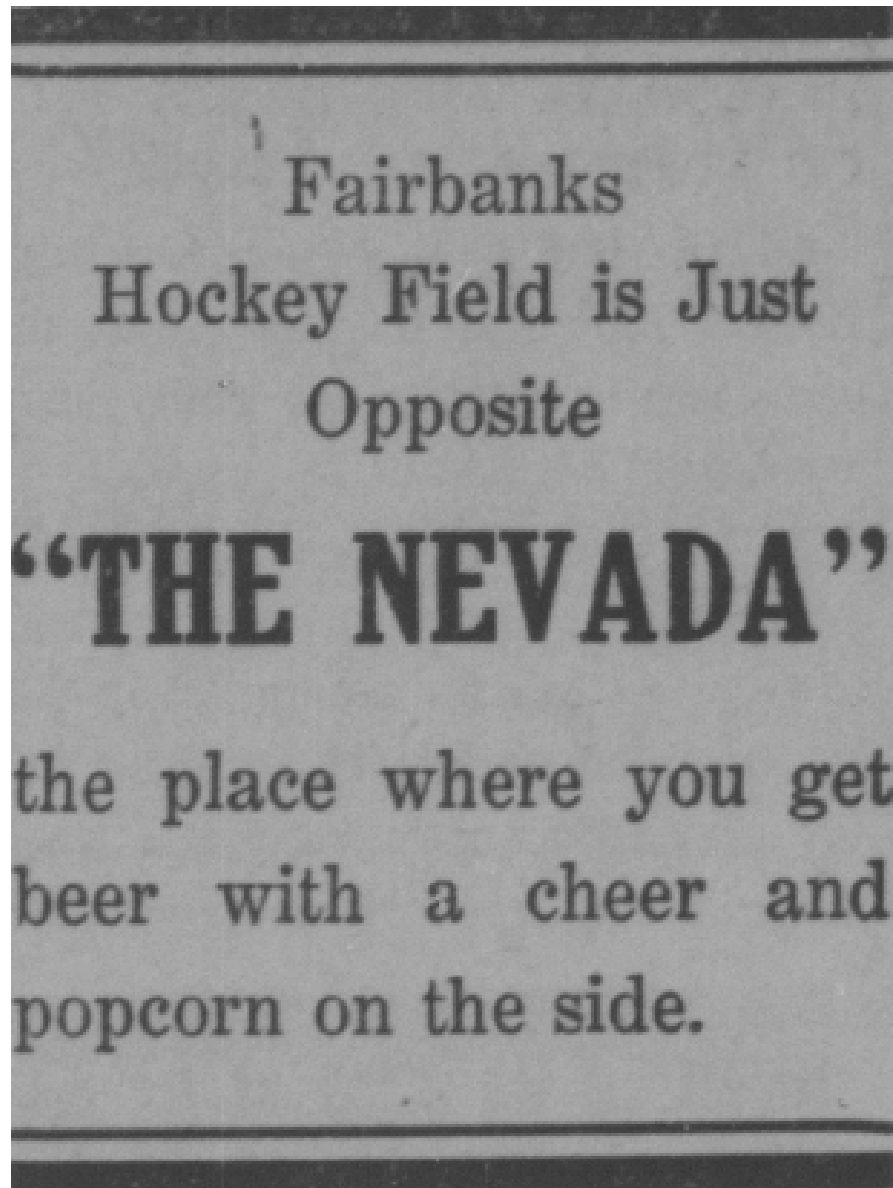


## Nevada Bar

605 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

1934 – 1971



Fairbanks Daily News-Miner 03-22-1935

**EVERY NIGHT**  
at the  
**NEVADA**

**Sonia**

FEATURING

Songs — Guitar — Accordion in  
Good Old  
SPANISH TUNES

**Nevada**  
**Cocktail Bar**

*Fairbanks Daily News Miner — June 8, 1940*



**Welcome  
to**



The Popular

## **NEVADA BAR**



Meet the Gifted

SINGERS AND ENTERTAINERS

**SONIA and MARCIA**



*Make our place your head-  
quarters for the Fourth*



**Photo by George S. Witt - 1944**

**UAF-1984-105-73**

## *The Old* NEVADA BAR

was founded when the first miners landed at Fairbanks shortly after the turn of the century. It was named "Nevada" after the state from which those rugged pioneers hailed. As the little mining camp grew into a thriving city, the Nevada grew into its present popularity.

The New Nevada has retained the old spirit of good fellowship, yet today modern lighting, decoration and fixtures make this famous spot the—

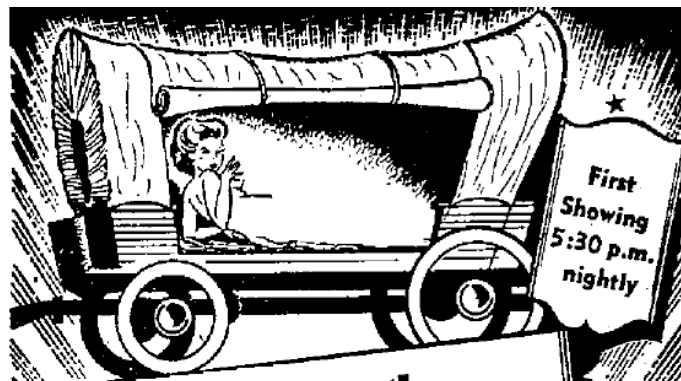
*"Tops at the Top of the World"*

## *The New* NEVADA BAR

First Avenue

— Fairbanks, Alaska

From Lou Jacobin's *Guide to Alaska* – 1948



## "Cutie in the Covered Wagon"

Only 7 inches Tall

Direct from California comes this cute little nudist to perform for YOU—exclusively at Nevada Kid. This daring entertainment is the invention of world-renowned magician Steve Shepard . . . was featured in LIFE magazine. "Cutie in the Covered Wagon" invites you to come in and get acquainted!

- ★ She's alive! She's lovely! She's tantalizing!
- ★ Featured in a San Francisco nite club for over 19 years.
- ★ You read about her in LIFE. Now see for yourself.
- ★ If you blush easily — you'd better stay away!

NO UN-COVER CHARGE!

# NEVADA KID

COCKTAILS ★ 605 FIRST AVENUE

FREE DRINKS — 10:00–10:30 a.m. Daily

*Fairbanks Daily News-Miner 05-05-1951*

For a short time, the bar was known as Nevada Kid.

*Mike and Jake's*  
**OLD NEVADA BAR**  
FAIRBANKS



*An Original Landmark of Fairbanks Gold Rush Era  
The Bar — 1904*



*The Modern Bar  
Today with the  
entertaining  
7-inch girl in  
the fishbowl*

Our walls are adorned with past pictorial historical events and persons who lived and died during the fabulous days of '98 when life, death, fame and fortune hinged on one thing, "GOLD". A far cry from the "saloon" of 1904, we feature a completely modern bar with your favorite beverage and our 7-inch girl in the fishbowl to entertain you and tantalize your curiosity.





Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks

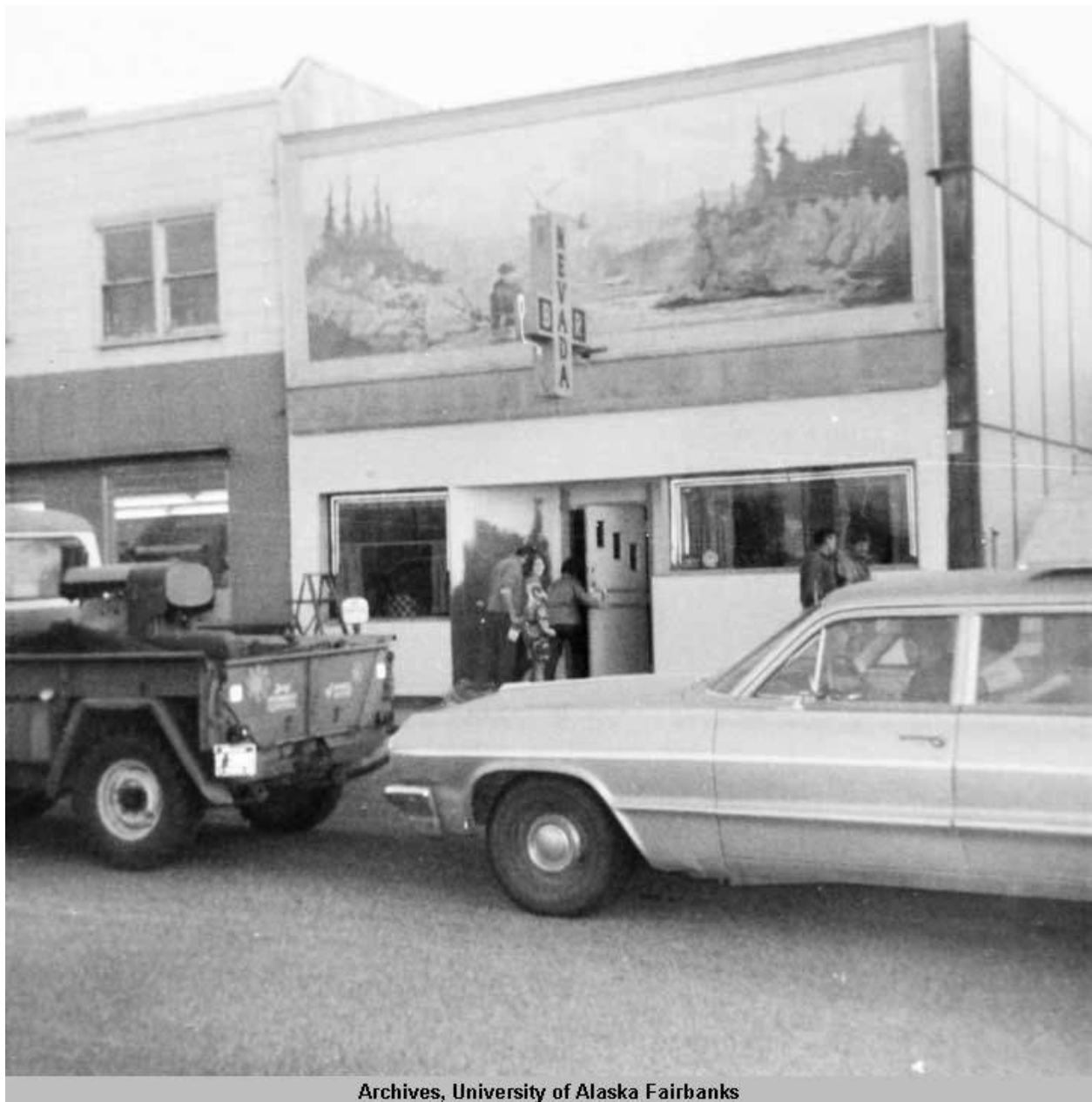
**Collection Name:** Bruce Haldeman Papers, 1953-1989

**Identifier:** UAF-2003-139-45

**Title:** People in doorway of Nevada Bar.

**Description:** "People in doorway of Nevada Bar, Fairbanks flood, 1967; photo has negative." A man and a woman standing in the doorway of a bar.





Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Collection Name:** Bruce Haldeman Papers, 1953-1989

**Identifier:** UAF-2003-139-72

**Title:** Front Nevada Bar.

**Description:** "Front Nevada Bar, 10/68 [Fairbanks]." A view of a store front with the sign Nevada Bar, pedestrians and cars passing by on the street.



# The Off Beat

... With Chuck Hoyt

LOCATED ABOUT 100 feet west of the south side of the Cushman Street bridge is one of the oldest watering holes in Fairbanks—the Nevada Bar. Although, not always having been found at this location, it is a landmark in Fairbanks, namewise, if not sitewise.

Located several thousands of miles north of the sovereign state of Nevada it is not known why, in the first place, or even the second place, why it was originally named the Nevada Bar, nor for that matter, its counterpart in Anchorage, but under different proprietorship.

THE NAME, Nevada Bar seems to have gotten around, with two in Alaska's largest cities and several in the large cities of the smaller states. Possibly the reason for this is the wide-open, rowdy life from the mining and gambling casinos of the west.

Whatever it is, it took us to our research department, which consists of one, that's me, who knows first-hand of only two Alaska Bars in the largest state in the union. The reasoning behind this research is that if there are two Nevada Bars in Alaska, how many Alaskan Bars are there?

THERE IS one in Ketchikan and one in Cordova. There is a possibility of a third Alaskan Bar located in Anchorage as there is a place listed as the Alaska Pud Puddle. Since some bars we have frequented were like puddles and have fallen into mud puddles on leaving others, there is that possibility of the Mud Puddle being a bar in Anchorage. But with our luck, we'll probably get an indignant letter from the First Baptist Church in that town telling us the Mud Puddle is their favorite tea shoppe.

All this may have you wondering what we are driving at. It is very simple. There are only two Nevada Bars in Alaska and two Alaskan Bars in our great state, which is no doubt information you could do without, but nevertheless there it is, for what it's worth.

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All this may have you wondering what we are driving at. It is very simple. There are only two Nevada Bars in Alaska and two Alaskan Bars in our great state, which is no doubt information you could do without, but nevertheless there it is, for what it's worth.

BUT MORE catastrophic to the pub crawling people of the 49th state is the fact that soon there may be only one Nevada Bar in Alaska, and that in Anchorage.

Jack Sexton, the entrepreneur of Fairbanks' Nevada recently had his little buddy, Hap Ryder of Shamrock Construction redecorate the old landmark of the town. Ryder, as Irish as Paddy's pig, somehow came up with a French-Spanish motif, such as found in New Orleans, but not too well known in the middle of Alaska. The decor even has an outside balcony for such frivolous activities as one wants to pursue in the dead of winter.

The proprietor says he doesn't mind who uses the balcony in the winter, or why, but recommends against it unless you're tuned in with a head-bolt heater, circulating system, and battery warmer, as well as your favorite girl friend. Also the service is liable to be lousier on the balcony than inside the establishment—and it isn't so hot there as the bartenders are usually more interested in what passes their fancy than in serving drinks.

WITH HIS French-Spanish motif, however, Sexton has found himself in a quandary. It doesn't lend itself to the name Nevada Bar.

Two schools of thought are helping him debate this academic question. One, from the newcomers say the name has to reflect the atmosphere of the establishment, as conveyed by the motif, the beards, beads and absinthe.

THE OTHER school of thought. That as expressed by the oldtimers of the town claim the good name, Nevada Bar, can not be sullied by any other name—even a bonafide Alaskan—Moniker.

They point back to the days of Nevada John Vukmir, The Nevada Kid Byron Gillam, Bob Bigovich, Chuck Jay, Mudo Jerovich, Curly Levi and others before who were all proprietors of the Nevada.

Of the bunch, Nevada John and the Nevada Kid were probably the best known. Nevada John was well known as a "real gentlemen" of Fairbanks, and the Nevada Kid, who is not the Kut Rate Kid of Anchorage, is well known for his liquor wars. At one time he had a real good one going with the other liquor establishments of the town, which brought prices down to two bits for a fifth of booze. Gillam later ran for Delegate to Congress and I can't figure out why he wasn't elected as he was a champion benefactor of the poor and what drinking man isn't.

the other liquor establishments of the town, which brought prices down to two bits for a fifth of booze. Gillam later ran for Delegate to Congress and I can't figure out why he wasn't elected as he was a champion benefactor of the poor and what drinking man isn't.

THE NEW breed of habitue have flooded the joint, (which is something the Chena River couldn't do in the 1967 disaster) with such names as Baroque, Cafe de Sports, Piccardie, Champlain, Chez Sexton, Le Bistro, La Nevada, Fleur de Li's, Ruby Foo's, Ulysee Espresso, Le Petit Trianon, Maison de La Paix, L' Internationale, Maison Blanche, Je M'en Fou, and others with names too unprintable in this family newspaper.

The contemporary, the kind who wraps his whole mitt around the glass, not just a couple petit fingers and sips, lean more towards Jack's Joynt, Flood Tide, The Hold Check, Pink Pussycat, Yellow Elephant, Bill's, Hap's Place, Gramma Hipstein's Place, Chena Tavern, Duck Inn, Home Away from Home, Chock Full o'Nuts, Bus Stop, Finky Fox, Terracotta Tiger, Corner Rendezvous, Cushman St. Annex and others also unfit for print in this family newspaper.

AS OUR own contribution, we can only think of the Alaska Bar, since our research has only uncovered two in the great state of Alaska, or the South Bank of the Chena, providing the owner can make a reciprocal deal with his neighbor, the First National Bank, and have them serve cocktails, while the bar cashes checks.

**U. S. T. A. S. A.**

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*Fairbanks Daily News Miner* – October 21, 1968



Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Collection Name:** Bruce Haldeman Papers, 1953-1989

**Identifier:** UAF-2003-139-90

**Title:** Demonstration to save Nevada Bar, early '70s.

**Description:** "Larry Carpenter, Hap Ryder, Janice --, Layne St. John, Len. Hamilton, 1972. Demonstration to save Nevada Bar, early '70s."





Fairbanks Daily News-Miner photo by Charles Darby

*A new false front and gallons of paint failed to save the old Nevada bar in Fairbanks which since 1909 has been a home to some, a retreat to others, and a madhouse on Friday evenings. It was the first victim of the city's new building condemnation law and was closed during this past summer.*

*Alaska magazine – October 1971*



## Historic Nevada Bar closing

By DEAN WARINER  
News Editor

It's not very often people hold an Irish wake for a bar closing, but there's one tonight for the Nevada—known to many as a "good house."

The Nevada is being closed by the city because its housing is substandard and nobody is willing to spend the money to save the building which was erected about 1909—first as the Magnet Hotel and later as the Nevada.

Tonight's wake will be replete with flag raising, and greetings from the governors of Alaska and Nevada. Then there will be comments from Hap Ryder and Pat Mitchell, who were selected as official, unofficials.

A little-known, less active group of news hounds calling themselves the Friday Afternoon Press Club, later changed to Friday Late Afternoon Press Club (FLAP Club) will hold its final meeting there tonight at 7. The group's members started the whole thing.

Patrons of the establishment

have been mourning the bar's passing all week, in a manner of speaking, but tonight is the official closing.

Two other businesses are also closing by city direction for similar reasons. They are Harry Avakoff's Jewelry and Hoyt's Music Store. No known wakes were planned for the other two businesses but Avakoff was invited to speak at the Nevada.

Nevada owner Jack Sexton said he is trying to relocate his business in the old International Hotel dubbed by FLAP as the "Big I." Sexton said yesterday he is awaiting word from the Alcoholic Beverage Control board on transfer of his liquor license.

Sleeped in history nearly as old as the city, the Nevada has been a home to some, retreat for others and a madhouse on Friday evenings.

Sexton fears that souvenir-hunting guests tonight will dismantle everything possible and he is removing the tables and chairs for safe-keeping. One eager patron removed a urinal more than a

week ago because he thought the bar was closing that night. Another copped a full length mirror from the women's restroom to beat the rush.

Nevada Gov. Mike O'Callaghan sent his respects on the bar's closing and said, "It was with a great deal of dismay that I read of the impending 'death' of the old Nevada Bar in Fairbanks. We Alaskan State folks always like to have some place to hang our hats when we go travelling, and the Nevada Bar would have been a logical place to quaff an ale."

Alaska Gov. William A. Egan wrote the press club, tongue in cheek, "Let this serve as official notification that the State of Alaska does sadly and nostalgically deplore the action of the Fairbanks mayor, the Fairbanks city manager, Fairbanks building officials and the City Council in condemning the meeting place of the Friday Afternoon Press Club in Alaska's Golden Heart City.

"Let this epistle also serve as a warning to Mike Dalton, that self-styled, reluctant president of

"the club" and her erstwhile assistant, Lael Morgan, that if they permit one more grave tragedy of this nature, the State of Alaska will exercise the harshest of consequences."



**Sourdough Jack**

**Sez:** "Told my wife there wouldn't be a dry eye in town when that bar closes, but she sez I got it wrong. She said there wouldn't be a dry glass in the joint."