



## Anchor Tavern

245 Front Street, Nome, AK 99762 (907) 443-2105

64°29'51"N 165°24'33"W

License Issued: 1955 to Charles F. and Shirley Goedde

**CLOSED 2022**

Amenities: Video games, shuffleboard, liquor store

Web Site: None

History and Notoriety: According to census records, Charles F. Goedde, born in South Dakota, was a miner in the Koyuk River area of the eastern Seward Peninsula in 1940. "C.F." as he was known, later married Shirley and moved to Nome. They owned the Anchor Tavern for only two years before selling it to Paul Mandeville. Paul, who also owned the Bering Sea Club and the Wallace Hotel, changed the name to The Spare Room, but it never caught on. Charles McAlpine bought the bar in 1964 and officially changed it back to the Anchor Tavern.

Ownership transferred to Robert and JoAnn Sedlock in 1976. During this time, Albro Gregory was editor and publisher of *The Nome Nugget*. Albro refused to allow advertising from the Anchor Tavern unless it changed its name to Anchor Saloon. This was because he felt every bar in Nome should be a saloon and the Anchor was apparently

the lone holdout. In the March 15, 1977, edition of the *Nugget*, the entire back page is a color advertisement for the "Anchor Saloon," which indicates that Bob and JoAnn relented for a moment for the sake of publicity.

Steffen Andersen bought the bar in 1979. Steffen had been mayor of Nome for ten terms in the 1949 to 1966 time period. Brothers Mark and Windrow Sackett bought the bar in 1991 and are the current owners.

In May of 1991, a cast of forty-five did what some thought was impossible for an Alaska bush town: they staged *The Music Man*. Richard Beneville, a local Nomeite who directed the musical, found three members of what became the River City barbershop quartet at the Anchor Tavern one night. A thousand people (a quarter of the town) packed into the gym to watch the show's two performances. At the Anchor Tavern after the show, John Handeland, then mayor of Nome, climbed on the bar and made a speech about the play, but it was drowned out by the cheers. The barbershop quartet harmonized in the tavern until closing time.

Richard Beneville, the director of the musical, was Mayor of Nome from 2015 until his death in 2020.

Visiting the Anchor Tavern: The Anchor shares a common wall with its neighbor, the Breakers Bar, but it has its own personality and atmosphere. It is fairly small but has a nice big window at the back where you can look out onto the Bering Sea. If you're in town for the end of the Iditarod, check out the Idita-Mardi Gras, and Safer Sex parties.

**Author's Note:** Mark Sackett died in 2021. In 2022, Windrow Sackett, who owned the other 50% of the bar, requested more time to complete the license transfer. The COVID-19 pandemic added difficulties, and the liquor license was relinquished in 2023.