jersey, Texas, London, and Singapore.



Washing plant at Len Grothe tin placer mine, circa early 1980s. Photo by Travis Hudson

After exhaustion of reserves on their Cape Creek basin mining claims, Lost River Mining Company was unable to acquire additional reserves in the Cape Creek area or secure leases on other tin-bearing placer ground in Alaska; thus Grothe's tin mining career ended in 1990.

The compiler of this biographic sketch (Bundtzen) visited the Cape Creek placer tin mine in 1988, after inspecting the Bima gold dredge in Nome for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources geological survey division. At Cape Creek, he encountered a sophisticated placer recovery plant equipped with two sets of jigs and a well-designed, water quality treatment facility. It was a clean operation, with placer tailings annually reclaimed and 100 percent water recycling system with virtually no water effluent released. In 1988, up to twenty (20) employees worked for Grothe at the Cape Creek placer tin mine, which featured selective recovery of coarse-grained cassiterite nuggets. Grothe's employees came from many areas of Alaska, including local villages such as Wales, Shishmaref, Teller, and Nome.



Crew of Lost River Mining Company operation at Cape Creek, Western Seward Peninsula during 1988. Grothe is third from the right: TKB Files

Len Grothe's Personnel Life and Legacy

In 1960, Len Grothe moved to Kodiak, Alaska, and his first son, Lenhart Junior, was born there in 1964. He married Jeanne Moore in the early 1970s and his second child, daughter Lynden Carola, was born in 1979.

In January, 2006, a memorial service honoring Grothe was held at Kodiak Assembly of God Church with a wake held at Kodiak Senior Center.

At his memorial service, Lenhart Grothe (Senior) was described by a family member:

"Len was a kind, humble and generous man who took great pleasure in his family, friends, and business endeavors. He was known for his great sense of humor, a twinkle in his eye, and a sly smile. He was well known as a talented businessman here in Kodiak who enjoyed sharing his wisdom with others."

At his wake, Don Grybeck commented:

"Len was a good miner and hard worker and displayed imagination and daring in the mining business at a time when mining in Alaska was in the doldrums."

Len Grothe himself offered the following advice many times to young people:

"It doesn't matter what you do, just do what you do and do it well. Nothing is more valuable than your reputation as an honest person".

Lenhart J.H. Grothe was preceded in death by his younger brother Gilbert. At the time of his passing, he was survived by his wife Jeanne; son Lenhart Grothe Jr., daughter Lynden Carola; grandchildren Garrett and Cameron; daughter-in-law Deborah; brother Wolfram (passed away in 2019) and sister-in-law Beverly, many nieces and nephews, and close friends and business associates.

In 2007, the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Alumni Association created the *Lenhart J.H. Grothe Resources Award* to be given posthumously to a UAF alumnus who made significant contributions in the forestry, fishing, mining, or agricultural fields. Grothe was the first recipient of the award.

Written by Thomas K. Bundtzen, reviewed by Travis Hudson

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William T. (Bill) Ellis

July 29th, 1947 to March 18, 2022

Widely respected minerals exploration geologist William (Bill) Ellis died March 18, 2022 at Providence Alaska Medical Center after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Throughout the modern history of Alaska, many nameless and oft unrecognized explorers have contributed to the Last Frontier State in ways that future generations will never be able to truly appreciate. Bill Ellis practiced his trade for half a century and personified the attitude needed to succeed in mineral exploration.

Early Years and Education

Bill was born in the historic gold mining town of Grass Valley, California, July 29th 1947 to Allan and Mary Ellis. He grew up hunting and roaming in the woods and canyons around Grass Valley, collecting rocks and wondering about the many old mines that he ran across. Bill would recall:

"I was always interested in rocks, collecting them as a very young kid in my driveway in Grass Valley. All the driveways were essentially mine tailings, so I'd go out and look for quartz and pyrite and things like that. I guess I had an affliction for it."

Bill graduated from Sparks High School, Sparks, Nevada in 1965 and that same year enrolled in the Mackey School of Mines Geology program at the University of Nevada. He put himself through school by working in the produce department at a Safeway grocery store between 1963 and 1972. But before Bill completed his college education, he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1967 and would go on to fight in A Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Staff Sergeant Ellis was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on Hill 937; also known as 'Hamburger Hill' to many Vietnam veterans. He was awarded other medals for valor displayed in combat during his two years of duty overseas (Bill's son, Danny Ellis describes those years later in this summary). Upon his discharge from the Army, Ellis completed his BS Degree in Geology at Mackay School of Mines in 1972.

Bill Ellis Begins Career in Mineral Exploration

After graduation, Ellis was contacted by the Terra silver mine in the Great Bear Lake area of Northwest Territories, Canada. He immediately accepted the job, and shortly thereafter hopped on a flight out of Yellowknife. Bill recalled:

"It was a very enlightening job playing mine geologist in a small but very high-grade operation. It was a very good learning experience".

In addition to learning underground mapping in a crash course, he gained dual citizenship for his working in Canada over the next two years. It was during his time working in the vast barren lands of the Northwest Territories that he met the chief geologist for Sunshine Mining Company. The man had come to the Terra Mine to examine it and other silver deposits in the region. He eventually offered Bill a job in Sunshine's mines in the Cour de' lene District of Idaho.

Bill Ellis with Sunshine Mining Company

Carl Hale recounts that both he and Bill went to work for Sunshine Mining Company (Sunshine) around the same time and were working underground at the Bunker Hill and the Lucky Friday mines in Idaho.

At the time Bill was not only working for Sunshine Mining as a geologist but spent his off time experiencing the Silver Valley culture which resembled the Old West days, rife with bars and bordellos. Ellis would go skiing with Hale and others at Jackass Ski Hill (now known as Silver Mountain) for \$7/day. In between ski seasons, Ellis checked out different historic silver and gold mines for fun. Bill met his first wife Kathy in 1974, when she and others worked for several mining companies and on a Forest Service fire crew for one season. Bill and Kathy eventually married and moved from their Sunshine Company house near Kellogg in 1978 to Alaska, where Bill bought a house in Eagle River.

Both Hale and Ellis were sent to the Ambler Mineral Belt by Sunshine and eventually so was Geoff Garcia, where they all worked staking claims and completing assessment work. It was an exciting time with crews from Noranda Exploration, Sunshine, Anaconda Minerals and BP-Minerals competing for pieces of the Ambler Mineral Belt.

As a historical note, Kennecott Exploration (aka Bear Creek Mining) was the first mining company to acquire and drill-test the Arctic copper-zinc-polymetallic deposit within the Ambler District (in 1965). Previously, Kennecott had purchased the Bornite copper-cobalt deposit from Rhinehart Berg in the mid-1950s. After recognizing that Kennecott was proving the potential for silver and associated metals in the Ambler Mineral Belt, Sunshine Mining began sending people to the Brooks Range and began exploring for other VMS properties in the Ambler Mineral Belt.

Bill recalled:

“Sunshine had a leg up on most of the other companies, as the crew had been in the district earlier and had some ideas of where known prospects were at the time. Despite the advantage, most of the prospects found in the Ambler District did not meet the high-grade standards that Sunshine was looking for. We recommended that Sunshine seek a major company to partner with, Anaconda Minerals, the exploration arm of Anaconda Copper Company, a big player up in Alaska for many years, as the group to come in and take over the claims that Sunshine controlled”.

Bill Ellis with Anaconda Minerals

Much of what we know about Bill’s career with Anaconda Minerals has been provided by his long-time colleague, John Proffett, who stated:

“Dave Heatwole and I first met Bill in 1974 while he was working for Sunshine Mining staking claims, mapping and prospecting in the Ambler district, and we were getting Anaconda's exploration program for Alaska started. Bill gave Dave a tour through the district and at the end of the field season Dave and I traveled to Idaho where Bill showed us all the data. Based on that, Anaconda made a deal with Sunshine for their Ambler district claims. Bill's work in 1974 and our follow-up work in the next couple of years, revealed all the significant mineral occurrences that had not previously been discovered. Part of the Anaconda-Sunshine deal was that any claims Anaconda did not want to keep would revert to Sunshine. So, Bill came up to Anaconda's camp in the next several field seasons (1975, 1976, 1977) to look after the claims that Sunshine got back”.

Proffett got to know Bill pretty well then and found him a valuable source of information while evaluating numerous Ambler district prospects. When Anaconda began planning to expand the Alaska staff, Bill was one of the first geologists hired (about 1978). He moved from Idaho to a fixer-upper house in Eagle River. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Bill worked on several Anaconda projects, including several Southeast Alaska projects with Proffett, mostly based on a boat or barge. Ellis helped with the mapping that eventually resulted in discovery of the Lookout deposit in Niblack Anchorage, and helped with reconnaissance mapping, including Zarembo Island between Wrangell and Petersburg, where he mapped the Frenchy prospect.

Anaconda Minerals established a statewide reconnaissance project with Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) to assist the native regional corporation with statewide land selection targets containing high mineral potential. Ellis was put in charge of the team that worked in east-central and southern Alaska.

One of Bill's projects was the evaluation of the previously productive, strategic chromium mines near Seldovia on the Kenai Peninsula. During 1979-1981, Ellis managed the Anaconda Minerals exploration program at Red Mountain near Seldovia. Prior to 1958, about 30,000 tons of high-grade chromite concentrates were mined and shipped for domestic consumption, with some of the production subsidized by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration or DMEA. An additional 8,000 tons were shipped to a Japanese buyer in 1976.

In a report delivered at the 1981 Alaska Miners Convention in Anchorage, Ellis reported systematic drill-testing indicated a very large resource of low-grade chromite mineralization that occurs within specific intervals of the Red Mountain ultramafic complex. He surmised that exploitation of this resource seemed possible if prices increased and domestic needs required chrome production. (editors note: chromium prices have significantly increased since 1980)



Anaconda Minerals diamond drilling platform on Red Mountain chrome deposit in 1981, from Bundtzen et al (1982).

CIRI had agreed to include in the exploration agreement some property they had already selected; one of those was the Johnson River area on the west side of Cook Inlet, where Resource Associates of Alaska (RAA), while doing work for CIRI a few years earlier, had identified the outcropping gold-base metal mineralization at Johnson, and had collected stream sediment anomalies in the surrounding area. Bill put some of his geologists on the Johnson River project in a fly camp in 1981 and his team quickly realized the potential there. Bill recalled:

"In 1982, I collared the discovery drill hole at the Johnson River prospect,"

By 1982 Anaconda had drilled the first four holes into the Johnson orebody with excellent results. They had a large camp in 1983 and 1984 and drilled and completed 27 holes in total. Bill and his crew also discovered outcropping gold mineralization at Difficult Creek, where RAA had identified anomalies, and drilled some holes that intersected gold-bearing vein mineralization.



Discovery hole at Johnson River gold-polymetallic project on CIRI lands, from Bundtzen et al (1984)

Despite some good results in the Alaska program, ARCO decided to liquidate Anaconda in early 1985. Hunt, Ware and Proffett took over the Johnson property on behalf of a client, Howard Keck. Bill went on to work with other companies after Anaconda's demise, but we would hire him as a consultant on the Johnson project whenever he had time available. One of those times was the 1992 field season, when Proffett hired Bill to do additional work at Difficult Creek, among other areas. John Proffett and his shared private equity group held onto Johnson Tract until optioning to Westmin Resources Ltd., which planned to process the high-grade gold-silver-polymetallic ore zones outlined by Anaconda at the Johnson River prospect at the mill of the Premier Mine near Stewart, British Columbia. The stars were not quite aligned because of weak precious metals prices and the plan was never executed.

But decades later, Canadian-based High Gold Mining optioned the Johnson River property and made the Johnson Tract Property their 'flagship asset', drilling more high-grade holes into the veins Bill had identified at Difficult Creek. They confirmed the high-grade mineralization there and named it the "Ellis Zone".

Bill Ellis with Battle Mountain Gold

For two years after the shuttering of Anaconda, Bill remained in Alaska, "playing consultant." Then, in 1987, he went to work with Battle Mountain Gold (Battle Mountain), where his exploration travels would send him throughout the Alaska Peninsula, far away from and quite a different geological setting from 'Mainland Alaska'. During his days with Battle Mountain, Ellis spent much of his time traveling along the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands -- from Unga Island, home to one of Alaska's first hard rock gold mines, to Popof Island and many others.

Reflecting on his work with Battle Mountain, Bill said:

"I was essentially the project geologist for that area of the state for Battle Mountain, and was fortunate enough to make, what I think, are discoveries that someday might be mined. They (the deposits) were kind of small but of reasonable grade gold deposits that are currently being optioned by new firms. The Centennial gold-silver deposit is one that I discovered while with Battle Mountain and it's right off the runway at Sand Point. I named it the Centennial because it was the 100-year anniversary of the town,"

Sam Dashevsky, a geologist for Battle Mountain Gold in the late-1980's and early 90's, remembered that Bill explored numerous volcanic terranes of the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands and tested numerous epithermal gold systems.

Now retired State Geologist, Steve Masterman remembers early experiences prospecting for Bill and Battle Mtn on Unga Island, recalling that Bill ran an excellent exploration camp.

Ellis worked for Battle Mountain for about the same stint he had worked with Sunshine and Anaconda, about five years each, before moving on and working for American Copper and Nickel (ACNC) – a North American subsidiary of INCO (International Nickel Company) that was later purchased by Vale Limited, the largest nickel producer in the world – in 1994.

From Precious Metals to Batteries

Spreading throughout much of Alaska, American Copper and Nickel (ACNC) sought to re-evaluate old prospects while also introducing new concepts to rethink the geology of the state.

During his period with ACNC, Ellis was involved in the discovery of an intriguing nickel-copper-cobalt-platinum group element play in the Paxson Amphitheater Mountain country of the central Alaska Range. Bill recalled:

"INCO was active there for several seasons until they pulled out of Alaska, but essentially I was with them for six years," he recalled. Most of that time was involved with exploration in a nickel-copper- and PGE-rich district that is likely to see more interest since those commodities are very important to the development of the EV industry. This property has those elements."

According to Ellis, the geology that comprises nickel and cobalt – ultramafic rocks – in this region has the largest accumulation of ultramafic rocks in the Wrangellia terrane.

In 1994, Sam Dashevsky recalled Bill's help sorting out geology and ore controls during ACNC's re-awakening of the Delta-Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide project in the Eastern Alaska Range. Bill led ACNC's boots on the ground geology team in 1994, proving validity of the very real potential for the "Big Nickel" exploration concepts floated out of Inco's Sudbury based Geo-Think Tank. By 1995, when Inco/ACNC opened an office and built a staff in Anchorage, Bill became a key advisor and lead prospector for the new venture.

Exploration manager Greg Beischer recalled:

"I was transferred to Anchorage, Alaska in 1995 to become Exploration Manager for American Copper & Nickel Company (US subsidiary of INCO). Bill was employed by ACNC and in 1994, had generated a nickel project that INCO liked. I arrived in the summer of 1995, drove to Summit Lake just north of Paxson and flew by helicopter westward onto the project that Bill called 'Nikolai'.

ACNC's exploration target contains the critical minerals nickel, copper, cobalt, and platinum group elements in a very large, layered mafic-ultramafic intrusion. Beischer recalled that Ellis and Jim Adler had just discovered that morning a new prospect during follow-up of a soil geochemical anomaly from the prior year. The new prospect was named Tres Equis Prospect after the Dos Equis beer which was popular in camp at the time.

Ellis and Beischer worked together for six years on the Nikolai project. ACNC found a lot of low-grade sulfide mineralization, but not the high value, massive sulfide deposit that ACNC was looking for in what became known as the Fish Lake Complex by others, including Anglo-American Exploration, Inc.



Spring core drilling at the 'MAN' nickel-copper-cobalt-PGE prospect, a part of the Fish Lake Complex; a.k.a. the original Ellis 'Nikolai' Project. Photo in Hughes and Szumigala (2006).

More than two decades later, Beischer is back at Bill's Nikolai Project and it looks like that the low grade nickel-copper-cobalt-platinum metal deposit could be very large. His company is betting that an extremely valuable ore body in today's market will be proven soon.

Beischer would recall:

"Bill was a huge help to me as a young (exploration) manager new to Alaska. He had seen just about every metal prospect in the State and was a huge (walking) wealth of knowledge. Bill's enthusiasm for Alaska and its amazing mineral potential helped me fall in love with Alaska! I am grateful to have known Bill and for the help he generously gave me".

Bill Ellis and Alaska Earth Sciences

It was in 1999 when Bill checked in with Rob Retherford at Alaska Earth Sciences to see if they could use his help. American Copper and Nickel had just shut their doors and left the state and he was available. "Of course" was the quick response and it didn't take long for Bill to place his pack and his long handled hammer in one of the available rooms in South Anchorage.

Founded more than 30 years ago, following 12 years with C.C. Hawley and Associates, Alaska Earth Sciences (AES) had been busy exploring for minerals for many years. The partners of AES all knew and respected Bill professionally despite, at times, being competitors.

As a partner in AES, he not only helped mentor the younger staff and advise our clients he was also able to follow up on many of the properties that he had worked on in earlier years. Bill's skills helped fill the gap when AES lost partners Toni Hinderman to heart failure in 2001 and Dave Lappi to cancer in 2011. Among the following list of projects and associated clients, Bill sometimes conceived the project, sometimes lead a field the program, sometimes simply participated with his advice, but was always looking for the next great discovery. His enthusiasm often helped kindle the initial interest to generate exploration projects by AES for a variety of clients.

Examples of Exploration Projects that Bill Ellis Worked on while with Alaska Earth Sciences

Time Duration	Client	Brief Description
1987-1991	WestGold	Regional exploration in southwest Alaska
1992-2001	Placer Dome U.S.	Donlin, Nyac, and Innoko Districts, Western Alaska
2004-2018	Aleut Corporation	Port Moller Quadrangle
2002-2005	Ahtna Corporation	Region-wide assessments
1995-2000	Bristol Bay Native Corporation	Region-wide assessments
1997-1999	Doyon Limited	Region-wide assessments
2005-2013	Full Metal Minerals	South Pebble, BBNC Properties; McGrath and Innoko Districts
1995-2023	CIRI Corporation	Regional assessment of mineral properties
2008-2014	Metallica, Antofagasta	Alaska Peninsula
2003-2019	Chugach Alaska Corporation	Mineral and quarry site assessments region-wide
2001-2023	NANA Corporation	Fairhaven District
2007-2009	Andover	Sun Project
2000s	International Tower Hill/Corvus	Terra project in Farewell District Chisna Porphyry Belt
2001-2015	Kennecott	Groundhog Property near Pebble
2016	Ormat	Mount Spurr Geothermal
2014-2016	MMG	Ultramafic terranes in Central Alaska
2022	South 32	Ambler Mineral Belt

Ellis respected the importance placed on the preservation of Native lands and how to balance that with mineral exploration and development.

Bill Ellis Personnel Life and Legacy

Bill Ellis met his beloved second wife Carolyn in Alaska and they married on March 23rd, 1990 in the Cook Islands. They shared four children: Brian, Morgan, Melissa, and William, and six grandchildren. At the time of his passing, Bill was survived by his siblings Victor, Richard, Susan and Karl. Bill loved fishing and traveling with Carolyn and their two dogs Rosie and Lily.

At Bill's retirement party, John Proffett reflected:

"Most geologists spend their whole career and never find anything--they never find an ore deposit. If you're going to be successful in this game, you have got to be optimistic; those are the guys that find the ore. Bill was optimistic in exploration and believed he was going to find something. That attitude resulted in a number of important mineral discoveries".

Danny Ellis Talks about His Father's Military Service

Thank you all for coming out tonight. I'm Danny, Bill's son. I had the privilege of sharing some of Bill's experiences as a geologist during my childhood, and they made for great memories! Not many kids get to hitch a helicopter ride and get dropped off on their own private stretch of the Kenai for salmon fishing or find Native American artifacts on the Aleutian Islands! Of course, I also occasionally had to serve as Bill's pack mule for interesting rocks, and there was that time I bear-maced myself at Canyon Lake.

Tonight, however, I would like to share another aspect of Bill's life with you that preceded his career as a geologist. As many of you may know, Bill is a Vietnam War veteran. What you may not know is that he is the recipient of several awards for valor and bravery as a result of his actions while deployed. Having myself fought in two different theaters of war, I know how hard it is to share and relive some of those experiences.

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat. The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

Bill was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on Hill 937 (also known as Hamburger Hill). The citation reads:

"For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 May 1969. Sergeant Ellis distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company A, 2nd battalion, 506th Infantry, during combat operations in the A Shau valley.

His platoon began the assault of hill 937 as the lead element in a company size operation and it immediately began to receive intense rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. Sergeant Ellis deployed his men using fire and maneuver tactics. His precise commands enabled his men to move through the intense fire toward the bunkers at the summit of the hill as he organized an effective base of fire from his machine guns and 90mm recoilless rifles. He also organized and supervised the evacuation of the wounded personnel. When his element reached the summit of the hill, he immediately moved to the front of the platoon and personally led the assault against an enemy bunker complex. Courageously moving through the intense fire toward the bunker, he destroyed it with an accurate shot from his M-72 light antitank weapon. Sergeant Ellis' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

In addition to the Silver Star Medal, Bill was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal for outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, Purple Heart for injuries sustained when a booby-trapped grenade exploded near him, the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial combat operations, and the Army Commendation Medal with V device for valor displayed in combat leading up to being wounded.

I hope you will all join me now in a round of applause for a true American Hero, William Thomas Ellis.



**Staff Sergeant William T. Ellis being awarded the Silver Star for bravery in Vietnam, circa 1967 or 1968.
Credit: Ellis family files**

Written by Robert Retherford, with significant contributions by Carl Hale, John Proffett, Sam Deshevsky, Greg Beischer, Dave Hedderly-Smith and Bill's son Danny Ellis. Edited by Tom Bundtzen. This biography benefited significantly from an excellent interview with Bill Ellis conducted by A.J. Roan of North of 60 News.

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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 thirty-seven (37) individuals, couples and organizations that have contributed at least \$1,000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampeder to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

The 98ers

Dr. Earl H. Beistline (d)	John Mulligan (d)
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	Dr. Kenneth L. Zonge

(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.

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

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