

Please join us for our
Annual Meeting and
Program

Richard Carstensen,
Southeast Alaska naturalist
Wed., Nov 13 7-9PM
Hangar Ballroom

*Light refreshments will be
provided!*

Richard will present his two new publications:

Natural History of Juneau Trails
Reading Southeast Alaska's Landscape

The FoJDCM are now accepting 2014 memberships.
Each 2014 member that joins at the \$75/fellow level will receive Richard's new
book, *Natural History of Juneau Trails*.

History on the Channel

Your Monthly News Flash from the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum

This month, we take note of the Silver Bow Strike.

Here's Richard Harris' account of the event, extracted from Bob

"On Sunday (October 3) we packed one Indian [Kaawa.ee] and Juneau and myself and the Indian started for the head waters of Gold Creek and tributaries. We could not follow the creek as the brush was too compact and one or two canyons we could not well get around. Our only show was to climb the mountain. We followed up Snow Slide Gulch and worked our way to the summit of the mountain. After reaching the summit we obtained a beautiful view of what is now called Silver Bow Basin and Quartz Gulch. The basin I named after Silver Bow mines in Montana, and the gulch I named from the fact that it contained the most gold bearing quartz I had ever seen in one gulch.

"We followed the gulch down from the summit of the mountain into the basin and it was a beautiful sight to see the large pieces of quartz. Before we got to the mouth of the gulch we examined several quartz lodes that cropped out on the edges of the gulch and I broke some with a hammer and Juneau and myself could hardly believe our eyes. We knew it was gold, but so much and not in particles; streaks running through the rock and little lumps as large as peas or beans. We then made our camp for the night down in Silver Bow Basin, and early in the morning while Juneau and the Indian were cooking break- fast, I took the gold pan, pick and shovel and panned four pans and got \$1.20 to \$1.30 to the pan. After breakfast we went to staking and measuring the placer mines in the gulch."

"We prospected around Silver Bow Basin until the 18th of October, and had our Indians pack out to the beach on salt water about 1,000 lbs, of gold quartz rock, the richest I ever seen. We picked the best specimens that we could find. We packed it over the highest mountain, a distance of three miles to salt water, along about the 20th of October."



Silver Bow Basin, about 1927. Dotted line shows the route that the prospectors took down Quartz Gulch. (US Navy photo)

Bob writes:

Richard T. Harris and Joseph Juneau had at last made a gold discovery, the first of any magnitude in Alaska and one that was soon to result in the founding of a new city, the first to be founded in Alaska after the transfer. [And] it seems entirely possible that Chief [Kawaa.ee] of the Auks, anxious to earn his hundred blankets, all but led them by the hand up Snowslide Gulch, down Quartz Gulch, and into the Promised Land of Silver Bow Basin.

But however many assists they may have had along the road, Dick Harris and Joe Juneau were the men who set the discovery stakes and they are the men whose names remain on the maps and in the history books.

Volunteer opportunities at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum

Poster Hanging

Seeking five or six Friends to assist in hanging posters around town which promote Museum shows.

Please contact:

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