

ALASKAN DISCOVERY ...in Missouri

by M. Owen Warns

Collectors of National Bank Notes will be pleased to learn that at long last a territorial National Bank Note from Alaska has been uncovered. With the discovery of this unique rarity comes the long-awaited breakthrough to researchers of territorial notes, with the reporting of this "Alaska straggler," we have found the missing link in the representative group of territorial National Bank Notes.

The Date Back \$20 of The First National Bank of Juneau, Territory of Alaska, was discovered by Thomas Kolbrenner of the Midwest Money Co., Clayton, Mo., while settling an estate. This bit of good fortune brings to mind the old axiom often heard among paper money collectors: "Be patient, keep a weather eye out, somehow, somewhere, the long-sought-after note will eventually turn up." So it was in uncovering the "Johnny-Come-Lately" Alaska territorial.

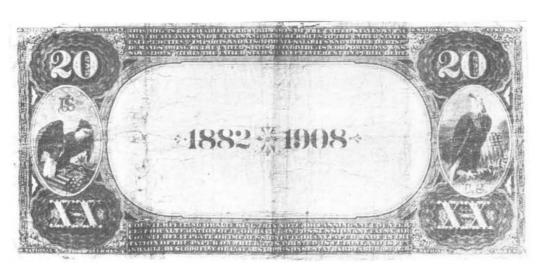
National Bank Note-issuing Alaska employed four different status designations: Territorial-status notes,

\$20.00 Second Charter Green Dated Back 1882-1908 First National Bank of Juneau, Alaska Territory, dated February 15, 1898, with blue Treasury Seal, and the signature of John Reck as bank president.

District-status notes, Engraved no-status notes and Type-set no-status notes.

TERRITORIAL-STATUS NATIONALS were issued only by The First N.B. of Juneau, charter No. 5117. The bank was chartered in 1898 with a capital of \$50,000. Notes issued were \$38,500 worth of Brown Back \$10s and \$20s (10-10-10-20 plate), with bank serial numbers 1-770; and, \$46,400 worth of Second Charter Date Backs, also from the 10-10-10-20 plates, serials 1-928, a total of \$84,900 worth of Alaska territorials.

What currently appears to be the sole survivor of that issue—the "B" position \$10, serial 813 Date Back—was issued during the period covered by the Oregonic Act of



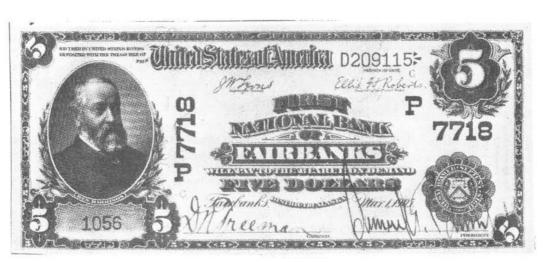
Reverse-of The First National Bank of Juneau Territorial Note

Congress, 1884; whereby the laws of Oregon were extended to Alaska, as far as applicable.

From 1884 to 1912, the area was officially known as The District of Alaska. John Kinkead became the first district governor (1884-1885), followed by half a dozen others. It was during the term of District Governor John G. Brady (1897-1906) that the Juneau territorial note was issued.

The Juneau Second Charter notes are the only bank notes of Alaska on which the territorial status appears. The issue of these territorials was unknown to Robert Friedberg; they do not appear in his authoritative book "Paper Money of the United States." (The publishers of the book have advised, however, that this note will be listed in the next edition of the Friedberg book, with the number S-794A assigned to it.)

A territorial seal of Alaska was non-existent in the Francis E. Spinner Collection of Seals, and was likewise unknown to Dr. Frank A. Limpert, the eminent authority of seals employed on the backs of First and Second Charter National Bank Notes; because Alaska, while under District and Territorial status, did not have a representative seal. It was the custom of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to place the representative seal of the State or Territory on



Fr. No. 595—Third Charter Red Seal Notes Issued by the First National Bank of Fairbanks,
District of Alaska. 6400 notes printed



Fr. No. 598—Third Charter Blue Seal Notes Plain Backs, Issued by the First National Bank of Fairbanks, District of Alaska. 10,400 notes printed

such Nationals, in the left oval panel on the back of each note.

In the case of the Alaska territorial note, the Bureau employed, in place of a territorial seal on the left side, a crouched—ready to fly or fight—eagle atop a shield. Above are the intertwined letters "U" and "S", with 13 stars around the top. A different eagle and shield design was used in the right panel. This same design combination was initially employed on the Original Series notes of the First Charter Period.

The official representative seal for Alaska was not approved until after statehood was attained, Jan. 3, 1959.

ALASKAN DISTRICT STATUS NATIONALS were issued only by The First N.B. of Fairbanks, charter No. 7718.

Chartered in May, 1905, (according to the Comptroller's Report, although the notes are dated March 1, 1905) the bank's note issues were as follows: Third Charter Red Seals; \$32,000 worth of \$5s, serials 1-1600, and \$73,000 worth of \$10s and \$20s, (all of the bank's higher denomination notes were printed from 10-10-10-20 plates) serials 1-1460. Third Charter Date Backs; \$52,000 worth of \$5s, serials 1-2600 and \$98,000 worth of \$10s and \$20s, numbers 1-1960. Third Charter Plain Backs, Blue Seals; \$77,200 in

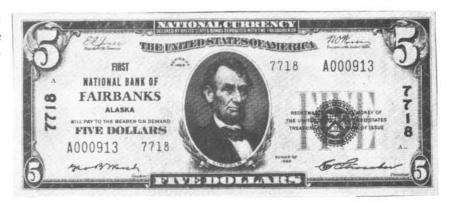


Third Charter Blue Seal Plain Back. Issued by the First National Bank of Juneau. 7,780 notes printed.



\$20. Type I First National Bank of Juneau

\$5. Type II, First National Bank of Fairbanks





\$10. Type I, First National Bank of Ketchikan

\$5 notes, numbered 2601-6460 and \$143,000 worth of \$10 and \$20 bills, serials 1961-4836.

The Engraved no-status Alaska notes were again issued only by the First N.B. of Juneau.

In 1912, Congress authorized a restricted, circumscribed territorial status to Alaska, with the first meeting of the Territorial Legislature convening March 3, 1913.

ENGRAVED NO-STATUS DESIGNATION NOTES were dated Feb. 15, 1918, 20 years to the date after the

first Second Charter notes were issued by the Juneau bank.

Alaska was not proclaimed a full-fledged Territory until Nov. 5, 1924. During the 12 intervening years (1912-1924) and during the tenure of Territorial Governor John F.A. Strong (1913-1918) the "no-status" notes were issued. These notes have ALASKA engraved in a curved arc in the bottom center of the bank's title format.

Such Third Charter Plain Back Blue Seal notes issued by the Juneau bank amounted to \$77,800 worth of \$10 and \$20 notes, serials 1-1556. TYPE-SET NO-STATUS NOTES OF ALASKA were issued by The First National Banks of Fairbanks, Ketchikan and Juneau, all Series 1929 (small size) notes. They circulated during the Alaska Territorial period and were without the "Territory" designation in the bank title formats, following the example of the Third Charter notes of Juneau.

Issues of small size Alaska Nationals were as follows:

First N.B. of Fairbanks—\$5 Type 1, \$31,500 worth, serials 1-1050; \$10 Type 1, \$31,200, serials 1-520; \$20 Type 1, \$20,400, serials 1-170; \$5 Type 2, \$10,430, serials 1-2086; \$10 Type 2, \$10,340, serials 1-1034; \$20 Type 2, \$6,480, serials 1-324.

First N.B. of Ketchikan—\$5 Type 1, \$69,060 worth, serials 1-2302; \$10 Type 1, \$76,440, serials 1-1274; \$20 Type 1, \$39,600, serials 1-330; \$5 Type 2, \$24,550, serials 1-4910; \$10 Type 2, \$18,010, serials 1-1801; \$20 Type 2, \$12,000, serials 1-600. Established in September of 1924, with a capital of \$50,000 and charter No. 12578, this bank was eligible to circulate Third Charter Nationals, but elected not to do so.

First N.B. of Juneau—\$10 Type 1, \$50,400 worth, serials 1-834; \$20 Type 1, \$24,960, serials 1-208; \$10 Type 2, \$16,710, serials 1-1671; \$20 Type 2, \$3,520, serials 1-176.

Of the five Alaska National Banks eligible to issue circulating bank notes, only three participated in this endeavor. The two non-issuing National banks were: The Harriman N.B. of Alaska at Seward, charter No. 10705, Feb., 1915; title changed to First N.B. of Seward, Feb., 1924; liquidated April, 1921. and The First N.B. of Anchorage, charter No. 12074, Dec., 1921.

Our appreciative gratitude is extended to the following members of the Society of Paper Money Collectors whose cooperation made this article possible:

William P. Donlon	Dave L. Levitt
John Hickman	Dean Oakes
Peter Huntoon	John T. Waters
Lyn F. Knight	Louis Van Belkum

Included In The List Of Publications Consulted Are: "National Banks of the Note Issuing Period, 1863-1935", Van Belkum.

"Paper Money of the United States", Robert Friedberg.

"The National Bank Notes Issues of 1929-1935", Warns, Huntoon and Van Belkum.

"United States National Bank Notes", Dr. Frank A. Limpert.

"United States Large Size Paper Money, 1861-1923", Wm. P. Donlon.

Comptroller of the Currency Reports.

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

AM'T.

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Auction catalogs, Stacks, Rarcoa, Hickman & Waters, Hickman & Oakes.

John M. Kinney, Archivest, State of Alaska, Juneau, Alaska.

DATE

1896

1899

1886

1896

1899

1923

GRADE

Unc.

Unc.

Unc.

Unc.

E.F.

Unc.

SERIAL#

7788394

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26859341

96731393

REWARD OFFERED

\$1,000.00 Reward will be given for the return of this collection. Last seen in rear seat of a taxi. For further information contact: Atlanta, Georgia Police Department, Telephone (404) 658-6772 or Carl Bryan, White Oak, NC 28399, Telephone (919) 866-4151.

28399, Telephone (919) 866-4151.			289	10.00	1880	E.F.	5268250			
					296	10.00	1886	E.F.	1315914	
FR#	AM'T.	DATE	GRADE	SERIAL#	311	20.00	1880	V.F.	2137605	
		LEGAL TENDE	R		314	20.00	1886	E.F.	693635	
62	\$5.00	1862	E.F.	43624						
95	10.00	1863	E.F.	81122		COIN NOTES				
125	20.00	1862	E.F.	58671	347	1.00	1890	Unc.	631763	
16	1.00	1862	E.F.	42324	353	2.00	1890	Unc.	407141	
18	1.00	1868	E.F.	326587	359	5.00	1890	Unc.	3073769	
27	1.00	1878	Unc.	3828455	368	10.00	1890	Unc.	4480742	
40	1.00	1923	Unc.	31424850	372	20.00	1890	E.F.	189910	
41	2.00	1862	E.F.	983	FIRST CHARTER					
42	2.00	1869	V.F.	411914	380	1.00	1865	E.F.	78969	
60	2.00	1917	Unc.	50710868	387	2.00	1865	E.F.	871136	
64	5.00	1869	Unc.	3841654	399	5.00	1871	E.F.	549512	
91	5.00	1907	Unc.	4225381	418	10.00	1875	E.F.	537106	
96	10.00	1869	V.F.	3428326	429	20.00	1865	E.F.	591288	
99	10.00	1878	Unc.	1323593		SECOND CHARTER				
114	10.00	1901	Unc.	46868780	472	5.00	1892	Unc.	620473	
123	10.00	1923	Unc.	399074	537	5.00	1900	E.F.	281898	
147	20.00	1880	Unc.	1910604	581	20.00	1882	V.F.	271292	
	S	ILVER CERTIFIC	CATES			FEDERAL RESERVE				
219	1.00	1886	Unc.	61177557	1107	100.00	1914	Unc.	243934	
224	1.00	1896	Unc.	13827117		GOLD CERTIFICATES				
236	1.00	1899	Unc.	41089457	1173	10.00	1922	Unc.	42185167	
244	2.00	1886	Unc.	18408109	1200	50.00	1922	Unc.	2138188	
245	2.00	1891	Unc.	19046332	1215	100.00	1922	Unc.	1143233	

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