



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 Oregon Act of



Reverse—of The First National Bank of Juneau Territorial Note

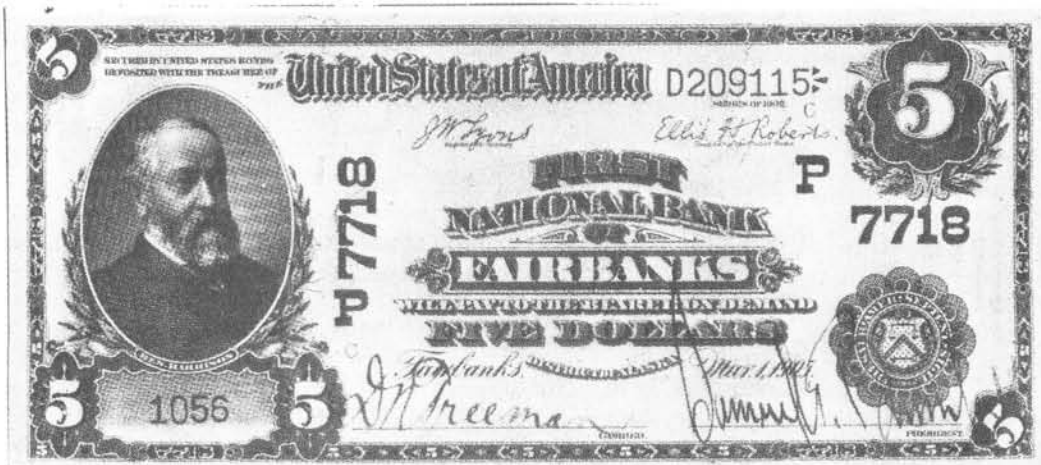
Congress, 1884; whereby the laws of Oregon were extended to Alaska, as far as applicable.

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

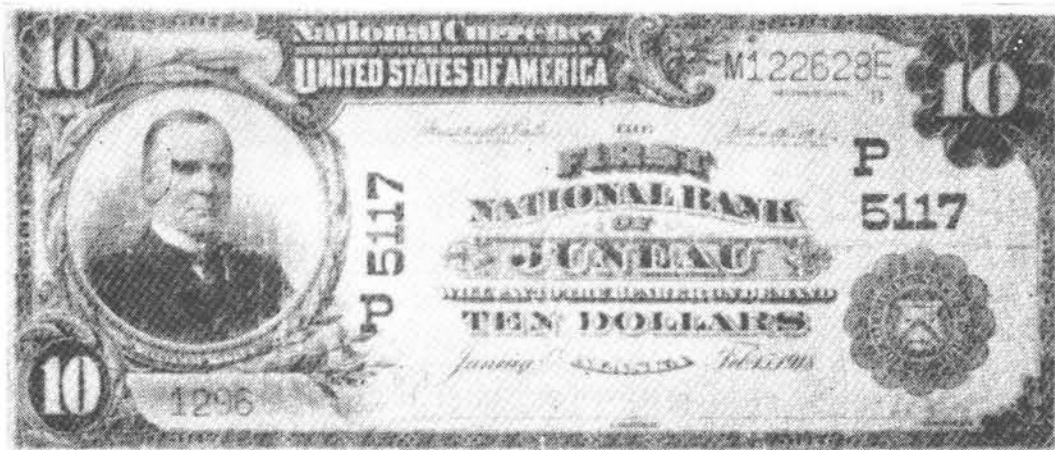
such Nationals, in the left oval panel on the back of each note.

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

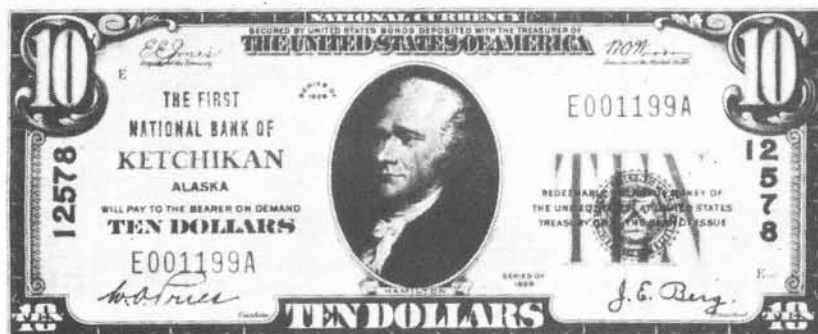
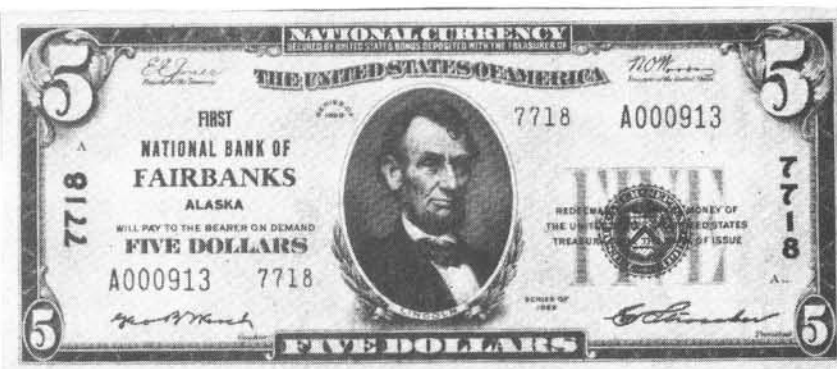


Third Charter Blue Seal Plain Back. Issued by the First National Bank of Juneau. 7,780 notes printed.



\$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.

