

ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

ALASKA RARE COINS, P.O. BOX 72832, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707 Phone 907 452-6461 email: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

& POLAR NUMISMATIST

VOLUME XXXVIII, NO. 1, JANUARY, 2016.



See page 9

THE PANHANDLE ANCHORAGE'S OLDEST (?) BAR

by J.W. Terrill

With a photo from 1915 showing Anchorage as a tent city, and The Panhandle among the tents, it is definitely in the running to be Anchorage's oldest bar.

A photo from 1916 shows The Panhandle on 4th Avenue in what appears to be a frame building. It was on the north side of 4th Ave. It moved to its current location on the south side in the early 1940s and was in a log building. It was rebuilt after a fire in 1949, pretty much as it is today except the east half was Annie's Cafe until 1990 when the wall was removed and the bar widened. It is currently located at 312 W. 4th Ave.



Tony Warney, the manager and bartender for 31 years (and unofficial historian) says the bar started



"Fourth Street Looking West, March 21st, 1916." (cropped)
Pyatt-Laurence Collection; Anchorage Museum, B1983.146.63

in a log cabin in 1933. Perhaps this incarnation started in 1933, but the name definitely pre-dates that, as I am sure the token does. Jerry Buffington is the current owner. He

continued on page 3

ARCTIC BROTHERHOOD JEWEL



Chena Club No. 18. A very short-lived branch of the Arctic Brotherhood.

This will be sold on eBay in January. Please contact us if you wish to be advised when we post it for sale.

It weighs .885 troy ounces. Specific gravity tests indicates that it is 10K or better.



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to our 38th year! I hope that we exceed your expectations.

This is a GREAT issue! What qualifies this as a great issue? I didn't have to write most of it.

Our thanks go to J.W. Terrill for providing most of the information you will find in these pages. His primary contribution was the article on The Panhandle. He dug up a lot more information on the bars of 4th Avenue in Anchorage that was beyond the scope of this article. Perhaps he will consider doing a "Tunnels of 4th Ave." article for the Alaska Historical Society (hint, hint). His other contributions this month include The White Spot, 1042 Club, The Interlocked Moose Horn Club and a couple more space fillers.

Dave Phillips is back with a Money to Burn article about a Nome wood. And Tom Dalrymple discovers that an oldish souvenir was made in Italy which leads me to newish Yukon medals that were also made in Italy (go figure!).

I have purchased 10 oz. of Bering Sea gold and will begin production of my 1 oz., 1/2 oz. and 1/4 oz. gold tokens after the first of the year. I will be using the 50¢ and 25¢ portrait dies from R.J. Negus for the 1 oz. and 1/2 oz. If interested, please let me hear from you.

* * * * *

Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coins. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

Editor - Dick Hanscom
 Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth
 Anchorage Correspondent - Ken Rieck
 Canadian Correspondent - vacant
 Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb
 Subscription Rates: (all first class or airmail)

United States	\$30 per year
Canada	\$35 per year
Elsewhere	\$40 per year
PDF via email	\$20 per year
Both mail and PDF	\$40 per year

Collector's Advertising Rates:
 1 page - \$50 1/2 page - \$30 1/4 page - \$20
 1/8 page (business card size) - \$20 for 5 issues.
 Classified ads: \$1 per line.

PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Alakanuk , Alstrom, set of 6, B-1	75.00OB
Anchorage , Cheechako, 12 1/2¢, B-11bVI	17.06
Cleary , Willis & Welch, 25¢, B-5a	45.00OB
Juneau , Elks Club, 12 1/2¢, B-19bI	30.50
Kasigluk , Food Stamp Tokens	82.18
Nenana , Arctic, 25¢, B-1a	599.00OB
Petersburg , OK's Place, 5¢, B-7a	15.00OB
Petersburg , OK's Place, 5¢ + 10¢, B-7 a+b	48.01
Skagway , Cosslett & Ward, 10¢, B-7a	680.00
Tonsina , Jake Nafsted, 12 1/2¢, B-1a	44.56
Valdez , CBB, 12 1/2¢ in trade, B-4b	47.00



Alaska Tin, see page 5 62.55

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.
 * * * * *

PRICES REALIZED 2014-15

I have taken the selected prices realized from eBay as reported in this newsletter for these two years and combined them into one publication. This is in the same format as in the newsletter. They are arranged alphabetically and by Benice number so finding a token is easy. This listing runs 8 1/2 pages.

These are priced at \$8 for a mailed copy, and \$5 for an emailed PDF.

PRICES REALIZED 1999-2013 is still available. This is in a condensed format without business name, but with town and Benice numbers. It is arranged in four columns per page and is 7 pages. This is available for \$8 for a mailed copy, and \$6 for an emailed PDF.

Take both for \$15 mailed, or \$10 emailed.

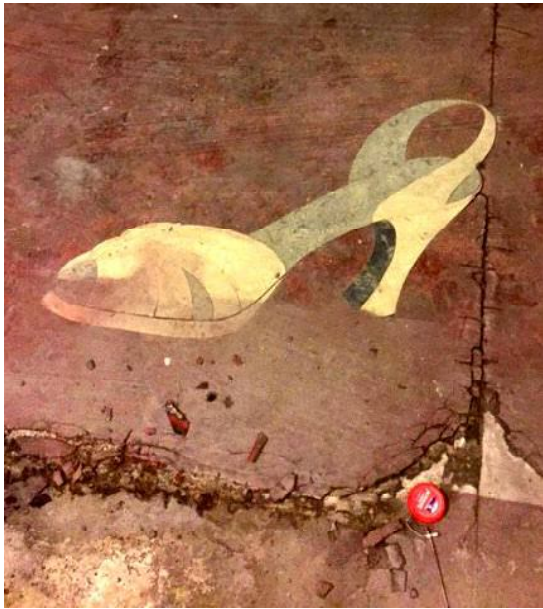
These are great tools for bidding or appraising your collection.

THE PANHANDLE, cont.

purchased the bar in 2005 from Shane Miller. Shane took over the bar from his mother, Molly, who had purchased the bar in 1960. She road out the 1964 earthquake, and there are cracks in the basement wall to prove it.

“Notorious Bars of Alaska” claims that during prohibition there was a tunnel connecting the bar with another bar, The Union Club, four doors down at 338 W. 4th., currently occupied by The Avenue. Tony and Jerry don’t believe this, but there are several patches in the basement that could have been a tunnel entrance. These could have been used by earlier bars occupying these locations as both the Union Club and The Panhandle arrived on the scene about 1941, well after prohibition.

Rumors of tunnels on the 300 block of 4th Avenue abound! The daughter of the owner of the Federal Bar (next door to the Panhandle), says there is a bricked passage that once went to a warehouse. Perhaps the tunnels were needed for illegal gambling, as there is a rumor that there are old slot machines stored in a basement on the 4th Avenue.



There is also a street entrance to the basement, which housed the Silver Slipper. This was also an entrance to an illegal bar during prohibition. The Silver Slipper came into existence about 1950 to 1958 and was for invited customers only, who did not want to rub elbows with the rougher crowd upstairs. The emblem of the Silver Slipper can still be seen on the floor.

I ran into Bill Wolter, who used to be the Business Agent for Anchorage’s Brick Layers Local #1. He studied their meeting minutes back into the 1950s. He said that for many years they held their meetings in the Silver Slipper. He had tried to find the loca-



The rails on the stairs are used today to roll the beer kegs down.



Many of the furnishings from the Silver Slipper are still in the basement.

Continued on page 4

THE PANHANDLE, cont.

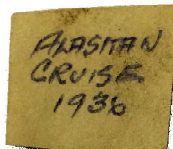
tion, and I was happy to be able to solve the mystery for him. He said that as the meetings progressed, the handwriting in the minutes grew less legible.



Jerry Buffington, who is 73 years old, told me the story of when he was a patron at the Reef Bar at 326 W. 4th Ave. in 1971 and got into a “fight with the Reef’s bartender.” It was closing and the bartender was angry at someone’s cheapness, so he threw a handful of drink tokens at them on the sidewalk. They would throw them back and the fight continued. Jerry still chuckles as he related how the street people were coming in for days and drinking with the tokens.

The token that started this research is shown on the front page. It is a recent discovery, and the only one known. It is made of cardboard, 38mm and printed black on tan (because of age, this may not be the original color of the token). Cardboard is a very fragile material (as compared to metal), and survivorship of this type of token is low.

It was found in a box that was purchased in an estate sale “outside.” Also in the box was this scrap of paper (21mm x 17mm). This perhaps puts it into a date context.



Sources:

Doug Vandergraft, author of *Notorious Bars of Alaska*.

Tony Warny

Jerry Buffington

Bill Wolter

SITKA: Blatchley Middle School, Huskies. Blue on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).

GERMANY HONORS AMUNDSEN

This German medal honors Roald Amundsen of Norway for being the first to the South Pole.



The obverse bears a portrait of Amundsen and the legend (translated from German): To honor Roald Amundsen / the courageous / Nordic explorer / V South Pole / the German brother Certified March 1912.



The reverse has an ice shelter with Norwegian flag. The legend (translated from German): Framheim (Amundsen’s base) on King Haakon VII Land / Dec. 16, 1911. The date is odd in that Amundsen achieved the Pole on Dec. 14.

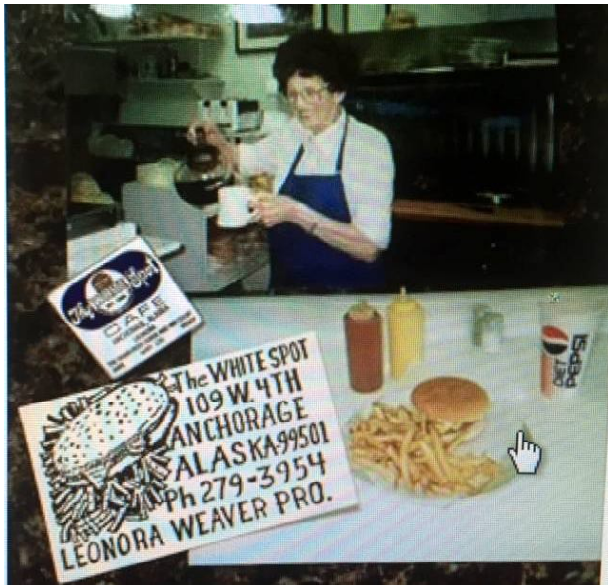
The medal is 50.2mm and weighs 47.6 grams. It is gilt base metal. It was struck by L.Chr. Lauer of Nuernberg.



WHITE SPOT CAFE



From the Alaska Gen Web Project: “Leonora Weaver (1909-2002) came to Alaska in 1951. She settled in Fairbanks and later moved to Anchorage and bought and operated the White Spot Cafe and served burgers until she was 90 years old. Her business was famous in Anchorage and was known as “the home town place to eat.” She was buried in Angelus Memorial Park, Anchorage.”



Given the cartoonish nature of her portrait on the trade dollar, she is remarkably recognizable!

J.W. Terrill relates a story from Keith Pillman: All I can think of is the time I was eating breakfast (when she was on 6th Ave.) and someone a few seats down the counter complained that he had ordered scrambled, not over easy. Obviously he was a newbie to Leonora. Leonora listened to him whine for about 30 seconds and then marched over with her spatula, and scrambled his over easy eggs on the plate. “There. Scrambled. Now shut up.” Classic Leonora.

Images provided by J.W. Terrill.

WHITE SPOT MULE



One cannot talk about the White Spot Cafe trade dollar without mentioning the “mule.”

The San Mateo, Calif., Mainliner Coin Club obverse (above) was muled with the Good in Trade \$1.00 reverse from the White Spot.

One of the more interesting modern Alaska tokens.

1042 CLUB



While researching the Panhandle Bar, I met 94 year old Louis Giggoliti. He is called “Jiggs.” He was a bartender around 4th Ave. for almost 40 years. I asked him about the 1042 Club. He remembered almost instantly and without any prompting said it was a “black bar on 5th Ave.” He also recalled that a famous black artist had played there, a piano player he said, although he could not remember his name. It was Stomp Gordon. See ATC&PN, May/June 2013, page 41 for more information.

J.W. Terrill

ALASKA TIN

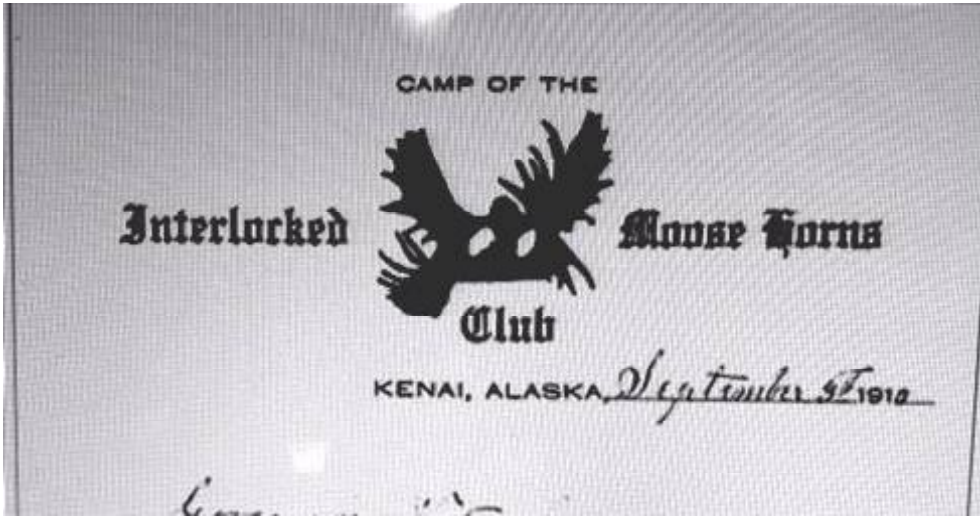
Obv.: This souvenir is made of Alaska Tin
Rev.: Louisiana Purchase Monument, St. Louis, 1904

Only the third we have seen. See ATC&PN Aug/Sept. 1992, or page 168 or our book “Tinnahs & Seal Skins, Gold Dust & Bingles.”

THE INTERLOCKED MOOSE HORN CLUB



Home of the Interlocked Moose Horn Club, with the Russian Orthodox Church in the background.
Simonson Collection; Anchorage Museum, B1991.009.90



Could the Interlocked Moose Horn Club be the venue for the use of The Moose Horn token? Probably no way to tell, but it seems likely.

This rare token recently sold on eBay for \$2,275.

(submitted by J.W. Terrill)

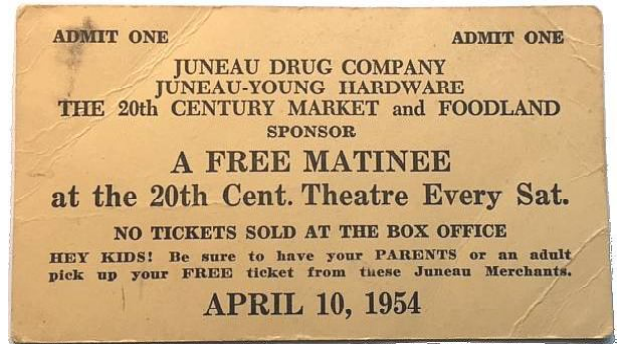
HEY KIDS!!!

COUNTERSTAMPED & HOLED



Probably not part of the hoard of the Northern Drug Co. tokens, which presented a previously unknown 12½¢ token.

What a story this token could tell. Why the "D", and too many reasons to be holed (to hang it on a nail?).



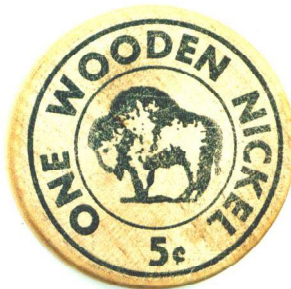
JUNEAU: Ticket for a free matinee at the 20th Cent. Theatre, April 10, 1954. "Hey Kids: Be sure to have your PARENTS or an adult pick up your free ticket from..." Juneau Drug Company, Juneau-Young Hardware, 20th Century Market and Foodland. Black on tan, actual size 127mm by 57mm. (submitted by J.W. Terrill).

MONEY TO BURN



by David Phillips

THE MUSIC STORE, NOME



This wood was purchased and issued by Leo and Erna Rasmussen in the mid 1970s shortly after purchasing the Music Store from the original owners, Frank and Louise Richardson, who opened the store in 1965.

Leo recalls that the number of woods ordered and received was the minimum order possible at that time, but either 100 or 250. Some time after this wood was issued, the name of the store was changed to the Music Mart.

The woods are standard size, or 1½ inches (38mm) and the printing on both sides is black ink. There was only one order, so no varieties.

The Rasmussens closed The Music Mart in 2012 due to changing times and the different patterns of purchasing.

The Music Mart sold more than just music. They also dealt in groceries and dry goods and these were shipped in to order.

The pipeline years were the boom years. At the high point, the Music Mart stocked more than 4,000 LPs and cassettes.

At the time of closing, the inventory included home-made art, plastic jewelry, fireworks, native art, Nome Kennel Club and Iditarod memorabilia, cassette tapes, books, maps, tools, china ware, toys and much more.

My thanks to Leo Rasmussen for supplying the above information.

MADE IN ITALY!!!



Tom Dalrymple sent in this souvenir medal, probably for a key chain. A nice dog mushing scene with the mountains in the background on the obverse, and “I bring good luck” on the reverse, with symbols of good luck (horseshoe, 4-leaf clover, etc.). It is octagonal bronze, 35mm point to point.



ITALY

SOUVENIRS IN....

ITALY is along the right edge. The bottom edge has SOUVENIR IN (an incomplete word).



This brought to mind another item. While searching eBay this week, I noticed that a seller stated that a Yukon medal was made in Italy. I dug mine out, and sure enough. This medal is silver plated with an antiqued finish, and comes in two sizes: 33mm and 50mm. It is part of a set of medals for the provinces and territories for Canada’s Centennial in 1967.



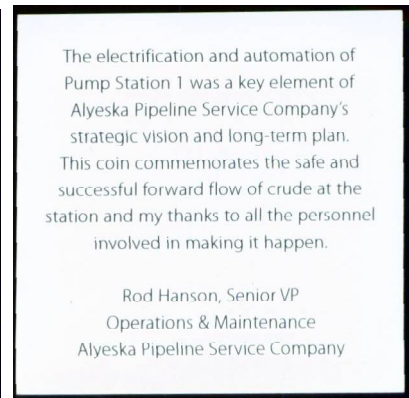
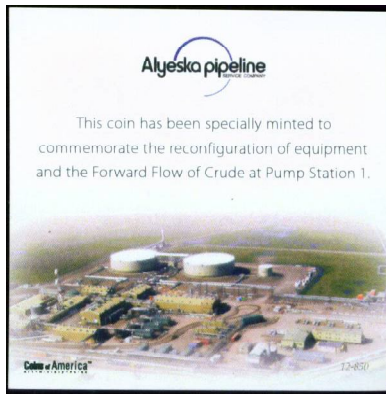
ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE COMPANY

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company is commemorating the completion of the reconfiguration of equipment and the Forward Flow of crude at Pump Station 1. The equipment was electrified and automated.

The medal is 39mm, and appears to be a copper-nickel alloy, with gold colored relief.

Traditionally, as rewards or incentives, the companies on the “Slope” would give 1 oz. silver medals or U.S. Silver Eagles.

The medal was made by “Coins of America.” The company is in Wisconsin.



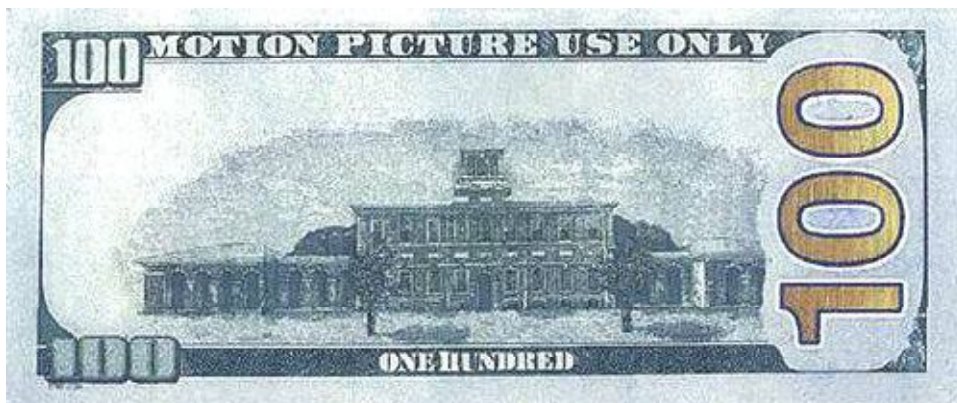
COUNTERFEIT MONEY IN FAIRBANKS

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported on Dec. 3 that a woman had been arrested for passing counterfeit currency. The fake was clearly marked on both sides “MOTION PICTURE USE ONLY.”

After her arrest, a search revealed (6) \$100, (3) \$50, (7) \$20 and (1) \$10, all counterfeit. A genuine \$10 was found also found, as well as a substantial quantity of illegal drugs. One of the \$100 bills found had the same serial number as the \$100 note that was passed.

To see the complete story on the FDNM webpage, go to: http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/fairbanks-woman-found-with-counterfeit-money/article_52c04d2e-9a63-11e5-bf61-1b2b13e57971.html

Esylum, the free email newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliophile Society reported that similar notes had been passed in Brainard, Minnesota. To subscribe to esylum, or see links to the newsletter, go to: <https://lists.capalon.com/lists/listinfo/esylum>



FAIRBANKS COIN CLUB CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The Fairbanks Coin Club achieved its 10th Anniversary, and this is commemorated on their 2016 club token. Club members receive the token as a benefit of being a member, and the token is stamped with their membership number.



The token is 1/10 ounce of .999 silver. They were made by Dick Hanscom, using his antique screw press. He first made tokens for the Fairbanks Coin Club in 2007, again in 2010, and every year since 2012. They are provided to the Club at no charge.

Examples of the 2016 Fairbanks Coin Club token are available for \$5 each, plus self addressed stamped envelope from Alaska Rare Coins, P.O. Box 72832, Fairbanks, AK 99707.

A few of the 2015 “Silver Center Cent” Fairbanks Coin Club tokens are still available. These have a silver plug inside a copper washer. These are \$10 each.



ONE OUNCE SILVER



SITKA: Alaska’s Historical Capital, Alexander Archipelago, Alaska’s Inside Passage. This has to be one of my favorite one ounce silvers. I don’t know who made it, or when it was issued. The design on both sides is crisp and clean, and it has a map. What’s not to like! **\$32.00 plus postage**

SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION: And at the opposite end of the spectrum... We have way to many of this, the first to be issued medal for the 25th anniversary of statehood in 1984. We are tired of them and bored of them. Please, relieve us of these and use them for stocking stuffers. Now over 25 years after the 25th anniversary. **\$25 each or 10 for \$200 plus postage.**

Postage on the above one ounce silver medals is \$5 per order (not per item).



50 YEARS OF UNICEF

An interesting medal featuring children of the world. Alaska gets its own medal, and there is just something odd about the portrait. Maybe it is the hood. I can’t put my finger on it. Just strange. It is proof, struck in .925 silver, weighs 25 grams and is 38mm in diameter.