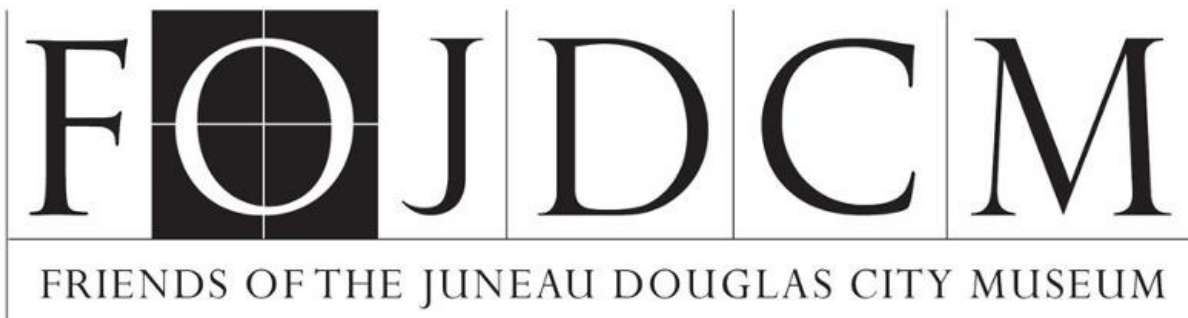


HISTORY ON THE CHANNEL YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FLASH



GLEANINGS FROM OUR NEW CITY HALL!

From 1913 until about 1951, virtually all the functions of Juneau's city government were housed in a handsome structure at Fourth and Main Streets. Juneau's City Hall was occupied in late November and early December of 1913. The Fire Department, Library, jail, Council chambers, City offices, and part of the school all moved in. The center of action for our booming metropolis, and a source of great local pride.

Juneau, and the other towns on the Channel, were indeed bustling in those days. The big mines were under development. Government, fishing, and other commerce were rolling along. Juneau had become the regional hub for northern Southeast. The city was undertaking an extensive program of development and enhancement—a water system, electricity, even a plank road (Willoughby Avenue) to Gold Creek. Read all about some of our City's business. (Then, as now, Juneau teetered on the brink of insolvency).



The new City Hall, looking toward Fourth and Main from the site of the future State Capitol. To the left, the Arctic Brotherhood Hall; on the right, the Federal Courthouse and Jail. About 1918. ASL P87 0882

FIREMEN TO WORK FOR FREE TO HELP CITY OF JUNEAU

November 25, 1913--At a special meeting of the Juneau Volunteer Fire Department last night, the department voted to make all fire runs from now until next July without charge to the city, after former Chief Hurlbutt, who is now one of the city councilmen, and Mayor Charles W. Carter, addressed the meeting and told of the debt into which the city had been plunged by heavy improvement work and the construction of the new City Hall.

HONOR OF CITY BACK OF WARRANTS

November 26, 1913--More than half of the \$30,000 personal guarantee for the redemption of city warrants that may be in the future be issued to carry on the city's affairs has already been secured. Many persons came forward without solicitation and offered to sign, in diverse amounts. But it is the desire to have this guarantee supported by people in general and for this reason the subscription paper will continue to be circulated until it has the full amount realized.

The last legislature passed a very stringent banking law which requires that all securities shall pass inspection within the limits of the law. The passing of this act makes it necessary to secure the payment of the city warrants just the same as any other obligation. The schools are dependent upon the city resources. Owing to the heavy expenditure to provide additional room for other city improvements, the legal limit has been reached on warrants and there is no other way of securing the payment of these warrants, and without such security the banks cannot under the law honor the drafts of the city.

Monday night the Juneau fire department met in the new quarters for the first time and at this meeting the existing conditions were discussed. The department entered enthusiastically to the spirit of helping things along by voluntarily voting to serve without pay until July. The boys are very proud of their new fire hall and realize that the building of it and the establishment of the alarm system is a major civic achievement.



"The boys are very proud of their new fire hall" 1920s. JDCM 97-04-003

CITY PRISONERS GO ON STRIKE

December 8, 1913--No work, no eat. This is the edict issued by Captain Martin of the local police force when three prisoners in the city jail refused to perform the menial task of cleaning the gutters on downtown streets this morning. The prisoners declared their willingness to work around the City Hall, cutting wood and doing such chores that help to create an appetite for dinner but they drew the line at cleaning gutters in the downtown streets.

“All right”, said the chief, “no work, no eat”. And there the matter rests.

In the meantime the prisoners are reclining safely in their concrete cells in the new City Hall and the jailer says they will be fed on bread and water tonight.

[In some parts of town, “gutter” meant “open sewer”. Moreover, most of our transportation was by teams of horses. This may explain the prisoner reluctance.]



City Hall, from Main Street, about 1920. The jail was in the basement. JDCM 2002-12-004

DOORS IN NEW CITY HALL ARE "DANGER GATES"

December 8, 1913--A complaint has been made at the doors of the new City Hall, which swing inward instead of outward. A movement has been started to petition the City Council to change the doors, so that the lives of the schoolchildren who are using the upper floors would not be menaced in case of fire breaking out in the building.

Outward swinging doors are required in buildings all over the United States, whether it is a small town or a large city.

The campaign for the installation of the safe and some kind of a door in the City Hall is by no means a personal campaign against the designers of the building. Nor at the City Council. On the contrary, say the opponents of the change, the movement has been started mainly to ensure safety to the occupants of the building in case of conflagration.



The main entrance, perhaps showing the "Danger Gates". About 1920. ASL P97-0246

TOM DULL HAD HIGH HAND AND WON ALL STAKES. POKER PLAYERS PAID INTO THE CITY TREASURY

December 30, 1913--Night patrolman Tom Dull and other officers raided a barber shop at First and Ferry streets at 9:30 last night and arrested six lads who were playing poker. Cards and considerable money were confiscated as evidence.

The prisoners were taken to the city jail and held under \$50 bail each. Three of them deposited bail forthwith but it was 2:00 AM before the other three could raise the price of their freedom. The officers are determined to eradicate the wave of gambling that is sweeping over the city and all culprits who think they can slip one over on the city guardians of the law will be summarily dealt with.

The bulletins from City Hall are extracted from the *Alaska Daily Empire* and are abridged.