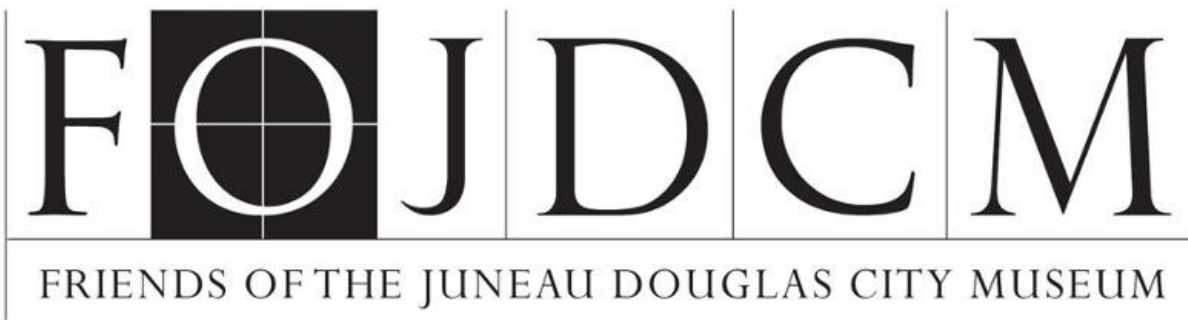


HISTORY ON THE CHANNEL
YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FLASH



ALASKA
Mining **Record**

JUNEAU, ALASKA. FEBRUARY 18 1895

SAFE-TAPPERS AT WORK IN OPERA HOUSE

OPERA HOUSE BAR ENTERED AND A GOODLY SUM STOLEN.

The safe in the bar-room of Winn Brothers' saloon was robbed of \$1,150 sometime during Thursday morning. The saloon was closed about two o'clock that morning and Mr. Winn thinks the safe was left with only the day-lock on. In the safe besides a few dollars in change, were two sacks of coin, one containing \$1,000, the other \$150, both belonging to James Winn, Gus Bakke, and Thomas Wilson, which was used in the Faro game.

The money was not missed until about five o'clock Thursday evening. Search for some clue to the missing money was immediately begun. The theory is that someone partially acquainted with the premises did the act, for the entrance was made through a trap door under the building, which led to the bar-room. Fresh tracks in the snow were noticed leading to and from this entrance and as the floor was not securely fastened, the party had no difficulty in getting away with the boodle; besides, the place of entrance was an out-of-the-way one, which kept him from the site of anyone who might be passing by.

Suspicion was attached to some parties and the authorities made a search; but nothing was found in their possession that would warrant an arrest. Considerable carelessness was manifest in the management and a thief has undoubtedly taken advantage of it.

HE RETURNED THE MONEY

Some three weeks ago two bags of money in the amount of \$1125 were taken from the safe of Winn Brothers, in the Opera House Saloon, the money being that which was used in the Faro game. Some suspicion was attached to Gus Winkler at the time; a search warrant was issued and a search made of his room and person. Later, other parties were searched, but no one was found and the owners of the money had about given up the chase.

Yesterday morning the news was circulated that Winkler had “found” the money. It seems that Winkler, being new at the business, became frightened at the suspicion attached to him and expressed his desire to return to the treasure, providing, of course, that no action would be taken against him. The money was returned yesterday morning by Winkler, which he had “found” cached on the beach. Yesterday evening Marshall Hale arrested Winkler, and he is now lodged in jail awaiting the preliminary examination. Winkler tells that he wanted to give up the money because he didn’t know how to dispose of it. Little sympathy is with him, from the fact that he has expressed no willingness to work for several months. All the money was returned but \$60, which had been devoted to personal use. The Boys feel rather jubilant in receiving back their coin.

The Opera House, at the southeast corner of Second and Seward Streets, was initially built in 1887. Over the years, it housed a saloon, a gambling den, a temporary courthouse, a theater (later with movies), space for church services and political meetings, cafes, clothing stores, music and record shops, and apartments. It was seriously damaged but rebuilt after a 1897 fire, then burned beyond repair in 1959. The site is now occupied by Wells Fargo Bank.



The bar in the Opera House, about 1903.
(ASL-P117-024)



The cast and orchestra of a stage production at the Opera House, about 1890. (ASL-P87-1157)