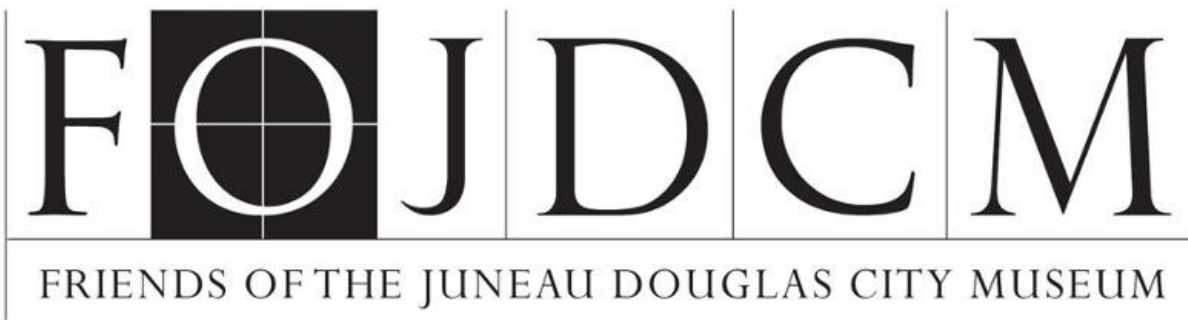


HISTORY ON THE CHANNEL YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FLASH



From Juneau's very beginning, the intersection of Front and Seward Streets has been our social and commercial cross-roads--the place where things happen. Few events in the area's history have produced more short-term excitement than the "Runaway Bus of '56". Here's the *Juneau Independent's* account of the drama, together with some photos. (Things continue to happen at Front and Seward. The hardware store site is now occupied by the Walter Soboleff Center).

The Juneau Independent

JUNEAU, ALASKA, THURSDAY, June 10, 1956

Price 10c

Careening Bus Injures Two, Punches Hole In Building, But Misses Crowd

June 10, 1956--Only minor injuries to two persons, though major "renovation" of a store building and heavy damage to a bus, resulted yesterday morning when a Channel Lines bus roared out of control down Seward street at 60 miles an hour and plowed through the wall of Rusher's Juneau-Young hardware store.

Ray Clements, the driver, the only person on the big bus, suffered minor lacerations to his hands and face. Ronnie Rusher, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rusher, suffered a sprained ankle. He was inside the store.

The air brakes on the bus failed as Clements turned into Seward Street above the Federal building [now the State Capitol]. His frantic attempts to shift the vehicle into gear were unsuccessful as it picked up speed going down the hill. Clements fought the bus all the way down as it whistled across Fourth, zipped across Third, roared across Second, and headed at a mile a minute for the busiest intersection in town, Seward and Front.

Swerving the bus to miss a car there, he glanced off a telephone pole and rammed through the store wall. Fully two thirds of the bus went inside, scattering fishing tackle, guns, and store fixtures and knocking young Rusher flat.

A large crowd gathered as Rusher was taken to St. Ann's Hospital, police directed traffic, and a wrecker was summoned to extricate the bus. A crew under direction of Walter Stutte went to work almost immediately, cleaning up the building debris and fashioning a temporary "plug" for the huge gaping hole in the side of the building.

Damage to the building was estimated at \$3500. The front end of the bus was badly smashed.



"Fully two thirds of the bus went inside...." Brian Wallace Collection, ASL-PCA-533-1-1



"....scattering fishing tackle, guns, and store fixtures and knocking young Rusher flat". Brian Wallace Collection, ASL-PCA-533-1-4