

= Fairbanks Daily News @-@ Miner =

The Fairbanks Daily News @-@ Miner is a morning daily newspaper serving the city of Fairbanks , Alaska , the Fairbanks North Star Borough , the Denali Borough , and the Yukon @-@ Koyukuk Census Area in the United States state of Alaska . It is the farthest north daily in the United States , and one of the farthest north in the world . The oldest continuously operating daily in Alaska , by circulation it is the second @-@ largest daily in the state . It was purchased by the Helen E. Snedden Foundation in 2016 . The Snedden family were longtime owners of News @-@ Miner , selling it to a family trust for Dean Singleton and Richard Scudder , founders of the Media News Group in 1992 .

The News @-@ Miner was founded as the Weekly Fairbanks News in 1903 by George M. Hill and assumed the News @-@ Miner name in 1909 , under editor William Fentress Thompson , when Zachary Hickman sold his newspaper , The Miner News to the Fairbanks News . Thompson guided the paper through tough economic times as the gold near Fairbanks was mined out . During this period , the News @-@ Miner absorbed Fairbanks ' other newspapers and became the sole publication in Fairbanks . During the 1920s , the News @-@ Miner experimented with aerial delivery to remote mining camps , becoming one of the first newspapers in the world to make regular deliveries by aircraft . After Thompson 's death in 1926 , former Fairbanks mayor Alfeld Hjalmar Nordale became the paper 's editor .

In 1929 , the News @-@ Miner was purchased by Alaska industrialist Austin E. Lathrop , who operated it under a series of editors until 1950 . In that year , the paper was purchased by Charles Willis Snedden , who proceeded on a course of modernization . Under Snedden 's leadership , the News @-@ Miner became one of the first papers in Alaska to print in color and survived a fire and the biggest flood in Fairbanks history .

The News @-@ Miner has employed several notable Alaskans , including Sen. Bob Bartlett . Its mascot , Sourdough Jack , has been featured on the cover of every daily paper since 1952 . The News @-@ Miner has received numerous awards and recognitions during its history , particularly from the Alaska Press Club , which recognizes achievements by Alaska newspapers on an annual basis .

= = Overview = =

The Fairbanks Daily News @-@ Miner is a morning newspaper published daily in the city of Fairbanks in the U.S. state of Alaska . Because Fairbanks is located at a latitude of 64 @. 838 degrees north , the News @-@ Miner offices are located farther north than those of any other daily newspaper in North America . The newspaper has a daily circulation of between 9 @, 000 and 12 @, 500 copies ( sources vary ) , and a Sunday circulation of about 18 @, 000 . Overall readership statistics are somewhat higher . The News @-@ Miner operates a Web site , Newsminer.com , which records roughly 250 @, 000 unique visitors per year , according to Alexa .

The News @-@ Miner 's circulation area encompasses about 179 @, 287 square miles ( 464 @, 351 km<sup>2</sup> ) in central and northern Alaska . The circulation area includes the Fairbanks North Star Borough , the Yukon @-@ Koyukuk Census Area , the northern portion of the Denali Borough , and portions of the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area . Major settlements in the circulation area include the city of Fairbanks and the towns of North Pole , Delta Junction , Healy , Fort Yukon , and Tok . There are no other daily newspapers in the News @-@ Miner 's circulation area , but Fairbanks and southern portions of the Denali Borough are secondary circulation areas for the Alaska Dispatch News , a daily newspaper based 260 miles ( 418 km ) south , in Anchorage .

The paper 's coverage centers on local news with moderate reporting on state issues that affect Fairbanks and the surrounding area . Local sports , particularly the Alaska Goldpanners ( Alaska Baseball League ) , Fairbanks Ice Dogs ( North American Hockey League ) , and the various sports teams of the University of Alaska Fairbanks are covered regularly by the newspaper . The News @-@ Miner produces several specialty publications in addition to the regular paper . Two

publications : Latitude 65 , a weekly arts supplement released on Friday ; and Sundays , a feature reporting section published on Sundays ; also are produced by newspaper staff . Several annual publications ? a visitors ' guide , winter survival guide , and others ? also are released by the newspaper on a regular basis .

= = Early years = =

= = = Foundation = = =

In 1901 , trader Ebenezer Barnette sailed up Alaska 's Tanana River in hopes of establishing a trading post on the trail connecting the coastal town of Valdez with the gold @-@ mining community of Eagle . Due to low water , however , the steamboat Barnette chartered was unable to continue up the river . Discouraged , Barnette deposited his cache of goods on a riverbank of the Chena River and sailed downstream with the intent of making another attempt to sail up the river during the following year . In 1902 , miner Felix Pedro struck gold at a spot about 15 miles north of the spot where Barnette left his supplies . Seeing an opportunity , Barnette decided to establish a trading post at the spot . Other miners and suppliers arrived , attracted by the gold , and Barnette named the settlement Fairbanks , after Indiana Senator and later Vice President of the United States Charles W. Fairbanks .

Through the fall and winter of 1902 , word of the gold strike and the new settlement spread throughout Alaska and the Yukon . Printer George M. Hill , who had been working in Dawson City , packed up his small press and traveled to Fairbanks in early 1903 . On September 19 , 1903 , he printed the first newspaper in the new settlement : Volume I , Issue I of the Weekly Fairbanks News . Little is known about Hill 's operation , but he likely used either a Washington Hand Press or an " Army " press ? both were small machines designed for transport on a single pack horse or pack mule . Single copies of the first editions of the paper were \$ 0 @.@ 25 each , or \$ 10 for a year 's subscription . The paper was 10 pages and had multiple advertisements , including one proclaiming that an election would be held on November 10 of that year for the purpose of incorporating the town . On the front page was a statement of policy :

= = = Newspaper wars = = =

In May 1904 , Hill sold the Weekly Fairbanks News to R.J. McChesney , who invested in a Linotype machine and a larger press . These improvements and the growing population of Fairbanks ? by 1905 , it had 2 @,@ 500 residents ? allowed the Weekly Fairbanks News to expand to semi @-@ weekly , then daily publication , in the process becoming the Fairbanks Daily News on July 1 , 1905 . On September 3 , the News had its first competition when the Fairbanks Sunday Times began publishing on the sole day that the News did not . Other papers soon arrived in the area . In 1906 , the Valdez News reported , " With the newspaper plans already in Fairbanks and with those which are being shipped there this year , the Tanana metropolis will be well supplied . There are no less than five of them all told ... " In May 1906 , McChesney sold the Daily News to Fairbanks ' founder , Ebenezer Barnette . Later that month , an enormous fire destroyed the Daily News press and much of Fairbanks .

Rather than wait for replacement equipment , Barnette purchased the press of a newly arrived editor , William Fentress Thompson , who had intended to set up his own newspaper . As part of the purchasing deal in August 1906 , Thompson was allowed to publish an evening paper ? the Tanana Daily Miner ? while the Fairbanks Daily News was published in the morning . The deal lasted only through September , as Thompson and Barnette conflicted on a personal level . The Tanana Miner was reduced to a weekly newspaper , then Thompson was deposed as editor of the Fairbanks News in June 1907 and took the Tanana Miner to the settlement of Chena , outside Fairbanks . Barnette , meanwhile , became embroiled in a series of legal troubles . He faced opposition from the owner of the Fairbanks Times , A.L. Anderson , who had fought Barnette about several gold claims near

Fairbanks and purchased the Times to compete against Barnette .

In 1907 , Barnette was accused of embezzling money from the Fairbanks bank he operated , and he was sued by the man who had funded the venture that led to the founding of Fairbanks . During the lawsuit , it was revealed that Barnette had been convicted of larceny in Oregon . As his legal bills added up , Barnette decided to lease the Fairbanks Daily News to a group of local businessmen . On June 15 , 1908 , Barnette ended the lease agreement by selling the newspaper to J. Harmon Caskey and Henry Roden . That same year , the campaign to elect Alaska 's first delegate to Congress was under way , and one of the candidates , Jack Corson , purchased one @-@ third of the newspaper . Corson 's campaign manager promptly was named the editor of the Daily News , and the paper switched to actively supporting Corson 's candidacy .

During this time , William Thompson ? best known as W.F. Thompson ? began gathering investors to purchase the Fairbanks Daily News . After Corson 's candidacy failed and Thompson amassed \$ 15 @,@ 000 from investors , he purchased the Daily News in March 1909 . On March 18 , 1909 , the Daily News published its last issue . Four days later , it reopened under the name Fairbanks Daily News @-@ Miner , an amalgam of the names of the Daily News and Thompson 's previous operation , the Tanana Miner . He chose the name over his first idea , the Daily Alaska Miner .

= = Territorial days = =

= = = Consolidation = = =

When Thompson assumed majority ownership of the renamed Fairbanks Daily News @-@ Miner in early 1909 , it was one of three daily newspapers in Fairbanks . The other two were the Fairbanks Times and the Tanana Daily Tribune . Competition among the three newspapers was intense , and they often clashed about issues such as city council meetings , a permanent bridge over the Chena River , and the mineral prospects of the town of Iditarod , where gold had just been discovered . The intense rivalries were driven by the declining economic situation in Fairbanks , as the initial gold findings that inspired the Fairbanks Gold Rush began to wane .

From the time Thompson took control until shortly after the Second World War , the News @-@ Miner lacked a dedicated connection to the Associated Press . In the early years of the Thompson administration , he had a dedicated correspondent in Seattle whose job was to read the early editions of the Seattle newspapers , then hurry to the telegraph office and summarize what he had read to Thompson on the other end of the telegraph cable . This system later was replaced by a dedicated contract with the Alaska Communications System , but that contract limited the News @-@ Miner to no more than 9 @,@ 000 words per day of messages .

On January 10 , 1910 , the Tanana Tribune was absorbed by the News @-@ Miner . The owners of the Tribune received shares in the News @-@ Miner ( which were later bought back by Thompson ) , and one of the Tribune 's owners received its printing plant , which was moved to Tacoma , Washington . In 1911 , Thompson feared the declining state of the Fairbanks economy and decided to leave Alaska . He sold his shares in the company , but returned after several months absence and demanded the shares back . Los Bernard , who briefly served as the paper 's publisher , returned the shares to Thompson , who resumed his role as publisher and editor . Thompson 's return coincided with a series of small gold discoveries at Livengood and Shushanna that boosted the Fairbanks economy , as gold @-@ seekers bought supplies in the town .

Thompson still wished to leave Alaska , however , and in 1915 , he sold a majority share of News @-@ Miner stock on option to O.P. Gaustad , a Republican Party booster . Scandal erupted when it was revealed that Gaustad was merely a stand @-@ in for James Wickersham , who was Alaska 's delegate to Congress . Partially because of the scandal , Gaustad was unable to sell the shares he held an option for , and Thompson returned to Alaska in spring 1916 to reassume his role as publisher . Later that year , Republican interests took over the Fairbanks Times , which had leaned toward the Democratic Party . The new owners of the Times were unable to come up with financing for new equipment , however , and the Times went out of business in October 1916 .

Following the discontinuation of the Times , the Alaska Weekly Citizen shifted to a daily publication schedule . This lasted until 1920 , when a fire destroyed the Citizen 's printing plant . The News @-@ Miner printed the two papers in conjunction for a time ? both mastheads appeared on the same paper ? but after the Citizen was unable to obtain loans to rebuild , the News @-@ Miner assumed its subscription list and business contracts and it became the sole daily newspaper in Fairbanks .

= = = Tough times = = =

In May 1920 , the Spanish Flu reached Fairbanks and infected most of the newspaper staff . " We had to keep writing of flu and the typesetters kept setting flu stories until they began to imagine they had the flu and went ? one , two , three ? just like that , " said Thompson in a story on the outbreak . Two years later , Thompson and the News @-@ Miner strongly protested the city 's order to evict the prostitutes living in a regulated district within Fairbanks . On September 24 , 1922 , Thompson reported that the News @-@ Miner 's press had been sabotaged , oil had been mixed with the paper 's printing ink , and a fire had been set in its office , presumably as a result of the paper 's stance against eviction .

The decline of Fairbanks ' economy was partially offset by the construction of the Alaska Railroad , and the arrival of President Warren G. Harding to dedicate the railroad in 1923 . Harding visited the News @-@ Miner offices and set a small bit of type for a special edition commemorating the visit . Less than one month later , however , Harding died on his return from Alaska . Harding 's visit coincided with the first commercial airplane flight in the state of Alaska on July 19 . By the next year , copies of the News @-@ Miner were delivered regularly by aircraft to remote mining camps and roadhouses . In the process , the News @-@ Miner became the first newspaper to regularly deliver via aircraft .

Three years after Harding 's death , William Thompson died on January 4 , 1926 . He was replaced by assistant editor Alfred Hjalmar Nordale , who had been mayor of Fairbanks . At the time , the newspaper was in dire straits . Circulation had declined with the falling Fairbanks population , and reached a low of about 500 in 1925 , less than half what it was in 1909 . The paper still relied on an old flatbed press , which dated from the turn of the century . The newspaper offices were aging , and there was little money to upgrade . Nordale was further stressed by a conflict between him and Thompson 's widow , who was the majority shareholder . The conflict arose when two competing candidates for political office attempted to buy the paper 's editorial support with pledges of money . When Mrs. Thompson accepted one of the offers , Nordale asked that his name be removed from the newspaper . During the months leading up to the election , the News @-@ Miner produced dozens of editorials and reproduced the speeches of the candidate . After the candidate lost , however , he failed to follow through on his promises of payment . Nordale was reinstated as editor on February 1 , 1927 , vindicated by the candidate 's indictment on four counts of violating the federal Corrupt Practices Act .

= = = Bob Bartlett = = =

In 1927 , Nordale hired a recent University of Alaska Fairbanks graduate named Bob Bartlett . Bartlett had worked for the paper during school vacations , but he made journalism a full @-@ time job following graduation . For four years , Bartlett was the only reporter ( other than the editor ) who regularly wrote local stories . In late 1930 , Bartlett was made the paper 's assistant editor in lieu of a raise that the paper couldn 't afford to pay . Bartlett remained the paper 's assistant editor until 1933 , when he became the secretary to Anthony Dimond , Alaska 's delegate to the U.S. Congress . Bartlett became the delegate to Congress in 1945 , and in 1958 , when Alaska hosted its first election for state office , Bartlett was elected one of its first two U.S. Senators .

= = = Lathrop era = = =

In October 1928 , the News @-@ Miner cut costs by moving to a new office . This allowed the purchase of a new Linotype machine , and further upgrades were promised when on November 8 , 1929 , the News @-@ Miner was purchased by Austin E. Lathrop , an Alaska industrialist . Though Lathrop promised to inject money into the News @-@ Miner , his strong Republican leanings opposed those of Nordale , a confirmed Democrat . Nordale resigned in April 1930 and was replaced by Bernard Stone . Stone and Lathrop turned the News @-@ Miner profitable before Stone was replaced by Charles R. Settlemyer in 1936 . In 1935 , the News @-@ Miner purchased two cylinder presses to replace the old flatbed press still in use . Owing to shipping difficulties , however , the presses and the new crew needed to operate them did not arrive until 1936 . By that time , the News @-@ Miner was preparing to move into the new Lathrop Building , built by and named after the newspaper 's owner .

As the Great Depression hit the United States , Fairbanks bucked the poor economic trend . Thanks to the Alaska Railroad , large gold dredges could be brought in , and these returned the area 's gold mines to profitability . In 1938 , Lathrop took advantage of the good economic situation by reviving the Alaska Miner as a weekly supplement to the News @-@ Miner . The Miner covered happenings in the gold @-@ mining camps outside Fairbanks and was focused on areas outside the city . In 1939 , Fairbanks radio station KFAR was founded , and it shared the Lathrop building with the News @-@ Miner , which occupied the bottom floors of the building .

In January 1941 , a disagreement between Settlemyer , one of his reporters , and the editor of the Alaska Miner resulted in several changes to the News @-@ Miner . Settlemyer was replaced as editor by the reporter , David B. Tewkesbury , and the Alaska Miner was discontinued . Its editor , E.F. Jessen , created Jessen 's Weekly , a separate newspaper , to compete with the News @-@ Miner . The Weekly lasted until 1968 , when it was closed by the Internal Revenue Service . The same year that Jessen founded his weekly newspaper , the United States became involved in the Second World War . Travel to and from Alaska was restricted , and after Japan invaded the Alaska islands of Attu and Kiska , the News @-@ Miner was censored by the U.S. Army . Fairbanks benefited from a military construction boom as the United States built the Northwest Staging Route to ferry Lend @-@ Lease aircraft to the Soviet Union . The boom left the News @-@ Miner short @-@ staffed , but it continued operations throughout the war .

Just before the Japanese surrender that ended the war , News @-@ Miner editor David Tewkesbury died . He was replaced by Art Bremer , a reporter . The post @-@ war boom caused a sudden shortage of newsprint , as paper mills were not able to meet the demand of a growing number of newspapers nationwide . This shortage caused the News @-@ Miner to run short until Lathrop used his industrial connections to divert a shipment from a newspaper that was going out of business .

The post @-@ war years also saw the News @-@ Miner take a more active role in territorial politics . Prior to the 1948 election , Lathrop believed Republican presidential candidate Thomas Dewey would handily defeat Democratic incumbent Harry Truman . To take advantage of the anticipated governmental shift , Lathrop instructed the News @-@ Miner to ramp up its pro @-@ Republican editorials . In order to assist that process , he appointed William Strand , a war correspondent for the Chicago Tribune , as the News @-@ Miner 's new editor . Though Truman won the 1948 election , the News @-@ Miner stayed politically active in endorsing Republican candidates and issues . This ended only with Lathrop 's death on July 26 , 1950 .

= = Snedden era = =

One week before Lathrop 's death , he negotiated the sale of the News @-@ Miner to Charles Willis " Bill " Snedden . Snedden was an efficiency expert and former printer who had been employed by Henry Kaiser during WWII . After the war , he began troubleshooting newspapers . Through 1949 and 1950 , Snedden did an efficiency study of the News @-@ Miner and recommended about \$ 100 @,@ 000 in upgrades . Lathrop was unwilling to spend that much on the newspaper , and Snedden suggested that if Lathrop was unwilling to upgrade , Snedden would be interested in purchasing the paper . The two men worked out a verbal agreement before Lathrop was killed in a coal train

accident .

One of Snedden 's first actions was to readdress the paper 's stance on Alaska statehood . Lathrop and the News @-@ Miner had been strongly opposed to statehood , but after Snedden took control , he analyzed the issue and came out strongly in favor of Alaska statehood . The News @-@ Miner continually published editorials in favor of statehood , and encouraged other newspapers across the U.S. to do the same . In 1955 and 1956 , when the Alaska Constitutional Convention took place at the University of Alaska Fairbanks , the News @-@ Miner set up special telephone lines from the convention chambers to the newspaper 's office . Daily reports were printed , recording the delegates ' progress .

The News @-@ Miner strongly supported the political campaign for statehood until 1959 , when Alaska became the 49th state of the United States . On the day the U.S. Congress voted to have Alaska admitted as a state , Snedden arranged for a U.S. Air Force jet to fly copies of the News Miner , the Anchorage Times , and other Alaska newspapers to Washington , D.C. On the morning after the vote , each Congressman had an Alaska newspaper proclaiming statehood .

Snedden also embarked on a series of upgrades to the News @-@ Miner 's printing equipment . In 1953 , rotary printing was introduced to Fairbanks after Snedden purchased a used rotary press from The Sacramento Union . To house the press , Snedden built a two @-@ story building adjacent to the Lathrop Building . The Lathrop Building still contained most of the News @-@ Miner 's offices and typesetting equipment , but it was not large enough to contain the new press without extensive renovations , thus requiring a new building . Shortly after the new press was introduced , the News @-@ Miner produced its first full @-@ color newspaper . The new equipment also allowed for larger print jobs , and Snedden introduced an annual Progress Edition that was intended to be distributed outside Alaska in order to attract business and industry to the state . In 1954 , the News @-@ Miner obtained a dedicated teletype to the Associated Press , avoiding the need for contracts for telephone and telegraph service to a correspondent in Seattle who would relay AP material to the News @-@ Miner .

On November 23 , 1957 , tragedy struck when the Lathrop Building caught on fire . Firemen rushed to the scene to put out the blaze and did so quickly , but not before the television and radio studios on the top floors of the building were destroyed . The News @-@ Miner offices and printing facilities on the lower floors were spared from the flames , but suffered water damage . Due to winter temperatures , the water soon froze . Despite the conditions , the paper was produced on time the next day .

In 1964 , the largest earthquake ever recorded in the United States struck Anchorage and southern Alaska , cutting communications to the outside world . The quake was felt in Fairbanks , and it took 40 minutes for communications to be re @-@ established with the Associated Press office in Seattle . When the connection was restored , the News @-@ Miner sent the first reports of the earthquake to the outside world . The quake also destroyed the offices of the Anchorage Times , the leading newspaper in that city . The News @-@ Miner offered its press facilities to the Times , and the two papers shared a masthead as Anchorage recovered from the tremor .

Shortly before the earthquake , the News @-@ Miner placed an order for a modern offset printing press . To house the new press , which could not fit in the Lathrop Building , Snedden ordered the construction of a new printing facility and office ? named the Aurora Building ? north of the Chena River . The Alaska Railroad sold Snedden the land for the building , which was built at a cost of \$ 1 million in 1965 . Snedden ordered the foundation for the new building to be raised 22 inches above the 100 @-@ year flood line . This fact saved the News @-@ Miner two years later , when a massive flood swept through Fairbanks . The water was three inches deep throughout the paper 's offices and even deeper in the press and boiler rooms , which were slightly below that raised level . The flood halted production for a time , and the Anchorage Times reciprocated the post @-@ earthquake favor by publishing the News @-@ Miner 's masthead on its editions and posting occasional stories from Fairbanks until electrical power was restored to the town .

In the early 1970s , prior to the construction of the Trans @-@ Alaska Pipeline , the Fairbanks economy was unsteady . The News @-@ Miner planned to expand its printing plant , but many in the company were unsure if the economy could support the added capacity . Over the objections of

the News @-@ Miner newsroom , Snedden decided to expand the Aurora Building by adding a second floor at a cost of \$ 2 million . In 1974 , as construction of the pipeline got under way , demand for office space in Fairbanks was so great that Alyeska Pipeline Company rented several News @-@ Miner offices in the newly expanded building . About this time , the News @-@ Miner replaced its Associated Press teletypes with a satellite connection .

= = MediaNews Group era = =

In the late 1980s and early 1990s , Snedden created a plan to let the paper 's employees buy the company and keep ownership local . This plan was under way at the time of Snedden 's death in 1989 , but by 1992 , many of the paper 's employees were nearing retirement age . This factor , and the need for costly upgrades to expand the paper onto the Internet , led to a decision to sell the News @-@ Miner to Dean Singleton and Richard Scudder , co @-@ founders of the MediaNews Group newspaper chain . In order to preserve the paper 's independence ? something desired by Snedden ? the News @-@ Miner was purchased by the family trusts of the two men , with ownership split 50 / 50 between the two trusts .

Chuck Gray , the last publisher of the paper under Snedden 's ownership ( he served from 1989 ? 1992 ) , was retained as publisher emeritus in an advisory capacity . Paul Massey was named the first publisher of the post @-@ Snedden era . He was replaced by Marilyn Romano in 2003 . Romano took a job with Alaska Airlines in 2011 as regional vice president Kathryn Strle became the interim publisher / general manager . In 2014 , veteran newspaper executive Marti Buscaglia was named publisher .

Though the News @-@ Miner is owned separately from the rest of the MediaNews Group newspapers , it is considered a part of the group in order to take advantage of bulk purchasing discounts . The News @-@ Miner owns the Kodiak Daily Mirror .

= = Back to the Sneddens = =

In January 2016 , the News @-@ Miner was sold to the Helen E. Snedden Foundation . Fuller Cowell was named publisher .

= = Sourdough Jack = =

Since 1952 , the News @-@ Miner has featured a small cartoon figure named Sourdough Jack at the bottom of its front page . The drawing of Sourdough Jack is always paired with a comment on a news story , pun , or joke , apparently having been spoken by the figure . The idea for Sourdough Jack came from News @-@ Miner editor John J. Ryan , who said , " People had many complaints about the town . ... He could make fun of that stuff and that would give people a chance to laugh at their problems . " Sourdough Jack 's name came from Ryan 's nickname ( Jack ) and the traditional nickname given to an old miner ( sourdough ) . Jack Ryan worked for the Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer later in his life . John Ryan changed his name in the 70 's to John O 'Ryan .

In the first days of the cartoon 's existence , Jack often commented on alcohol , his lack of a job , and his wife . In recent years , the cartoon has taken a politically correct tone , except on occasion . After the Sept . 11 attacks , Sourdough Jack was pictured shaking his fist and saying , " It 's time to terrorize the terrorists ! " About that time , the original Sourdough Jack drawings that had been reproduced since 1952 were replaced by new drawings made in a similar style . This was required due to the growing fuzziness of the reproduced image and the transition to digital newspaper production .

= = Awards and accomplishments = =

In its history , the News @-@ Miner has been awarded dozens of accolades by the Alaska Press Club and other organizations . In 1986 , News @-@ Miner reporter Stan Jones was awarded a

George Polk Award for writing a story that led to impeachment proceedings against Alaska governor Bill Sheffield . In 2009 , the paper won several commendations from the Alaska Press Club for photography , sportswriting , features writing , and other accomplishments .