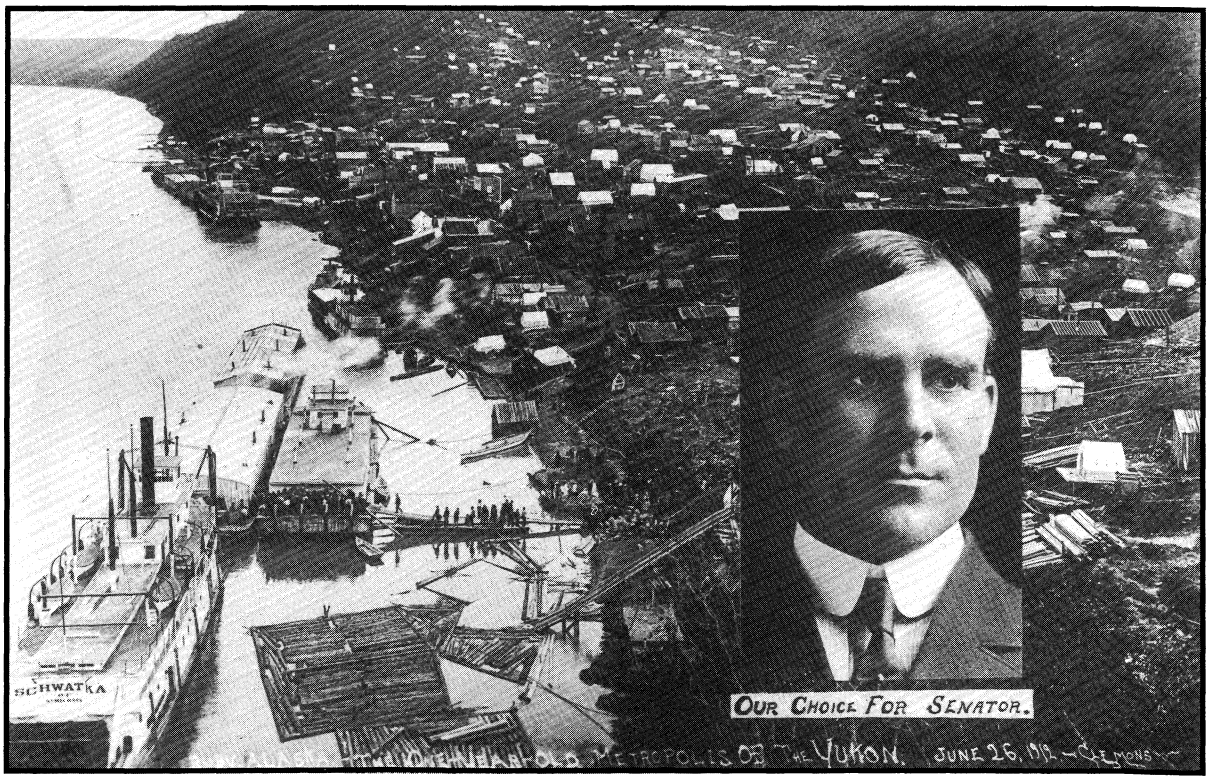
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Ruby-Poorman Mining District Ruby Quadrangle, Alaska

Rosalie E. L'Ecuyer



Dan Sutherland's campaign advertisement for Territorial senator in 1912 adapts Basil Clemon's photo "Metropolis of the Yukon"

Author

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Open File Reports

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Copies are also available for inspection at the USDI Natural Resources Library in Washington, D.C., and at the BLM Service Center Library in Denver.

Cover photo from the Daniel Sutherland collection, Alaska and Polar Regions Dept., University of Alaska Fairbanks

Ruby-Poorman Mining District Ruby Quadrangle, Alaska

Rosalie E. L'Ecuyer
History 690
Professor Claus-M. Naske

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Open File Report 49
November 1993

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Preface

When I decided to enroll in History 690, Research, Writing and Publication of Northern History, for spring 1993, University of Alaska Fairbanks, I had no idea I would become immersed in the complex, challenging research world of gold placer mining in Alaska. At our first conference in January 1993, Professor Claus-M. Naske, my mentor for History 690, took me to meet Howard L. Smith at the U. S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kobuk District Office, in Fairbanks. Mr. Smith requested that I prepare an open file report with annotated bibliography on the history of the Ruby-Poorman mining district in the Ruby quadrangle of Alaska. The report would be a basic research tool, summarizing available information for those who wish to conduct further, deeper, more focused research on the district.

Although I had done considerable research on Alaskans and Alaska, I had never before studied placer mining operations. In beginning, I sunk my personal vocabulary shaft into previously unexplored bedrock of mining jargon like "hoist," "boiler," "dragline," "lay," "drift," "clean-up," "gravel," "threw up," and "go-devil." I wondered if there would be enough information sources about the district and discovered pay streaks of information which panned out nuggets and rich, fine yield that sometimes disappeared and then reappeared downstream in other material.

For any topic on mining in Alaska, the annual investigation progress report series by geologists of the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), issued during the first half of the twentieth century, provides a firm foundation for research. Although subsequent findings indicate the USGS bulletins are not entirely accurate, the reports do give a sharp perspective of placer mining operations and the terrain they're on as known or perceived at the reporting time. In the years prior to World War I, miners in the Ruby-Poorman district regarded highly the geologists and their work. Today's Ruby-Poorman miners also carefully review pertinent reports. I consulted at least thirty-five USGS bulletins and relied substantially on information in them.

I also spent hours sifting through Ruby-Poorman records in the old recorder's books for the Nulato Recording Precinct, Fourth Division. Poorman is now within the McKinley precinct, but the Nulato-Galena books contain records on Poorman through 1975. Unfortunately, some books are missing. I could not locate Notice of Locations true book 4, book 7, and book 8. Book 2 of Deeds burned up in a Christmas Eve fire in 1942. Fortunately, two indexes survive which, at least, contain one-line log entries for records in some missing volumes.

I encountered difficulties in determining the correct spelling for some names. Even within the same record, names, at times, appear differently. Reference to Charles W. Fornander, a discoverer of the Long Creek strike, sometimes comes out as Fernander. The Sulatna River usually reads Salatna. The Novikaket River is the Nowitna. Some spelling deliberately reflects auricular phonetics as the ear hears it. In particular, the Cheyenne Fraction placer claim is also known as Shy Ann or Shyann. Further, since prospectors frequently applied the same designations to creeks from district to district, I sometimes questioned whether I had the correct Flat, Ophir, Spruce, or Ruby Creek. Additionally, the pre-World War I custom of frequently listing first and middle initials in lieu of full first name sometimes hindered me from identifying an individual's full name. I'm fairly certain that N. P. ("Discovery") Johnson expands to Nels Peter Johnson, but then again N. P.'s name might be Nils or Niles Peter Johnson.

As the spring semester drew to a close and my deadline approached, I ended my research and began writing my open file report on the history of the Ruby-Poorman mining district, aware I had not worked the entire research ground. I may have overlooked a rich vein in the materials I scanned. I may not have prospected at all in some areas. But that's the nature of an open file report. I followed long after the miners, geologists, and *Ruby Record-Citizen* reporters of yesteryear. Others will follow me to add to or amend my report. I wish them good luck in unearthing an especially valuable treasure—satisfaction in an accomplished research project.

Rosalie E. L'Ecuyer
Fairbanks, Alaska
April 1993

Acknowledgements

I thank the many persons who helped me along my way through my Ruby-Poorman research project. I appreciate the advice, suggestions, and information supplied and the time taken to speak to me.

First of all, I thank Dr. Claus-M. Naske, History Department, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Mr. Howard L. Smith, Bureau of Land Managment, Kobuk District Office, Fairbanks; the staff of the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, UAF, especially staff in Government Documents, the Alaska Archives and Manuscripts, and Alaska-Polar Regions; Erik Hansen, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Fairbanks; the staff of the District Recorder, Fairbanks; and Forestry staff, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., Fairbanks.

I acknowledge with special gratitude those who shared their experiences and knowledge of the Ruby-Poorman district with me: Poldine Carlo, formerly Ophir Creek Mining Company; Douglas Colp, mining engineer and consultant; Doug Green, Green Brothers Mining and Exploration Company; Pete Haggland, Flat Creek Mining Company; Jim Johnson, mining consultant; Bill Lanning, mining consultant; June McDonald, former resident of Poorman; Howard and Donna Miscovich, Miscovich Mining Company; Rev. Louis L. Renner, S.J., editor, *The Alaskan Shepherd*, Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks; and Keith Tryck, Short Gulch Mining Company.

Without the assistance and expertise I received, I could not have completed my work.

Rosalie E. L'Ecuyer
Fairbanks, Alaska
April 1993

Chapter I Pre World War I (1907–1918)

Ruby-Poorman Mining District in the Ruby Quadrangle

Stampede and stake everything;

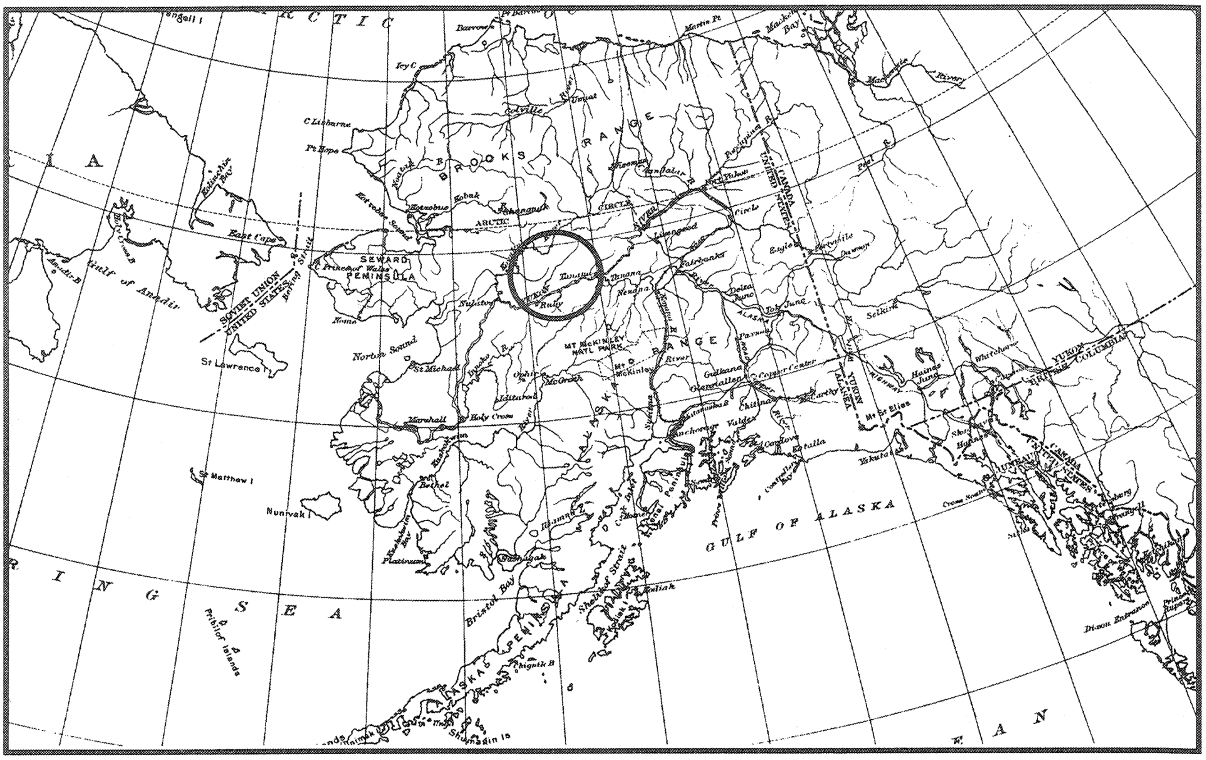
Build a town and make everything.[1]

On January 10, 1912, the short-lived *Ruby Citizen* newspaper crowed about the cocky, expanding Ruby City, which burst forth in boomtown style almost overnight in spring 1911 as gold placer miners stampeded for the second time into the Ruby mining district. The new town, raised with speed on Ruby Creek, the site of the district's first gold discovery, immediately became the busy supply center for the mining operations along the creeks of the Sulatna River system. Provisioners in town often outnumbered the miners on the creeks and outfitted prospectors to share in the production from the mining claims.

In the years before the emergence of Ruby City, itinerant miners from Rampart, Fairbanks, Tanana, and Innoko-Iditarod, spread out across the Interior of Alaska in quest for new ground. They traveled on foot, more often with backpack than pack horse, by boat on the Yukon River, by dog team, rushing to points of new discoveries, exploring untried areas. Eventually, in 1907, a few came upon gold in Ruby Creek.

In his annual Alaska mining report for 1907, U. S. Geological Survey geologist Alfred H. Brooks wrote that gold with prospects of two cents a pan had been discovered on Ruby Creek, a two-mile long tributary of the Yukon River on its south side. The creek is 175 miles below Tanana and 110 miles above Nulato, thirty miles below the Kokrines, directly opposite the mouth of the Melozitna River. Brooks added that open cut work had been done and about thirty men were prospecting in the district the winter of 1907–1908. He also noted that the high cost of transporting materials, supplies, and labor presented the most serious problem for mining in the region. It even discouraged some men from going to Interior camps.[2]

Alfred Geddes Maddren, another geologist for the U. S. Geological Survey, conducted the



Ruby-Poorman is at the exact center of Alaska Territory, according to Dan Sutherland, Alaska's Territorial Delegate 1921–1931



A mining family at Tamarack Creek, courtesy of the Lulu Fairbanks collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

first extensive geologic reconnaissance of the area in July 1908. He reported that the prospectors had sunk shafts but had no encouraging results. Therefore, by the time of Maddren's visit, most of the miners had left. Only the Discovery claim on Ruby Creek was being worked. There two men, using the open-cut method, produced about $1,000 worth of gold. The gold appeared fine and flaky, in particles smaller than birdshot. Its fineness made saving the gold in the sluice boxes difficult.[3]

Maddren considered the mining area to be within the St. Michael Recording Precinct.[4] There are no notices of location for Ruby Creek readily available, and no record books designated for a St. Michael precinct.[5]

In 1908 supply points for Ruby Creek were the village of Kokrines, twenty-four miles up the Yukon River, or Lewis's store at the landing, twenty-three miles downriver. A U. S. military telegraph station operated at Melozi on the north bank of the Yukon, eight miles downstream from Ruby Creek.[6]

Ruby Creek lies amid rolling hills at the northeast end of the Kaiyuh Mountains. Rock bluffs rise 200 to 300 feet on the south bank of the Yukon, a highland made of older rocks and consolidated bedrock. Lower bluffs on the south bank consist of unconsolidated alluvial silt.[7]

The Nowitna (Novikaket, Novi) River runs into the Yukon thirty-six miles above Ruby Creek. The Ruby Creek hills descend eastward into the flats of the Nowitna Valley. A major tributary of the Nowitna, the Sulatna River (also spelled Salatna, Solatna, and Sulethna), flows southeast of Ruby Creek. [8]

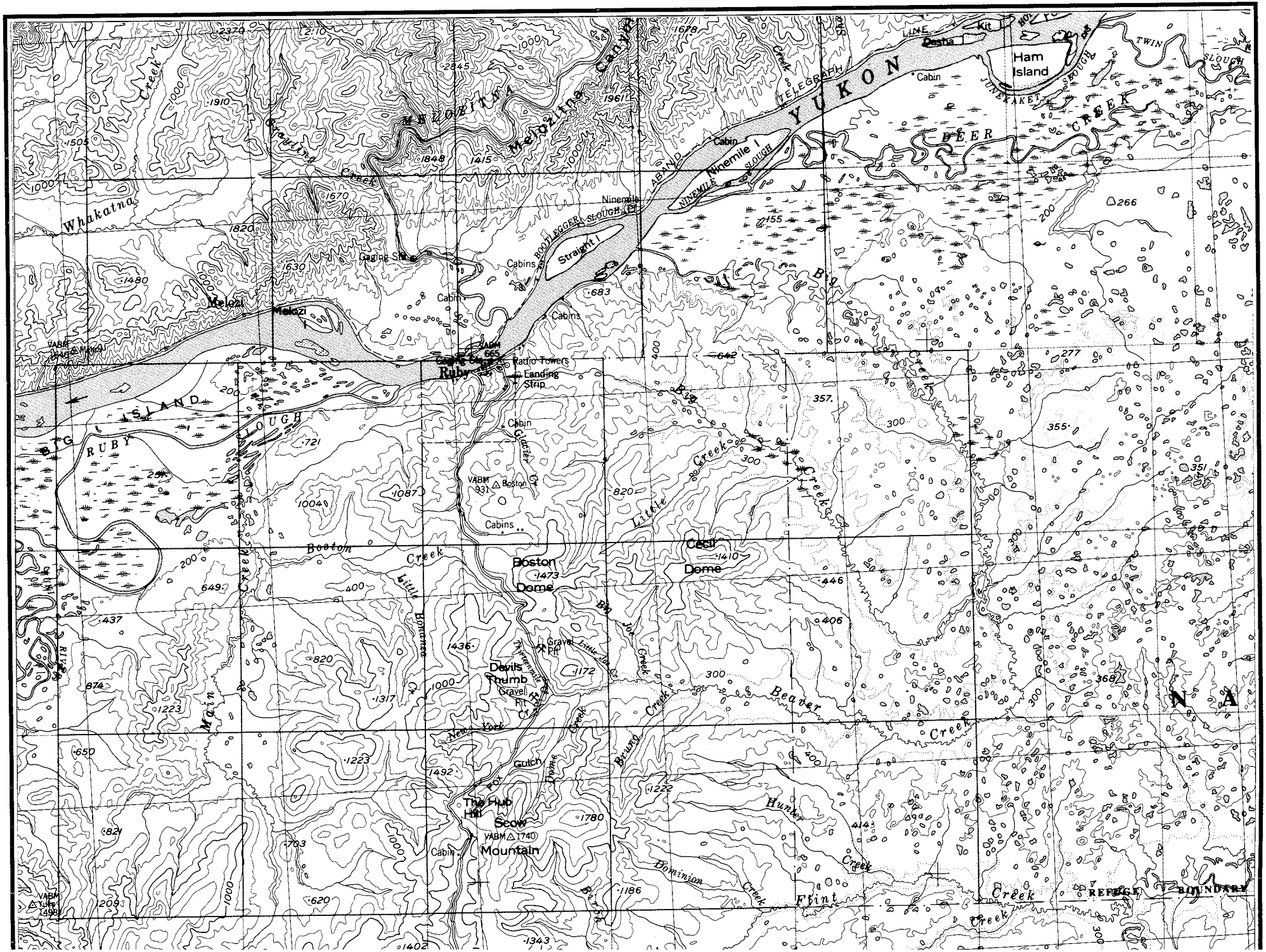
Creeks penetrate the district. Big, Independence, and Eureka creeks run east into Nowitna Flats. Headwater tributaries of the Sulatna include Wolf, Joe, New York, Beaver, and Dome creeks. Maddren found the colors of placer gold in alluvial deposits in almost all the creeks of the Ruby Creek district, but he did not come across any rich gold-bearing gravels.[9]

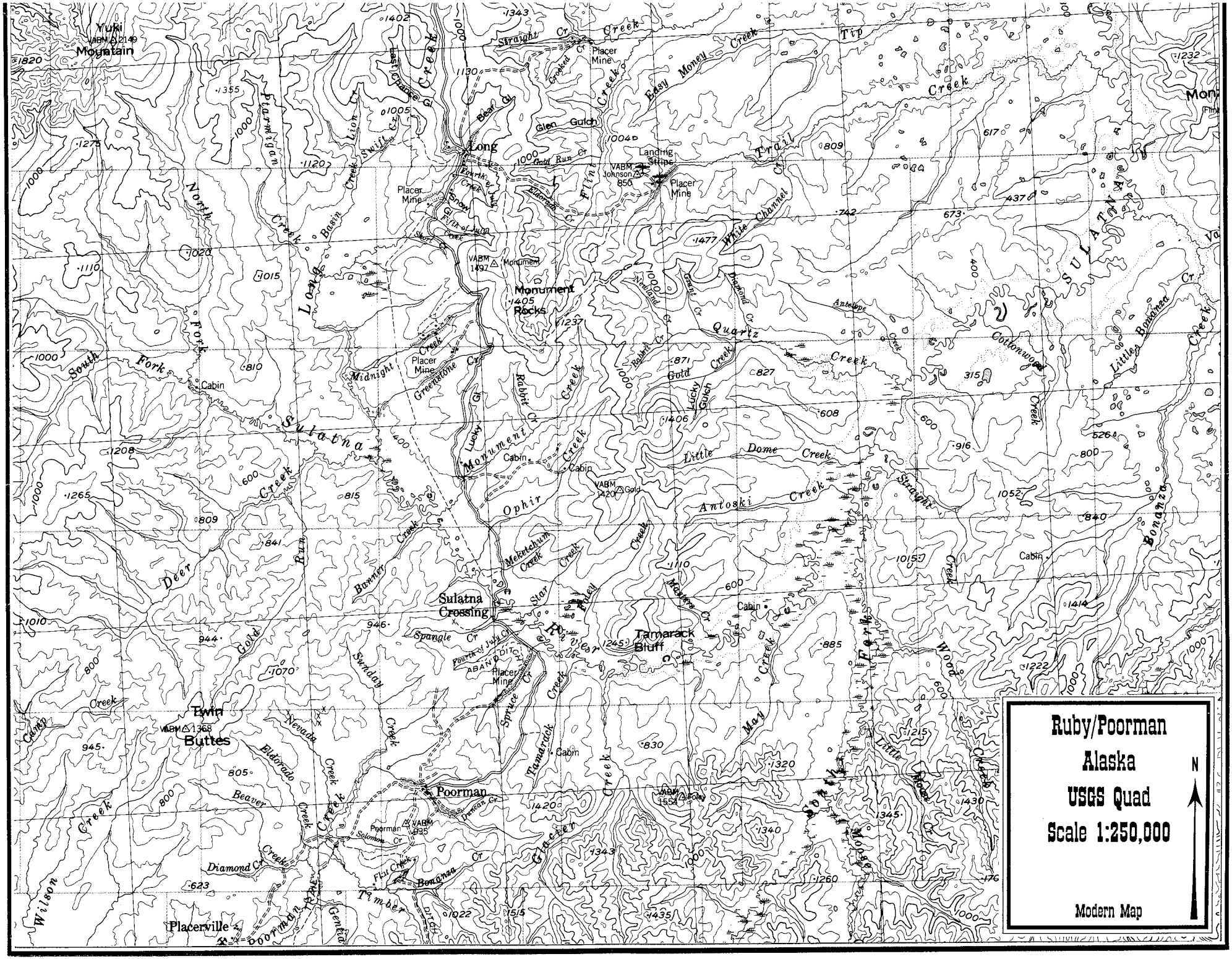
Maddren considered the white spruce the only tree of importance to the area. The spruce grew well in the flats but remained small and scrubby on the hillside.[10]

Maddren examined the ruins of a caved-in tunnel, dug in 1906 in a quartz deposit. From the study, he postulated that it was impractical to mine by tunnel elsewhere in the region because the body of quartz was too irregular and uncertain.[11]

Among the miners who searched in Ruby Creek unsuccessfully in 1907 was Steve Rickard. He joined two prospectors from California there, but they found nothing. [12]

Other miners continued to try creeks in the district. Two miners from Sweden, Charles W.


YUKON
Ham Island
Cabin
Desha I
Kit
LANE
TWIN SLOUGH
JUNEAKET SLOUGH
BEER CREEK
TELEGRAPH
Creek
Ninemile I
NINEMILE SLOUGH
ABAND
Ninemile
BOOTLEGGER SLOUGH
Straight I
Cabins
Gaging Sta
Whakatna
Melozitna
Melozitna Canyon
Creek
Melozi
Melozi I
Ruby
Radio Towers
Landing Strip
VABM 665
VABM 931 Boston
Glacier Cr
Cabin
BIG RUBY ISLAND
SLOUGH
Boston Creek
Little Bonanza Cr
Bonanza Cr
Boston Dome
Cecil Dome
Gravel Pit
Devils Thumb
Devils Thumb Gravel Pit
Little Hoosier Cr
Hoosier Cr
Main Cr
Nelson Gulch
Dome Creek
Bruno Creek
Beaver Creek
Hunter Creek
Dominion Creek
Flint Creek
The Hub Hill
Scow Mountain
VABM △1740
VABM △Yuko 1498
REFUGE BOUNDARY
N
A


Ruby/Poorman
Alaska
USGS Quad
Scale 1:250,000
N
Modern Map
Yukli Mountain
Sulatna Crossing
Tamarack Bluff
Twin Buttes
Poorman
Placerville
Monument Rocks
Long Creek
Sulatna River
South Fork
Middle Fork
Little Bonanza Creek
Bonanza Creek
Quartz Creek
Gold Creek
Ophir Creek
Monument Creek
Lucky Gulch
Little Dome Creek
Antoski Creek
Straight Creek
Easy Money Creek
Tip Creek
Glen Gulch
Bear Gulch
Fourth of July Creek
Eldorado Creek
Nevada Creek
Beaver Creek
Diamond Creek
Creepie Creek
Wilson Creek
Camp Creek
Deer Creek
Sunday Creek
Spangle Creek
Spruce Creek
Tamarack Creek
Meketchum Creek
Banner Creek
Star Creek
Riley Creek
Mayers Creek
Wood Creek
Mary Creek
Little Wood Creek
Duncan Creek
Solomon Creek
Flat Creek
Timber Ditch
Abandoned Ditch
Placer Mine
Cabin
Landing Strip
VABM Johnson 856
VABM 1497 Monument
VABM 1420 Gold
VABM 1368
VABM 1554 Foley
VABM 935 Poorman
Trail
White Channel
Newland Creek
Rabbit Creek
Greenstone Creek
Midnight Creek
Swift Creek
Lion Creek
Ptarmigan Creek
Basin Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Antelope Creek
Diamond Creek
Crushed Creek
Straight Creek
Gulch Run Creek
Snow Creek
Short Creek
Caribou Creek
Gracien Creek
Bonanza Creek
Flat Creek
Timber Ditch
Duncan Creek
Solomon Creek
Creepie Creek
Diamond Creek
Wilson Creek
Camp Creek
Deer Creek
Sunday Creek
Spangle Creek
Spruce Creek
Tamarack Creek
Meketchum Creek
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Crushed Creek
Straight Creek
Gulch Run Creek
Snow Creek
Short Creek
Caribou Creek
Gracien Creek

Fornander and Nels Peter (N. P. "Discovery") Johnson, found gold in Long Creek near its intersection with Bear Pup (also known as Bear Gulch), about thirty miles due south of Ruby City. They kept their discovery secret for several months until according to *The Ruby Record*, the "news leaked out by accident."[13]

The leaking news gave birth to Ruby City by May 1911. As the stampede progressed, tents, frame buildings, stores, saloons, restaurants, and roadhouses popped up along the banks of the Yukon and Ruby Creek. Deputy recorder H[arry] W[yman] Strangman opened the office of the Nulato Recording Precinct (sometimes District), Fourth Division, Territory of Alaska, for business in Ruby. Henry Watson and W. Holmes filed a notice of location for the Melozi Group on Little Melozi Creek on May 20, 1911.[14] Soon thereafter, other miners, including Fornander and Johnson, filed notices for several different associations on several different creeks.[15] Andy Beckwith of Fairbanks, passing through Ruby, noticed a general air of prosperity in the growing town but also observed "a decided shortage of beef and whiskey."[16]

Geologist Maddren saw Discovery, Long Creek, in summer 1911. He indicated it had actually been located five years earlier (1906). He learned that there were pay gravels twenty-five to thirty feet deep with an average of $4.00 in gold per square foot of bedrock work. Gravel seven feet above bedrock tested at fifteen cents a pan.[17] A larger boiler was being installed to replace the prospector boiler which Fornander had rolled from his previous camp on Trail Creek.[18]

Geologist Henry Miner Eakin later reported that the discovery had been made in July 1910, but that a lack of suitable machinery had handicapped active mining during the winter of 1910—1911.[19]

The energy of the burgeoning gold camp unleashed a frenzy of buying and selling interests in claims, offering options, leasing claims, and creating one association after another. Henry Matson, holder in 1911 of Discovery, Ruby Creek, which began at the mouth of Ruby Creek, deeded the claim to deputy marshal and miner C. K. (Chester Kingsley) Snow on June 16, for $300.[20] On July 5th, for $50, Matson turned over a quit claim deed for a 200 feet by 61 feet lot on Discovery to Capewell and Green.[21] He optioned a beach piece of Discovery to the Northern Commercial Company in October.[22]

Charles Fornander excelled in the miners' art of sale and lease of interests in claims. On June 11, 1911, R. Lynn Smith, then in Tofty, bought from Fornander, apparently for only $1, one-half interest in one-eighth interest in Seattle Association, Flint Creek, and an interest in the Sulethna Association, Flint Creek. Smith also gave Fornander power of attorney to stake claims in his name.[23]

On August 10, 1911, Fornander and D[ave] H. Cascaden signed an indenture. For $1,000 down and $59,000 to be paid to Fornander in installments by August 1, 1912, Cascaden received an exclusive option for and immediate possession to prospect on:

- an undivided one-half interest in Discovery placer claim, Long Creek;
- an undivided one-half interest in No. 1, Bear Pup;
- an undivided one-half interest in No. 2, Bear Pup;
- an undivided one-half interest in Discovery, Flint Creek;
- an undivided one-half interest in No. 1 Below, Flint Creek;
- an undivided one-half interest in Highland Bench, Flint Creek;
- an undivided one-half interest in Lucky Gulch, Flint Creek; and
- an undivided one-fourth interest in Midnight Fraction, Flint Creek.[24]

Cascaden reportedly worked at least Discovery, Long Creek, and Discovery, Flint.[25]

The next day, Cascaden negotiated to buy the following interests from George Smith by September 1, 1912 for $20,000, with $300 down:

- an undivided one-fourth interest in Gold Bench Association, Long Creek;
- an undivided one-eighth interest in Unegluk Association, Short Creek;
- an undivided one-sixth interest in Keno Association, Surprise Creek;
- an undivided one-fourth interest in Dutchman Association, Basin Creek;
- an undivided one-sixth interest in Branbant Association, Basin Creek;
- an undivided one-sixth interest in Keno Association, Long Creek;
- an undivided one-sixteenth interest in Mesopotamia Association, Flint Creek;
- an undivided one-sixteenth interest in Mon-

tana Association, Flat Creek, tributary of Big Creek;
- an undivided one-sixteenth interest in Rampart Association, Hoffman Creek;
- an undivided one-fourth interest in Iowa Association, Straight Creek; and
- several interests in claims not on record.[26]

Wheeling and dealing with claims involved both prospectors and outfitters. At the same time Fornander and Johnson were prospecting successfully and secretly on Long Creek, L. C. Stroup and Wally Laboski arrived to locate claims on the creek. In fact, in 1938, Laboski insisted he had the first set of sluice boxes on Long Creek.[27] Stroup and Laboski were outfitted by Emil Furstenau and Charles Sellander under a grubstake agreement originated in Fairbanks on June 11, 1910. By outfitting Stroup and Laboski with $225 in supplies such as boat, tent, boiler and fittings, Sellander and Furstenau received one-half interest in whatever claims Stroup and Laboski located.[28]

On November 4, 1911, Sellander negotiated to sell to Harry Hamburger and J[oseph] S. Sterling for $500 down and an additional $19,500 in installments one-third of his one-fourth share in those claims staked in March–April 1911 as follows:

- #288 Hot Springs Bench (twenty acres) above Discovery, Long Creek;
- #286 Wally Association (eighty acres), Flint Creek;
- #287 Dakota Association (eighty acres), Eldorado Creek;
- #228 Whitehorse Association (eighty acres), Lucky Gulch;
- #284 No. 3 Below (twenty acres), Long Creek;
- #285 No. 4 Below (twenty acres), Long Creek;
- #283 Two Above Association (forty acres), Fourth of July Creek;
- #290 Emil Bench (forty acres), Long Creek;
- #289 Westover Association (eighty acres), Fifth of July Creek;
- #291 Ready Bullion Association (forty acres), Long Creek; and
- one third of one-fourth interest in the grubstake agreement.[29]

On November 8, 1911, Wally Laboski, acting as attorney in fact for Sellander, optioned to Joe Kaminski two-thirds of Sellander's interests in the same claims for $40,000 to be paid by August 1, 1913.[30] Sellander denied Laboski had power of attorney for him, cancelled the Kaminski option, and concluded a bill of sale with Hamburger and Sterling. He raised the option to two-thirds of his one-fourth interests and the asking price to $55,000 to be paid by October 1, 1913.[31]

Sellander had previously optioned to Thomas P. Aitken of Iditarod interests in the above claims, as well as in Glen Gulch and other claims on Flint Creek and Long Creek. The earlier transactions came to light after the conclusion of the sale to Hamburger and Sterling. It is not clear how the snarl of conflicting options was resolved or how much payment actually changed hands.[32]

Even as miners and outfitters dealt and redealt, the town of Ruby continued to bloom. By September 25, 1911, the city had between 700 and 1,000 people with more arriving each day. Prospecting was at a standstill, awaiting winter freeze-up. There had been no recent pay strikes.[33]

Debts plagued the developing town. Some businessmen contracted for services and could not meet their bills when the work was completed. Alex M. Smith arranged for the construction of a one-story frame building to house the Merchant's Cafe and the Our House saloon. At least three creditors took legal action against him for non-payment.[34]

James Buttler (sic) erected telephone poles and strung telephone wire from Ruby fourteen miles to New York Creek for G. A. Olson's telephone company. He worked for twenty-five days at $10 a day between August 27 and October 6, 1911. On November 2, he slapped a lien against Olson for non-payment of the $250 labor fee.[35]

In January 1912, anticipation of successful strikes heightened, and reports of good pay increased. Joe Green subleased Discovery, Ruby Creek, from leaseholder John Teeland for three years.[36] Bob Howard struck pay on Windy Bench which he leased from Charles Fornander, N. P. Johnson, and Charles Grant.[37] Presumably at their request, he tendered his rights to the Windy Bench lease back to the three owners on July 6, 1912.[38] Alex Cameron executed on April 8, 1912, an option to sell several interests to Duncan Michie for $20,000, payable by October 1, 1914. The purchase included 3/64 interest

in Idaho Association (160 acres), Foley Creek; 7/128th interest in Speedwell Association (160 acres), Ora Gulch; and 7/128th interest in Leftover Association (160 acres), Ophir Creek.[39]

As the pace of prospecting quickened, Ruby passed its first birthday. On June 26, 1912, Basil Clemons, a professional photographer in the city, focused on the panorama of rows on rows of buildings and the expanse of Yukon shoreline with the *Schwatka* and two other steamboats at the dock. He labeled the shot "Ruby, Alaska—the One-Year-Old Metropolis of the Yukon."[40]

While the Ruby metropolis thrived, the settlement of Long emerged near Discovery, Long Creek, as a service center within the active mining area. Geologist Henry M. Eakin surveyed the district in July 1912.[41] Since the U. S. Geological Survey lacked adequate funding for the field trip, Eakin traveled primarily on foot, carrying his own provisions and equipment.[42] Eakin's reports expanded upon Maddren's work. He estimated the population of Ruby at 1,000; that of the mining area, including the Long settlement, at 300.[43]

According to Eakin, freight costs from Seattle to Ruby were $45 per ton; freight rates from Ruby to the camps ran ten to fifteen cents per pound in summer; five cents per pound in winter after freeze-up when transport was easier. Fossils from a limestone knoll in the area dated most likely from the Devonian age. Cassiterite concentrates at Midnight Creek probably resulted from a phase of vein mineralization, but the concentrates were too low for commercial development. The geologic history of the area stemmed from deposits of sediments and volcanic rocks during Paleozoic times. Beds had been deposited in the Devonian age. There was no sediment until late Cretaceous time. The land surface had been below sea level and had been exposed to erosion. The erosion had degraded the region by thousands of feet. The upland was still being degraded while the lowlands were being built up. Most placer gold came from quartz veins, probably connected with underformed intrusive rocks thought to be of post-Cretaceous age.[44]

Eakin noted that all drift mining was taking place on streams large enough to supply the water needed. On small streams, the prospectors used open-cut methods. During arid periods when the water supply became scant, even insufficient for sluicing, the water shortage hampered work. That summer of 1912, however, the summer of the Katmai volcanic eruption and the earthquake on Mt. McKinley, had been one of extremely heavy rainfall with midsummer flooding.[45]

Eakin reported that thirty-one plants, employing 150 men, worked that summer on eight creeks—Long and Upper Long, Bear Pup, Midnight, Glen Gulch, Trail, Tip, and Quartz. Labor was plentiful. Wages were $5.00 per day with board. Fourteen claims hoisted by steam; twelve, by hand; five claims used hand, open-cut methods.[46]

That summer saw another strike—at Poorman Creek and its tributaries about thirty miles south of Long. Howard Miscovich, Miscovich Mining Company, had heard that a man named "Herman" made the discovery. Geologist Eakin credited Thomas Armstrong with the first prospects.[47] Much later, geologist J. B. Mertie, Jr. said a Mr. Hermann (sic) first discovered gold on Upper Poorman Creek.[48] Actually in mid-May 1912, a G. W. Herrman (sic) and Tom Armstrong filed notices of location separately and together for claims in the Poorman area. Herrman filed for Discovery, Last Chance Gulch; Discovery, Chist Creek; and Discovery, Poorman's Gulch. Armstrong filed for Discovery, Duncan Creek. Herrman also filed the Club Association, Poorman Creek, for C. D. Johnson, J. G. Bechtol, D. H. Rushing, G. W. Herrman, J. Larson, W. H. Furman, Tom Armstrong, and Abe Collins.[49] The discoveries gave rise to the settlement of Poorman, similar to but smaller than Long.

Another miner who filed a series of claims in 1912, with and without partners, was Dan Sutherland. Sutherland and his wife, Hilda, had moved to Ruby from Iditarod in 1911. [50]

Sutherland's interests included Golden Eagle Association, Bonanza Creek; Black Association, Tip Creek; and Merry Widow, Poorman Creek.[51] In September 1912, Ruby men unanimously nominated Sutherland, a friend of Judge James Wickersham, to run for one of two Senate seats in the Fourth (electoral) Division, newly authorized by the Organic Act of 1912. The first session of the first territorial legislature was to convene in March 1913. For campaign literature, a picture of Sutherland's face was superimposed on the Clemons' photo of the Ruby

metropolis, above a new caption "Our Choice for Senator."[52] Both Sutherland and Iditarod (sometimes Ruby) miner Henry Roden won the Senate seats.

In January 1913 shortly before he left for the legislative session, Sutherland located Discovery (twenty acres), Greenstone Creek, where he had found few prospects the summer before.[53] In February, enroute to Juneau, he walked from Ruby to Fairbanks. In Fairbanks, he purchased transportation to Valdez in a horse-drawn sled. The horse, Dolly, was so weak that Sutherland pushed the back of the sled to Valdez. Afterwards, he rated the first two-year session of the territorial legislature the best and most effective of the eight years he served as territorial senator from Ruby-Poorman.[54]

In spring 1913, money problems continued. On March 3, Mrs. Ruth M. Sherburne, a merchant in Long, borrowed $5,000 from the Northern Commercial Company, apparently putting up as collateral her November 12, 1912 option with Charles Fornander. Under the option, Mrs. Sherburne and her partners were to purchase for $40,000:

- one-fourth interest in No. 4, Bear Pup;
- one-half interest in No. 2, Bear Pup;
- one-half interest in No. 1, Bear Pup;
- one-half interest in Discovery, Long Creek;
- one-half interest in No. 1 Below, Long Creek;
- one-fourth interest No. 1 Above, Long Creek, subject to an existing lease with Warren;
- one-fourth interest in Dakota Association, Long Creek;
- all of Fornander's rights in Courtney Bench, opposite Bear Pup, subject to lease with Bowers; and
- one-half of the Fornander-Johnson ditch.

Sherburne sold three one-tenth interests in her option for $500 each to W. C. DeBaum, F. H. Hamilton, and A. J. Day. [55]

By summer, a significant change in the federal mining law impacted the district and the option market. As of July 30, changes to the law limited the size of claims to forty acres, thus preventing new 160-acre association claims. Henceforth, to hold claims year to year, claim holders were to perform $100 worth of development and at least $100 worth of assessment work annually on each twenty acres and to file an annual affidavit with the precinct recorder, testifying that the work had been done.[56]

Eakin's report for summer 1913 showed heavy activity and reduced costs. Freight rates from Seattle to Ruby dropped to $30–35 per ton. Lumber prices decreased, with rough lumber for construction $30 a thousand foot. Mine operators discovered it was cheaper to buy cut wood for fuel in small amounts a day at a time rather than by the cord. Eakin realized, however, that the miners' use of wood and the loss of timber in forest fires had diminished the supply of available fuel timber. He projected a future increase in the cost of wood.[57]

Transportation to the creeks had improved somewhat. A good federal road stretched from Ruby for three miles. A winter road passed over easy grades to Long Creek. The summer trail, though, was bad.[58]

Prospecting and mining continued on Long and Upper Long, Midnight, Trail, Bear Pup, and Glen Gulch. With the Poorman discovery, activity had extended to Lucky, Greenstone, Monument, Ophir, Poorman, Duncan, Tenderfoot, and Tamarack creeks. A prolonged drought resulted in a scant water supply which, in turn, curtailed production except for plants with pumps.[59]

In all, forty-one plants employed 230 men in summer 1913. Thirty-three plants used steam machinery; eight, hand labor.[60]

In March 1914, mine operators, in compliance with the 1913 mining law, filed their affidavits of annual labor for 1913. Charles Fornander submitted reports for No. 2, Bear Pup; Dakota Association, Long Creek; and others. Dennis Coyle filed for Diamond, Poorman Creek; B. J. Bowers, for claims on Midnight; Thomas F. Armstrong, for Discovery, Timber Creek and others; Hilda (Mrs. Dan) Sutherland, for Buckeye Association, Long Creek; Jack Shropshire, on behalf of Martin Sickinger and Lynn Smith, for Morris Association, Poorman Creek, and so forth.[61]

When Emil Hurja, a columnist on mining, visited each camp in the district in summer 1914, he determined that the miners regarded the 1913 law, which Hurja termed the "Wickersham law," as a "godsend." because the limitations on claim size and the requirements for annual labor opened up opportunities for more miners to locate claims. No longer could an association of eight persons locate as many as 160 acres or retain any claim without

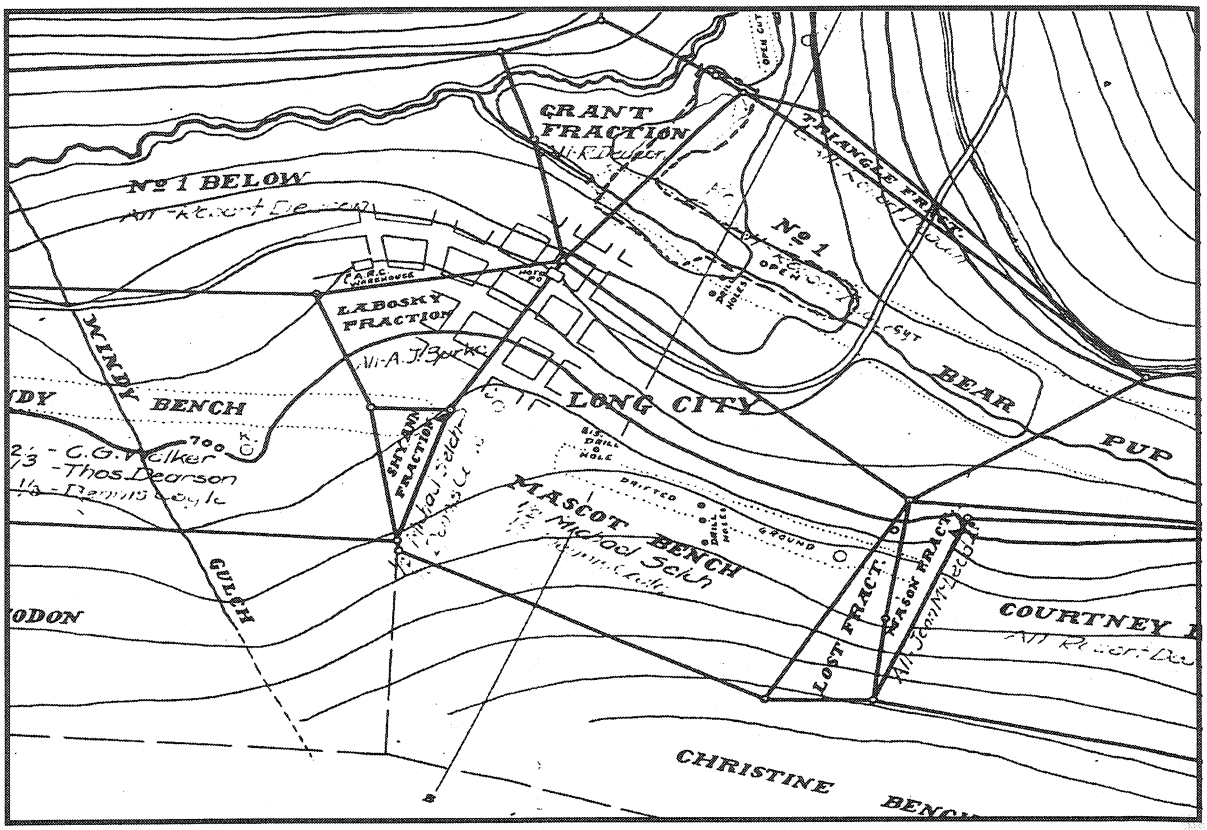
annual development work.[62]

Hurja learned that preparations for a dredging operation were underway on Greenstone Creek.[63] In March, John Holmgren, Peter Jensen, and Duncan Michie had purchased Tanglefoot Association, Greenstone, from Tom Coffey and his associates for $64,000.[64] Several months later, Holmgren, Jensen,and Company expanded their Greenstone holdings by acquiring one-half of Anaconda Association and all of Harpoon Association, Progressive, Humbolt Association, and Rabbit Foot Association.[65] Holmgren and Jensen worked open cuts along Greenstone for three miles to make room for dredging operations. They scraped at least 300,000 square feet of gravel into boxes. They then contracted with the Union Construction Company, San Francisco, to custom-make the dredge, specifically for Greenstone. The dredge, expected to weigh 250 tons, would be operated by a crew of from five to seven men.[66]

In August of that year, the judgment in a court case in Iditarod captured Ruby's attention when the Guggenheims' Yukon Gold Company won against miners S. C. Adams and Knox. The case involved the Yukon Gold Company's lease of Chicago Bench, Flat Creek, Iditarod, from Thomas P. Aitken. Adams, who owned the Anaconda Fraction and Anaconda Fraction No. 2, Flat Creek, argued that Aitken's hold on Chicago Bench had ended because he had not done the required assessment work. Adams had re-staked the ground in his name. Judge F. F. Fuller ruled in favor of the Aitken lease.[67]

Apparently unknown publicly then, Holmgren and Jensen were dealing with the Guggenheims, colloquially called "the Guggs," to take over their operations at Greenstone Creek. By the time the dredge parts arrived in late September 1915, the Yukon Gold Company, owned by the Guggenheims, held full control.

During that summer of 1914, fifty-five mines operated, employing 450 men in the Long and Poorman areas.[68] Prospecting even resumed on Ruby Creek when P. H. Robinson leased from Joe Green, Discovery, Ruby Creek, now close to bustling Ruby businesses. Robinson's ground sluicing between Third and Fourth avenues aroused uneasiness in local merchants, who apparently wanted no potential interference from mining operations in their immediate neighborhood.[69] Overall, the season succeeded.



Section of blue print plot of Long Creek, circa 1933, Irving McK Reed collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Estimated gold production reached its zenith—$1 million. (See Appendix 1 for annual estimated production figures, 1907–1940.) Recovery averaged at $3.85 per square foot of work, a balance between a high $7.30 in deep mines and a low $2.22 under open-cut methods.[70] Mascot (Maskot) Bench, owned by Ditz and Company, uncovered a nugget valued at $1,900; another, at $400; and a third at $300.[71]

Additionally, Ruby businessmen formed the Ruby Development Company to help prospectors and to investigate underdeveloped areas. Initially, the company used its Keystone drill to drill at Big Creek. C. K. Snow served for a short time as president before he began his duties as Ruby's elected representative to the territorial House of Representatives in 1915. He remained on the company's board of directors. Others on the 1915 board were A[rnulf] Haarvei, E. Coke Hill, A. Birnbaum, Harry Cribb, Thomas H. Long, and Peter Jepsen. In 1915, W. O. Robertson leased the Keystone drill to work between Ruby and Long.[72]

On May 18, 1915, Ditz, Selch, and Walker announced a clean-up on Mascot Bench of close to $100,000. *The Record-Citizen* heralded the news as probably the biggest batch of gold ever for one run.[73] Xavier Ditz had purchased Mascot, twenty acres on the left limit of Bear Pup, from Herbert Johnstone (also Johnson) for $8,000 in July 1912.[74] In a verbal agreement of November 23, 1913, [Fred] B[ert] Walker received a one-third partnership with Ditz and Michael Selch provided he prospect Mascot Bench with his Keystone drill and pay one-third of $8,000.[75] By 1933, the twenty-acre Mascot Bench would stand out as the richest claim in the district—$15 per square foot of ground worked with a total value of $750,000 extracted.[76]

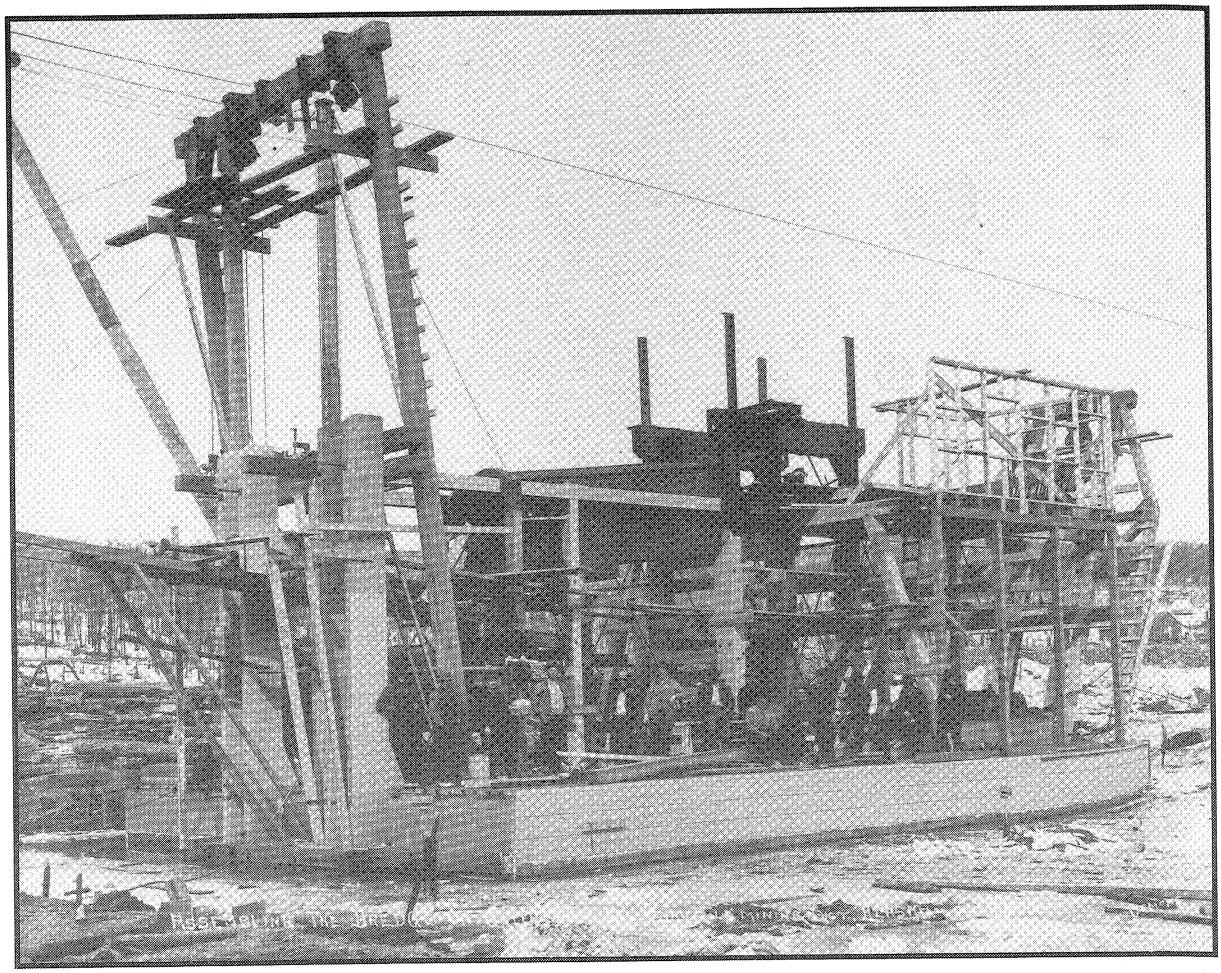
Geologists G[eorge] L. Harrington and J. B. Mertie, Jr. visited the district during summer 1915 for a topographical and geological survey. Harrington examined the northern mines in Ruby, Long, and Poorman; Mertie, the southern from Poorman to Iditarod. By then, the population in Ruby had decreased to about 500. Local freight rates had fallen: winter, Ruby to Long, one and one-half to two cents a pound, Ruby to Poorman, four to five cents; summer, Ruby to Long, six to seven cents, Ruby to Poorman via the Sulatna River, nine cents. Wood had remained plentiful.[77]

At the time, sixty-one outfits worked, employing 254 men. Thirty-five plants hoisted by steam; twenty-one, by hand. Six used open cut methods. Mascot claim, which was on thawed ground, required the use of forepoling for the drifts. The Mascot tailings had been reworked with a cable-drawn scraper. Water from the first sluicing on Mascot had been repeatedly reused. There had been a small stampede from Ruby upstream and across the Yukon River, but the terraced gravel did not produce much work.[78]

Harrington and Mertie overlooked some developments that summer of 1915. At the camps on Poorman Creek and its tributaries, lady cooks had become extremely popular. Presumably, the women imparted an attractive, feminine touch to camp kitchens and food preparation, replacing the usual, less attractive male cook. Mine operators without lady cooks considered ordering them from Montgomery Wards.[79] A new territorial mining law went into effect on July 20, clarifying steps in filing claims.[80] Unlike the 1913 federal law, this Alaska law did not create a stir, but a companion law reducing mine work to an eight-hour shift did.

When the maximum work hours a day were shortened from an average ten hours to eight, some mine owners continued to pay the $5 a day wage. Several others, however, reduced wages from $5 to $4. On July 28th, 150 miners, convening at Long, resolved not to work for less than $5 for eight hours. The mine owners insisted that they could not break even if they met that wage.[81] Lynn Smith wrote on August 5th that as a result of the general strike in the mines, his business was "shot to pieces," although he confidently expected his winter fur business to be good.[82] In the end, the strikers apparently won their point.

Charles Fornander, who had left the district in spring 1915 for his native Sweden, was detained in Stockholm due to the war in Europe. To return to Alaska, he needed a new set of naturalization papers. He had been scheduled for a naturalization hearing before Judge Charles Bunnell in Fairbanks in July. Because of Fornander's physical absence from the courtroom, Judge Bunnell could not grant the papers.[83] Fornander apparently never returned to Long. Robert (Bob) Deacon, who had partnered with Fornander and N. P. Johnson on a few claims, became Johnson's principal partner. In the decades ahead, through partnerships, leases,



Building the Yukon Gold Company dredge, Greenstone Creek, courtesy of the Lulu Fairbanks collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

and purchases, Deacon gradually acquired most claims on Long Creek and Bear Pup.

Fornander still held interest in claims he had previously optioned to Cascaden and Mrs. Sherburne. On September 8, 1915. Fornander conveyed legal title for those shares to Johnson as follows:

- one-half interest in Discovery, Long Creek;
- one-half interest in No. 1 Below, Long Creek;
- one-fourth interest in No. 1 Above, Long Creek;
- one-fourth interest in Dakota Association, Long Creek;
- one-half interest in No. 1, Bear Pup;
- one-half interest in No. 2, Bear Pup;
- one-fourth interest in No. 4, Bear Pup;
- one-fourth interest in Courtney Bench, Bear Pup;
- one-fourth interest in Deacon Bench, Long Creek.[84]

In May 1922, Johnson deeded those claims to Deacon for $5.[85] Then in March 1940 in Moholm, Sweden, Fornander executed a quit claim deed, assigning, for $1, all his interests to Deacon.[86]

But back in Ruby in August 1915, attention centered on the anticipated arrival of the parts for the dredge to be built on Greenstone Creek for the Guggenheims' Yukon Gold Company. Bob Griffis, who had held a one-eighth interest in the Tanglefoot Association before its $64,000 sale to Holmgren, Jensen, and Company, filed suit on August 19 in Iditarod against Holmgren, Tom Coffey, and the Yukon Gold Company for the $8,000 he thought owed him from the sale. He argued that Tanglefoot Association, formed in September 1911, had included Dan Sutherland, William Shroyer, Ed Fernald, James Aitchison, Harvey Lawrence, Sam Sanderson, F. Hawkes, and Griffis. Griffis had given Coffey his power of attorney, and according to Griffis, Coffey had transferred Griffis's interest to a relative of Coffey. After the sale, Duncan Michie

and Peter Jensen had assigned their shares to Holmgren, who, in turn, had assigned the ground to the Yukon Gold Company. Griffis complained because he received no payment for his share.[87] There appears to be no further information on the outcome of Griffis's suit as attention riveted on the dredge.

The dredge was to be state-of-the-art for 1915. It would use Wolf Locomobile engines mounted on top of the boilers. The engines would burn four cords of wood per twenty-four hours of operation, a vast savings over the seven and one-half tons of coal—equivalent to fifteen or more cords of wood—the dredges in Nome required for the same period.[88]

The second and final shipment of dredge parts arrived at Ruby's dock aboard the *Reliance* on October 1. Weight for the two shipments totaled 400 tons. C. W. Moore, long associated with dredge operations at Dawson and Fortymile, had charge of setting up the dredge. T[homas] N. Turner managed the Yukon Gold Company office on site.[89]

On November 2, 1915, Turner filed his first affidavit of labor for the Yukon Gold Company's operations on Greenstone. For the Progressive claim, he reported that a building had been erected, a dredge pit dug, roads built, and the dredge freighted for a total $150 assessment.[90]

The six Yukon Gold claims were contiguous. For the 1916 assessment, Turner reported the same total for each claim: Rabbit Foot, Progressive, Harpoon, Humbolt, Tanglefoot, and Anaconda. For 500 labor days beginning in March 1916, Yukon Gold had spent $10,000, apparently per claim, assembling the dredge, operating the dredge all summer, and buying 3,000 cords of wood.[91] Geologist George C. Martin, reporting on 1917 operations, rated the dredge operations as very successful. After two summers, however, the dredging ground had been worked out, so the dredge would be moved.[92] H.W. Parmelee, who replaced Turner in June 1917, [93] reported 1917 assessment work cost at least $50,000 for Tanglefoot and other claims.[94]

During the summer of 1917, geologist Theodore Chapin looked at tin deposits. He found traces of cassiterite in Long, Spruce, Short, Tamarack, Midnight, Trail, Monument, Birch, Ruby, Poorman, Flat, and Greenstone creeks. He judged that no one creek had enough quantity of cassiterite to mine for profit except as a byproduct of gold production. By example, fourteen sacks of cassiterite concentrate from Midnight Creek gravels had been shipped to Singapore for a net return of $156.22 or two and one-half cents per square foot of the 6,000 feet worked.[95]

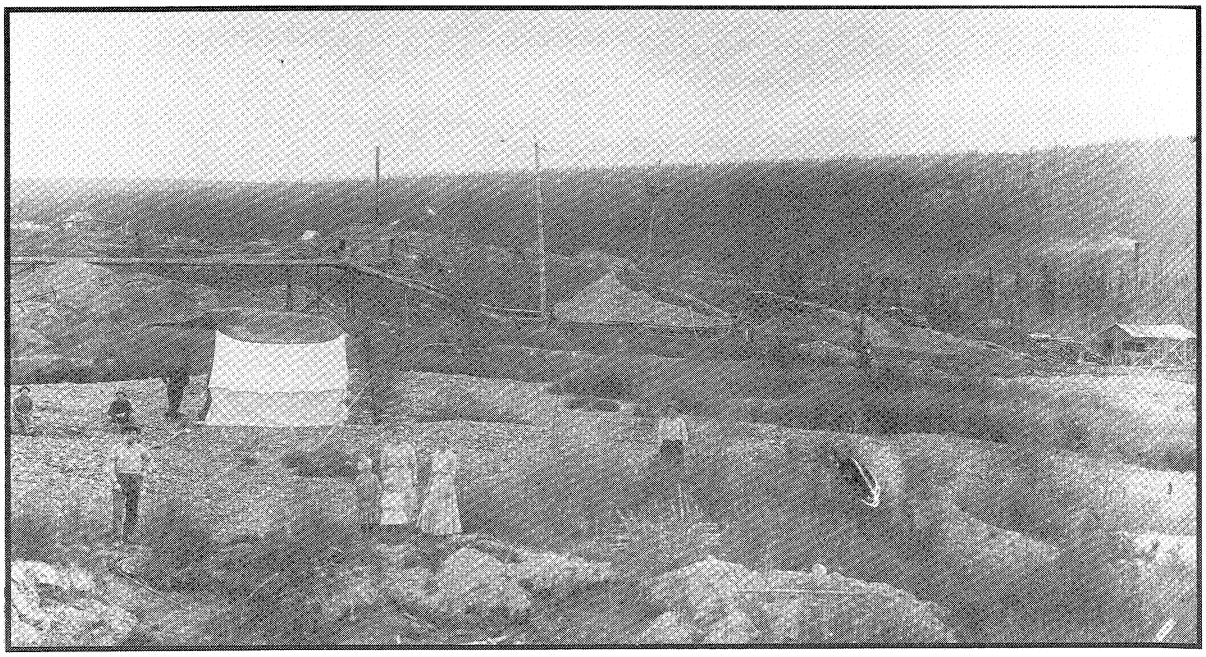
According to *The Record-Citizen*, local miners trusted the U. S. Geological Survey reports. None of the reports on the district was ever "discounted." Therefore, in March 1918, several Ruby men inspected previously unexplored Muncenite (possibly Monzonite) Creek, which the geologists had suggested might be a possible gold placer source.[96] Nothing seems to have resulted from that investigation.

Miners had better luck on their own with a creek at first called We-ketch-em, a name which gradually evolved into Meketchum. There in 1917, W[illiam] H. Warren and W. Fred Swanson located Red Dog Association and contiguous claims to the east: Spotted Pup, Lots of Pups, and Brown Dog. Quin Murphy located New Dog next to White Dog.[97] Harry Boland and Gus Hanson hit pay in March 1918 on Black Dog.[98]

By spring 1918, World War I began to affect mining in the Ruby-Poorman district as miners entered military service. In a letter of March 26, 1918 from Ruby, Lynn Smith wrote "camp is dead;" on July 6th, "our camp is gone until after the war;" and from Tanana a year after the war on November 18, 1919, "fifty people in Ruby."[99]

Mining continued but at a reduced level. B. J. Bowers and partner Gustafson held a lay from the Yukon Gold Company to work ground where the dredge had left off.[100] Geologist Martin reported that some small operators had halted work because the cost of supplies was high.[101]

On October 5, 1917, the 65th Congress of the United States had approved Public Resolution No. 12, which provided for the suspension of annual assessment work in 1917 and 1918. As a result, several claim holders filed a Notice of Intention to Hold Placer Claim, instead of an affidavit of annual labor, and, in a few cases, along with an affidavit. Dredgeman C. W. Moore of the Yukon Gold Company filed to hold eight claims: Tanglefoot, Humbolt, Greenstone, Progressive, Harpoon, Rabbit Foot, California Fraction, and Anaconda.[102] William M. Wither, Alaska manager and agent for the Alaska-Canadian Mines Developing Company, an Arizona firm not previously noted in Ruby



Alex Larson's mine, Long Creek, 1916, courtesy of the Lulu Fairbanks collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

operations, filed for sixteen claims on Straight, Trail, Swift, Tip and other creeks.[103] Dan Sutherland, Jack Shropshire, and Dave Ward intended to hold Buckeye Association on Timber Creek, a tributary of Flat.[104] Sutherland filed again for Buckeye, Flat Creek, and Sandbag Association, Greenstone.[105] For himself and others, Robert Deacon filed for Discovery, Long Creek, and twenty-five other claims in the Long-Bear Pup area.[106] Even P. H. Robinson held on to Discovery and No. 1 Above, Ruby Creek.[107]

Deaths had always been a part of life in the Ruby district from its beginning—death by natural causes, suicide, or accident.[108] Two deaths in 1918 particularly upset the people. The first, that of Bert Walker, an owner of the rich Mascot Bench, occurred on May 31. Walker, found unconscious in a tunnel in Mascot, one arm broken and a deep gash on his head, died of his injuries without regaining consciousness. The situation was described at the time as "mysterious."[109] There had been no cave-in. Doug Green, who has seen Walker's grave, relates the grisly local miners' tale that the ceiling deck dropped down on Walker who fell on his pick which entered his neck.[110] Michael Selch sold his rights in Walker's estate to John Gidlund for $1,000.[111] Effie M. Walker of the Walker estate, however, filed to hold Walker's interests in Mascot Bench and Buckeye Fraction, Bear Pup; in Cheyenne Fraction, Windy Bench, Boston Bench, Westover Association, Discovery Bench, all Long Creek; and in Idaho Association, Swift Creek.[112]

In early August 1918, E. Coke Hill of Ruby received a telegram, notifying him of the death of C. K. Snow on July 30th. Snow died of cancer of the stomach and Bright's disease at his parents home in Alliance, Nebraska.[113] Snow had been an active legislator for the Ruby-Poorman district during his two terms in the territorial House of Representatives. Called the father of Alaska's Bone Dry Law, Snow had also pushed for school legislation in rural areas and for a night school for citizenship. Because he disliked the contract practice of sending residents of Alaska judged insane outside of Alaska to Mount Tabor/Morningside in Portland, Oregon, Snow had toured the Portland institution. He had found the patient-residents apparently happy and well cared for but in fear of physically strong patients in their midst. Alaska's governor, J. F. A. Strong, had agreed with Snow's objections to having Alaskans committed to contract care in Oregon.[114]

Chapter II Pre World War II (1918–1942)

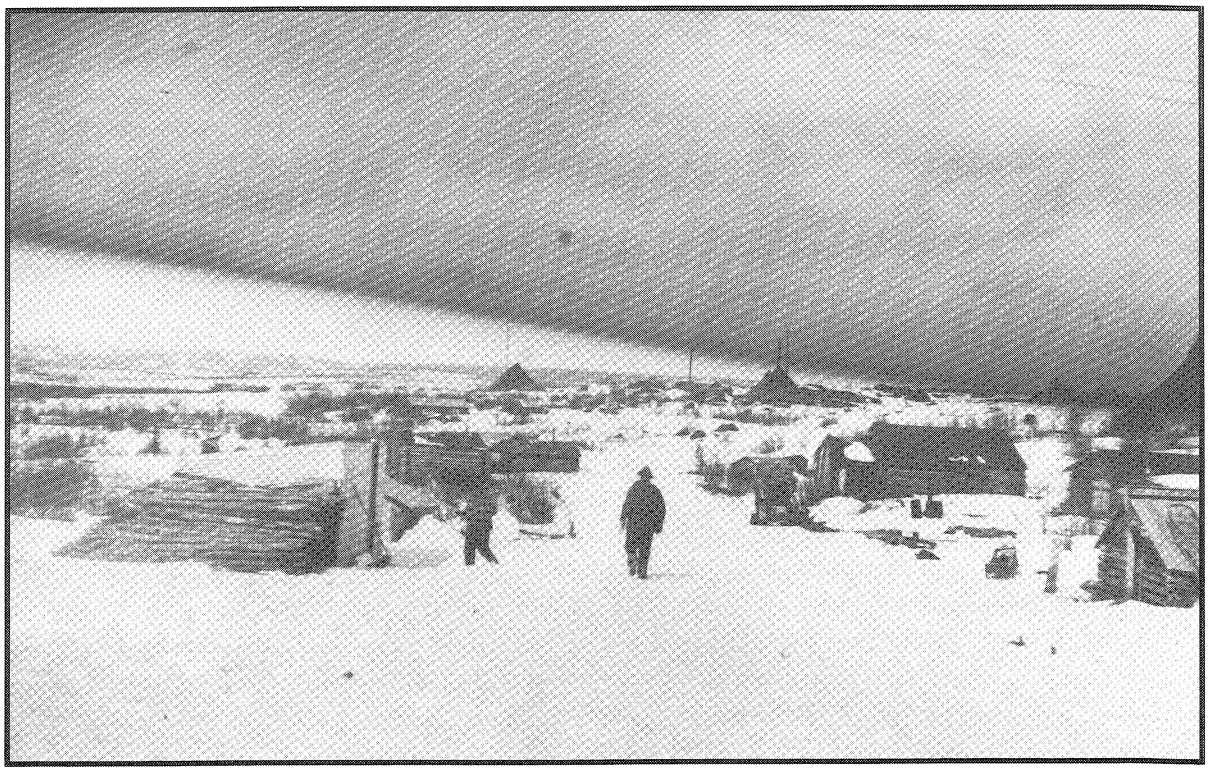
After World War I ended, the district never returned to its vigor of the pre-war period. Geologists Brooks and Martin reported that twenty-two mines operated in summer 1919, employing eighty men.[1] Locating and leasing continued as usual, though. Jack Shropshire filed the Edith claim (forty acres), Poorman Creek, for himself and Luther C. Hess.[2] E. E. McCarthy, resident manager for the Yukon Gold Company, formally leased the company's Greenstone holdings to B. J. Bowers.[3] For several years, Bowers routinely filed annual assessment reports for work done on the eight Greenstone claims belonging to the Yukon Gold Company.[4]

During the war years, territorial Senator Dan Sutherland did not return from Juneau to Poorman very often. Instead, he became involved in fishing in Southeast Alaska. In April 1919, *The Alaska Citizen* berated Sutherland for accepting payment for travel from Poorman to Juneau to attend the spring 1919 legislature even though he was already staying in Juneau. Sutherland had U. S. Treasury Department audit statements which permitted the payment of $238.20 for his non-trip.[5]

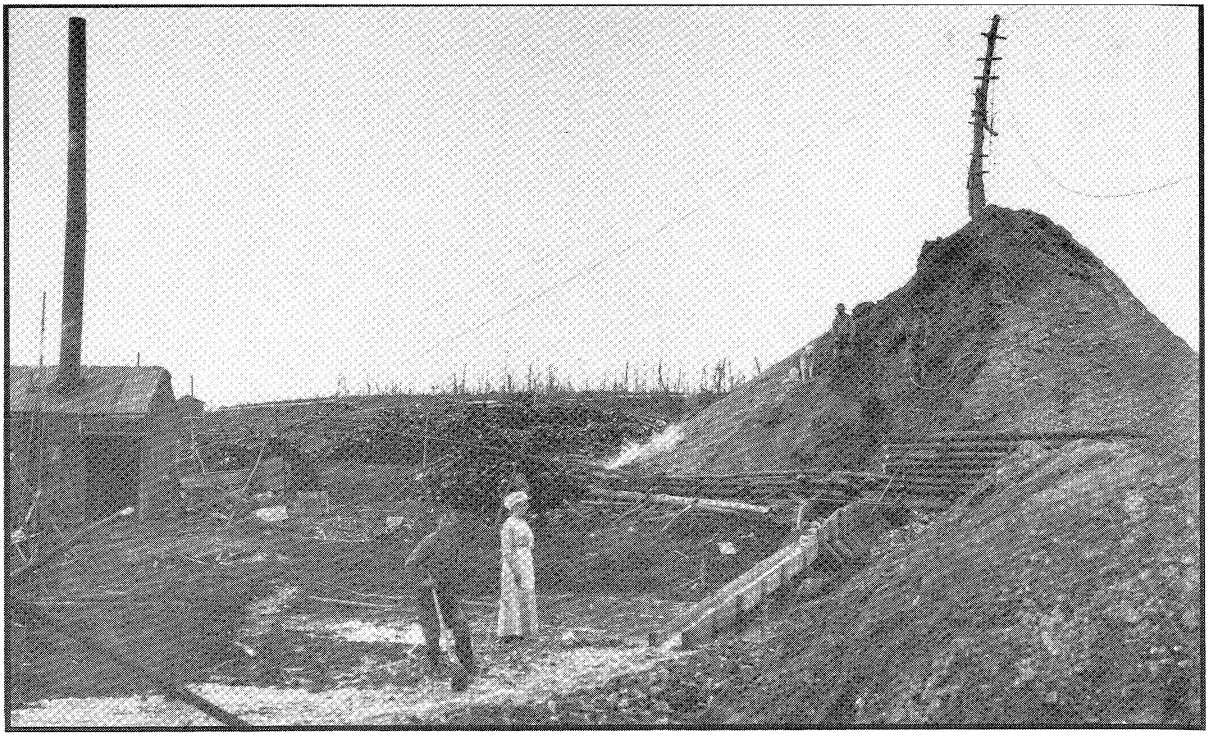
Sutherland appreciated his time in Poorman. He acknowledged that he sold Greenstone property to the Guggenheims and that he and George Roberts had successfully worked ground on Flat Creek on a lay from Ralph Lavrick. In fact, although he never made a "real stake," he realized that he had made more than the average prospector from ground in Council, Fairbanks, Greenstone, and Poorman, enough to keep him between finds.[6]

In fall 1920, Dan Sutherland campaigned successfully through the camps for the first of five successive terms as Alaska's territorial delegate to the U. S. Congress, 1921–1931. Shortly before embarking on his campaign, Sutherland spoke about Poorman—its location in the center of Alaska and the reason for its name:

"My home is in Poorman, Alaska. Almost every person I meet asks me where Poorman is located. . . .If you take a pair of dividers and find the exact center of the territory, the point will rest on Poorman. You will now understand just why I am so proud of my place of residence. The original discoverers of Poorman were very short of grub and also short of the wherewithal to purchase any and so with a keen sense of the eternal



Poorman, April 1933. Dorothy Clifton photo collection, Alaska and Polar Regions Dept., University of Alaska Fairbanks.



Pederson, Johnson and August mine, Poorman, April 26, 1915, courtesy of the Lulu Fairbanks collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

fitness of things, they gave the place its name."[7]

After his ten years in Congress in Washington, D. C., Sutherland settled, not back in Poorman, the centerpoint of Alaska, but in the Philadelphia area.

By 1920, there were thirty operating mines with ninety-five men. A tin-lead galena deposit had been located thirteen miles south of Ruby by Beaver Creek near Dome Creek. The galena occurred in veins with stringers in the schists.[8] Tin ore was mined for its silver content in 1921 although mining, in general, had decreased that year. Only twenty-one mines operated, seventeen of them in deep ground. They employed fifty-seven men.[9] The Guggenheims' Yukon Gold dredge on Greenstone, unused since the dredging ground was worked out in 1917, had been taken apart and shipped out during the winter of 1920–1921.[10]

In 1922, gold production fell, even though twenty-four mines operated, with sixty-seven men. The galena deposit, by then called the Perseverance lode, produced fifty tons of high-grade ore.[11] Geologist John S. Brown visited the lode in 1924 and found it was no longer operating. One forty-foot shaft was almost filled with water. Brown concluded from his observations and his discussion with Harry Boland, one of the owners, that the galena was in too small a quantity to offset the cost of production.[12]

Fatal mine accidents, unfortunately, continued to happen. Robert Fulkerson toppled down a sixty-five foot shaft at Two Man Association, Solomon Creek, in late July 1924. Tommy Okomoto fell off his ladder, also in a sixty-five foot shaft, on Glazier (sic) Creek on April 9, 1925.[13]

Billy McCarty recalled working in Dennis Coyle's mine in Poorman and apparently in other mines about six weeks each winter from 1923 through 1928. He liked the meals Mrs. Coyle (Adriana Lutro Coyle) served, but the work was the hardest of any he ever did. He worked ten (not eight) hours a day, eighty feet or more underground. His hands blistered so badly he couldn't wear gloves, and he had difficulty holding his pick and wheelbarrow.[14]

Dennis Coyle had several claims in Poorman and Long during the almost thirty years he actively mined in the district. In fact, by 1929, he was co-owner with Michael Selch of the rich Mascot Bench as well as of the contiguous Cheyenne (Shy Ann) Fraction and full owner of other claims.[15]



Long City from Mascot Bench, 1933, courtesy of the Irving McK Reed collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In 1926, geologist Smith reported the finding of platinum in claims on Granite Creek.[16] As of 1921, H. W. Hillman and Joe St. Germain held claims on Granite and its tributaries, Wonder and Little Solatna.[17]

Some time in 1926, B. J. Bowers gave up his lease of Yukon Gold's eight claims on Greenstone. S. W. Douglas filed the Yukon Gold's annual affidavit in late 1926; True Manuel, in 1930 and again in 1932.[18]

Geologist Smith noted in 1927 that many miners were finding tin. As a result, the owners were hiring a mining engineer, subsequently identified as Irving McK. Reed of Fairbanks, to look for tin placers in the district. Smith thought the tin at Cox Gulch, in particular, should be developed.[19] John and Louis Pilbach, John W. Dunn, and Alex Gragen were on Cox Gulch that year.[20] The creek did produce tin in 1929.[21]

In early 1930, reports of new finds about ten to twenty miles south-southwest of Poorman touched off another stampede into the district. On March 25, the Geological Survey released a cautious statement, which read in part:

> It is likely to be several months before any real estimate of the production from this find will be available. . . . From what is known of the Ruby region, it seems likely that there remain workable placers that have not yet been discovered and probably will repay thorough and intelligent prospecting.[22]

Several Fairbanks miners joined the stampede. Commercial pilot Frank Dorbandt flew them to Ruby.[23] The aircraft added a new dimension to stampede travel, dispelling its romance but making it far less strenuous. For a few months, the gold-placer world centered on Poorman, Sutherland's centerpoint of Alaska. Alaskan Airways and the Alaska Road Commission began to look for an airfield landing site beyond Poorman. According to the *News-Miner*, Thomas Galleger and James Augusta made the discoveries on Beaver Creek; Jack Shropshire and probably Bill Gragan on Wolf Creek, apparently soon thereafter renamed Moose Creek.[24] Lawrence Pedretti (also Peteretti) joined Shropshire in the area. Sergeant William Growden, U. S. Army Signal Corps, proposed that Poorman have its own telegraph station.[25] In mid-May, the *News-Miner* posted on its windows for public viewing three maps of the district made by Irving McK. Reed during his 1929 survey for tin: one map each of Poorman, Beaver Creek, and Moose Creek.[26]

Billy Vuicich (pronounced Vick) located Discovery, Sutherland Creek, a tributary of Diamond Creek, and Sunset, Beaver Creek. Teobaldo ("Baldo") Forno located No. 1 Below, Sutherland Creek.[27] At the time, N. P. ("Discovery") Johnson was on Camp Creek.[28] The new activity gave rise to the tiny, short-lived settlement of Placerville. Geologist Smith reported that by the end of 1930, the stampede had ended. The miners already in Poorman

had staked all available ground, leaving nothing to the newcomers.[29]

Sometime shortly thereafter, Ruby mining district's strange unsolved mystery happened—the disappearance of N. P. Johnson. Miners' lore tells that Johnson's tent was found and speculates that Johnson was eaten by a bear.[30] Robert Deacon searched for Johnson's body in July 1932. He believed then that Johnson had drowned during a period of unusually high water. He and his dog became lost in the unsuccessful search effort, going five days without food.[31] In September 1933, Johnson's heirs appointed Deacon administrator of Johnson's estate.[32]

Also in 1933, geologist J. B. Mertie, Jr., returned to the Ruby district for an extensive survey, updating knowledge of the area and its operations. He worked alone and backpacked his supplies. His report is the one most often cited by today's miners.[33]

Mertie emphasized that Ruby's gold placers are deeply buried and are discontinuous. For instance, the pay streak on Long Creek was neither continuous nor uniformly high grade. Over time, the claims in Upper Long Creek—Dakota, No. 1 Above, and Discovery—only produced $10,000 each, yet they were not far from the rich Mascot. Similarly, the pay on Beaver Creek discovered in January 1930 petered out, and mining of Beaver Creek ceased by 1932 because the actual pay streak wasn't uncovered.[34]

About the time the United States went off the gold standard, Congress lifted the requirement for annual assessment work for the year ending June 30, 1934. Dennis Coyle was one of the few miners in the district who took advantage of the suspension.[35]

Additionally in 1933, surveyor/engineer Irving McKenny Reed optioned several claims on Long Creek for a dredging proposal and prepared an extensive report on the claims. At the same time he noted that the population of the city of Long had shrunk to twelve residents and its post office had closed. Reed had no takers for his proposal. After the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company drilled in Long Creek in 1934, Reed supplemented his report and in 1938 resumed his attempt to get backers for his proposal which was put forth as an alternative for miners preferred over the Long Creek Mining Company operations, Reed failed again.[36]

Mining went on in the 1930s, intensive in places, but not extensive. John Honea remembered cutting wood for Tim Scannell's mine in 1935. For four years, Honea worked winters in camps on Long Creek and Poorman, using pick, shovel, and wheelbarrow in underground drifts. He knew Dennis Coyle, Al Burke, Jack Shropshire, Harry Jensen, Dick Stevens as well as Scannell. He presumed mine operational expenses were high since, by then, mines had machinery like trucks, cats, and draglines. Honea's wages were $6.00 a day for eight hours, considered high for the time in a depressed economy with few job opportunities.[37]

Geologist Smith reported that in 1936 a strong company had negotiated leases to work Long Creek claims by dragline and scaper, beginning in 1937.[38] The next year, Smith identified the largest producer in the district as the Long Creek Mining Company, which was using a dragline scraper.[39] Hans Tilleson managed the company which owned some claims on Long Creek and Bear Pup and leased some claims from Bob Deacon.[40] Owners of the company included Elmer Brandell and Don Gustafson who also held the Quigley quartz property in Kantishna.[41] In 1938, Long Creek Mining Company leased the Greenstone property of Albert Alexander (A. A.) McCandless.

McCandless and his partner O. C. Hill, operating as Greenstone Mining Company, had bought all eight claims of the Yukon Gold Company in 1934. Hill died within two years after the sale, but his estate continued the partnership. McCandless submitted an affidavit of annual labor for 1936.[42] In December 1937, he reported on his claims to the territorial mining inspector J. C. Roehm, indicating production for 1936 had totaled $7,220 and for 1937, $2,595. Greenstone Mining employed three to four men at seventy cents an hour.[43]

At the end of summer 1938, Long Creek Mining evaluated the results of its less than successful summer on Greenstone and notified McCandless that the company was giving up the lease. On Tuesday, September 27th, Hans Tilleson went to Greenstone to collect the cleanup. In the dining hall, the discouraged McCandless, yelling "This is how I sell out," shot Tilleson, R. L. Squire, Long Creek Mining tractor driver, and Jack Koski, Long Creek mechanic, with a .32 caliber automatic pistol. Although wounded, Tilleson grabbed the gun from McCandless and tossed it into the gar-

den. Bob Deacon witnessed the shooting. The three injured men were put into a company car for the forty-mile drive north to Ruby. When the car got stuck in the mud, a cat pulled it most of the way. From Ruby, the men were flown to St. Joseph's Hospital in Fairbanks.[44]

Meanwhile, McCandless had disappeared. Search warrants for his arrest were issued in Fairbanks and Ruby. A search party of Ruby men found his body on Saturday, October 1st—a suicide by rifle bullet to his right temple—in willows about 700 feet from his cabin. McCandless left a note to his wife and daughter which read: "Goodbye. I am sorry to bring sorrow to you."[45]

Mining inspector Roehm, at the Long Creek Mining Camp on Long Creek the day after the shooting, commented that most of the men had gone to Ruby. The rest had other things on their minds than mining. Because of the shooting, the company had shut down for the season and pulled up the pipes.[46]

Roehm continued his inspection trip. Al Burke on Emil Bench, Long Creek, told Roehm that he had produced $5,700 the winter of 1937–1938. Tim Scannell on Novikaket Association, Long Creek, estimated production at $150,000 for 1937; $16,421.88 for 1938. Scannell rated Novikaket the hardest ground to work on Long Creek because it was thawed and very wet; the gravel was tight. He sold Novikaket to Long Creek Mining. Theobaldo Forno, on Gold Bench, Poorman, which he acquired from Dennis Coyle, put 1937 production at $130,000; 1938, at $14,000. Billy Vuicich, on Dolly and Mascot at the junction of Flat and Timber creeks, informed Roehm operational costs in 1937, not including operator's wages, totaled $13,000 to produce $15,648.25.[47]

About this time, George Jesse, long-time miner, postmaster, store owner, and roadhouse operator in Poorman, encountered financial difficulties. In a foreclosure sale, C. W. Cash, one-time Fairbanks agent for the National Grocery Company of Seattle, purchased the Jesse property in Poorman. In turn, on July 29, 1938, Cash sold it to Ira W. Purkeypile who, with his wife, became Poorman's postmaster, store owner, and roadhouse operator.[48] June McDonald, a daughter of the Purkeypiles, recalls spending the winter of 1937–1938 in Poorman before she started high school in Fairbanks. The Poorman economy was at a low point and continuing to fall. June remembers Baldo Forno, Vance Hitt, Dennis and Adriana Coyle, Billy Vuicich, and both Shropshires, "Old" Jack and "Young" Jack.[49]

In 1939, Purkeypile and William Gragen, Thomas (sic) Forno, and others leased their claims on Poorman Creek to Vance Hitt.[50] Hitt planned a large operation on Poorman for 1940. In 1940, however, he was still awaiting the arrival of his dragline from Stuyahok near Marshall.[51] With the advent of World War II, Hitt's plans came to a halt.

As Hitt concentrated on Poorman, the U. S. Smelting, Refining, and Mining Company, well known in Fairbanks, began prospecting on the Hogazata (Hog) River and its tributaries on ground acquired from James S. Huntington, Sr., and sons. The ground lies in the Koyukuk district, but many records related to the company's activities on the Hog are in the Nulato (Ruby) books. According to James D. Crawford's report, the company did $10,800 assessment work in 1940 on Bear, Wallick, Clear, and Aloha creeks; $43,846, in 1941.[52]

Similarly, Flat-Iditarod miners Peter Miscovich and Sons moved into Poorman in 1940. George Miscovich put in eight miles of ditch in 1941.[53] Then World War II intervened.

An act of Congress of May 7, 1942 suspended the requirements for annual assessment, and mine owners resumed the "intent to hold" procedure followed in World War I. Robert Deacon, at the time administrator of the estate of Michael Selch, filed to hold Selch's interests. Other operators, including Roy B. Earling for U. S. Smelting, Refining and Mining, did the same.[54]

University of Alaska Fairbanks historian Terrence Cole contends that War Production Board Limitation Order L-208 of October 8, 1942, which shut down most gold mines nationwide as non-essential, killed the Alaska gold-mining industry.[55] The government paid Alaskan miners for their bulldozers, tractors, draglines, and other heavy machinery and used them for construction of the Alaska Highway (Alcan), Ladd Field, Galena airfield, and other wartime projects in the territory.

Albert Yrjana, Birch Creek Mining, remembers, "mining went down to nothing." His sawmill in Ruby was placed under U. S. Army contract. By hand methods, the mill produced 1,000 board feet per man per day from logs cut along the Novi River.[56]

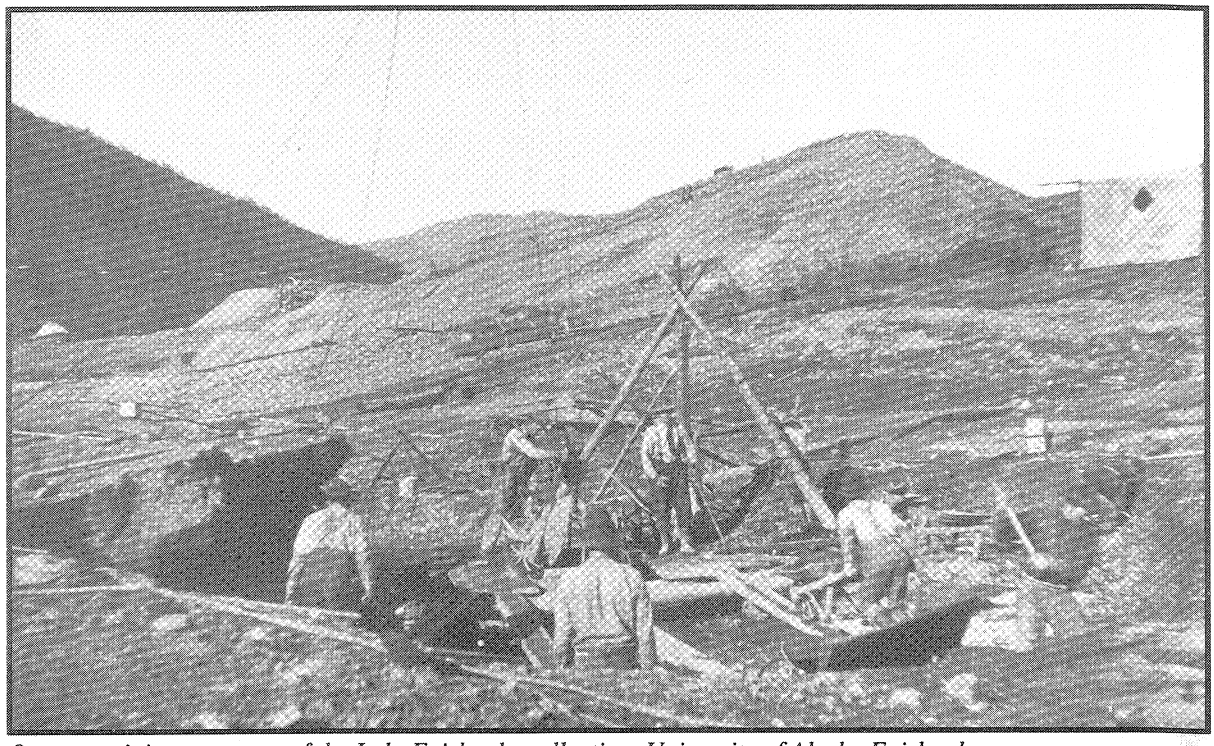
Chapter III Post World War II (1946–1993)

With the end of the war, Yrjana expected everything to return to normal, but it didn't.[1]

June McDonald's parents also hoped for better conditions after the war. Their economic situation had not been good before the war, and they had been struggling to make a living. When the mines closed in Poorman, the Purkeypiles went to Fairbanks for the duration of the war. They returned to Poorman but by 1952, they had shut their businesses down, post office included.[2]

The Miscovich operation outside Poorman did start up again. Resumption of operations, of course, meant restoration of heavy mining equipment to the camp. Accordingly, in March 1946, shortly after he was released from the service, Howard Miscovich joined his brothers George and John to drive a supply cat train from Nenana—D-8, sled with wanigan and sixteen drums of fuel, and go-devil with twenty-eight barrels of oil. Other miners had preceded them to Ophir and were well ahead and out of sight of them. Their cat-train ride proved memorable. Near Toklat about forty miles or so from Nenana, the D-8 broke a piston. George volunteered to ski back to Nenana for the part. Howard and John persuaded him to work on the cat in thirty-two below weather, while the two of them walked back along the solid, narrow, concrete-like go-devil-track trail. About twenty miles back, John and Howard met beaver trappers with a dog team. They warmed up at the trappers' cabin while the trappers told them of a grizzly they had just killed. John and Howard quickly calculated if George had used his skis, he might have met the grizzly head on. John borrowed the dogs for the final leg into Nenana where he ordered the piston from Fairbanks. When he returned to the trappers' cabin where Howard waited, warm and comfortable, he brought along a weasel, an early version of a snow machine. The two brothers rode on the weasel to the D-8 where they allowed brother George to complete the overhaul of the cat in the frigid, sub-zero weather.[3]

Then they traveled day and night. One drove while the other two slept in the bunks in the wanigan. At Lake Minchumina, they were to line out the train, to give slack between the cat and its tightly connected trailers, so that if one dropped through the ice, the rest of the train would stay on top. Driver Howard reached the



Opencut mining, courtesy of the Lulu Fairbanks collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.



Vergowe & Fredickton mine, Bear Pup, courtesy of the Herbert Heller collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

lake when his brothers were asleep. Seeing that the ice was already cracking, he kept the train in tight formation and headed across the lake. His brothers awoke midway, astonished to find themselves there.[4]

On another night, brother George drove rapidly down a steep embankment, intent on not jackknifing the train. Howard, fast asleep, rolled out of his bunk and bumped his head on the stove. Altogether the train took five days to go the last 300 miles of the 600 miles from Nenana to Ophir, but it required almost two weeks to cover the 150 miles from Ophir to Poorman, across the cracking ice of the Innoko River.[5]

In July 1946, George and Howard, guided by canny, trail-wise Joe Ferris, miner and muleskinner, and assisted by Al Gurtler, brought a sixty-one ton lima dragline on a shovel track from Ruby to Flat Creek beyond Poorman. The knowledgeable local mining community, assuming the dragline would be too heavy for the soft, muddy, peaty conditions of the summer trail, predicted doom for the venture. A D-8 pulled the tongue of the dragline while the cat driver synchronized the movements of the dozer and dragline. Ferris, who always drove his mules alongside brush so that the branches would keep the mosquitos off the animals, knew all the soft and hard places from Ruby to Poorman. Keeping to hard ground, he axed a new trail along the ridge of the Hub Hill, past Long Creek, by Spangle Creek, across Little Pup, into Poorman, and along a ridge to Flat Creek—a twenty-day trip completed despite scoffing doubters.[6] When mining inspector Roehm visited the Miscovich operation toward the end of August, he observed two D-8s and a lima dragline.[7]

The same day Roehm inspected Asher Richardson's Sunshine Mining Company on the "Guggenheim" group, the eight claims on Greenstone once held by the Yukon Gold Company and by McCandless. Sunshine employed seven men on one ten-hour shift.[8]

On August 29, Roehm stopped at No. 4 Above Discovery, Long Creek, owned by Robert Deacon, and operated by Long Creek Mining. There Hans Tilleson reported shortages of labor and water. That same day, Vance Hitt, manager of a claim on Poorman owned by Forno and Lutro, also complained to Roehm about a lack of water. Iver Johnson and Company on Trail Creek had no difficulties but informed Roehm that the average fineness of gold was 835.[9]

Poldine Carlo, formerly of the Ophir Creek Mining Company, recollects beginning mining on Ophir Creek in 1947 with her husband,



Hegstrom and Nelson mine, Birch Creek, 1916. Courtesy of the Lulu Fairbanks collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Bill Carlo, his partner, Johnny May, and the Carlo children. The family lived in Ruby during the winter and moved to the creek once school closed for the summer. The camp was ten miles off the main road. They reached it by cat across the swampy ground. Although no other family mined on Ophir, Poldine never felt lonely since she was with her family who worked together as a team. Poldine washed the gravel and dirt with a hydraulic nozzle while Dorothy, the oldest girl, cooked, and the two oldest boys drove a D-14. Bill had begun drift mining with pick, shovel, and wheelbarrow in his late teens during the early 1930s. At Ophir, he drove a cat and used open pit methods. He also co-designed a very large sluice box and flew his own plane. Sometimes he volunteered for mercy flights. When sons Kenny, Stewart, and Wally grew up, they too became private pilots. The Carlos stopped mining at Ophir Creek around 1954, later mining on Hunter Creek in the Rampart district.[10]

After the war, the U. S. Geological Survey geologists never resumed their annual report series. However, in July 1949, on behalf of the Atomic Energy Commission, geologists Max G. White and John M. Stevens studied the district for radioactive deposits. They found instances of a uraniferous thorium silicate, tentatively identified as uranothorite, in granite on upper Solomon Creek and minor traces on Birch, Flint, Monument, and Glacier creeks. They concluded that there was little likelihood of finding any quantity of uranium sufficient for commercial exploitation but hedged their observations by acknowledging that heavy vegetation and alluvium throughout the district limited their use of detectors.[11]

From the early days of mining in the district, as miners left or died, remaining miners acquired the interests of the ones who had gone. The practice continued after World War II. In spring 1950, Robert Deacon received from Inez Gustafson, executrix for the estate of Don Gustafson, the latter's one-fifth interest in Long Creek Mining Company and in several claims on Long Creek as well as a one-tenth interest in the Novikaket Association.[12] In fall 1950, Deacon and Hans Tilleson leased from A[l] J. Burke the Emil Bench, Laboski Fraction, and several other claims on Long Creek.[13] On February 19, 1953, Tilleson, then in Arlington, Washington state, assigned all his interests to Deacon in a quit claim deed.[14] Albert Verhonik, by 1955 in Novato, California, gave Deacon his one-fourth interest in Novikaket, Long Creek.[15]

By the time Robert Deacon died in 1959, apparently in Petaluma, California, he controlled almost every claim on Long Creek and Bear Pup. Deacon estate executrix Beth Zoppi sold the following claims to Asher Richardson and Albert Kangas, Ruby Mining Company, in May 1960:

- Dragline Fraction;
- Discovery Claim, Long Creek;
- No. 1 Above, Long Creek;
- No. 1 Below, Long Creek;
- Deacon Bench;
- Discovery Fraction;
- Grant's Fraction;
- No. 2 Below, Long Creek;

- Morning Star Bench;
- Novikaket Association;
- No. 1, Bear Pup;
- Dakota Association;
- No. 2, Bear Pup;
- No. 4, Bear Pup;
- Courtney Bench;
- No. 7 Below, Long Creek;
- No. 8 Below, Long Creek;
- No. 9 Below, Long Creek;
- No. 10 Below, Long Creek;
- Boston Bench;
- Shamrock Bench;
- Mason Fraction, Bear Pup;
- Discovery Bench;
- McLoud (also McLeod) Fraction;
- one-half interest in Cheyenne Fraction; and
- one-half interest in Mascot.[16]

Meanwhile, the U. S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company, which had shut down Hogazata operations completely on October 15, 1942, reactivated and slightly relocated them. The company moved a dredge from Livengood in 1955 and began dredge operations on Bear Creek on May 31, 1957. The dredging continued through 1975.[17] By that time, the company was called U. V. Industries.[18]

During the same, almost twenty-year period, Clarence Zaiser mined several claims on Greenstone Creek, different from (or renamed) the claims of Yukon Gold, McCandless, and Richardson.[19]

Since then, mining in the Ruby-Poorman district has continued slowly but steadily in small, open-cut, mechanized operations. In 1979, Jim Johnson and Erik Hansen researched and prepared a land package for Resource Associates of Alaska. They identified pieces of available, likely placer ground, located claims, and drew up a program for drilling.[20] According to Bill Lanning, Resource Associates drilled on Midnight Creek in 1981 and 1982. The company, under its new name Sphinx America, mined Midnight in 1988 and 1989. As a byproduct, the 1989 operations at Midnight produced forty drums of cassiterite. The company transferred to Monument Creek in 1990 and under its present name, Sphinx Natural Resources, has been mining Monument every since.[21]

Pete Haggland, commercial bush pilot and co-owner of Flat Creek Mining Company, has been mining Flat Creek since 1984. Even his two children help in his family operation.[22]

Keith Tryck, Short Gulch Mining Company, has been mining in the district since 1979, but his ancestral roots in the district trace from its early days when the Tryck brothers—grandfather Oscar and granduncles Charlie, Julius and Augustus—were there. Julius and Augustus didn't stay long. Oscar mined, freighted, and spearheaded the building of the early road toward the camps. He left for Knik in 1917, eventually settling in Wasilla. Charlie remained until a few months before his death in spring 1950, and for almost forty years was actively involved in Ruby mining life. Keith has researched much of the Tryck mining history in Ruby-Poorman and enjoys unraveling complex, tangled stories of those first years. Like other contemporary miners, he too has a small, manageable, low-budget operation. He believes the district does not lend itself to a medium-sized operation.[23]

Doug Green, Green Brothers Mining and Exploration, has ground on Birch Creek from Albert Yrjana and leases claims from Al Kangas. He highly respects the work of the long-ago miners. He has been in old, now unused drifts, still safely supported by carefully cut and fitted spruce poles. He notes there are no cabins left from the old days probably because an abandoned cabin became a source of wood for boiler fires. At times he has dug up with his dozer pieces of canvas and tent pegs and presumes that early buildings may often have been simple wooden fronts over tents. He has also unearthed old saws and sawmill parts, no longer usable. He had one encounter with a bit of history he would rather not have had. One day as he was riding his four-wheeler along the ridge of the Hub Hill, a wheel hooked into a piece of line which may have been a part of the old telegraph line to Glen Gulch and Poorman, long buried deeply into the moss.[24] The accident shook him, although he continued on. He rides very carefully now whenever he is in the vicinity of the Hub Hill ridge.

Howard Miscovich agrees with Doug Green that the old buildings are gone. The buildings at Miscovich Mining are all that remain of Poorman. With a chuckle, Howard recalls that he was once asked by a state official about the resident fish in nearby creeks. Because the

creeks are low, some dry, in arid seasons, there are no fish—a condition of nature, not the result of mining. So he answered, "Donna and I are the only two resident fish in Poorman"—two resident Miscovich fish in Dan Sutherland's centerpoint of Alaska. Howard, a private pilot, flies his Cessna 170B to Ruby about every two weeks for mail and supplies. For the first ten years or so of the Iditarod sled dog race, his small airfield was a checkpoint on the route. With mushers, dogs, handlers, snow machines, veterinarians, photographers, plus supply planes constantly landing and taking off, he became concerned about the potential for a tragic accident on the tiny, overcrowded airstrip—too many transient fish in the little pool. Therefore, Howard and Donna no longer host the Iditarod race which still passes through Ruby, according to a two-year cycle, every even-numbered year, but their Poorman home remains always open to trappers, hunters, Iron Dog snowmachiners, or miners in need of shelter in the centerpoint of Alaska.[25]

Alaskan miners are independent individuals. If, however, one were to attempt to profile the contemporary, gold-placer miner in the Ruby-Poorman district, one might note certain characteristics in common. The miner would most likely be:

~a small operator, operating in summer by open cut methods with heavy machinery;

~environmentally conscous, saving and reusing water, replanting the landscape, and respecting artifacts;

~an Alaskan, probably resident in an urban center if not in Ruby;

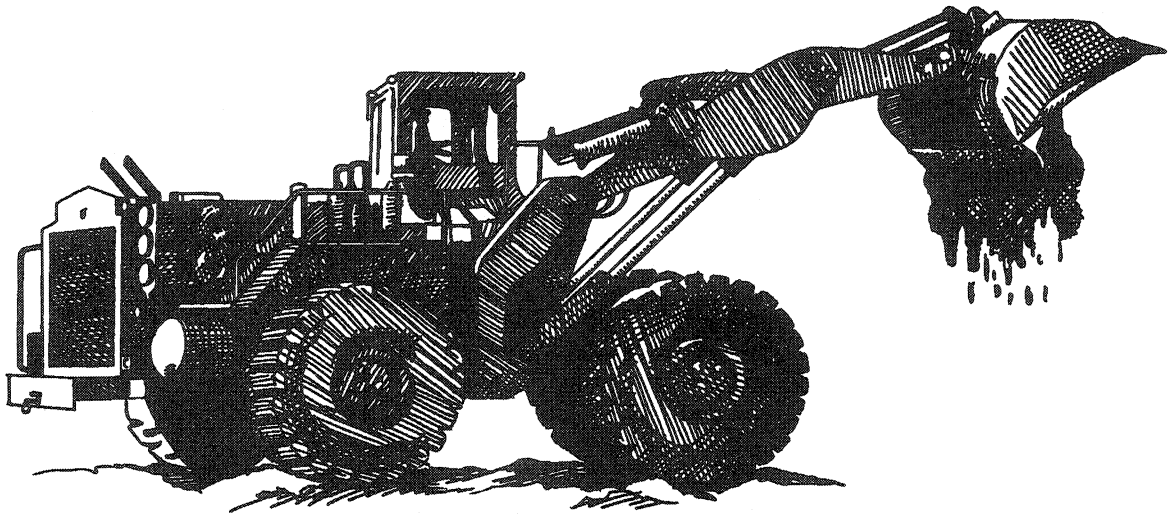
~familiar with the U. S. Geological Survey bulletin reports on the district;

~interested in the mining history of the district;

~knowledgeable and articulate about mining laws and proposed changes to those laws;

~cognizant of the negative personality changes that access to gold can bring about; and

~truly concerned with Alaska and with the future of gold placer mining in Alaska.



Front-end Loader

Appendix 1

Estimated Gross Production of Placer-Gold in the Ruby-Poorman District 1907–1940

The U. S. Geological Survey's annual bulletins on the mineral resources of Alaska charted the status of placer-gold production in all districts of Alaska, grouped by region. The Ruby-Poorman district appeared as "Ruby" under the Yukon region. The figures given referred to estimated gross production without consideration of the miners' operational costs. Based on reports received from mine operators, the figures were not adjusted to account for over-reporting, under-reporting, or non-reporting by the operators.

The chart below recapitulates estimated gross placer–gold production of the Ruby–Poorman district, 1907–1940.

Year	Gold Value	Bulletin #	Page
1907–1908	$1,000	739[a]	38
1909	. . . . .	714[a]	91
1910	several thousands of dollars	480	237
1911	. . . . .	714	91
1912	$175,000	739	38
1913	$785,000	739	38
1914	$1,000,000	739	38
1915	$700,000	739	38
1916	$850,000	739	38
1917	$885,000	739	38
1918	$400,000	739	38
1919	$165,000	739	38
1920	$170,000	739	38
1921	$170,000	739	38
1922	$123,000	755	43
1923	$ 72,000	773[b]	45
1924	$ 84,000	783[c]	13
1925	$ 39,900	792[c]	17
1926	$ 36,000	797	19
1927	$ 52,000	810	24
1928	$ 21,800	813	27
1929	$ 36,000	824-A	32
1930[d]	$ 38,000	836	32
1931	$ 54,000	844	32
1932	$ 72,000	857	30
1933	$ 48,000	864-A	34
1934	$127,000	868-A	35
1935	$ 85,000	880-A	35
1936	$ 83,000	897-A	45
1937	$259,000	910-A	45
1938	$302,000	917	42
1939	$216,000	926-A	39
1940	$215,000	933-A[e]	38

Notes

a. Bulletin 739 listed all years, 1907–1908, 1912–1921. Bulletin 714 treated years 1909–1911 with a row of dots. Both reports provided annual totals for the quantity of gold in fine ounces and quantity of and value of silver production for the years reported. References to quantity and silver ceased after bulletin 755.

b. Bulletin 773 included number of mines and miners for summer and winter.

c. Bulletins 783 and 792 included number of mines.

d. Bulletin 857-B ranked Ruby in eighth position territory-wide for total placer-gold production ($5,798,800) through 1930 behind Fairbanks, Nome, Iditarod, Council, Circle, Hot Springs, and Fortymile.

e. Bulletin 933-A ranked production in the Ruby-Poorman district in ninth position within the Yukon region after Fairbanks, Circle, Innoko, Iditarod, Hot Springs, Marshall, Fortymile, and Tolovana.

Appendix 2

U. S. Geological Survey Acknowledgements

The U. S. Geological Survey geologists specifically thanked persons in the Ruby-Poorman district for special help given to the geologists as they collected information for their reports. The chart below lists those thanked and the appropiate citations.

Year	Individual(s) Thanked	Bulletin #	Page
1913	Charles Fornander	592	363
1914	Alexander Cameron	622	58
1915	A. J. Day, Alexander Cameron	642	6
	Vance McDonald		225
1916		report 662 unavailable	
1917	Frank Cook	692	2
1918	Frank Cook	712	2
1919	B. J. Bower, Herman Willeke	714	4
1920	T. A. Parsons	722-A	6
1921	T. A. Parsons, B. J. Bowers, Henry (sic) Willeke	739	vi
Summary	Vance McDonald	754	4
1922	C. E. Jones	755	2
1923	George Jesse, John Flanagan, Omar J. Quinn, W. E. Leska, H. Jensen, Lynn Smith, Ernest Weaver	773	2
1924	B. J. Bower, Lynn Smith	783	2
1925	B. J. Bower, George Jesse, Lynn Smith	792	3
1926	none	797	3
1927	George Jesse	810	5
1928	William N. Growden, Oliver Anderson	813	4
1929	George Jesse	824-A	5
1930	George Jesse, William Growden	836	4
1931	T. J. DeVane, George Jesse, William Growden	844	4
1932	George Jesse	857	4
1933	Agent of Northern Commercial Company, George Jesse	864	4
Special	Martin Webories, Dan McFadden T. J. DeVane, Albert Verhonik	864-C	121
1934	Thomas J. DeVane, George Jesse	868-A	4
1935	Thomas J. DeVane	880-A	4
1936	Thomas J. DeVane, George Jesse	897-A	4
1937	Thomas J. DeVane, George Jesse	910-A	5
1938	no thanks given to residents of the Ruby-Poorman district in this or subsequent reports.	917	

Appendix 3

Photographs

Photographer Basil Clemons had a studio in Ruby from 1911 until he entered World War I military service at the end of 1917. He took pictures of Ruby, Long, and Poorman, including pictures of miners, freighters, and mining operations on the creeks. The three communities kept up a busy social schedule and celebrated for any occasion. Clemons captured on film members of the Moose, Eagles, Pioneers, Kennel Club, and Bunnies. He photographed masquerade balls, carnivals, sled dog races, boxing matches, and Fourth of July competitions. Many of his photographs and postcards have been saved in his own collection and in several other collections. Some have been reproduced in books and articles about people and activities of the Ruby-Poorman district. Clemons's prolific photographic work contributes significantly to preservation of the local history of the early days of the district. Through the lens of Clemons, we see today the people of that time—their appearance, their dress, their surroundings, and their daily world.

Collections with pictures of the Ruby-Poorman mining district by Basil Clemons or by others are in Alaska Archives and Manuscripts, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Several photos are on microfiche.

The following listing of collections is not complete, but it is representative.

Earl Beistline Collection. #85-093-338 (not on microfiche). Folder 51 contains photos by Otto Geist of mastodon bones at the Miscovich operations in Poorman, summer 1958.

Fabian Carey Collection. Vol 3, #037-02. The Carey collection on trappers includes photos of Ruby residents Alex Brown, the Dago Kid; Hughie McGuire; and William (Bill) Carlo.

Basil Clemons Collection. microfiche PCA-68, 1–129. Ruby, Iditarod and Yukon River area 1911–1912 (available on microfiche at UAF. See Alaska State Library Guide). For the complete collection, write to the Alaska State Library, Division of State Libraries and Museums, Pouch G, Juneau, AK 99811. See especially photos PCA-68, 56–115.

Dorothy Clifton Photograph Collection. #67-124 Box L, Folders 26, 28, 33, 44, 47, 62, 68 (not on microfiche and not the same as the manuscript collection). The collection has several unique pictures. Some date in the 1925–1933 period. They include winter dumps belonging to Tim Scannell, Baldo Forno, and Dennis Coyle and Ruby devastated after the fire of May 1929 (erroneously dated 1930). There are also some unusual Basil Clemons photos.

Wilson F. Erskine Collection. Box 2, folder 97A and B. Microfiche Vol 3, #16-10 Box 2. The collection contains Basil Clemons photos of 1912.

Lulu Fairbanks Collection. Box 10, Album 5; Microfiche Vol. 4 # 039 Vol. 4, #039-11, 52, 55. The collection includes several excellent Basil Clemons photos and pictures of the Yukon Gold Company dredge. (See especially #039-52 on miners.)

Herbert Heller Collection (not on microfiche). Heller's manuscript collection contains Basil Clemons photos of Ruby-Long-Poorman. (See Box 11, folders 162, 164, 166–168; Box 12, folder 257; Box 13, folders 272, 281–283.)

Maas-Wheeler-Clifton Collection. #75-11 (not on microfiche). The pictures are not sufficiently identified for use. Pictures in folder 347 correspond to two Dorothy Clifton photos of Poorman in folder 26.

Clara Rust Collection. Microfiche Vol. 5, #059-53. The Rust collection has one photograph of the tent city of Ruby in 1911.

Seiffert Family Collection. Vol. 5, #060-06. The Seiffert collection has a photo of Front Street in Ruby.

Vertical File. Vol. 2, #015-109, 127, 128, 129. The file has some Basil Clemons photos.

Rosco "Dan" and Margaret P. Averill collection. #203, Alaska State Library, Juneau, The collection has photographs of mining activities.

Collection #236. Alaska State Library, Juneau. The collection has photographs of miners in Ruby.

End Notes
Chapter I (1907–1918)

1. The motto appears in a column of miscellaneous comments in *The Ruby Citizen*, Vol. 1.15 (Jan. 10, 1912), 2. The newspaper merged with *The Ruby Record* to become *The Ruby Record-Citizen* in February 1912.

2. Alfred H. Brooks, "The Mining Industry in 1907," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1907*, edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et. al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 345 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 46–47, 31–32.

3. A[lfred] G[eddes] Maddren, "Gold Placers of the Ruby District," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1908*, edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et. al, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 379 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1909), 229, 233. Maddren always wrote under the initials A. G., but his full name appears in Donald J. Orth, *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*, 19.

4. Maddren, 229.

5. The staff of the District Recorder, Fairbanks, state there never was a St. Michael Recording Precinct. A cursory scan of 1906–1907 recorder books of Nome, Fort Gibbon, and other places did not uncover any Ruby Creek claims. Henry Matson held Discovery, Ruby Creek, in 1911.

6. Maddren, 229.

7. *Ibid.*, 229–230.

8. *Ibid.*, 230.

9. *Ibid.*, 230, 232.

10. *Ibid.*, 231.

11. *Ibid.*

12. Rickard visited Ruby in 1912 and told his story to *The Ruby Citizen* (Jan. 17, 1912), 8.

13. Comment in *The Ruby Record* (Oct. 7, 1911), 2. Nels Johnson visited his home at Skane Helsingborg, Sweden, in 1914, as reported in *The Record-Citizen* (Jun. 27, 1914), 1. On June 26, 1909, Ida August Johnson in King County, Washington state, gave Nils (also Niles) Peter Johnson power of attorney to locate claims for her as seen in District Recorder Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 4 (true Vol. 3) (#107, filed Jun. 6, 1911,), 50.

14. The Holmes-Watson claim is #1 in Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 4, 1. On January 2, 1912, W. H. Holmes and two other men were brought before Commissioner Gallaher on charges of destroying the miner's cabin and boiler house of Capt. A. S. Crane. Holmes and the other defendents contested that the cabin was on their fraction ground, *The Ruby Citizen* (Jan. 3, 1912), 7.

15. The names of Fornander and Johnson appear frequently in the beginning pages of Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 4, in associations and as individuals. Examples are Johnson's twenty-acre Discovery claim, Long Creek (#139, located Mar. 22, 1911, filed Jun. 6, 1911), 66, and Fornander's Discovery claim, Flint Creek (#117, filed June 6, 1911), 55.

16. "Andy Beckwith on Ruby," a letter of August 7, 1911, from Beckwith to Fairbanks as reported in *The Alaska Citizen* (Aug. 14, 1911), 4. Beckwith, who, for a time, operated a road house on Cleary Creek, died in Tolovana in September 1915, *The Record-Citizen* (Sep. 11, 1915), 4.

17. A. G. Maddren, "The Ruby Placer District, " in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1911*, edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et. al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 520 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1912), 296.

18. Maddren reported the installation of the large boiler in *Ibid.*, 296. In personal interviews in Fairbanks, both Pete Haggland, Flat Creek Mining Company (Feb. 25, 1993) and Doug Green, Green Brothers Mining and Exploration Company (Mar. 11, 1993) told the local miners' tale that Fornander had, somehow, rolled his prospector's boiler by hand across the difficult terrain from Trail Creek, a distance of perhaps fifteen miles.

19. Henry M. Eakin, *The Iditarod–Ruby Region*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 578 Washington: Government Printing Office, 1914), 44.

20. Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 4 (#335, filed Jun 16, 1911), 162.

21. Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (true Vol. 1) (#879, filed Aug. 11, 1911), 49.

22. *The Ruby Record* (Oct. 7, 1911), 2.

23. Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 4 (#486–487, filed Jun. 26, 1911), 233–234.

24. This is only one of many transactions by Fornander. It is in Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (#867, filed Aug. 10, 1911), 42–45.

25. Cascaden's operation of Fornander's claims is mentioned in "Pioneers of the Camp Say Ruby Has the Pay Sure," *The Ruby Record* (Oct. 7, 1911), 2.

26. The George Smith–Cascaden transaction is in Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (#878, filed Aug. 11, 1911), 46–48.

27. Laboski was prospecting on Morelock Creek in the Tanana district in 1938 when he made the statement, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Friday, Sept. 30, 1938), 5.

28. The original Fairbanks agreement was re-recorded in the Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (#1383, filed Nov. 6, 1911), 92–95.

29. Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (#1402, filed Nov. 7, 1911), 100–104. The claim numbers correspond

to entries in Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 4 (true Vol. 3).

30. Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (#1415, filed Nov. 8, 1911), 105—109.

31. *Ibid.* (#1460, filed Nov. 14, 1911) pp. 119–122, and (#1543, filed Nov. 29, 1911), 129–133.

32. A series of Sellander–Aitkin options, made in Iditarod in August 1911, were re-recorded in Ruby on December 5, 1911. *Ibid.*, (#1568 for $5,000), 138–142; (#1569 for $4,000), 143–146; (#1570 for $4,000), 146-149; (#1571 for $50,000), 150–155; (#1572 for $4,000), 154–156; (#1573 for $4,000), 157–160). There was no evidence Aitken either forfeited or voluntarily gave up the options.

33. "Ruby City Is Growing Daily, *The Alaska Citizen* (Sep. 25, 1911), 1.

34. Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3. (#1275, filed Oct. 9, 1911), 77; (#1317, filed Oct. 24, 1911), 82–85; (#1416, filed Nov. 9, 1911), 110. Smith made other arrangements to pay his debt to the Ruby Commercial Company (#1385, filed Nov. 6, 1911), 97–98.

35. *Ibid.* (#1371, filed Nov. 2, 1911), 90–92. Olson had brought the telephone system with thirteen telephones from Manley Hot Springs, Nulato book Mining Mortgages (a badly damaged and disordered book), item filed Sep. 30, 1911.

36. Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (#2666, dated Jan. 3, 1912 but filed Jun. 5, 1912), 286.

37. *The Ruby Citizen* (Jan. 10, 1912), 3, and (Jan. 24, 1912), 21.

38. Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 3 (#2895, filed Jul. 6, 1912), 304.

39. *Ibid.* Other interests were for one-fourth, one-eighth, and one-sixteenth shares (#2230, filed Apr. 9, 1911), 236–242.

40. PCA-68-115 in the *Basil Clemons Collection*, Alaska Archives, Rasmuson Library. It has been reproduced in Hart, 28; Herms, 36; and Honea, 25.

41. There are two reports on the Eakin trip. The first is Henry M. Eakin, "Gold Placers of the Ruby District," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1912*, edited by Alfred H. Brooks et. al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 542 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1913), 279–292. The second is Bulletin 578 already cited. Bulletin 578 does not duplicate 542. Both bulletins provide very extensive geological and other information on the district.

42. Eakin, Bulletin 578, preface by Brooks, 8.

43. Eakin, Bulletin 542, 282.

44. Eakin, Bulletin 578, 19, 22, 29–31, 43.

45. Eakin, Bulletin 542, 282, 281, 291.

46. *Ibid.*, 283–284, 292.

47. Personal interview in Fairbanks (Mar. 12, 1993).

48. Henry M. Eakin, "Placer Mining in the Ruby District," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Progress of Investigations in 1913*, edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et. al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 592 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1914), 368.

49. J. B. Mertie, Jr. *Mineral Deposits of the Ruby-Kuskokwim Region, Alaska*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 864-C (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936), 159.

50. Nulato book Notice of Locations, Vol. 5 (#2528–2533, filed May 16, 1912), 1–2, and (#2537, filed May 17, 1912), 4. Herrman filed Discovery, Tenderfoot Creek, on June 27, 1912 (#2841), 110. Additional claims in April and early May may have been filed in Notice of Location, Vol. 4, which is not available. There is, however, no reference to any such Vol. 4 claims for Poorman in the Creek Index.

51. Dan Sutherland, *Dan Sutherland* (n. p., c. 1951), 20.

52. Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 5, (#2721, filed Jun. 12, 1912), 62; (#2876, filed Jul. 5, 1912), 127, and (#2877, filed Jul. 5, 1912), 128.

53. Scrapbook, Box 3, *Daniel A. Sutherland Collection*, Alaska Archives, Rasmuson Library, UAF, 15.

54. Nulato Book Notice of Location, Vol. 5 (#4037, located Jan 2, 1913, filed Mar. 31, 1913), 370. In his autobiography, Sutherland writes that he and his wife had prospected on Greenstone Creek during summer 1912 with little prospects. He and Tom Coffey hit good pay on Greenstone, summer 1913, 20, 22.

55. Sutherland, autobiography, 20–22.

56. Nulato books Mining Mortagages (#3948, Mar. 3, 1913) and Miscellaneous, Vol. 2 (#3687, filed Nov. 12, 1912), 191–196; (#3945–3947, filed Mar. 3, 1912), 229–231. Henry Roden, who, like Sutherland, was elected a territorial senator for the first session, witnessed #3687.

57. "Salient Features of New Placer Mining Law Effective July 30, 1913," *The Ruby Record-Citizen* (Aug. 2, 1913), 2. The item ran in each issue for a year or more.

58. Eakin, Bulletin 592, 363–364.

59. *Ibid.*, 364.

60. *Ibid.*

61. *Ibid.*, 369.

62. Nulato book Affidavit of Labor, Vol. 2 (#4948–4960, filed Mar. 20, 1914), 9–13; (#4966, filed Mar. 20, 1914), 14; (#4967–4968, filed Mar. 21, 1914), 15; (#4976–4981, filed Mar. 24, 1914), 16–18; (#5027, filed Mar. 29, 1914), 32; (#5038, filed Mar. 30, 1914), 36.

63. Emil Edward Hurja, "Mining in the Far North Ruby District: Prospecting, Gravel Washing, and Gold Production," in *Mining and Scientific Press*, Vol. 110.7 (Feb. 13, 1915) Wickersham bibliography reference #4750, Alaska Archives, Rasmuson Library, UAF, 266.

64. *Ibid.*, 267.

65. "$64,000 Greenstone Mining Deal Was Consummated Today," *The Ruby Record-Citizen* (Mar. 14, 1914), 1. On November 12, 1913, Martin Sickinger had placed a lien on the Greenstone interests of Man Altman, E. H. Fernald, and N. D. Macauley, specifically on Humbolt Association (160 acres), Tanglefoot Association (160 acres), Harpoon Association (160 acres), and Sandbag Association (160 acres). Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 2 (#4794, filed Nov. 12, 1913), 283–284. Aultman and Macauley were not among the original eight members of Tanglefoot. The lien must have been resolved by the time of the Tanglefoot sale.

66. "Will Put in Dredge: Greenstone to be worked in Modern Fashion," and "More Ground Acquired by Greenstone Operators," *The Record-Citizen* (Aug. 8, 1914), 4.

67. *Ibid.* and Hurja, 267.

68. "Guggenheims Win Chicago Bench Case," *The Record-Citizen* (Aug. 1, 1914) p. 4, and "Decision in Mining Case: Valid Cause Must Be Shown for Abnormal Shape of Claim" (Oct. 17, 1914), 2.

69. Alfred H. Brooks, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1914," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1914*, edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et. al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 622 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1915), 57.

70. *The Record-Citizen* (May 16, 1914) p. 4, and (May 23, 1914), 1.

71. Brooks, Bulletin 622, 57, 76.

72. "Ruby Camp Produces $1,900 Gold Nugget," *The Record-Citizen* (Sep. 19, 1914), 4.

73. *The Record-Citizen* (Aug. 1, 1914), 4; (Sep. 5, 1914), 1; (May 1, 1915), 1; (May 15, 1915), 4.

74. "Big Cleanup on Mascot: Probably the Largest Batch of Gold Ever Yielded by One Run in Territory, " *The Record-Citizen* (May 22, 1915), 1.

75. Nulato book Miscellaneous, Vol. 2 (#2936, filed July 19, 1912), 21–26.

76. *Ibid.* (#4895, filed Feb. 16, 1914), 292.

77. Mertie, Bulletin 864-C, 147.

78. J. B. Mertie, Jr., and G. L. Harrington, "Mineral Resources of the Ruby-Kuskokwim Region," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1915*, edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et. al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 642 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1916), 224, 227, 229.

79. *Ibid.*, 240–241, 249, 265.

80. *The Record-Citizen* (May 1, 1915), 4.

81. "Alaska Placer Law Effective July 20, 1915," *The Record-Citizen* (May 29, 1915), 3. The text ran in every issue for about a year.

82. *The Record-Citizen* (Jul. 31, 1915), 1. The eight-hour law did not appear to be part of the Alaska Placer Law although it went into effect at the same time.

83. Box 1, folder 16, (Smith letter of Aug. 15, 1915), *Herbert Heller Collection*, Archives, Rasmuson Library, UAF.

84. "Interned in Sweden," *The Record-Citizen* (Jul. 31, 1915), 2.

85. Declaration of trust, September 29, 1916, re-recorded in Nulato book Deeds, Vol. 3 (#112589, refiled Aug. 9, 1943), 3–4.

86. *Ibid.*, (#8934, refiled Sep. 17, 1943), 4–5.

87. *Ibid.*, (#12590, refiled Sep. 17, 1943), 424.

88. "Bob Griffis Begins Suit: Claims Pay for Eighth Interest in Property on Greenstone," *The Record-Citizen* (Sep. 25, 1915), 2. 89. "New Dredge to Come In, to Be Landed at Ruby This Season–Engines of New Type," *The Record -Citizen* (Sep. 4, 1915), 1.

89. "New Dredge All Landed: Reliance Brought Last Load Yesterday—Now Being Unloaded," *The Record-Citizen* (Oct. 2, 1915), 1.

90. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#6008, filed Nov. 2, 1915), 88.

91. *Ibid.*, (#6807–6812, all filed Dec. 12, 1916), 178–180.

92. G[eorge] C. Martin, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1917," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1917*, edited by G. C. Martin, et. al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 692 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1919), 38.

93. *The Record-Citizen* (Jun. 2, 1917), 4.

94. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#7575–7582, all filed Nov. 28, 1917), 285–288.

95. Theodore Chapin, "Tin Deposits of the Ruby District," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1917*, edited by G. C. Martin, et al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 692 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1919), 337.

96. *The Record-Citizen* (Sep. 22, 1917), 4, and (Mar. 16, 1918), 3. Peter Hanson of White Dog died on February 17, 1917. *The Record-Citizen* (Feb. 17, 1917), 1.

97. Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 6 (#7243–7246, all filed Apr. 10, 1917), 215–216, and (#7854, filed Feb. 28, 1918), 271. Boland also owned Lucky Dog. Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#8533, filed Dec. 28, 1919), 402.

98. *The Record-Citizen* (Mar. 9, 1918), 1.

99. Box 1, folder 17, (Smith letters of Mar. 26 and Jul. 6, 1918 and Nov. 18, 1919), *Herbert Heller Collection*, Archives, Rasmuson Library, UAF.

100. *The Record-Citizen* (Mar. 16, 1918), 3.

101. G[eorge] C. Martin, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1918," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1918*, edited by G. C. Martin,

et al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 712 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1920), 49.

102. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#7586–7593, all filed Dec. 1, 1917), 289–290.

103. *Ibid.*, (#7604, filed Dec. 13, 1917), 291, and (#8110, filed Dec. 31, 1918), 370. The company does not appear in other records and may never have actually operated the claims.

104. *Ibid.*, (#7618, filed Dec. 15, 1917), 294–295.

105. *Ibid.*, (#8098, filed Dec. 28, 1918), 368.

106. *Ibid.*, (#7660, filed Dec. 19, 1917), 303–304.

107. *Ibid.*, (#7863, filed Mar. 22, 1918), 339.

108. Reports on deaths appear in the newspapers and records. Examples are: George McAuliffe, natural causes, *The Alaska Citizen* (Aug. 7, 1911), 8; Frank Schmidt, frozen on trail, *The Alaska Citizen* (Dec. 18, 1911), 1; Thomas Conniff, suicide, *The Ruby Record-Citizen* (Mar. 30, 1912), 4; Fred Wagner, mine accident, Banner Creek, *The Ruby Record-Citizen* (Jan. 17, 1914), 1; Judge Phil Gallaher, natural causes, *The Record-Citizen* (Apr. 14, 1917), 4; and Theodore Matheson, mine accident, Windy Bench, *The Record-Citizen* (May 19, 1917), 1

109. "Bert Walker Accidentally Killed in His Mine on Long," *The Record-Citizen* (Jun. 1, 1918), 1.

110. Doug Green, personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Mar 11, 1993). The miners' lore may have embellished and mixed details of the deaths of Bert Walker and Fred Wagner. Wagner is buried on Bear Pup. There is no newspaper report of any death by a pick through the neck.

111. Nulato book Bill of Sale (#8247, filed May 20, 1919), 41.

112. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#8500, filed Dec. 18, 1919), 397.

113. "Chester Kingsley Snow Passes Away in Nebraska," *The Record-Citizen* (Aug. 3, 1918), 1. This was the last edition of *The Record Citizen.*

114. Various articles on Snow's legislative activities in *The Record-Citizen.* Examples are: schools (Mar. 17, 1917), 1; citizenship school (May 12, 1917), 1; Mt. Tabor (Aug. 14, 1915), 4; and Gov. Stone (Nov. 6, 1915), 2.

Chapter II (1918–1942)

1. Alfred H. Brooks and George C. Martin, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1919," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1919,* edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 714 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921), 91.

2. Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 6 (#8376, filed Aug. 25, 1919), 321. Shropshire had also filed claims for Hess earlier: Discovery (twenty acres), Sugar Gulch (#7473, filed Oct. 1, 1917), 248, and No. 1 Below (twenty acres), Radium Creek (#7474, filed Oct. 1, 1917), 248.

3. Nulato book Record of Mining Leases,(#8440, filed Sep. 25, 1919), 88–92.

4. Examples of Bowers's reports are in Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2, $5,000 (#8701–8708, filed Oct. 5, 1920), 420–421; 90 percent (#8879, filed Sep. 24, 1921), 445; $2,500 (#9081, filed Mar. 31, 1923), 457.

5. Scrapbook, Box 3, *Daniel A. Sutherland Collection,* Archives, Rasmuson Library, UAF, 42, 44-45.

6. Sutherland autobiography, 22.

7. Scrapbook, Box 3 (article from *Anchorage Times* of Aug 20, 1920), 56.

8. Alfred H. Brooks, *The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1920,* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 722-A (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921), 54–55.

9. Alfred H. Brooks, "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1921," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1921,* edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 739 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1923), 11, 38.

10. J. B. Mertie, Jr. and G. L. Harrington, *The Ruby-Kuskokwim Region, Alaska,* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 754 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1924), 90.

11. Alfred H. Brooks, *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1922,* edited by Alfred H. Brooks, et al., U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 755 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1924), 43.

12. John S. Brown, "Silver Lead Prospects near Ruby," in *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1924,* edited by Philip S. Smith, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 783-D (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1926), 145–146, 150.

13. Nulato book Water Rights Location Record and Court Original Document Vol. III (#234, Aug. 1, 1924), 107, and (#243, Apr. 10, 1925), 116.

14. Billy McCarty, Sr., *Billy McCarty, Sr., Ruby: A Biography,* edited by Yvonne Yarber and Curt Madison. Yukon-Koyukuk School District series (Fairbanks: Spirit Mountain Press, 1983), 40.

15. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#9829, filed Nov. 2, 1929), 483.

16. Philip S. Smith, ed., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1926,* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 797 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1929), 40.

17. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#8792, filed Feb. 22, 1921), 437.

18. *Ibid.*, (#9605, filed Oct. 4, 1926), 471; (#11094, filed Oct. 21, 1930), 486; and (#[missing], filed Oct. 17, 1932), 487.

19. Philip S. Smith, ed., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations n 1927*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 810 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1930), 29, 54. The identity of Reed occurs in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* articles on the 1930 stampede.

20. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2, (#9784, filed Sep. 21, 1928), 478.

21. Philip S. Smith, *Mineral Industry in Alaska in 1929 and Administrative Report*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 824-A (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1930), 68.

22. *Ibid*, 38.

23. "Ruby Mining Is Now Accelerated," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Friday, Feb. 28, 1930), 1.

24. *Ibid*. Miner Joe Wolf owned claims on Wolf Creek before the strike.

25. *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Saturday, Mar. 8, 1930), 1.

26. "Detail Maps of Strike Area Posted," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Monday, May 12, 1930), 8.

27. Nulato book Notice of Location, Vol. 6 (#9996–9998, 10001, all filed Apr. 2, 1930), 495–496.

28. *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Monday, May 5, 1930), 8

29. Philip S. Smith, ed., *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations n 1930*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 836 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1933), 38.

30. Doug Green, Personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Mar. 11, 1993).

31. "Dredging Long Creek Dependent on Finding Body of Johnson," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Thursday, Jul. 28, 1932), 7. The dredge reference in the headline may pertain to the Reed proposal (note 35).

32. Nulato book Power of Attorney, Vol. 3 (#11507, filed Dec. 18, 1935), 224. The item references Nulato probate case #122, Aug. 29, 1933, which is not available.

33. J. B. Mertie, Jr., *Mineral Deposits of the Ruby-Kuskokwim Region, Alaska*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 864-C (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936), 121.

34. *Ibid*., 144, 147, 149, 169.

35. Box 4, Folders 39-41. *Irving McKenny Reed Collection*. Alaska Archives, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

36. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#11272, filed Jun. 24, 1934), 489.

37. John Honea, *John Honea, Ruby*, edited by Yvonne Yarber and Curt Madison, Yukon-Koyukuk School District series (Blaine, WA: Hancock House Publishers, 1981), 43–44.

38. Philip S. Smith, ed., *Mineral Industry in Alaska in 1936*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 897-A (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1938), 53.

39. Philip S. Smith, ed., *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1937*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 910-A (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1939), 52.

40. Territory of Alaska Department of Mines inspection report, Long Creek Mining Company, Long Creek, Sep. 29, 1938.

41. *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Friday, Sep. 30, 1938), 3, and (Tuesday, Sep. 27, 1938) 2.

42. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#11561, filed Jun. 7, 1936), 495.

43. Territory of Alaska Department of Mines inspection report, Greenstone Mining Company, Greenstone Creek, Dec. 4, 1937.

44. *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1938), 1.

45. *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* (Thursday, Sep. 29, 1938), 8; (Friday, Sep. 30, 1938), 1, 3; (Monday, Oct. 3, 1938), 8. References to the Ruby search warrant and inquest, without any details, are in Nulato book Water Rights Location Record and Court Original Document Vol. III (#350, Sep. 30, 1938, and #351, Oct. 2, 1938), 227–228.

46. Territory of Alaska Department of Mines inspection report, Long Creek Mining Company, Long Creek, Sep. 29, 1938.

47. *Ibid*., Al Burke, Sep. 30, 1938.; DeVane, Scannell and Associates, Sep. 30, 1938; Dennis Coyle, Sep. 30, 1938; Theobaldo Forno, Oct. 1, 1938; and Wm. Vuicich, Oct 2, 1938.

48. Nulato books Bill of Sale (#11885, filed Aug. 15, 1938), 86–87; Real Estate Mortgage Record, Vol. 2 (#11584, filed Sep. 3, 1936), 72–74; and Index of Chattel Mortgages (#11872, Aug. 2, 1938), 14.

49. June McDonald, phone interview, Fairbanks, AK (Mar. 8, 1993).

50. Nulato book Record of Mining Leases (#12139, 12142–12143, all filed Apr. 16, 1939), 117–118, 120–123; and (#12269, filed Jul. 23, 1939), 126–127.

51. Philip S. Smith, ed., *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1940*, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 933-A (Washington : Government Printing Office, 1942), 47.

52. Nulato books Bill of Sale (#12450, filed Jan. 8, 1940), 91–92; and Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#12716, filed Sep. 15, 1940), 515–516; and (#13056, filed Aug. 22, 1941), 520–522.

53. Howard Miscovich, personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Mar. 12, 1993).

54. Nulato book Affidavit of Annual Labor, Vol. 2 (#13300, filed Jun. 23, 1942), 529; and (#13427, filed May 24, 1943), 539–540.

55 Terrence Cole, "Golden Years: The Decline of Gold

Mining in Alaska," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, 80.2 (April 1989), 62, 66.

56. Rose Albert's interview of Albert and Dolly Yrjana, January 1984, a Johnson-O'Malley project, Yukon-Koyukuk School District, in "The Way It Was," *Taa Ologha, 1985* (Ruby: Merreline A. Kangas School, 1985), 1–3.

Chapter III (1946–1993)

1. Albert, *Ibid.*

2. June McDonald, phone interview, Fairbanks, AK, (Mar, 8, 1993).

3. Howard Miscovich, personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Mar. 12, 1993).

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*

7. Territory of Alaska Department of Mines inspection report, Miscovich & Sons, Flat Creek, Aug. 28, 1946.

8. *Ibid.*, Sunshine Mining Co., Greenstone, Aug. 28, 1946.

9. *Ibid.*, Long Creek Mining Company, Long Creek-Bear Pup; Vance Hitt, Poorman Creek; I v e r Johnson & Co., Trail Creek, all Aug. 29, 1946.

10. Poldine Carlo, personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Feb. 23, 1993).

11. Max G. White and John M. Stevens, *Reconnaissance for Radioactive Deposits in the Ruby-Poorman and Nixon Fork Districts, West-Central Alaska, 1949*, Geological Survey Circular 279 (Washington, D.C.: Geological Survey, 1953), 1, 4, 9.

12. Nulato book Bill of Sale (#14432–14433, both filed May 26, 1950), 319–322.

13. *Ibid.*, (#14524, filed Nov. 13, 1950), 334.

14. Nulato book Deeds (#14688, filed Feb. 19, 1953), 102–103.

15. *Ibid.*, (#14762, filed Apr. 4, 1955), 105.

16. Nulato books Vol. 1, 1960 (new series) (#60-5, 60-6, 60-7, all filed Nov. 8, 1960), 3–9; and Deeds (#14796, filed May 31, 1960), 123.

17. John C. Boswell, *History of Alaskan Operations of United States Smelting, Refining and Mining Company* ([Fairbanks]: University of Alaska Fairbanks, 1979), 36, 58.

18. Nulato book Deeds, Vol. 3, 1970 (new series) (#72-183, filed Oct. 24, 1972), 191–193.

19. *Ibid.*, (#74-5, Apr. 3, 1974), 271. Also Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining KARDEX file #56, Greenstone Creek, lists Clarence Zaiser in 1954.

20. Jim Johnson, phone interview, Fairbanks, AK (Feb. 22, 1993).

21. Bill Lanning, phone interview, Fairbanks, AK (Feb. 22, 1993).

22. Pete Haggland, personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Feb. 25, 1993).

23. Keith Tryck, personal interview, Healy, AK (Mar. 9, 1993).

24. Doug Green, personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Mar. 11, 1993).

25. Howard Miscovich, personal interview, Fairbanks, AK (Mar. 12, 1993).

Annotated Bibliography
Ruby-Poorman Mining District

The following resources were consulted in the preparation of the paper on the Ruby-Poorman mining district. Although all contain some reference to the area, not all were actually cited in the paper. The newspapers are available on microfilm in the Alaska–Polar Regions, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The Alaska Citizen, Fairbanks, Alaska. May 8, 1911–December 1920 (M/F 39). The newspaper frequently ran short items about Ruby such as: "Ruby City Is Growing Daily in Population." Sep. 25, 1911: 1. The paper reported the population of Ruby to be between 700 and 1,000 and growing daily, "Ruby City Gets Her Postoffice." Dec. 18, 1911: 1. A letter of November 28, 1911 from the Acting Fourth Assistant Postmaster General announced that a post office had been authorized for Ruby as soon as a postmaster was commissioned.

Albert, Rose. "The Way It Was." *Tlaa OlogHa 1985.* Yukon-Koyukuk School District. Ruby: Merreline A. Kangas School, 1985. Rose Albert interviewed several elders, some of whom have since died. Among those interviewed was freighter, saw mill operator and mine owner Albert Yrjana along with his wife, Dolly.

Atwood, Evangeline and Robert N. DeArmond, compilers. *Who's Who in Alaska Politics.* Portland, OR: Binford & Mort for the Alaska Historical Commission, 1977. The compilation includes brief biographical data on prominent Alaska political figures who lived for a time in Ruby like Cecil Hunter Clegg, Thomas James DeVane, Edward Coke Hill, Jeremiah C. Murphy, Lynn Smith, Chester Kingsley Snow, and Dan Sutherland.

Baker, Marcus. *Geographic Dictionary of Alaska.* edited by James McCormick. 2d ed. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 299. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906. None of the creeks in the Ruby-Poorman district is listed in this source.

Boswell, John C. *History of Alaska Operations of United States Smelting, Refining and Mining Company.* Fairbanks: Minerals Industries Research Laboratory, UAF, 1979. Chapter 6, "The 'Hog'–Hogatza," refers to prospecting and drilling operations, 1940–1942, on Bear, Wallick, and Clear creeks, tributaries of the Hogatza (Hog). A diesel-powered dredge, moved from Livengood in 1956, began operations on May 31, 1957. Operations continued through 1975, sometimes distracted by friendly Susie the bear and her cubs or by a not-so-friendly grizzly.

Brooks, Alfred H. "The Mining Industry in 1907." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1907.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 345. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908: 30–53. This is the first U. S. G. S. bulletin on the Ruby-Poorman district. Brooks reported the discovery of placer gold in Ruby Creek. About thirty men were prospecting placers in 1907.

_____. "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1914." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1914.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 622. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1915: 15–68. Brooks states that about fifty-five mines operated in summer 1914 and employed 450 men. Considerable ground was stripped on Greenstone Creek in expectation of mining by dredge or scraper in 1915.

_____. *The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1920.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 722-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921. The largest gold output was from six mines on Long Creek. A galena deposit was discovered on the north side of Beaver Creek near the mouth of Dome Creek. (See John Brown on silver-lead prospects.)

Brooks, Alfred H. et. al., eds. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1921.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 739. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1923. Brooks reported that the district maintained the annual gold output of the last three years. Most gold was from deep ground of high tenor.

_____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1922.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 755. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1924. The largest producing creeks were Poorman, Solomon, Flat, Spruce, and Trail. The Perseverance lead-silver lode produced fifty tons of very high grade ore.

_____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1923.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 773. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1925. Placer mining in Ruby and in other districts decreased in

1923 because of a shortage of water for sluicing during an abnormally dry summer. A second, conjectured, cause may have been exhaustion of rich deposits.

Brooks, Alfred H and George C. Martin. "The Alaskan Mining Industry in 1919." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1919.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 714. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921: 59–95. Placer mining declined. Only twenty-two mines operated in summer 1919 although there were developments on Flat, Poorman, and Greenstone creeks.

Brown, Altona. *Altona Brown, Ruby.* edited by Yvonne Yarber and Curt Madison. Yukon-Koyukuk School District of Alaska. Fairbanks: Spirit Mountain Press, 1983. Athabascan Altona Brown shares her memories of growing up in the Ruby area. She mentions seeing miners arriving at the roadhouse around 1911, talks about her family, and describes her customary and traditional lifestyle through the years. The book contains 1911-1912 photographs of miners obtained from the Oregon Province Jesuit Archives and from the Basil Clemons Collection.

Brown, John S. "Silver-Lead Prospects near Ruby." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1924.* edited by Philip S. Smith. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 783-D. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1926: 145–150. Brown examined galena deposit property north of Beaver Creek (reported in bulletin 722A for 1920). He evaluated the galena as too small for a profitable operation.

Captain, Dorothy. "The Spirit of the Iditarod." *Han Zaadlitl'ee.* March 1986. Dorothy Captain describes Ruby's welcome for Iditarod mushers. People ride snowmachines to Long to see if the mushers are coming. Church bells ring when a musher is within one-half mile of the city limits.

Cass, John T. *Reconnaissance Geologic Map of the Ruby Quadrangle, Alaska.* U. S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Geological Investigations Map I-289. Washington. D.C.: U. S. Department of Interior, 1959. The map is excellent but out-of-print. It is a comprehensive, geologic map of the Ruby quadrangle based on information from U. S. G. S. survey reports of 1916, 1918, 1924, and 1926 and on aerial photographs. It color codes limestone, dolomite, and other formations and has symbols for locations of gold placers, pit, and silver-lead lodes.

Chapin, Theodore. "Tin Deposits of the Ruby District." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1917.* Edited by G. C. Martin. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 692. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1919. Chapin reported that there was cassiterite on several creeks but no creek has enough to mine except as accessory to gold. Fourteen sacks of cassiterite concentrate were shipped from Midnight Creek to Singapore with a total net return of $156.22.

Clifton, Dorothy. *Dorothy Clifton Collection* (MS 85). Alaska Archives, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, UAF. The collection differs from her photo collection. Box 20, folder 259, contains correspondence of Pioneer Igloo No. 5 (Ruby) from September 12, 1920 through January 23, 1931. On August 27, 1930, William W. Jones reported the loss of Igloo 5 records and charter when fire burned the hall.

Cobb, Edward H. *Placer Deposits of Alaska: An Investigation of the Placer Mines and Prospects of Alaska, Their History and Geologic Setting.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1374. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1973. The report summarizes briefly the geologic description of the Ruby-Poorman district based on earlier U. S. G. S. maps and reports. Figure 54 locates placers in the Long-Poorman area.

Cobb, Edward H. and Robert M. Chapman. *Mineral Occurrences (Other than Mineral Fuels and Construction Materials) in the Kantishna River and Ruby Quadrangles, Alaska.* Open-file Report 81-170. [Washington]: U. S. Department of the Interior Geologic Survey, 1981. This limited report extracts geologic tidbits on gold placers in the Ruby quadrangle from previous geological reports up to 1981 and from Chapman's field notes.

Cobb, Edward H. and Reuben Kachadoorian. *Index of Metallic and Nonmetallic Mineral Deposits of Alaska Compiled from Published Reports of Federal and State Agencies through 1959.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1139. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1961. An extremely valuable listing of U. S. Geological Survey bulletins and some other reports and maps on the Ruby quadrangle.

Cole, Terrence. "Golden Years: The Decline of Gold Mining in Alaska." *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 80.2 April 1989: 62–71. A significant article on the death of gold mining industry in Alaska brought about by War Production Board Limitation Order L-208 of October 8, 1942 which closed U. S. gold mines. In 1940, gold was Alaska's second largest employer, second largest importer of industrial goods, and second largest taxpayer. As a result of shortages in labor and equipment, by summer 1942 about one-half of Alaska's mines were out of business. Gold mining in Alaska became a war casualty.

Dalton, Mike. "Poorman–Seattle Trip a 5-Week Journey." *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Heartland.* Sunday, June 4, 1989: H-3. Mike Dalton discusses the long voyage of Adriana Lutro Coyle, who left Poorman on May 20, 1920, and reached Seattle via St. Michael and Nome five weeks later. Mrs. Coyle's return trip via the Inland Passage, the Whitehorse railroad, and sternwheeler to Ruby took her only two and one-half weeks.

District Recorder, Fairbanks. (Short, preferred title for State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of the Commissioner, District Recorder.) Available records for the Ruby-Poorman district are in the following volumes assigned to the Nulato Recording Precinct (sometimes District), Fourth Division.

Affidavits Labor. 3-1914–9-1947. Vol. 2 (no Vol. 1). This is a very important file. It contains mine operators' testimony on annual assessment work. In World War I, the U. S. Congress suspended requirements for annual labor. In World War II, Congress shut down the gold mines. During both wars, owners filed "Notice of Intention to Hold Placer Claims."

Affidavits Labor. 12-1947–8-1959. This too is a significant file. It contains exemptions from assessment work, notice of desire to hold claims, and affidavits of annual labor.

Bill of Sale. 1913–1959. Miscellaneous. Vol. 1. This is a mixed file containing routine bills of sale for mining equipment and important leases of claims. Midway, pages are out of order so that transactions of a later date/numerical sequence precede earlier transactions.

Deeds. true Vol 3. 1943. This important book includes some pre-1943 records re-recorded because they had been in Volume 2, Deeds, destroyed in a fire on December 24, 1942.

Creek Index. circa 1912–1913. This index is so badly damaged that it is useless. It seems to have been replaced by Creek Index to Mining Locations.

Creek Index to Mining Locations. 1912–1955. This is a significant index and a companion to Index to Locators, although it does not match exactly. It refers to Volumes 3 through 8. Volume 3, Notice of Locations, is current Volume 4. True Volume 4 as well as Volumes 7 and 8 are not available. The two companion indexes and the deeds index are the only evidence many transactions took place.

Index to Affidavits/Labor. 1913–1959. The index includes a listing by creek and refers to Volumes 2 and 3.

Index to Chattel Mortgages and Bill of Sale. 1912–1956. The index gives the number and date assigned to mortgages and refers to Volume 1, Bill of Sale.

Index to Deeds. This is a significant index. It refers to Volumes 2 and 3. (Volume 2 burned.)

Index to Locators. 1912–1954. This is a significant index and a companion to the creek index. It is alphabetized by the last name of the locator. It refers to Volumes 5 through 8, but apparently not to Volume 3 or Volume 4. Volumes 7 and 8 are not available.

Index to Mortgages Real Estate. 1911–1954. There are only a few entries, mostly for the period 1912–1918.

Judgment Docket. 1915–1940. This book has only about four entries on ten pages.

Mining Leases and Land Registration. Vol. 2. 12–1952–11—1959. This book has only a few entries: #14674, dated November 2, 1949, and #101–110.

Mining–Mortgages. 1907–1913. This book is badly damaged, and the contents are out of order. It has location notices for the Tolstoi and Innoko rivers, Hungry Gulch, and Mastodon Creek recorded in 1907 by Garrett Busch and a few notices in 1910 recorded by W. L. Barbou. It also has mortgages for lots in Ruby and pledges of security with mining options recorded in 1911 and 1912 by [Judge and Commissioner] Phil Gallaher or his deputy Alberta Ferry.

Miscellaneous. Vol. 3. 1903–1912. This handwritten volume is true Volume 1. It has two Proofs of Labor for 1903. Highly significant Ruby material begins with #836 on August 4, 1911, and concludes with #2895 on July 6, 1912. It details options and agreements among the early miners and includes liens for unpaid work on Ruby buildings. It refers to Volume 3, Notice of Locations. Cecil H. Clegg and J. C. Murphy served as notary public for some entries.

Miscellaneous. Vol. 2. 1912–1956. This handwritten volume actually goes from 1912 to 1915 with only one item in 1956. It follows immediately after Volume 3 (true Volume 1) and is of equal significance. It includes court proceedings, leases and options, cancellations, sale of ground, grubstake agreements, bankruptcies, and bills of sale. It also has a Nulato inquest of 1909.

Notice of Locations. Vol. 4. 1-1911–9-1911. This important file is true Volume 3. Volume 4 (September 1911–April 1912) is missing, and there are no Volumes 1 and 2. It starts with #1, filed May 20, 1911, on page 1, and ends with #1112, filed September 13, 1911. It contains several discovery claims for Long Creek tributaries and some power of attorney assignments and also deals with land parcels in the Ruby townsite. (See especially #139, p. 66.)

Notice of Location. Vol. 5. 5-1912–5-1914. This is true Volume 5. It has the notices for the early claims for Poorman Creek and its tributaries. Phil Gallaher was recorder to January 7, 1913; E[dward] Coke Hill took over as of January 9, 1913.

Notice of Locations. Vol. 6. 5-1914–4-1930. This is true Volume 6. This continues the location notices until spring 1930.

Power of Attorney. Vol. 3. 1915–1959. The book has several significant power of attorney actions, beginning with #5533, filed on January 21, 1915, and ending with #14839, filed on November 16, 1959.

Real Estate Mortgage Record. Vol. 2. 1915–1956. The records begin with #5662, filed on March 12, 1915, and end with #14718, November 27, 1956.

Record of Mining Leases. This is a significant volume. It includes Poorman leases to Vance Hitt in 1939.

Water Right Location Record Court Original Document Vol. III. The book contains only a few water right locations. It mostly concerns court cases, 1916–1943. The cases include insanity hearings, violations of Alaska Bone Dry Law, inquests, and drunk and disorderly charges.

Certificate of Location and Miscellaneous. Book 1. 8-1960–9-1965. This is a new series with numbering one-up per year. (Claim notice #60-1 was filed on May 25, 1960.) The book includes affidavits of labor from the U. S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company and references to the sale of the Robert Deacon estate.

Volume 2. Galena. This book continues the new series for the years 1966–1970. It includes the federal quit claim over public roads given to the State of Alaska.

Volume 3. Galena. This concludes the new series and includes affidavits of labor for the years 1970–1974.

Deeds. Vol. 3. 1971–5/30/1975. The record contains affidavits of labor and refers to the claims of the WECO Mining Corporation on tributaries of the Hawk River. It ends with #75–25, filed in May 1975.

Index 1960. Vol. 2. The index list claims from November 18, 1960 to December 20, 1974.

Current records. Since 1977, records are on microfiche as a single file.

Eakin, Henry M[iner]. "Gold Placers of the Ruby District." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1912.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 542. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1913: 279–292. This is a very significant article. Eakin goes into great detail about climate, vegetation, forest, water supply, cost of transport, rocks, and the development of Ruby city. He reports on operations on Long Creek, Glen Gulch, Trail Creek, Tip Creek, and Quartz Creek. Plate X is a map. (The map in bulletin 578 is better.)

____. *The Iditarod–Ruby Region.* Preface by A. H. Brooks. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 578. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1914. This is a significant bulletin although some of the text repeats text from "Gold Placers" in bulletin 542. Eakin also discusses cassiterite on Midnight Creek and the advances in mining operations made in 1913.

____. "Placer Mining in the Ruby District." *In Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1913.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 592. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1914: 363–369. Eakin reports on local costs, the road from Ruby, water supply, and the extension of operations to Poorman Creek and its tributaries.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Fairbanks, Alaska. (M/F 6). The *News-Miner* carried many items about the Ruby district. Examples follow: "Fire Destroys Business District Ruby–Stopped at Signal Corps Station." Monday, May 6, 1929: 1, The fire on Saturday, May 4, 1929, started at DeVane's store and within two hours, had burned twenty-two buildings along two and one-half blocks. "Dredging Long Creek Dependent on Finding Body of Johnson." Thursday, July 28, 1932: 7. Robert Deacon searched unsuccessfully for the body of N. P. Johnson. Deacon and his dog were lost for twelve days during the search. "Three Men Are Shot at Mine Camp: Hans Tilleson, R. L. Squire and Jack Koski Wounded Pistol Fire." Wednesday, September 28, 1938: 1. A. A. McCandless, owner of the claim on Greenstone Creek, shot the three men from the Long Creek Mining Company which was leasing the ground. "McCandless Body Found Near His Cabin. Notes Left to His Wife and Daughter." Monday, October 3, 1938: 8. McCandless committed suicide about 700 feet from his cabin in the direction of Midnight Creek.

Hanson, Douglas and Roselynn Ressa Smith. *Forest Resources: Ruby Village/Yukon River Watershed, Alaska, 1987.* Fairbanks: Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., 1988. The 1987 study inventories forest resources on land selected by the Native corporation Dineega for the Native village of Ruby. The project area encompasses 131,200 acres and borders the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge on its eastern boundary.

Hart, Betsy. *The History of Ruby Alaska: "The Gem of the Yukon."* Anchorage: National Bilingual Materials Development Center, Rural Education, University of Alaska, 1981. The history traces the development of the Ruby area from pre-white-contact days to 1981. It discusses the exploration by Russian Lieutenant Lavrentiy Zagoskin, the Native Athabascan people of the Old Kokrines, the records of Fr. Julius Jette, S. J., the gold strikes of 1907 and 1911, and the subsequent growth of the city of Ruby. It is well illustrated with photographs by Basil Clemons and contains excerpts from interviews of Ruby residents, some of whom have died since the book was published.

Heiner, Virginia Doyle. *Alaska Mining History: A Source Document.* History and Archaeology Series No. 17 Miscellaneous Publications. Anchorage: Office of History and Archaeology Alaska Division of Parks, 1977. The source guide lists some books, including works by Orth, Eakin, Hulley, Ricks (on post offices), and Polk which contain information on Ruby. Only the Eakin document is a major source.

Heller, Herbert. *Herbert Heller Collection.* Alaska Archives, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, UAF. Box 1, folders 14–17, contain correspondence from Heller's uncle [Robert] Lynn Smith in Ruby to his relatives outside. On July 6, 1918, Smith wrote, "Our camp is dead until after the war."

____. *Sourdough Sagas: the Journals, Memoirs, Tales and Recollections of the Earliest Alaskan Gold Miners, 1883–1923.* Cleveland: The World Publishing Co., 1967. Heller edits information collected by his uncle [Robert] Lynn Smith who worked in Ruby as a jeweler, miner, and fur seller, from 1912 through 1920 and returned to Ruby on occasions during the 1920s.

Herbert, Charles Francis. *Gold Dredging in Alaska.* Thesis. [Fairbanks]: Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, 1934. Herbert synopsizes in one page information from U. S. G. S. bulletins, including 578 (Eakin, 1913). He states the district deserves attention as a dredging field, provided it is possible to do stripping cheaply.

Herms, Frederick W. "Memoirs of Iditarod and Ruby." *Alaska Sportsman* 31.2 February 1965: 35–37. Herms recalls his move from Iditarod to Ruby in 1912 and describes Ruby in 1912/1913. The article contains Basil Clemons photos but also has some misleading typographical errors in its information.

Hildebrandt, James C. *History of Placer Mining in Alaska.* Master's thesis 26429. [Fairbanks]: University of Alaska, n.d. The thesis capsulizes very briefly and minimally activity in the Ruby-Poorman district, 1907–1916, based on information from U. S. G. S. bulletins.

Holbrook, Mabel. "A Visit to Ruby." *Alaska Sportsman.* 30.6 June 1964: 22–24, 59–60. Mabel [Teeland] Holbrook, who had left Ruby with her parents and sisters in 1921, returned in 1962 and noticed many changes. Ruby seemed to have shrunk, and the red stones were gone from Ruby Creek.

Honea, John. *John Honea: Ruby.* edited by Curt Madison and Yvonne Yarber. Yukon-Koyukuk School District series. Blaine, WA: Hancock House Publishers, 1981. John Honea remembers life in Ruby. He cut wood for mines, 1935–1936, and worked in mines in Long and Poorman, 1937–1941. He recalls mine operators like Dennis Coyle, Tim Scannell, Al Burke, Jack Shropshire, Harry Jensen, Dick Stevens, and Vance Hitt. The book contains several Basil Clemons photographs.

Hurja, Emil Edward. "Mining in the Far North Ruby District: Prospecting, Gravel Washing and Gold Production." *In Mining and Scientific Press* 110.7 Feb. 13, 1915: 266–267. Wickersham bibliography reference #4750. Alaska Archives, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, UAF. Hurja visited the Ruby district in 1914. He discovered that miners considered the new "Wickersham" mining law a "godsend." He named the mine operators and gave excellent details of operations for that summer.

Lester, Jean. *Faces of Alaska from Barrow to Wrangell.* Ester, AK: Tanana Yukon Historical Society and Poppies Publishing, 1992. Jean Lester paints and interviews Albert Yrjana of Ruby. He discloses that men from Fairbanks and Nenana to whom he leased his mining ground were not honest. The article contains two Basil Clemons photos.

Maddren, A[fred] G[eddes]. "Gold Placers of the Ruby Creek District." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1908.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. G. S. Geological Bulletin 379, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1909: 229–233. This U. S. G. S. bulletin is the first which gives an in-depth report on the Ruby-Poorman district (at the time only the Ruby Creek district). Subsequent bulletins built on the information in this one. Maddren reported that the discovery claim on Ruby Creek was the only one being worked in July 1908. About $1,000 of fine gold had been produced. Then he describes the drainage, vegetation, colors of gold, bedrock, and the fineness of the gold.

_____. *The Innoko Gold-Placer District with Accounts of the Central Kuskokwim Valley and the Ruby Creek and Gold Hill Placers.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 410. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910. Maddren repeats what he said about Ruby in U. S. G. S. Bulletin 379. The bulletin contains a map, Plate IV, opposite page 76.

_____. "Gold Placer Mining Developments in the Innoko-Iditarod Region." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1910.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 480. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1911: 236–270. Maddren reports the mining of several thousand dollars worth of gold from "Reeley" Creek (presumably a Morse Code-type garble for Ruby). Plate 1 is a map of Alaska gold, silver, copper, tin placers and lodes as of 1911.

_____. "The Ruby Placer District." *In Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1911.* edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 520. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1912: 287–296. Maddren reports the discovery at Long Creek and the establishment of Ruby City. He discusses at length the prospecting activity in the area.

Martin, G[eorge] C. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1917.* U. S. Geological Bulletin 692. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1919. Martin had taken over from Brooks who was on active duty in France. Martin reports gold production in the Ruby district in 1917 had increased because of the operation of the dredge on Greenstone Creek. The dredging ground, however, had been worked out so the dredge would be moved . (See also Chapin on tin.)

____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1918.* U. S. Geological Bulletin 712. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1920. Martin reported production was one-half that of 1917. The dredge on Greenstone Creek was not operating. Some small operators had suspended work.

McCarty, Billy, Sr. *Billy McCarty, Sr.: Ruby: A Bibliography.* edited by Yvonne Yarber and Curt Madison. Yukon-Koyukuk School District series. Fairbanks: Spirit Mountain Press, 1983. Billy McCarty remembers his life in Interior villages. He worked in Dennis Coyle's mine, 1923–1928. He considers mining the hardest work he did because his hands would get badly hurt. The book contains some Basil Clemons photos.

Mertie, J.B., Jr. and G. L. Harrington. "Mineral Resources of the Ruby-Kuskokwim Region." In *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1915.* Edited by Alfred H. Brooks et al. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 642. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1916. 223–266. This is another significant bulletin. The report details operations on all creeks and tributaries, states a dredge is being installed on Greenstone Creek, discusses tin, cassitierite, and coal finds.

____. *The Ruby-Kuskokwim Region, Alaska.* U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 754. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1924. This important report summarizes developments of the past ten years. Plate 1 is a reconnaissance map of the district.

Mertie, J. B., Jr. *Mineral Deposits of the Ruby-Kuskokwim Region, Alaska.* U. S. Survey Bulletin 864-C. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936. This is another major report on the district. Mertie toured creek by creek

and compared 1933 operations with past operations. He mentions the discontinuity of paystreaks. Plate 2 is a map of the district. Plate 3 diagrams claims on Long Creek and Bear Gulch (Bear Pup).

_____. *The Kaiyuh Hills, Alaska.* U. S. Survey Bulletin 868-D. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1937. The Perseverance silver lode mine operated 1920–1922. The mine shipped 225 tons of silver-lead ore, one-half to Selby, one-half to Bradley, Idaho, at a freight cost of $57.50 per ton. Operations ceased because of cost.

Moffit, F[red] H. et al, eds. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1925.* U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 792. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1927. There was less mining activity than usual. Platinum was found on Granite Creek.

O'Brien, Pat. "In Ruby, Society Flows like the Yukon." *We Alaskans: The Anchorage Daily News Magazine.* March 4, 1984. The Iditarod sled dog race passes through Ruby on even-numbered years. O'Brien visited Ruby during the 1982 Iditarod. Ruby has several Iditarod race veterans.

Orth, Donald J. *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names.* U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 567. 2d ed. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Interior, 1971. Orth mentions U. S. G. S. geologists who worked in Alaska like Alfred Hulse Brooks, Henry Miner Eakin, and Alfred Geddes Maddren. He states the creeks in the Ruby-Poorman district were named by prospectors. (The creeks are not listed in the U. S. G. S. Bulletin 299 of 1906.)

Reed, Irving McK. *Irving McKenny Reed Collection.* MS 266. Alaska Archives, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Box 4 contains options for Long Creek claims in 1933 in preparation for a dredging operation. It also has a preliminary report on Long Creek, a large plat of the claims, and a blueprint of Long Creek sections. Occasional correspondence and telegrams on Long Creek and Placerville claims are in boxes 1 and 4.

Renner, Louis L., S. J. "A Ruby White Christmas." *The Alaskan Shepherd.* 24.6. November–December 1986. Fr. Renner reminisces about preparing for Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Peter-in-Chains Church in Ruby.

_____. "The Day We Buried Madeline." *The Alaskan Shepherd* 25.4 July–August 1987. Fr. Renner writes about the funeral celebration for respected, beloved Native elder Madeline Pitka Notti of Ruby.

Ruby weekly newspapers. The first two newspapers competed against each other for a short time and then merged. Each issue available is filled with mining news as the following examples illustrate. *The Ruby Citizen.* published on Wednesdays. Jan. 3–Jan. 24, 1912 (M/F 145). Earlier issues (Oct.–Dec. 1911) are not available. "Work along Good Lines on Upper Flint." Jan. 3, 1912: 7. Fred Umphries and Billy O'Connor are working on a lay in the lower 1,000 feet of the Alpine Association claim on Upper Flint Creek. They are being assisted by Lon Doggett, Doc Madden, and Leonard Bruthlan.*The Ruby Record.* published on Saturdays. Oct. 7, 1911–Jan. 27, 1912 (M/F 143). "Pioneers of the Camp Say Ruby Has the Pay Sure." Oct. 7, 1911: 2. The articles quotes R. W. Martin that there is "real pay, mind you–not mere prospects" on Long Creek and Glen Gulch. *The Ruby Record-Citizen.* published on Saturdays. Feb. 3, 1912–Mar. 28, 1914. *The Record-Citizen.* published on Saturdays. Apr. 4, 1914–Aug. 3, 1918 (M/F 143). "Salient Features of New Placer Mining Law Effective July 30, 1913." Aug. 2, 1913: 2. The item on the 1913 law describing the limitations on claim size and the requirements for development and annual assessment work ran in every issue for a year or more. "Geologist is Coming: Dr. Alfred Brooks Will Visit Ruby...He's Our Friend." Jul. 18, 1914: 1. The item reported Brooks's plans to look over the locality. "New Dredge All Landed: Reliance Brought Last Load Yesterday–Now Being Unloaded." Oct. 2, 1915: 1. The article reports the arrival of the last parts of the Yukon Gold Company dredge aboard the Reliance.

Sherman, Steve. "Ruby's Gold Rush Newspapers." *Alaska Journal* 1.4 Autumn 1971: 16–24. Sherman analyzes the short lives of *The Ruby Citizen, The Ruby Record, The Ruby Record-Citizen, and The Record-Citizen* when gold was king in Ruby. Chester Kingsley Snow was co-publisher of *The Record-Citizen* from September 5, 1914 to October 2, 1915.

Smith, Philip S., ed. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1924.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 783. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1926. Alfred Brooks died on November 27, 1924, and Smith replaced him on April 1, 1925. None of the Ruby mines had produced more than a few thousand dollars in gold in 1924. (See also John Brown on silver-lead.)

____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1926.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 797. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1929. Placer mining in the Ruby district was less active in 1926 than in 1925, probably because of dry weather during the early part of the season.

____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1927.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 810. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1930. The greatest amount of gold production was from Poorman Creek. A mining engineer had been hired to look for lode and placer tin deposits. Placer tin at Cox Gulch needs development.

____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1928.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 813. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1930. The largest production in gold in 1928 was from Poorman Creek and its tributaries and from Long and Greenstone creeks.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1929 and Administrative Report.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 824-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1930. Gold production was two-thirds higher in 1929 than in 1928. A small stampede occurred in early 1930 to a new strike below Poorman. Tin was produced from Cox Gulch.

____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1930.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 836. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1933. By the end of 1930, the stampeders had drifted away from the new strike below Poorman because miners at the sites first had already located all the ground.

____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1931.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 844. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1934. The find below Poorman in 1930 made 1931 gold production increase 50 percent over 1930 figures. Two-thirds of the production was from drift mines.

____. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1932.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 857. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1934. Two-thirds of 1932 gold production was from drift mines. The report identifies operators of large plants on Moose, Poorman, and Timber creeks.

____. *Past Placer-Gold Production from Alaska.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 857-B. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1933. The report charts total placer-gold production in Alaska from 1880 through 1930. It lists the Ruby district as eighth highest producer territory-wide.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1933.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 864-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1934. The Ruby-Poorman district was the seventh highest producer in 1933 in the Yukon region behind Fairbanks, Iditarod, Innoko, Circle, Tolovana, and Hot Springs.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1934.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 868-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936. Preparatory work was in process on Trail Creek for open cut and drift mining during the winter of 1934–1935.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1935.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 880-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1937. Only one camp was operating on Long Creek, but there were several camps on Poorman and its tributaries.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1936.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 897-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1938. The report noted that a strong company had negotiated to start extensive operations on Long Creek in 1937.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1937.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 910-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1939. Long Creek Mining Company was the largest producer.

____. *Fineness of Gold from Alaska Placers.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 910-C. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1941. The report charted the fineness of gold from the Sulatna and Poorman area of the Ruby-Poorman district.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1939.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 926-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1941. Long Creek Mining Company was the largest producer. Vance Hitt had leased or purchased most claims on Poorman Creek and was planning a large dragline operation in 1940.

____. *Mineral Industry of Alaska in 1940.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 933-A. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1942. The district had fallen to ninth place among Yukon region producers. Operations were limited by the shortage of water in early summer. Long Creek Mining Company remained the largest producer. Vance Hitt was waiting for a dragline to be transferred from the Stuyahok River.

Smith, Philip S, Fred H. Moffit, and J. B. Mertie, Jr. *Mineral Resources of Alaska: Report on Progress of Investigations in 1938.* U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 917. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1942. The supply of water in early summer 1938 was very deficient. The Yukon River was very low. Long Creek Mining Company remained the largest producer.

Smith, Sumner S. *The Mining Industry in the Territory of Alaska During the Calendar Year 1916.* U. S. Bureau of Mining Bulletin 153. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1917. The bulletin reports on an inspection trip of sixteen properties. The Alaska Road Commission had spent $70,000 on the Ruby-Long wagon road. Two men had been hurt in dredge accidents on Greenstone Creek.

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Fairbanks. Since 1954 the Division of Mining has maintained a KARDEX file (#56) of active and inactive mining claims in the Ruby quadrangle. The office also holds twenty-two mining inspection reports, mostly prepared by J. C. Roehm. In general, the reports cover the period 1938–1939 and 1946 for claims on Flat, Greenstone, Bear Pup, Long, Midnight, Moose, Poorman, Spruce, Tamarack, Timber, Trail, and Solomon creeks.

Strick, Sharon. "Ruby's Rose Albert." *Alaska Native News.* July 1984: 7. Rose Albert, artist and dog musher, was the first Native woman to race the Iditarod. She paints scenes of Ruby and the Interior.

Sutherland, Dan. *Dan Sutherland.* n. p., c. 1951. In his autobiography, Sutherland mentions his mining activity on Greenstone, Long, Flat, and Spruce creeks. He tells that to attend the first session of the territorial Senate in 1913, he walked from Ruby to Fairbanks and pushed a horse-drawn sled from Fairbanks to Valdez.

_____. *Daniel A. Sutherland Collection.* MS 305. Alaska Archives, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, UAF. Series 2, Boxes 3 and 4, contain newspaper clippings, both good and bad press, about Sutherland's terms as territorial senator from Ruby and Poorman, 1913–1921, and as Alaska's territorial delegate to the U.S. Congress, 1921–1931.

Ulibarri, George S. *Documenting Alaskan History: Guide to Federal Archives Relating to Alaska.* Alaska Historical Commission Studies in History No. 23. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 1982. The guide indicates the following files stored outside Alaska may have information on the Ruby-Poorman mining district. 4.2.104. Philadelphia Mint, San Francisco and Denver Branch Mints, assay offices in Boise, Helena, and Salt Lake City. Records of the Bureau of the Mint (R.G. 104). Records related to the receipt and processing of gold and silver mined in Alaska. 4.2.126. National Archives, Washington, D.C. Records of the Office of Territories (R. G. 126). Office of Territories. File 9-1-16. "Prospecting in Alaska." 1907–1908 and 1935–1940. 6.9.21. Archives Branch, FARC, Seattle, WA. Record of the District Courts of the United States (R.G. 21). Case files for Ruby.

White, Max G. and John M. Stevens. *Reconnaissance for Radioactive Deposits in the Ruby-Poorman and Nixon Fork Districts, West-Central Alaska, 1949.* Geological Survey Circular 279. Washington, D. C.: Geological Survey, 1953. On behalf of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, geologists White and Stevens did a reconnaissance of the Ruby-Poorman district for uranium in July 1949. They concluded that there was very little likelihood of finding uranium deposits of commercial grade in the district.

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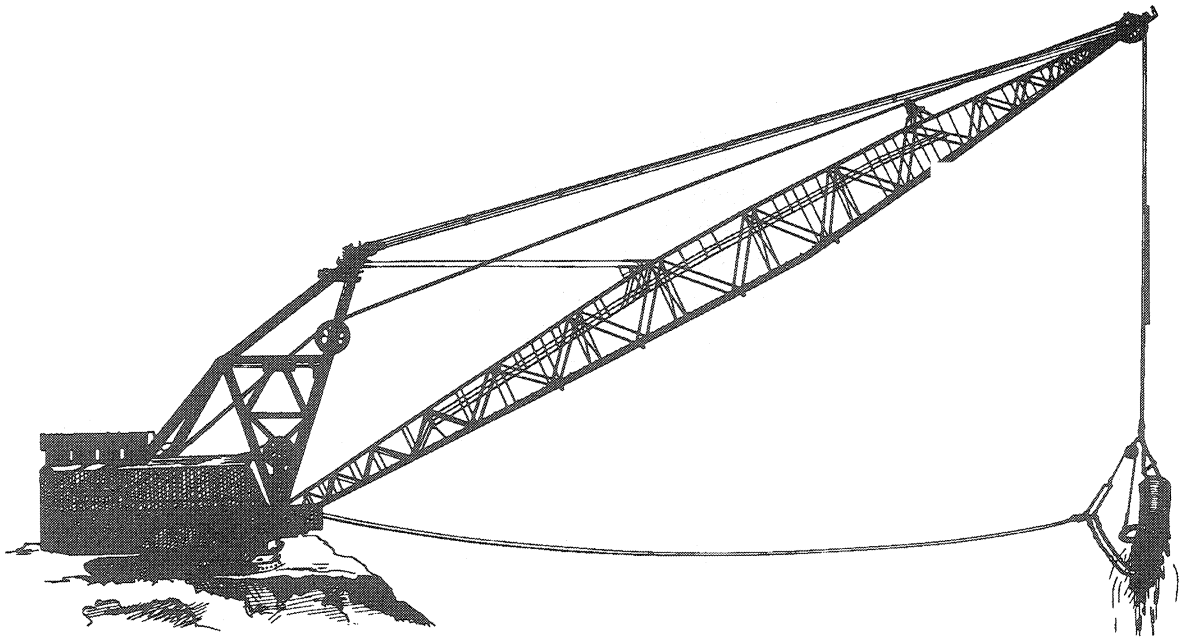
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