

big gold strike in what is now called Hatcher Pass. But my father and his partner came upon a modest discovery on the north fork of Spruce Creek to the west of Seward. And "Bob" Hatcher was among several veteran miners who encouraged them.

A passage from one of my dad's poems:

"There's gold on Spruce Creek," assured old Tom,

"I've seen it in the pan;

And I'd be out there tracking it down

If I were a younger man."

"There's gold on the Spruce," said Hatcher Bob,

"Somewhere back in there's a load."

Hubbard was a friend of my

wagon. Given the distance from civilization, supporting mining crews with food and other provisions was a daunting task. For example, beginning in the early 1900s, support for the Swetmann Mine, Hirschey and nearby Coeur De Alene mines in Palmer Creek Valley (near

that would otherwise be quite difficult to reach. The road north of Palmer to Independence Mine in Hatcher Pass is a prime example. The area has become a popular, year-round recreational haven. Mining will continue to play an important role in Alaska's future. Here in the southcentral

Kenai Peninsula, Alaska" by Mary J. Barry.)

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Dear ARTERY

They said it was a bad block. I said it was a good thing they put you back on the job. So I can get back to mine.

Yours in health,
Samuel

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