

SCR

13

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



Senate

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Mike Miller, Chairperson
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Senator Bert Sharp *BMS*

RE: Request for Hearing - SCR 13


DATE: February 3, 1994

I am requesting Senate Concurrent Resolution 13, relating to the Gold Rush Centennial Decade, be heard before the Senate Resources Committee as soon as possible.

The intent of this resolution is to educate Alaskans and visitors to Alaska as to the importance of gold mining to our state's establishment, development and future. The resolution recognizes the years 1994-2004 as the Gold Rush Centennial Decade and urges schools, public and private organizations, and the people of the state to coordinate statewide celebrations of the 100th anniversary. This will serve to promote an understanding of the importance of the Gold Rush Era in Alaska's history and enhance tourism opportunities.

SCR 13 also recognizes the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force as coordinator and promoter of statewide centennial activities. For your information, on February 16, 1994 the Gold Rush Task Force Executive Committee and Annual Task Force meeting will be held in Juneau.

Thank you for your consideration.

 REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART

SPONSOR STATEMENT

ALASKA GOLD RUSH CENTENNIAL TASK FORCE

1993 Annual Report

Introduction Alaskans, realizing the potential of tourism, education, and preservation opportunities provided by the gold rush centennials, called for the creation of a statewide task force. In October 1992, at the direction of the Governor and Lt. Governor, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Department of Natural Resources formed the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force.

Mission The Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force's mission is to coordinate statewide celebrations of the 100th anniversaries in order to promote the understanding of the importance of the gold rush era in Alaska's history and to enhance tourism opportunities.

Recommendations for Legislative Action

- Officially recognize 1994-2004 as the gold rush centennial decade, make the gold rush centennials a high priority state project, and officially recognize the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force.
- Fund the Division of Tourism's FY95 capital request for \$100,000 for gold rush centennial projects.
- Fund a coordinator for \$60,000 to assist in implementing the recommendations in this study, to coordinate events and programs, to raise money for Task Force projects, and to organize Task Force members and projects.
- Fund tourism marketing programs of the Division of Tourism, Alaska Tourism Marketing Council, Alaska Marine Highway System, and other agencies as the Task Force has no tourism funding and must rely on existing programs.

Membership The Task Force has 124 members from 25 Alaska communities, Washington, and the Yukon Territory Canada. The newsletter is sent to an additional 369 people. Members represent federal, state, and municipal governments, tourism organizations, historical groups, museums, libraries, the news media, private businesses, educational institutions, and Native organizations.

Cooperative Efforts The Task Force is implementing its programs by encouraging cooperative efforts by state, federal, and local governments, non-profit organizations, and private businesses. Each of these groups is expected to contribute to the success of the Task Force. To promote this cooperative effort, the Task Force encourages special federal appropriations as needed to support gold rush projects by federal agencies.

Gold Rush Grant Program The Division of Tourism received \$50,000 in FY94 capital funds for gold rush centennial projects. This money is available for tourism attraction development, visitor information services, historic resources, and historic restoration projects. Individuals and groups in 30 communities submitted 151 letters of intent. The requests totalled \$657,100. Proposed projects included visitor brochures, interpretation projects, documentation of historic buildings and sites, restoration of gold rush era properties, publication of histories and photo collections, planning for museum displays, and preparation of educational materials. The Executive Committee will review the applications and make awards in February 1994.

Co-Chairs Judy Bittner, Chief, Office of History and Archaeology
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 107001
Anchorage, AK 99510-7001
Telephone: 762-2622. Fax: 762-2628

Wendy Wolf, Manager, Tourism Programs
Division of Tourism
Department of Commerce and Economic Development
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ALASKA GOLD RUSH CENTENNIAL TASK FORCE

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NEWSLETTER

Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
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Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7001
(907) 762-2622 • Fax (907) 762-2628

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1994

Next Task Force Meeting Planned

The next meeting of the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force will be held in Juneau, Wednesday, February 16, 1994. The meeting is scheduled from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Governor's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the State Capitol Building. The meeting will be teleconferenced statewide for those who cannot attend. Lt. Governor Jack Coghill will be the keynote speaker. In preparation for the teleconference, the Executive Committee will meet from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Division of Insurance Conference Room on the 9th floor of the State Office Building.

Those interested in participating in the afternoon teleconference are encouraged to travel to Anchorage or Fairbanks to join other participants at central locations. Contact Martha Levensaler at the Office of History and Archaeology, 762-2620, for teleconference information, or to make special teleconference arrangements.

In the evening the Task Force will sponsor a reception for legislators interested in learning more about the group. The event will be held at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum beginning at 5:00 p.m. Juneau businesses will provide the refreshments. Please make a special effort to attend and bring a friend.

Yukon Ideas Conference Rescheduled

The Yukon Anniversaries Commission's Ideas Conference '94 ("Prospecting for Gold & Discovering the Potential") has been rescheduled for February 9 - 11, 1994 in Dawson City. Cold weather forced the postponement from the earlier January date. Alaskans are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Cathy Hoehn, Community Liaison Officer, Yukon Anniversaries Commission, Bag 1998-1998, Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B 1G0, Telephone: (403) 993-1998, Fax: (403) 993-4653.

Unexpected Demand for Gold Rush Grants

The response to the Gold Rush grants program has been overwhelming. Over 150 Letters of Intent were submitted for the \$50,000 available. Individuals and groups in thirty communities around the state proposed \$657,100 worth of projects including visitor brochures, interpretation projects, documentation of historic buildings and sites, restoration of gold rush era properties, publications of histories and photo collections, planning for museum displays, and preparation of educational materials. Applications were limited to one per applicant resulting in 52 final applications totalling \$218,688. The Task Force Grant Committee will review the applications and make awards on February 16, 1994. For more information contact Kim Andrews, 465-2033.

NEWSLETTER:

ALASKA GOLD RUSH CENTENNIAL TASK FORCE



Call to Action!

JOIN A COMMITTEE

The Task Force has recently established an Education Committee. The Education Committee will promote the preparation of primary, secondary, post-secondary and adult educational materials about the Gold Rush Era. Members are needed for this committee, including a chair.

The Infrastructure and Facilities Committee also needs members. This committee will be addressing problems of increased visitor activity, such as use of roads, camping facilities, highway pullouts, waste handling, accommodations and water. If you are a planner or designer, you are especially encouraged to join this committee.

What's happening in your community?

Each issue of the Task Force Newsletter will feature the Gold Rush celebration plans of various communities. In this issue our featured communities are Eagle and Skagway. If your community is planning activities, events or any form of historical enrichment related to the Gold Rush, please let us know the details for possible inclusion in our next newsletter.

Eagle City to stabilize historic building

The present major activity at Eagle City which relates to the Gold Rush Centennial is the stabilization of the Improved Order of Redmen's Hall. Plans are to use the hall for celebrations of the discovery of gold in American and Mission Creek, founding of Eagle City (1897), building of Fort Egbert (1899), and incorporations of Eagle City (1901). The hall has just been willed to the Eagle Historical Society and funds are needed for the stabilization. Response has been great for donations by the members. For additional funds, a large auction is being planned for July 4, 1994. This would be a great time for Alaskans to visit and get acquainted with our historic Gold Rush area.

The IOOR Hall is a 30' x 60' log structure built in 1904 which served as the fraternal and social center for the early miners and soldiers in the Eagle area. Though it has not been in public use for over 20 years, we will finally have an indoor space for celebrations, large social events, auctions, art and craft exhibits, demonstrations and workshops and traveling exhibits.

Skagway going "lickety-split"

Sister Cities: Dawson & Skagway

A delegation from Skagway carried a city resolution to Dawson in late September endorsing a "sister city" relationship between the two towns. The resolution was presented at the end of two days of meetings between centennial committees along the route from Skagway to Dawson. Two Dawson councilors accepted the resolution and said Skagway should hear a response soon.

Skagway and Dawson representatives have been meeting about the centennial for more than a year, but this was the first formal meeting with representatives from other communities like Mayo/Keno and Carmacks. The group decided to call itself the Klondike Corridor Communities Association and will meet twice a year to help coordinate events for the upcoming centennial of the Klondike Gold Rush. It will meet again next April—probably in Carmacks—and the group plans to invite representatives from Haines, Haines Junction, Carcross, Atlin and Pelly Crossing.

After the April meeting, the group will present an agenda to the Yukon Anniversaries Commission and the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force for possible funding.

Events in the works

The communities already are working on some events:

- ⊗ Dyea-Dawson Race/Rally (June 1998) - Two-person teams would hike over the Chilkoot Trail and then canoe from Lake Bennett to Dawson.
- ⊗ International Snowmobile Race - A trail run between Watson Lake, Dawson and Skagway is set to occur in February 1994 with the first race scheduled for 1995. It could be combined with a winter story-telling festival.
- ⊗ "Ton of Gold" steamship - Dawson will work toward involving the MV Anna Maria in this ambitious project to reenact taking gold out from Dawson down the Yukon to St. Michael's/Nome and then down to Seattle/San Francisco. Skagway Tourism Director Bob Ward is trying to coordinate this event for 1997 through the Events subcommittee.
- ⊗ Klondike Film Festival: Dawson has compiled a list of more than 100 films made about Alaska/Yukon. Among those who earned their fortunes in the Klondike was the Disney character, "Scrooge McDuck." Dawson sees him as potential mascot material and is in contact with his agent.

Centennial Statue

Skagway is working on other projects on the local level. The centennial statue project received a nice boost from National Bank of Alaska: a donation of \$15,000. This puts them over \$30,000 in donations and pledges. The goal is to raise about \$20,000 more over the next few months and seek proposals from artists next year. They hope to have it completed in 1996. The statue will depict a Native packer leading a prospector up the trail. Donations can be sent to City of Skagway Centennial Project, P.O. Box 415, Skagway, AK 99840.

MEETING SUMMARIES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE *Summary of 10/26/93 Teleconference*

Subjects discussed:

- welcome to Bob Miller, new chair of the Marketing and Promotion Committee;
- GRCTF grant program - Executive Committee to review applications on February 16, 1994;
- comments on the Task Force annual report;
- next newsletter items;
- communication among committees;
- report from the Yukon Anniversaries Commission;
- Division of Tourism FY95 CIP request of \$100,000 for grant and media support;
- Legislative Economic Task Force public meeting; and
- report on the new Education Committee.

Actions:

- sending a letter from Executive Committee to DOT/PF regarding Gold Rush related projects; and
- Executive Committee meeting scheduled for morning, general Task Force meeting scheduled for the afternoon, and a legislative reception in the evening, February 16, 1994.



MARKETING AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE *Summary of 11/10/93 Teleconference*

Subjects Discussed:

- committee's purpose statement and actions items in the Task Force Report;
- logo design and coordination with the Yukon Anniversaries Commission (YAC);
- commemorative coins;
- report from the YAC on working with private companies;
- developing a list of companies that were doing business or got their start in the gold rushes;
- Gold Rush Centennial postage stamp;
- visitor destination passport;
- report from the Division of Tourism regarding joint efforts with California and Washington; and
- possibility of attracting national groups to meet in Alaska during the centennial period.

Actions:

- Phyllice Bradner will provide logo designs for discussion at the next meeting;
- Bob Miller will gather information regarding commemorative coins;
- Ron Pond will provide YAC's plan for working with private companies;
- Gene Tourangeau will gather information in Seattle on Gold Rush companies;
- Bob Miller will contact Rep. Don Young to ask how to request a commemorative postage stamp; and
- Cliff Roussell and Cathy Dunbar will research working with the Convention and Visitors Bureaus to attract national groups. Historic Resource Committee
Summary of 9/10/93 Teleconference

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Summary of 9/10/93 Teleconference

Subjects discussed:

- creating finding aids for Gold Rush materials, example - Anchorage Museum of History and Art finding aide to its Gold Rush photographs;
- identifying Gold Rush properties that are not listed on the National Register;
- submitting grant to the Alaska Humanities Forum for genealogical database project;
- planning Gold Rush symposiums throughout the state;
- updating the OHA Gold Rush timeline (now called chronology), new information is always welcome;
- writing a Task Force legislative report with a summary of activities, list of accomplishments, and plans for the future;
- KAKM's grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a documentary on the Yukon/Alaska Gold Rushes;
- Yukon Anniversaries Commission work on a logo; and
- Alaska Historical Society meeting, Fairbanks, October 7-10, 1993, the Task Force has an hour and a half workshop.

Actions:

- submit grant application for genealogical database project.

Summary of 10/26/93 Teleconference

Subjects discussed:

- brochure on donation of historical materials;
- update on the GRCTF grant program;
- genealogical database project - grant pending with the Alaska Humanities Forum, scheduled meeting on cutting edge computer technology;
- NPS photograph computer database;
- report on Virginia's Historic Farms program;
- symposium in association with KAKM's Gold Rush documentary;
- new Education Committee;
- newspaper project - community newspapers running articles from letters and diaries written 100 years ago;
- updates on the Alaska Historical Society, Alaska Visitor's Association, and Yukon Anniversaries Commission meetings; and
- report on museum activities relevant to the Gold Rush statewide.

Actions:

- creation of a Museums Coordination Subcommittee, Historic Resource Committee

Summary of 11/22/93 Teleconference

Subjects discussed:

- Alaska Humanities Forum award of \$1,200 for the Gold Rush Participant Database project;
- NPS workshop on database systems for organizing photographic collections;
- adapting the Virginia Historic Farms program to the GRCTF - recognition of historic properties and recognition for tracing family members who participated in the Gold Rushes;
- report on symposium planning;

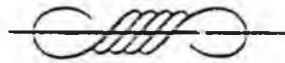
(Continued on page 6)

(Historic Resources Committee, 11/22/93, continued)

- updates on the Yukon Anniversaries Commission and the GRCTF grant program;

Actions:

- creation of a subcommittee for Gold Rush property/relative recognition.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Summary of 9/9/93 Teleconference

Subjects discussed:

- meeting of representatives of the Skagway Centennial Commission, the Yukon Anniversaries Commission, and the Gold Rush Centennial Task Force in Skagway;
- update on the Yukon Anniversaries Commission;
- Community reports:
 - Skagway: interested in a reenactment of the arrival of the Portland in Seattle by putting together a river trip from Dawson to St. Michael's, then to Seattle;
 - Nome: town meeting held for centennial planning and for restoration of Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church;
 - Fairbanks: Festival Fairbanks is coordinating Gold Rush events in Fairbanks; working on a reenactment of the Felix Pedro's walk to meet E.T. Barnette and the *Lavelle Young*;
- community exchange of lists of activities and events;
- Task Force legislative report; and
- Alaska Visitors Association convention, Anchorage, October 6-9; Alaska Historical Society meeting, Fairbanks, October 7-10, 1993.

Actions:

- write letter to DMV requesting a new license plate design commemorating the Gold Rush; and
- contact State of Washington Visitor Assn. chapters and Chambers of Commerce.

Summary of 10/20/1993 Teleconference

Subjects discussed:

- updates of the Alaska Visitors Association and Alaska Historical Society meetings;
- GRCTF grant program status report;
- Community reports:
 - Nome: more groups are getting involved, plans for restoring Old St. Joseph's Church are progressing, plan to approach NBA for funds to create a display of old casting equipment;
 - Fairbanks: people from different organizations had a chance to meet at the Historical Society meeting, projects include the Felix Pedro trail, University School mines display, and exhibits on the history of Fairbanks;
 - Anchorage: Betsy Tower, President of the Cook Inlet Historical Society, has stated she wants to coordinate centennial celebrations in the Anchorage area;
 - Skagway: received \$15,000 donation from NBA for a statue depicting a Native packer leading a prospector up the trail, is forming a Klendike Corridor Communities Association with communities in southeast and the Yukon; planned activities include a Dyea to Dawson Race/Rally, a

(Events & Activities Committee, 10/20/93, continued)

snowmobile race, a film festival of Gold Rush movies, and a steamship reenactment;

Juneau: coordinating with downtown businesses and community groups, ideas for events include creating a living history tent city, tours of a schooner with supplies and people in period dress, placing historic markers throughout the city, and tours of mining properties; and

- letter to DMV from Executive Committee requesting a new license plate design with a Gold Rush theme.

Actions:

- formation of a subcommittee to coordinate planning a steamship reenactment; and creation of a new section in the newsletter for community reports, representatives of each community are to submit reports to Wendy by November 5.



INTERPRETATION & MARKERS COMMITTEE

Summary of 9/28/93 Teleconference

Subjects discussed:

- inventorying current Gold Rush interpretation statewide by distributing a survey form;
- report from Wendy on her presentation to the Governor's Tourism Coordinating Committee on the Task Force;
- a Gold Rush MOU;
- 1969 report, "Alaska Historical Markers and Centennial Plaques" of the Division of Highways;
- curriculum and training program report: identified audiences and method of training;
- game and brochure on historic and present-day gold panning locations progress report;
- DOT accepting public comments on three-year CIP list which has 700 proposed projects;
- DOT program for next fiscal year to include a corridor analysis and interpretive plan;
- working with the Yukon Anniversary Commission on creating a logo; and attempts at seeking funding through state and federal agencies.

Actions:

- Wendy Wolf and Kristi Kantola will draft a survey form for inventorying current interpretation statewide;
- send Judy Bittner ideas to be included in Gold Rush MOU;
- Wendy Wolf to contact the Department of Education for input in the curriculum and training program;
- Wendy Wolf submitted a CIP request to fund second grant cycle and Gold Rush brochure;
- request the directors of the Divisions of Tourism and Parks and Outdoor Recreation to send a joint letter to DOT stating their support of CIP projects on behalf of the Task Force; and
- approach the Alaska congressional delegation about funding for the Task Force.

(Interpretation & Markers Committee, continued)

Summary of 11/9/93 Teleconference

Subjects discussed:

- survey of present goals for Gold Rush interpretation;
- MOU draft proposals for sign placement along highways, use Oregon Trail MOU as example;
- Education Subcommittee now a GRCTF committee, developing school curriculum;
- MECC (MN Education Computer Company) has an Oregon Trail game; brochure content is not clear, suggested Executive Committee discuss in February;
- additional interpretive themes;
- Frank Norris reported on markers program in Alaska; and
- creation of Markers Subcommittee and its tasks.

Actions:

- Wendy Wolf working on draft of goals for Gold Rush interpretation;
- Kristi Kantola sending a copy of the Oregon Trail MOU to members;
- Mike Sica to contact MECC;
- Kristi Kantola sending additional interpretive themes to members; and
- creation of Markers Subcommittee.

Disabilities Video Available

The National Park Service and the Office on Accessibility have produced *Entrances to the Past*, a 28-minute video, to discuss the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and historic buildings. The video addresses the legal requirements governing accessibility and preservation and ADA's accessibility standards. It also shows how to evaluate a historic building for accessibility and gives some appropriate accessibility solutions. OHA staff highly recommend the video.

Entrances to the Past is available for \$13.00 (closed or open captioned) from Historic Windsor, Inc., P.O. Box 1777, Windsor, VT 05089-0021 (phone 802-674-6752).

Alaska Gold Rush Centennial

TASK FORCE

Judy Bittner and

Wendy Wolf, co-chairs

P.O. Box 110801

Juneau, AK 99811-0801

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCR 13

Revision Date: February 9, 1994 Dept. Affected: None
 Title: Gold Rush Centennial Decade BRU: n/a
 Component: n/a
 Sponsor: SHARP
 Requestor: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. ---

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Estimate of any current year (FY94) cost: \$ ---

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Senator Mike Miller
 Division: Senate Resources Committee
 Approved by: Michael W. Hill Chair
 Agency: Senate Resources Committee

Phone: 465-4907
 Date: 2/9/94
 Date: 2/9/94

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