

FAIRBANKS MEN SEND TAFT MASTODON TUSK

Ornament of Heroic Proportions Contains \$1,000 In Gold, Representing Various Northern Districts.

MEMORIAL OF RECENT VISIT OF SECRETARIES

Order Given Tiffany of North for Most Striking Product He Could Devise and He Pleases Customers.

A section of mastodon tusk twenty-five inches long, crusted with bas-reliefs wrought in unalloyed Alaska gold that form an epitome of gold mining in the Interior North, is a heroically proportioned desk ornament citizens of the Tanana Valley are sending to President W. H. Taft. The presentation is intended to mark the recent visit to Fairbanks of Secretary of Commerce and Labor Charles Nagel and Attorney-General George Wickersham, personally representing the chief executive.

While the cabinet officials were entertained, and became popular. At a big reception one evening, the suggestion was made by a wealthy mine owner that a symbolical souvenir be sent to President Taft as a token of appreciation.

Best Ever Demanded.

Orders were given J. L. Sale, a jeweler, whose designs of such character have made him known as the Tiffany of the North, to produce the most elaborate memento ever sent out of Alaska. This meant some task, for Alaskans have contracted the habit of sending Presidents and other prominent men costly souvenirs of various kinds done in native gold. Sale succeeded in pleasing his exacting customers.

Sale is now in Seattle on his way to California. In describing the souvenir to a group of acquaintances at the Seattle Hotel yesterday, he said:

"It is simply a great piece of mastodon ivory, mounted with gold. The ivory was dug from a mine, where the tusk had lain for hundreds of years. It is a beautiful piece, its striking characteristics of color being brought out effectively by polishing.

Various Gold in Mountings.

"More than \$1,000 worth of gold is contained in the mountings. It is in a variety of colors, every district's gold being represented by pieces, the natural shade of which has not been altered.

"The main part of the gold mounting shows the McKinley Range of mountains, this forming a background for miniature mining plants, cabins, and other symbols. Inscribed on a label plat is a greeting to the President from the citizens of Fairbanks."

Mr. Sale said committee-men representing citizens were preparing to ship the souvenir when he left Fairbanks, about a month ago, and he expects that it will reach Washington some time this month. It had been arranged while in Fairbanks two cabinet members were in Fairbanks to have the presentation made by Attorney-General Wickersham, and for that reason it was being expressed to him.

Business Bringing Ads

¶ We are handling the accounts of eleven successful Seattle merchants, and we are prepared to handle yours, thus lifting from your mind all the responsibilities of ad writing, arranging for space, supervising proofs and other details too cumbersome for a busy merchant.

¶ Small accounts have the same careful attention as large ones.

¶ Estimates given for Advertising Campaigns.

¶ Phone us—we will call.

THE BARTON

PUBLICITY
ADVERTISING AGENCY

Orary Building, Seattle.

PHONE: MAIN 2703; IND. 2 964.

GREGG SHORTHAND TAUGHT IN 3 TO 5 MOS. GRIFFIN'S BUSINESS COLLEGE NEW HAIGHT BLDG. SECOND & PINE

MANY VACANCIES IN LABOR PARTY TICKET

Organization Pays \$290 in Fees for Filing List of Candidates Nominated at Recent Tacoma Convention.

UTTER AND TIERNEY
OUT FOR COMMISSION

RA

Alaska Bldg

Three Da Offerings

Sensation

Raincoa

Bargain

BEGINNING
place on sale
That will end
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garments at a
garment. Ju

Girls' Storm Co
storm hood, including
of Raincoats, at

\$2.50, \$

English Slip

Here they are.
weather Coat for me
domestic water-proo
range of fabrics to se

\$14.50

Ladies and M

Ladies' English Moh
double service gar
or shine, at
\$13.50 and... **\$**

Ladies' English Slip
cluding a number
fine Crave-
nette Coats. **\$1**

Ladies' Tailored Al
Garments, importe
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and **\$1**

Mail Orders given p
Measure. E

ALTERATIONS 614
FREE OF

November 1, 1943

President, Chamber of Commerce,
Fairbanks, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

We have recently acquired a number of items which belonged to the late Ex-President William H. Taft, among which is a desk set, presented to him by the City of Fairbanks. It is approximately 2' long, and is a tusk, finished with gold figures in relief. The figures depict typical Alaskan scenes; dog teams, bears, cabins, mountains, and miner's equipment, all in virgin gold. There are also inset boxes for stamps, pen wiper, seal, etc., also in gold.

In the event that your city has an interest in this item, it is being quoted at \$1,000 net, plus 10% Federal excise tax. We are of the opinion that it would be of historic interest to the city of Fairbanks, and for that reason we are offering it to you prior to placing it in our general stock.

Very truly,

MURRAY GALLERIES

BY Murray Starbecker

COPY

November 24, 1943.

Senator Robert A. Taft,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

During the term your respected father William Howard Taft was president of the United States, the people, by public subscription, purchased and sent him an Alaskan Souvenir in the form of a small desk ornament made of native ivory and gold.

We did this out of respect for your father and the high office to which he had been elected, believing that he would get some pleasure from the souvenir and that his heirs would treasure such a gift and keep it as a family possession as long as the Taft family existed.

We are dissappointed to learn that this gift of the people of Fairbanks, Alaska has been sold to the Murray Galleries in Washington, and that it is now being offered by them for sale on a strictly commercial basis.

We discussed the offer of the Murray Galleries to allow us to repurchase this gift from them for \$1,000.00, tax added, but after considering the matter this chamber concluded that since it had been instrumental in making the gift to President Taft, years ago, it would not call upon our members for money to repurchase the gift.

It would be fitting and very much more in line with the traditions of your family if this gift were recalled by the Taft heirs and have same turned over to the Alaska Museum at Juneau or to the University of Alaska at Fairbanks where it could be appreciated by future generations and be a lasting memory to a great man and a good president.

We hope that you will do something about this before the gift passes into the hands of strangers who have no interest in it except for raw gold and ivory that was so skillfully used in its creation.

Yours very truly,

FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Secretary

November 24, 1943.

Murray Galleries,
1400 Sixc. Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your communication of November 1st, regarding a gift we made to the late president W. H. Taft a number of years ago.

We are suprised and dissapointed to learn that this expensive gift to the late President Taft has fallen into your hands on a commercial basis and probably for a fraction of what the people of Fairbanks, Alaska, contributed at the time it was made.

It seems to us that the estate of W. H. Taft pulled an awful boner when they offered this, the gift of the people of Fairbanks, for sale.

We bought this once as a gift and in respect to the late President Taft, but you now ask us to buy it again from you which, to say the least is a laugh.

We are writing Senator Taft, son of the donee, and are making a vigorous protest against the sale of this article of the later president's estate and are suggesting that, it would be appropriate and fitting, in this case, if the estate would redeem the gift from you and donate it to the Museum at the University of Alaska.

We are writing Senator Taft by this same mail and we hope he will make some arrangement with you so that this gift will revert to the Territory of Alaska and be placed with the museum mentioned and be a lasting emblem for future generations to view and enjoy.

Yours very truly,

Secretary

January 4, 1944

Mr. J. G. Rivers,
Secretary, Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce,
Fairbanks, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Rivers:

I received your letter of November twenty-fourth, and I was very much chagrined at the fact that the Alaska souvenir was sold with some of the other effects from my mother's house after her death. All of my mother's and father's property was left to my sister, Mrs. Frederick J. Manning of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. During many years my mother and father had accumulated all kinds of furniture and souvenirs, and it was my sister's intention to reserve all of these which had any sentimental or historical value. Unfortunately she missed the inscription on the Alaskan souvenir.

My sister wrote me that she was very much upset by the occurrence, and requested me to try to buy back the ivory and gold souvenir from Murray Galleries. Through C. G. Sloane & Company, the Washington auctioneers, we have been able to do so at a cost of \$450.00, \$100.00 more than they paid for it at the auction.

Mrs. Manning desires to present this desk ornament to the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, as you suggest, providing that it can be properly exhibited with a short history of the presentation by the people of Fairbanks, Alaska, to my father, and the donation thereof by Helen Taft Manning to the University.

I should be greatly obliged if you would let me know where the ornament should be shipped.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT;Mc

FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fairbanks, Alaska

Member U. S. Chamber of Commerce

January 31, 1944

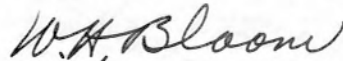
Dr. Charles E. Bunnell, President
University of Alaska
College, Alaska

Dear Dr. Bunnell:

I believe you will find the enclosed copies of correspondence self-explanatory. We trust that this museum-piece may be displayed to good advantage at the University of Alaska.

Special credit for having this trophy returned to Fairbanks is due Mr. J. G. Rivers, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Frank S. Gordan, and Mr. E. B. Collins.

Very truly yours,



W. H. Bloom
President

Chamber of Commerce

WHB/jem

February 5, 1944.

Senator Robert A. Taft,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Taft:

Through the office of the President of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce I have just received copy of the file in the matter of the ivory and gold souvenir mentioned in your good letter of January 4, 1944, and addressed to Mr. J. G. Rivers, Secretary of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Manning and yourself are most generous in a delicate situation which developed with reference to the souvenir presented to President Taft.

The University of Alaska is pleased to accept this souvenir and keep it always on display in a locked case in its museum. A properly inscribed plate covering the history of its presentation by the people of Fairbanks to President Taft together with the statement that it is donated to the University of Alaska by Helen Taft Manning will explain this donation and I know will prove of great interest to all who visit our institution.

On behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska, I want to thank Mrs. Manning and yourself for your good offices in the matter of this souvenir, and assure you that I am especially pleased to have the University of Alaska accorded the privilege of helping, in an unusual way, to perpetuate the memory of a great President, a great jurist, and a great man.

The souvenir can be shipped by express to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Sincerely,

CEB:etc

President

February 5, 1944.

Fairbanks Chamber Commerce,
Fairbanks, Alaska.

ATTENTION: W. H. Bloom, President

Gentlemen:

I thank you for the file in the matter of the souvenir presented to President Taft and the action taken by Senator Taft and his sister, Helen Taft Manning to present this souvenir to the University of Alaska.

For your file I am enclosing copy of a letter I have just written to Senator Taft.

Thank you for your assistance in having such a splendid item donated to our museum.

I am,

Sincerely,

CEB:etc

President

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE
BRYN MAWR
PENNA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE

March 18, 1944

Dear President Bunnell,

My brother Robert has sent me your letter of February fifth, and I am very happy to think that the gift which was presented to my father by the people of Alaska will be permanently housed in your museum. I should like to have it come as the gift of my two brothers and myself, since we are all of us interested in having it at the University of Alaska. However, if the other inscription is already prepared, I know that it will nevertheless be understood that the whole Taft family wished it to be there.

I am very sorry that the original mistake occurred. It was really the result of a lapse of memory on my part, which was probably due to the fact that I was not at home when the gift arrived. My mother had always kept the ivory tusk on a table in the drawing room, but the inscription seems to have escaped our notice, and as none of us have much space to keep things at the present time, we did not know enough of its history to offer it either to the White House or to one of the Washington museums. I am delighted to think that it will now be exhibited in the right place.

Very sincerely yours,

Helen Taft Manning
Acting Dean of the College

President Charles E. Bunnell
University of Alaska
College, Alaska

Form 7525-V
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FOREIGN COMMERCE STATISTICAL
REGULATIONS
(See Instr. 5—Reverse Side)

File No. _____
(Section Customs Statistics)
(This space for use of Customs)

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Ry. Ex. Agency
(2052—10-42)

Customs File No.
5-10

Read carefully the instructions on back to avoid delay at shipping point

SHIPPER'S EXPORT DECLARATION

OF SHIPMENTS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES OR NONCONTIGUOUS TERRITORIES OF THE U. S.

Clearance will not be granted until shipper's declaration has been filed with the collector of customs
(Declarations should be typewritten or prepared in ink; pencil is not permissible)

District	Port
Flag	Country
Pier No. _____	

Exporting carrier Railway Express Agency, Inc. From _____ (U. S. Customs port of exportation)
(If vessel, give name and flag)
Exporter C. G. Sloan & Co., Inc., 715-13th St., N. W., Wash. D. C.
(Actual shipper or agent) Address (number, street, place, State)
For account of Senator Robert A. Taft, Senate Office Bldg., D.C.
(Principal or seller) Address (number, street, place, State)
Consignee President Charles E. Bunnell, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska.
(Ultimate consignee) Address (place, country)
Foreign port of unloading _____ Final Destination Fairbanks, Alaska
(For vessels only) (Not place of transshipment) (Place and country)

(1) MARKS AND Nos.	(2) GROSS WEIGHT 1 (In pounds)	(3) NUMBER AND KIND OF PACKAGES, DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANDISE AND EXPORT LICENSE NUMBER 2 (Describe in sufficient detail to permit classification according to Schedule B.3 Do not use general terms)	(4) SPECIES 4 "D," OR "F."	(5) SCHEDULE B 3 COMMODITY No.	(6) NET QUANTITY in Schedule B Units 3 (State unit)	(7) VALUE AT TIME AND PLACE OF EXPORT. (Selling price, or cost if not sold, including inland freight, in- surance, and other charges to place of export)
One box	Approx 20 Lbs.	with gold Ivory tusk desk set mounted	D			Nearest whole dollar \$500.00

Waybill or manifest No. _____ (Of exporting carrier) _____ (Date of exportation or, if vessel, date of clearance) Total, \$ 500.00

I authorize Railway Express Agency to act as my agent for customs purposes.

C. G. Sloan & Co., Inc., Shipper.

I declare that the above is a true account of merchandise shipped to the country named; and that the description and quantity of each article are truly stated at the selling price or market value at time and place of exportation.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me
on Mar. 2, 1944
Sophia Kay Stuber
Notary Public
(Title or designation)
(Notary public, etc., or those authorized to administer oaths under Sec. 486, Tariff Act of 1930)

(Signature) J. M. Bruin
(Capacity) Secretary
(Member of firm, secretary, agent, etc.)
(Address) 715-13th St., N. W., Wash. D. C.

1 If gross weight is not available for each Schedule B item listed in column (5) included in one or more packages, insert the approximate gross weight for each Schedule B item. The total of these estimated weights should equal the actual weight of the entire package or packages.
2 Insert the appropriate export license number on the line below the description of each item.
3 For exports of foreign merchandise (reexports), use Schedule "F." For shipments to Alaska, use Schedule "H."
4 Designate foreign merchandise (reexports) with an "F" and exports of domestic merchandise with a "D."

Shipper's Invoice For Goods Exported

(Except Canada)

(2059)
3-21
(Printed in U.S.A.)

March 2, 1944.

Washington, State of District of Columbia 19

RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY
INCORPORATED

Please forward the following package addressed

President Charles E. Bunnell,

University of Alaska,

Fairbanks, Alaska.

KIND OF PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS	NET WEIGHT	GROSS WEIGHT	VALUE DOMESTIC GOODS	* VALUE FOREIGN GOODS
Wooden Box	Ivory tusk desk set mounted with gold.	15	20	\$500.00	

The undersigned hereby declare the contents of said package, and the weights and values thereof, to be exactly as herein represented, and also agree to the following, in addition to the usual conditions of shipment:—

(I.) The Shipper is held liable for any reclamation made on this invoice by reason of alleged false or inaccurate representations of any kind or nature whatsoever.

(II.) While Railway Express Agency agree to exercise the greatest care, the shipper shall have no claim against them for damages to goods from careless handling or delays in the Custom House.

(III.) The shipper guarantees to Railway Express Agency all duties and other charges.

(IV.) The undersigned hereby certifies that the above described articles are of the growth, manufacture, production of the United States or its possessions and that no drawback of import duties has been or will be claimed thereon, and that this invoice is true and correct in all particulars.

Signature C. G. Sloan & Co., Inc.,

Address 715-13th St., Wash. D.C.

*With shipments of Foreign Goods Cancel Paragraph IV.
If shipments consist of Foreign and Domestic Goods, make invoice for each kind.

April 26, 1944

Mrs. Helen Taft Manning
Acting Dean of the College
Bryn Mawr College
Bryn Mawr, Penn.

Dear Mrs. Manning:

Your good letter of March 18, has been received, and in due course of time the ivory tusk with its elaborate gold, descriptive ornaments came by express. On behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska I express our thanks for your generous contribution to our efforts in acquiring a museum of cultural value.

I have had a cut made. We had a photo made here, but had to send it to Seattle to have a cut made. The story of the tusk and of your gift will be in either the June or July issue of the Collegian. Copies will be forwarded.

In the meantime, the tusk is on display in a glass case in our museum and is quite the center of attraction. Our mining men are greatly interested in this work of art. You probably noticed the different shades of gold. The jeweler who did the work used gold from different creeks in this immediate section each of which has gold of a distinctive coloring.

I am especially appreciative of such a splendid gift for our museum and I thank you very much.

By regular mail I am forwarding to you Volumes I and II of our Miscellaneous Publications. I is Bibliography of Alaskan Literature, II is Archaeological Investigations at Kukulik. In these days when attention is directed towards Alaska, I am sure you will be interested to know of so many titles between 1724 and 1924. A very few of II were bound in other than paper binding. Certainly you are entitled to one of them and I take pleasure in sending it.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

President

CEB/MR

UNIVERSITY



OF ALASKA

June or
July Collegiate
1944

DATE:

~~Description~~

April 1944 -

Helen Taft Manning
and her brothers

2' long -

gold fig. in relief -
Alaskan scenes - dog teams,
rivers, cabins, mountains

ciset boxes for stamps, pen
ruler, seal, all in
gold - diff. types used
diff. colors of gold -

Avakoff

The People We Meet . . . and the Places We See

by
DARB

When Harry Avakoff and his wife, Emily, visited Harry's old home in Russia two years ago, they both visited the grave of one of Harry's old friends. They had shared a prison cell together around 1900 after both men had attempted to desert from the Czar's Army during the Russian-American War.

That was the last time Harry saw his friend, although he heard a great deal about him in later years as Joseph Stalin, head of the Russian Communist Party. Stalin, who died in 1953, now rests on display in a glass-faced coffin, and thousands of people view his body each year.

One hundred and fifty dollars bought Harry's freedom the second time he attempted to leave Russia when the underground movement helped him swim a border river and get to Austria.

Earlier he had taken his jeweler's apprenticeship in the Russian village of Baku, on the Caspian Sea. Then he was known as Harry Avakian, the Christian Armenian name with which he had been christened when he was born in 1884.

With poor economic prospects in Austria, he saved enough money to pay passage to the United States, where he arrived in 1903.

He spoke no English and was soon on the move again, first to San Francisco and then north to Seattle, always looking for a Russian-speaking colony where he would feel at home.

"In San Francisco, I used to stand for hours at a time just watching buildings being torn down or built because I couldn't make myself understood well enough to get a good job."

In Seattle, he heard that Alaska had a large Russian-speaking population. Booking passage on the steamer "Bertha," he arrived in Valdez in 1905.

Harry, as did many old time Alaskans, came to Fairbanks the hard way. He walked the entire distance, more than 400 miles with little more than a rough wagon trail to follow.

It wasn't an easy life for a while. His English was still inadequate as a means of communication. He tried mining with little success.

Looking around Fairbanks, he discovered that there were no actual jewelers in town. Several shops imported jewelry and sold it over the counter, but no one actually made any of it.

"Finally, I decided that if I



Harry and Emily Avakoff

could make money for other people, I could make money for myself," he told us. "I went into partnership with Vic Brown and we had a store on Front St., which finally burned down about 1919."

Gathering up the pieces, Harry relocated in another building on the site where the Nevada Bar now stands. Brown also relocated, this time down to the growing town of Anchorage, leaving Harry in business by himself.

From the First Ave. store, he later moved to the corner of Second and Cushman and then in 1936 to his present location on Second Ave.

Among his memories, two stand out involving U.S. presidents. He was commissioned by Tanana Valley citizens to make a gold inkwell for President Taft and later a gold collar for President Harding's dog, "Laddie Boy." The inkwell is now on display at the University of Alaska.

"Alaska has been good to me. I was able to educate both my sons, and see them become surgeons

for a good living, and I'm still walking around at 84. Of course my father in Russia didn't die until four years ago and he was 137 years old. I can't brag yet about my age."

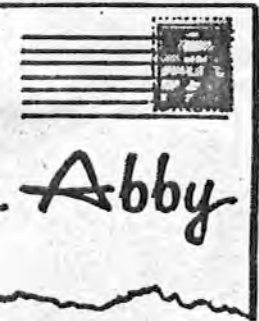
Emily, Harry's present wife, his first wife died, came to Alaska in 1944 for the first time as a representative of a Chicago fur company, but only stayed a year. In 1951, she returned, met Harry at a party and they were married four months later in July. By coincidence they both arrived in Fairbanks on March 17, 46 years apart.

After the death of her former husband, Emily says marriage was the furthest thing from her mind when she came to Alaska for the Chicago firm the second time.

Harry told us a different story. Right in front of his customers too.

"She just came up to Alaska to look over and land and capture Harry Avakoff."

"Shut up, don't you say things like that" said Emily. I thought she was going to throw Harry's big gold nugget at us as we went out



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137 years old. I can't brag yet
about my age."

Emily, Harry's present wife, his
first wife died, came to Alaska in
1944 for the first time as a
representative of a Chicago fur
company, but only stayed a year.
In 1951, she returned, met Harry
at a party and they were married
four months later in July. By
coincidence they both arrived in
Fairbanks on March 17, 46 years
apart.

After the death of her former
husband, Emily says marriage was
the furthest thing from her mind
when she came to Alaska for the
Chicago firm the second time.

Harry told us a different story.
Right in front of his customers
too.

"She just came up to Alaska to
look over and land and capture
Harry Avakoff."

"Shut up, don't you say things
like that" said Emily. I thought
she was going to throw Harry's big
gold nugget at us as we went out
the door.

OEO Electric Grant Has Approval

JUNEAU (AP)—Gov. Walter J.
Hickel Tuesday approved
acceptance of a \$229,220 grant
from the U.S. Office of Economic

"This is an important step for
advancing our rural areas," Hickel
said as he signed the grant papers.
"We heartily endorse this

GET
YOUR
JESSEN'S







UNIVERSITY



OF ALASKA

TO:

DATE:

Left tusk
stolen
night of
April 7-8 1969

8 April 1969

The tusk was presented to President William Howard Taft by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce as a gift from the people of Fairbanks.

The tusk was returned to Alaska in April 1944 as a gift from President Taft's children. It has been on display in the University Museum since that time.

The tusk is approximately two feet long and has various Alaskan scenes depicted on it in gold relief. Cabins, dog teams, miners, mountains, etc., all done in various types of gold.

There is an inscription on the tusk telling who it was given to and for what reason.

April 8, 1969



MISSING ART WORK—This priceless art work was one of several items taken in a burglary of the University of Alaska Museum sometime Monday night. A \$100 reward has been offered for its return.

Valuable Work of Art Stolen at University

A "priceless" ivory art work was stolen Monday night from the University of Alaska Museum according to the Alaska State Police.

The art work made by Harry Avakoff was made of walrus tusk and gold and was presented to U.S. President William H. Taft in 1910 by the Tanana Valley Association, a forerunner of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. The art object was returned to Alaska and given to the university in 1944 by a relative of the late president.

In addition to the ivory tusk, several other items were taken from the showcase in the museum, said Alaska State Trooper John Rawson.

Rawson said he had no leads or suspects at this time but that finger prints from the area have been taken. The desk weight was locked in a bullet-proof glass cage

but the thief or thieves did not break the glass as the doors on the cage are so big that it was impossible to slide the glass past the lock.

When asked whether it was a job of an amateur or professional, Rawson said that he didn't know at this time but noted that it might have been a professional trying to look like an amateur since some candy had also been stolen. Rawson said that there had been forceable entry into the building.

Museum Director Lu Rowinski reported the robbery Tuesday morning when he opened the museum for the day at 8 a.m. The museum had been closed and locked at 5 p.m. the previous night.

Rowinski said the desk piece was elaborately decorated in gold relief art which showed a dog team, an Alaskan trapper's cabin and gold mining tools. It was also mounted with an ink well and a commemorative plate on one end.

Also taken in the burglary was \$7 worth of gold dust from a scale display and several modern ivory carvings of animals and a dog team. Several other items were removed from their displays but were not taken, according to Rawson.

A substantial reward has been offered by university officials for the return of the ivory tusk, with no questions asked, for information leading to the recovery of the tusk. Considerable concern is expressed by the officials that the desk piece will be melted down and the gold sold.

Pioneer Harry Avakoff dies

Fairbanks pioneer Harry B. Avakoff died in the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital 7:30 a.m. Sunday of heart disease, hospital officials said.

Avakoff, who turned 88 Thanksgiving Day, had been a resident and businessman for over 30 years.

Born in the village of Nivger, Armenia, Nov. 23, 1884, he was apprenticed to a jeweler in the city of Baku at 14. Four years later he was conscripted into the Russian army.

Disenchanted with army life, when the first opportunity presented itself, he deserted but was captured and returned to his regiment which he soon deserted again. Having less than no love for the Czar and his army, he fled to Austria. There he opened a

jewelry shop and was moderately successful.

But he was dissatisfied with Austria, and perhaps sensing the turmoil that was soon to terminate in World War I, he decided to emigrate to America.

For two years he worked in a jewelry factory in New York City, then moved to San Francisco, where he was an

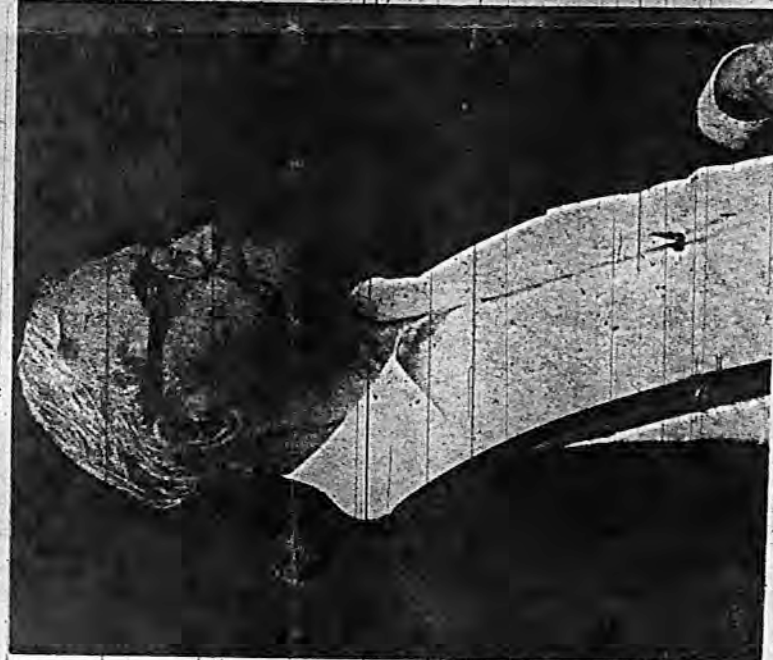
employee of Shriv's Jewelry Store.

Learning about Alaska and its opportunities, he moved north, arriving in Valdez in March of 1907. From that seaport town he took the trail to the Westward on foot, and after arriving in Fairbanks, went to work for Jack Sale's jewelry store on Cushman Street.

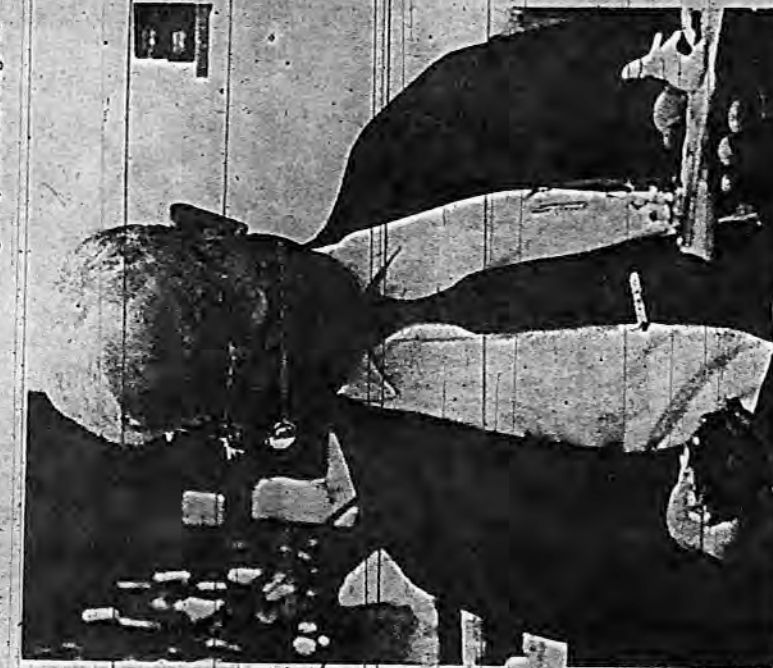
He worked there long enough to make a grubstake and then

went mining on Goldstream. He operated there for 18 months, taking out \$56,000—which failed to repay the expenses, leaving him with no choice except to return to his jewelry bench and work off the indebtedness.

Eventually, Avakoff opened a jewelry shop on First near Cushman. This was destroyed by fire, and his new store was opened at Second and Cushman with a (See AVAKOFF, Page 3)



HARRY AVAKOFF DIES—Fairbanks pioneer businessman and jeweler Harry Avakoff, who died Sunday, is shown at left as he watched the building he had



worked in for 38 years being torn down in 1971. At right he shows some of his work with ivory and a giant gold nugget.

(Photos by Mike Dalton)

Kissinger for mor

BILLS LISTED
A list of bills and their sponsors in the Alaska Legislature appears on page 5.

ORDERS TO SPY

A self-styled agent in the Watergate case today said he was ordered to seek out potential threats against the President's campaign. Page 3.

HEAVYWEIGHT THREATS

Threats of sabotage have increased security for tonight's heavyweight title boxing match in Kingston, Jamaica. Page 7.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Captured enemy documents named a midweek initiating cease-fire accord, Henry Kissinger flew back to Com day to join allied and Communist officials in the last toward ending the Viet war.

Kissinger met with President Nixon for an hour today preparation for the negotia departure for nearby Andre Air Force Base and the fl to Paris.

Officially, the White Ho continued to portray the pose of Kissinger's return

GM recalls

'71, '72 cars

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors announced the recall day of 3.7 million 1971 and 1 cars for installation of a sh over the steering coupling prevent the possibility of fly stipes lodging between the c pling and the car frame.

In making the announce GM said it had received repo of 96 incidents where sto were scooped up, resulting in accidents in which 12 injur were reported.

Involved in the recall w full-size 1971 and 1972 models Chevrolet, Buicks, Oldsmobi and Pontiac.

The company said the shiel would be installed at no cha to the car owners. It said ow ers would be notified in abo two weeks.



Mostly cloudy with intermittent periods of light snow today and tonight becoming partly cloudy Tuesday. Less than one inch of new snow expected. Cold continuing. High today near -30. Low tonight near -35 and high Tuesday near -35. Outlook for Wednesday partly cloudy with little change in temperature. High Sunday -35. Low last night -43. Temperature at noon -36. High this date 37 in 1972. Low -35 in 1934. Sunrise Tuesday 9:05. Sunset at 3:02 for a total of 5 hours 57 minutes of daylight, a gain of six.

JAN 22, 1973 P. 1

fourth walked ahead.

Police said preliminary reports indicated their marksmen had not fired a shot since the original gunbattle, although the gunmen had fired volleys from time to time.

plasterboard wall there lay escape route — a sealed stairway — if they could use. The opportunity came when gunmen heard noises against an outside wall and ran stairs to investigate.

add to tusk info

AVAKOFF

(Continued from page 1)

partner. This failed to work out to his satisfaction so he opened his own store at 531 Second, which he was to occupy for 38 years, until it was torn down in July, 1971, after being condemned by the City of Fairbanks.

A new building was built at the old location, the upstairs section being opened last September and the store on Oct. 2.

In 1965, Avakoff and his wife Emily took a 95-day trip to Europe, and included on the itinerary were Russia and the Mediterranean area. En route they spent three weeks with Avakoff's relatives.

Over the years, Avakoff has manufactured jewelry dealing largely in gold nuggets from near-by creeks. Many specimens of nugget crosses, chains, watch bands, earrings and fancy belt buckles were the result of his skill and craftsmanship.

But the climax of his career was embodied in the "Taft Tusk," a piece of ivory which was inlaid with gold of many Alaskan scenes. It embodied—among other things—a pen holder, ink well and stamp box, all of gold. It was presented to President William Howard Taft by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and the people of Alaska.

Survivors are his widow, Emma, and sons Joseph and Edward of San Francisco.

Funeral arrangements pending at the Chapel of Chin

Avakoff was a member of Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, the Elks, Eagles and Alaska Pioneers, and the Fairbanks Curling Club, of which he was a skip for 47 years.

NGAU

Tuesday

ELECTRIC ENGINE TEST

34 Different Tests -
your engine's pro

• Complete testing of batter

FAIRBANKSANS SAY FAREWELL TO HARRY B. AVAKOFF

Fairbanksans paid their last respects Wednesday to its oldest and perhaps most respected businessman, Harry B. Avakoff.

For 35 years Avakoff operated a retail jewelry store in the heart of downtown Fairbanks on Second Avenue. Then after a lingering illness on Sunday morning he died in Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. He was 88.

Ironically, Avakoff died a little over three months after he launched a new start in business with a brand new store adjacent to Co-op Drug Store.

His wife, Emily, was opposed to her husband beginning again at his age, but to Avakoff his work was his life.

He made that very clear in a dramatic statement to the Fairbanks City Council when that body was taking condemnation action against his old building in 1969.

Avakoff made a plea for a postponement of condemnation to give him time to plan a new structure.

"Take away my business, take away my work, and you take away my life," he said.

And Avakoff got the postponement he requested from a City Council usually hard-nosed on condemnation matters.

Avakoff was widely known in Alaska, not only because he had lived and operated a business here for such a long time, but also because of his interesting background. An emigrant from Russia, he once had been imprisoned with Lenin, and though he did well here, in his latter years he did return for an occa-

sional visit to the land of his birth.

In 1965 he traveled to his native land, hoping to be able to visit his father. Nivger, Armenia is reputed to be the village in the world where people live longest.



But he found his father had died two years previously at the age of 137. And because there were no roads to Nivger, and Avakoff would have had to travel a trail by horseback, Soviet officials would not approve a permit for a man of his age to visit his native village.

Avakoff, born Nov. 23, 1884 in Nivger, Armenia, came to Fairbanks in March of 1907. He was a jeweler then, as he had been since his apprenticeship began at Baku, Russia when he was 14.

Drafted into the Russian army, he defected but was caught and jailed by authorities. Upon his release, he worked in Austria before coming to New York.

But New York was a rough

town for a man who had no friends or family there and who could not speak English. So Mr. Avakoff moved to San Francisco. He stayed there until 1907, when he made his way to Valdez. After a 13-day trek northwest, he arrived in Fairbanks, where he was to stay until his death.

At first, he worked in Jack Sale's jewelry store on Cushman Street. Then he tried his hand at mining on the Goldstream, but gave it up after 18 months and \$56,000 worth of debts had accumulated.

His first shop, on First and Cushman, burned and he moved to a new location on Second and Cushman with a partner. Dissatisfied with the arrangement, he opened his own store at 531 Second Avenue.

This store was there until July, 1971 when it was condemned by the city and torn

down. But just last October, he and his wife reopened a store at his old Second Avenue location.

His wife-to-be, Emily, came to Fairbanks from Chicago in 1934 to operate a store of her own. They met in 1951 and were married four months later.

The Avakoffs made a 95-day trip to Europe in 1965. They visited for three weeks with some of his relatives.

Mr. Avakoff was well-known for his work with gold and ivory. He made chains, belt buckles, earrings and a wide variety of other jewelry. But one of his finest achievements was the "Taft Tusk."

It was so named because it was presented to President William Taft by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and the people of Alaska. It consisted of a piece of ivory inlaid with Alaskan scenes in gold. And it included a pen holder, ink well and stamp box, all gold.

Weakened by a series of small heart attacks, Avakoff entered the hospital after Christmas. His condition, which both he and Mrs. Avakoff blamed at least partially on air pollution in the downtown area, worsened. And a kidney malfunction further

Capital I



Years ago in the land of the greased palm.

There was a tax that was every time the barons had a li poor peasants.

This situation was in practice went by, the barons continued peasants revolted and restricted amounts.

But like all good things temporarily and after a year the broke and "greased" a law that thing they chose.

Well, enough for the major

Currently before the Govt. (ASHA) proposal that would ing Program and a proposal for new grant-loan basis starting

Since 1966 the full program realized, rather one program a lack of support, financial or other

This list includes the Bar Village Housing Program, and and the President's 1972 Indian

What is needed now is the what is available and is most like housing construction. Specific 1971 Remote Housing Program authorized and available.

It only remains for the C ceeds of the \$3 million bond a total of \$1.5 million in bonds has been expended.

It now remains for the G ASHA will use in building hous only constructed to weather s economical and yet are sufficien

Proper housing represents dards of living for rural people.

dy there is a house bill (HB 47) monies to the state general fur Alaska no longer can blame the its fiscal promises. It will have e ing need in rural housing and will

Perhaps, the public misun tion and sports centers; they hav or SBs 62 and 63 pass. These bill for another \$23 million for cen debt service is paid and we pay be in the neighborhood of \$30 m

My opinion is that the pub ing exactly what they wanted an the bond issues in November. A they were not "hoodwinked" or



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 Mrs. Avakoff blamed at least par-
 tially on air pollution in the
 downtown area, worsened. And
 a kidney malfunction further
 complicated matters. Death
 came to the pioneer jeweler at
 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

He was a member of the Fair-
 banks Chamber of Commerce,
 the Elks, Eagles and Alaskan
 Pioneers. In addition, he was a
 member of the Fairbanks Curling
 Club for 47 years.

Besides his wife, he is survived
 by two sons, Joseph and Edward,
 both of San Francisco, who were
 in town for the funeral.

Funeral services were held
 Wednesday afternoon at the
 Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home,
 with members of the Elks Lodge
 and the Pioneer Lodge officiat-
 ing. A crowd of about 85 attend-
 ed, according to a funeral home



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Smog from Los Angeles, 60
 miles away, threatens century-
 old ponderosa and Jeffrey pines in
 the San Bernardino
 Mountains, National Geographic
 says. It destroys food-making
 cells in the pine needles.

Fairbanks Business
 Women
 Present

"JUNE IN JUNE"

FEB 1973						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

MONDAY

1

JAN. 1973

New Year's Day

1973 JANUARY 1973						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**"Next year"
is now.**

1/1/73

001 MON, JANUARY 1, 1973 364

"Wait till next year." That's what you told yourself last year.
 You found all kinds of reasons to put off doing some very
 important things. Like planning for your future.

HANK ANDERSON, 66, who was born in Orgachak and lived in Alaska all his life. A daughter, Mrs. Nina Minano, Nenana, survives.

BEDA ANDERSON, 85, who homesteaded at Big Lake with her husband, Oscar, and was believed to be the first white woman to live on the lake, died January 22 in Hemet, California. Besides her widower, she is survived by a son, Bill Boerman.

HARRY B. AVAKOFF, 88, Armenian-born pioneer Fairbanks jeweler, died in early January in Fairbanks. Manufacturing jewelry from Alaskan gold, he was known for his creation of the "Taft Tusk," ivory inlaid with gold and including gold desk accessories, which was presented to President William Taft by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and Alaska's people. A Pioneer of Alaska member and skip of the Fairbanks Curling Club for 47 years, he is survived by his widow, Emily, and two sons, Joseph and Edward, both of San Francisco, California.

CHARLOTTE BAHNKE, 56, Kotzebue-born Nome resident, died January 25 in Nome. Her widower, John

Xerox of newspaper article provided by Mrs. John W. Krug, the daughter of Billy Sale, brother to J. L. Sale. September 12, 1979.

SALE MAKES PRESENT FOR PRESIDENT TAFT

Alaska Suggest 1910 Dec 22 nd

Following is an article which appeared in the Seattle Times of recent issue. The Mr. Sale referred to in the story is a brother to Nome's recording clerk. Billy Sale furnished his brother at Fairbanks with the ivory of which the present was made. He secured it here in camp from a native after a long and careful search for a perfect tusk.

"A section of mastodon tusk twenty-five inches long crusted with bas-reliefs wrought in unalloyed Alaska gold that form an epitome of gold mining in the interior North, is an heroically proportioned desk ornament citizens of the Tanana valley are sending to President W. H. Taft. The presentation is intended to mark the recent visit to Fairbanks of Secretary of Commerce and Labor Charles Nagel and Attorney-General George Wickersham, personally representing the chief executive.

While the cabinet officials were at Fairbanks they were lavishly entertained and became popular. At a big reception one evening the suggestion was made by a wealthy mine owner that a symbolical souvenir be sent to President Taft as a token of appreciation.

Orders were given J. L. Sale, a jeweler, whose designs of such character have made him known as the Tiffany of the North, to produce the most elaborate memento ever sent out of Alaska. This meant some task, for Alas-

kans have contracted the habit of sending Presidents and other prominent men costly souvenirs of various kinds done in native gold. Sale succeeded in pleasing his exacting customers.

Sale is now in Seattle on his way to California. In describing the souvenir to a group of acquaintances at the Seattle hotel yesterday he said:

"It is simply a great piece of mastodon ivory, mounted with gold. The ivory was dug from a mine, where the tusk had lain for hundreds of years. It is a beautiful piece, its striking characteristics of color being brought out effectively by polishing.

"More than \$1,000 worth of gold is contained in the mountings. It is in a variety of colors every districts' gold being represented by pieces, the natural shade of which has not been altered.

"The main part of the gold mounting shows the McKinley range of mountains, this forming a background for miniature mining plants, cabins, and other symbols, inscribed on a label plat is a greeting to the president from the citizens of Fairbanks.

Mr. Sale said committeemen representing citizens were preparing to ship the souvenir when he left Fairbanks about a month ago, and he expects that it will reach Washington some time this month. It had been arranged while the two cabinet members were in Fairbanks to have the presentation made by Attorney-General Wickersham and for that reason it was being expressed to him.



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

COLLEGE, ALASKA 99701

6 April 1973

RECEIVED from the University of Alaska Museum, the following pieces of worked gold from the Taft Tusk:

1. Trapper and snowshoes
 2. Stamp case
 3. Pen-wiper
 4. Seal rest
 5. Ink bottle
 6. Butt plate (inscribed)
 7. Two pieces of mountain/mining/dog team scene
 8. Tip cover (seals, walrus and bear)
 9. nib holder
 10. 4 small nuggets *Dw. Larson 6 April '73*
- Being ~~ten~~ ¹⁴ pieces altogether.

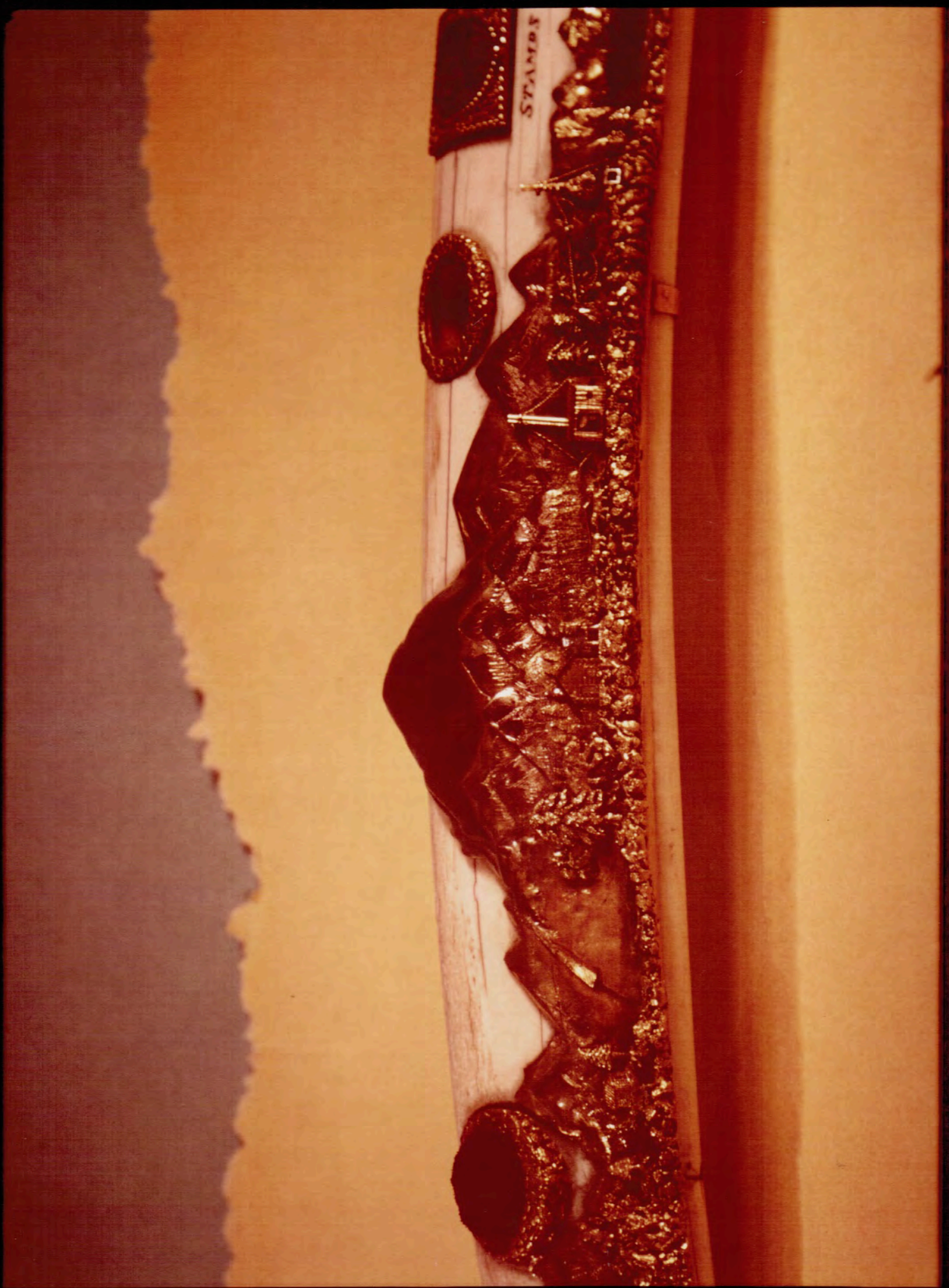
Rec. Glen Simpson
APRIL 6 1973

Glen Simpson
Art Department

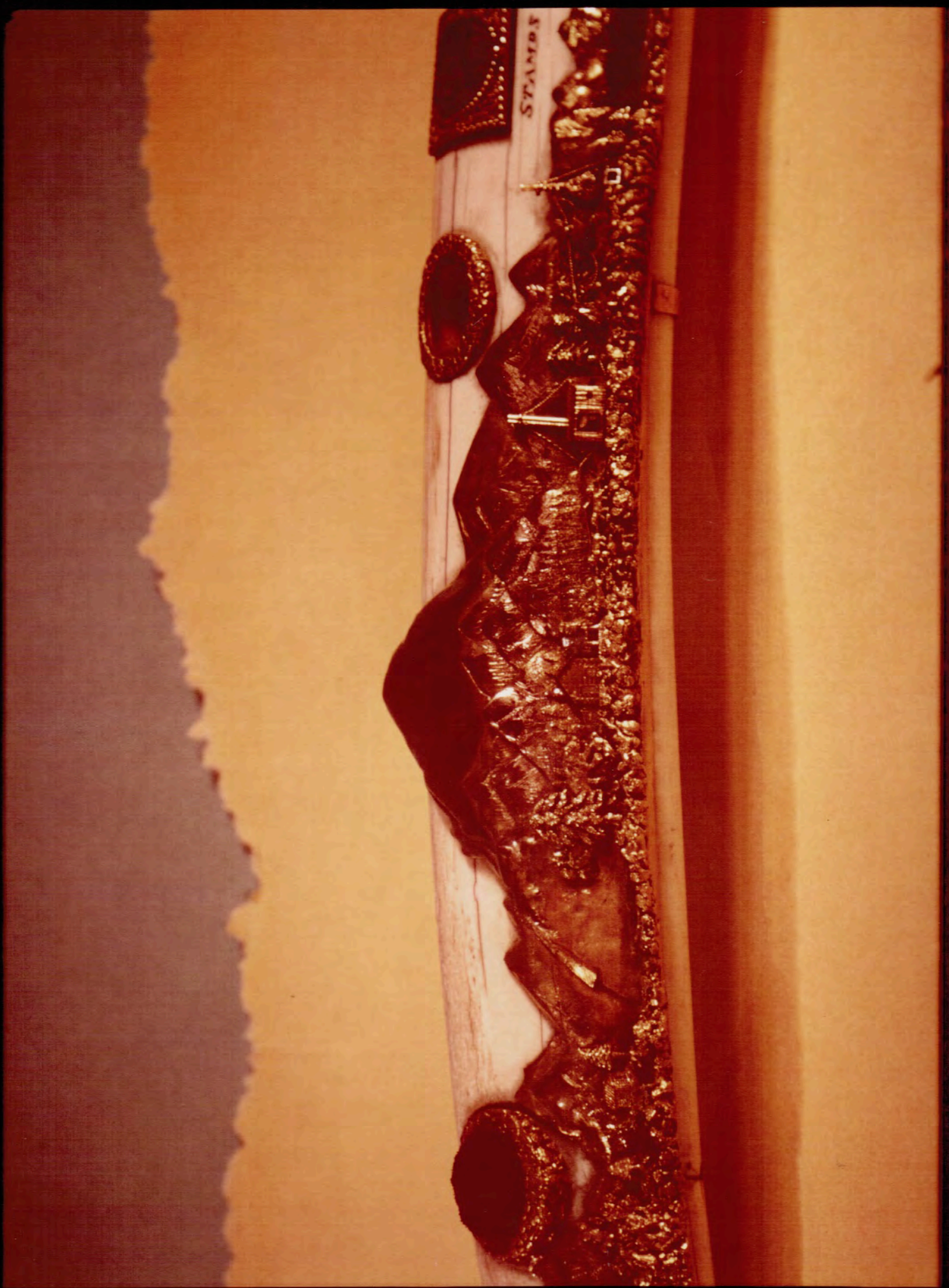
2 color photos
of Wm. Bradford
of Taft truck

71-6-3 + 4





STANDY





Denah

August 18, 1983

Mrs. Emily Avakoff
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Mrs. Avakoff:

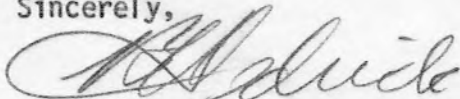
I enjoyed very much our brief visit together when you and Mildred Matthews came to the Museum to discuss the Taft Tusk.

We are caught on the horns of a dilemma. I have checked into our documentation on the tusk, and the only evidence we have is a newspaper clipping given to us by Mrs. John Krug, the daughter of Billy Sale, brother to J. L. Sale. The article came to us on September 12, 1979. As you can see, the article is from the Nome Nugget, December 22, 1910. The article indicates that it is a repeat of an article that appeared in the Seattle Times earlier that year. The Seattle Times is normally a very reliable source. I have no reason to doubt that the Nome Nugget did not copy the article directly.

As you can see, J. L. Sale is credited with the tusk. On the other hand, it is your statement that your husband, Harry Avakoff, made the tusk. I certainly do not disbelieve your statement, and I am sure that Mr. Sale most likely did not make the tusk all by himself. However, the only documentation we have to date is the clipping which I am sending with this correspondence.

While in my office, you mentioned some clippings that you have which show that Harry Avakoff was the individual who made the tusk. I would surely enjoy seeing those clippings and, if they are specific as to the maker of the tusk, we could correct a long-standing mistake that may have been made in the past. I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Sincerely,



Basil C. Hedrick, Director
University of Alaska Museum

vli

Enclosure (1)

cc: Mildred Matthews



National Trust for Historic Preservation

THE WOODROW WILSON HOUSE 2340 S STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

(202) 387-4062

July 20, 1984

Dinah W. Larsen
Coordinator of Ethnology
University Museum
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Ms. Larsen:

In response to your letter concerning gifts to President Wilson from the citizens of Fairbanks, I am able to confirm that an Alaskan ivory and gold-mounted pen tray was presented to the President and is currently part of our collection.

We believe that the gift dates to about 1915. The object is a tusk carved as an elongated walrus, with an engraved panel depicting an Alaskan landscape, and chased gold tip. It is inscribed with raised gold letters: Alaska. The plaque upon which it sits is inscribed Presented to Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by the Citizens of Fairbanks and Vicinity. It is 11 3/4 inches long. It is accompanied by a gold-mounted glass ink bottle which is inscribed: Tanana Valley.

Other objects which we believe to be gifts from the people of Alaska include a small silver totem pole pin and three bone gavels. A description of the gavels follows: One of the bone gavels is 9 7/8 inches long. It has a rectangular head with two convex sides. On one side is a scrimshaw portrait of President Wilson; on the other side is a relief of the polar bear. The handle tapers to form the head and paws of an arctic seal.

Another of the bone gavels is 8 inches long. It has a curved turned handle with an animal finial. A scrimshaw polar bear and arctic seal decorate the sledge hammer head.

The third bone gavel is 9 inches long. The handle tapers toward a sledge hammer head. There is no decoration on this piece.

Page Two

The sterling silver pin is 1 1/4 inches long, flat, slender and depicts a miniature totem pole.

We do not, however, have any further information on these objects. We would appreciate any information which you might provide us with concerning these objects.

Thank you for your interest in our collection. We hope this information will aid you in your research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy McCoy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Nancy L. McCoy
Assistant Director

NLM/mwn



National Trust for Historic Preservation

THE WOODROW WILSON HOUSE

2340 S STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008 (202) 387-4062

Dinah -

sorry we don't have
photos for each object
described in the
letter. I hope that
these photocopies
give you some idea
as to their appearance.
Nancy



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701



TO:

DATE: 7/30/83
84

Nancy L. McCoy
Assistant Director
The Woodrow Wilson House
2340 S Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Ms. McCoy,

I was pleasantly surprised to receive your letter of 7/20 with the information on the Alaskan gifts to President Wilson.

I would like to order a black and white 8" x 10" photograph of the ivory and gold pen tray, one showing as much detail as possible (with the inkwell included). Could you please give me an idea of how long this would take and the charges...?

Thank you for including the ~~max~~rox pics of the ~~g~~avel.

Sincerely,

Dwight Whisen

Coordinator of Ethnology

UAA Museum

26 September 1983

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
Cove Neck Road, No. 304
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

Attention: Curator of Collections

Dear Sir,

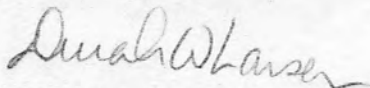
During the early part of this century, the citizens of Fairbanks, Alaska occasionally commissioned local jewelers to make gifts for various dignitaries. These gifts took the form of inkwells, desk sets, etc. made of local (Alaskan) gold worked into tiny miners, gold pans, mountains, cabins and so forth, often set on an ivory base. A walrus tusk served as the base for a gold desk set made for President Taft in 1910.

I have often read accounts printed locally during the early 1900s of "gifts" and "souvenirs" made for assorted persons but the only one I have proof of is the tusk made up for Taft which is in our collections and on exhibit.

Could you please tell me if President Roosevelt was ever given such a gift from the people of Fairbanks (or anywhere in Alaska, for that matter)? And if so, what form it took? Is there an inscription? Any information would be much appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dinah W. Larsen
Coordinator of Ethnology
University Museum

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

TO: for file DATE:

Task desk set info
made by man named
Sale who had
Jewelry store in
Fairbanks & employed
Vic Brown
Menzies
Avakoff
according
to
Bob Bloom

Jack Sale

Harry A. worked
for him.

Sale was
"He did some work
on the task."

Gray both worked
on it.

UA267 The Taft Tusk

1 June 1944 - Farthest North Collegian (in UA Archives)

In Dr. Bunnell's review of the past year at the University of Alaska, he mentioned that the university received the tusk as a donation from the Taft family and that it was then put in the museum on campus.

2 December 1910 - News Miner (in UA Library - microfilm)

Letter from President Taft acknowledging receipt of "beautiful souvenir Inkstand" (NM headline). "Sent by Tananites" (NM headline - referring to inhabitants of the Tanana Valley, not the town of Tanana). Taft refers to the gift as a "souvenir" and does not name it as an object. He also mentions three men, Mathews, Joslin, McGinn, as being instrumental in getting the gift to him. (The gift was sent out on the last boat leaving Fairbanks - on Nov 4 - before freezeup)

(Taft had originally planned to visit Alaska himself but was unable to do so. He sent a couple of cabinet officers instead who made a big hit with Alaskans in general and Fairbanksians and other mining camp folk in particular.)

IMPORTANT MESSAGEFOR Molly LeeDATE 7/26/99 TIME _____ A.M.
P.M.M JOSEPH C. AVAKOFF

OF _____

PHONE _____
AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION FAX MOBILE _____
AREA CODE NUMBER TIME TO CALL

TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR CALL		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE He says he's the son of
the man who made Pres. Taft's
Gold Tusk that we have on
display. Upset that we don't
even mention his father.

SIGNED _____

 **FORM 3002C**

Attorney at Law

American Board of Plastic Surgery
American Board of Surgery**Joseph C. Avakoff, M.D., J.D.**[Redacted]
San Jose, CA 95120

Phone or Fax [Redacted]

Dr. Joseph C. Avakoff, M.D.,
[REDACTED]
San Jose, CA 95120



30 July 1999

Dear Dr. Avakoff,

Please excuse me for not being available when you were at the museum the other day. Like all faculty members, I'm off contract in the summer.

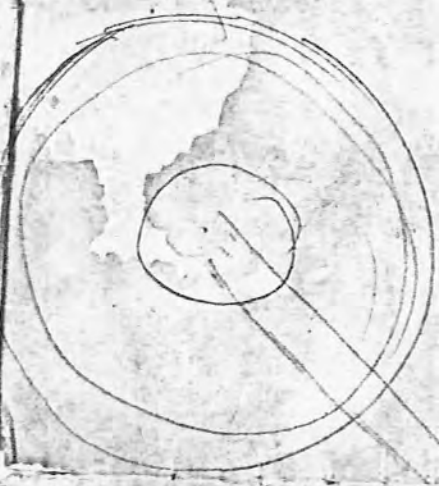
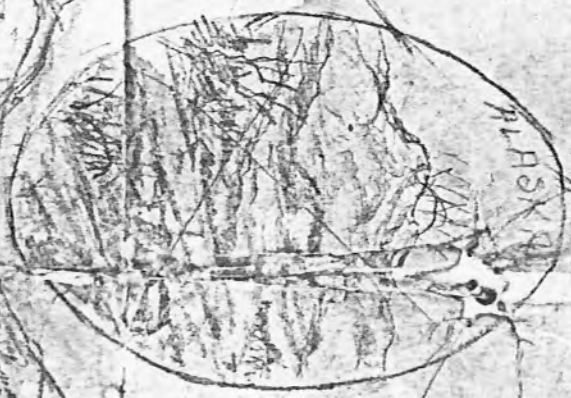
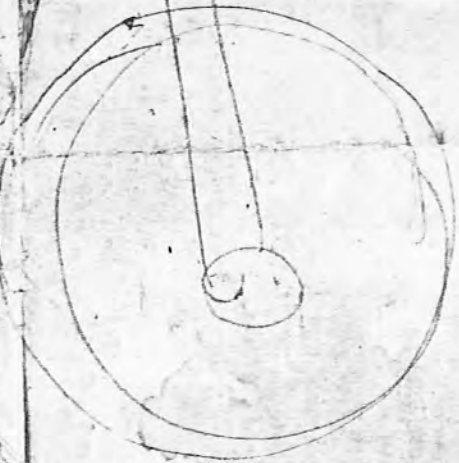
I was very interested to hear about your father's involvement with the gold-inlaid Taft tusk. We checked our records and discovered that the newspaper accounts are conflicting about who exactly made the tusk, Sales or your father. But in the back of the file is a handwritten note saying they both did. We have now made this change and are enclosing a copy of the updated catalogue entry. The next time we refurbish the case we'll make sure your father is credited with the creation of this remarkable piece.

Thanks for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours truly,

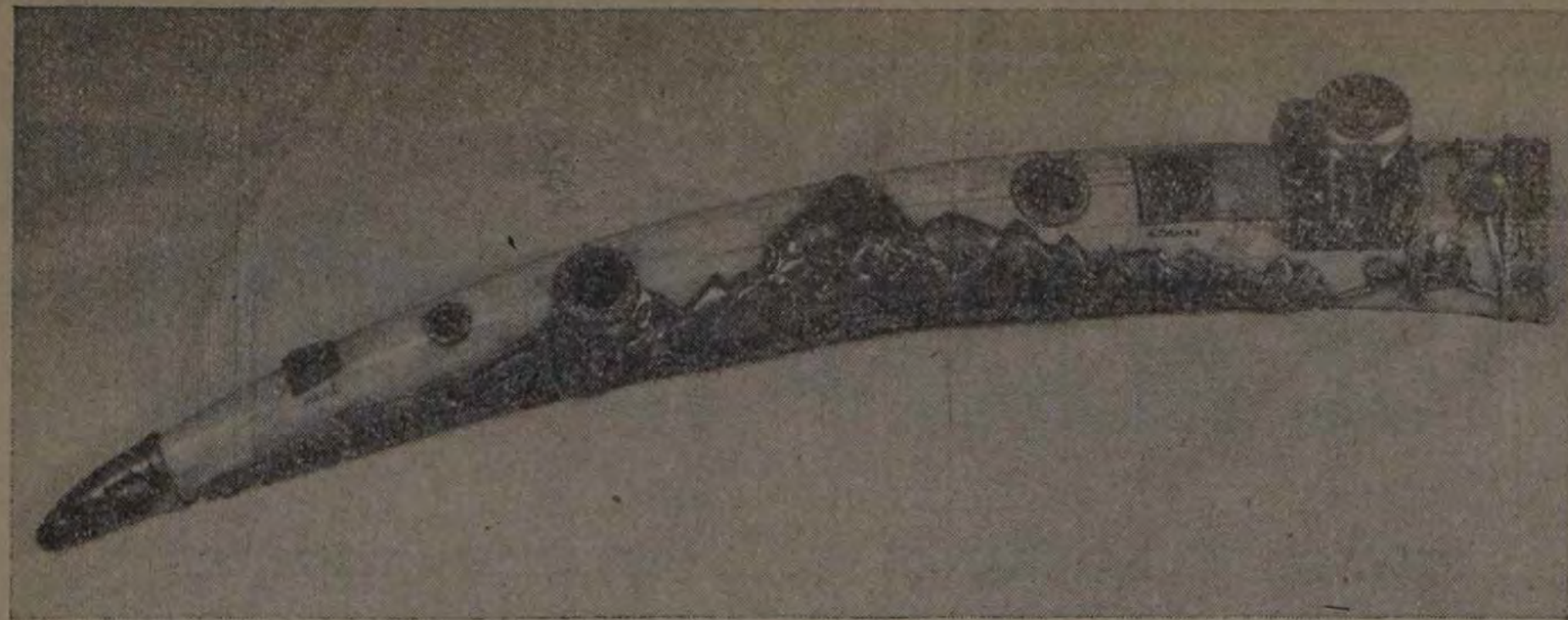
Molly Lee, Ph.D.,
Curator of Ethnology and History,
Associate Professor of Anthropology

PLEASE PRESENT TO



(Made by
Alaska
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA)





PRESIDENT TAFT'S INKSTAND—Now on display in the University of Alaska Museum, this walrus tusk inkstand, overlaid with Alaska gold, was presented to President William Howard Taft by a group of Fairbanks citizens in 1910.

President Taft's Walrus Tusk Inkstand in Museum

The next time you visit the museum at the University of Alaska be sure to take a good look at the beautiful walrus tusk inkstand presented to President William Howard Taft by the citizens of Fairbanks and recently given to the University of Alaska by Helen Taft Manning, daughter of President Taft, and Charles P. Taft and Robert, his sons. The gold, which is of the value of several hundred dollars is all native gold from nearby creeks. There is quite a difference in color in several details of the bas-relief composite scene of the northland, and one experienced in handling gold as it was brought in

from the cleanups on the creeks would be able to tell by the color from what creek it had come. As disclosed by the accompanying cut, the tusk inkstand is an extravagant piece of workmanship and tells in gold a story of pioneer days in the Fairbanks section. The generosity of the donors and their desire to have it on exhibition in the Museum of the University of Alaska is greatly appreciated.

The tusk is 24 inches in length and engraved on the gold plate fitted to the base of the tusk are these words: "To William H. Taft, President of the United States, from the

citizens of Fairbanks, Alaska, in appreciation of his friendly interest in Alaskan affairs. Fairbanks, Alaska, A.D. MCMX."

However, the story of the walrus tusk inkstand is not complete unless one knows just what Fairbanks was like in those days of 1910, so the files of the **Fairbanks Daily News-Miner** of 34 years ago are examined and this is the way the story goes.

The issue of June 20, 1910, tells its readers that Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Charles Nagel had invited Attorney General G. W. Wickersham to accompany him on a trip to Alaska.

The August issues of the paper, printed before and during the visit, give detailed accounts of the progress and entertainment of the dis-

tinguished guests. The reports are chronological.

August 2. Attorney General Wickersham wires Mayor Nordale of Fairbanks from Dawson accepting his invitation to visit Fairbanks provided that the trip would take no more than four days.

August 4. Walter Clark, Governor of Alaska, visited Fairbanks and approved of the plans for entertainment of the visitors.

August 11. Fairbanks property owners and business men were busy decorating their premises, the streets and the waterfront. Reports were received that Secretary Nagel and Attorney General Wickersham and their party had left Minto on the Steamer Tanana, at 8:10 a. m. and were expected at Chena at 10 p. m. Plans were made so that if they arrived at Chena on time, or before midnight, a special committee would bring them to Fairbanks on a special train. A brass band had been hired to play on their arrival at the Fairbanks depot.

August 12. Big reception in Gordon's Roller Rink was planned for 8:15 p. m. The Roller Rink was decorated so that it was "a bower of loveliness." There were birches around the room, baskets suspended from the beams overhead, and bunting and other decoration in profusion. The Speaker's platform was decorated with potted plants backed by furs, and overhead was hung a fishnet studded with cut flowers which the ladies of the town had woven into the meshes. One hundred canaries had been hired by

Dr. Hall.

Children, young and old, were to be exhibited on the stand at the far end of the hall.

One whole side of the hall was taken up by natural history exhibits. On the other side was a booth for the display of local gold dust and bullion, as shown by the banks. The rest of that side was taken up by a vegetable display, showing the garden and farm produce of the district.

After the reception, at 11 p. m., the visitors planned to leave for Chena by train, there again to board the steamer.

August 13. All the activities of Secretary Nagel and Attorney General Wickersham on the previous day were reported in detail in this issue of the **Daily News-Miner**. They were in Fairbanks only 24 hours, but every minute was full. During the day they went by automobile to Chatanika and Cleary, where they saw a cleanup of \$40,000 in Henry Riley's workings on Cleary Creek. On the way they stopped at farms and greenhouses along the highway. The trip out was uneventful of accidents, and the automobiles made the high speed of 30 miles most of the way, but on the return trip two of the three autos broke down. Nevertheless, all returned safely, after stops to see the stamp mill on Garden Island, and St. Joseph's Hospital.

The reception was a huge success, and the exhibit features so popular, with both visitors and townspeople, that suggestions were made to have the fair as an annual event.

The following part of the news article, because it relates directly to the presentation of the tusk, is quoted in full: "After the reception and following lunch at the Arcade, the party went to the depot, where, as they were departing, Falcon Joslin, on behalf of the citizens of Fairbanks, presented Attorney General Wickersham with a beautiful walrus tusk ink stand bearing Mount McKinley and an Alaskan landscape in gold, overlaid on its surface. The gift is for President Taft, and was manufactured by J. L. Sale. A few of the members of the Tanana Club subscribed the \$1,000 necessary to purchase the handsome souvenir."

The visitors arrived at Chena safely, and embarked on the Steamer General Jacobs at 2:30 in the morning.

August 15. Mayor Tony Nordale received a cable of thanks from the two cabinet officers which had been sent from Kokrines on August 14.

Thanks are due to Dr. Cecil P. Robe for the data assembled from the files of the **Daily News-Miner** and the information that the tusk was not made to order, but had been in Mr. Sale's shop before the visit of the cabinet members was planned.

Once again an invitation is extended to visit the Museum of the University of Alaska and view this splendid gift from the Taft family. Visiting hours are: 10 to 12 and 1 to 5 daily and 1 to 5 on Sunday.

Newspapers

Presented