

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Juneau Lions Club

Records of the Gold Medal Basketball Tournament, 1947-[ongoing]

MS 7

3 boxes

Processed by: Jacki Swearingen, May 2013

Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Apr. 2016

ACQUISITION: This is an ongoing collection with various donors contributing yearly programs. The 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000 Gold Medal programs were donated by James and Corinne Griffin. Acc. #98-50, #99-3, #99-18, and #00-33. Korry Keeker also donated Gold Medal programs. Lion Ted Burke donated programs 2005, 2007-2009, 2011-2012 in April 2018.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. Items have been placed in acid free folders and then placed in archival boxes.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The annual Gold Medal Basketball Tournament, named after the Gold Medal Trophy Company, began in 1947. The inaugural event had one bracket with 14 teams competing at the Fifth Street gymnasium. The Wasvick and Torwick Veterans of Petersburg were the champions that year.

The founder of the tournament was Del Hanks, a Boy Scout executive for Southeast Alaska from Juneau. Mr. Hanks was also the Juneau Lions Club president and enlisted the Lions Club members to promote and operate the annual, March event.

Teams from Pt. Barrow to Seattle have participated over the years. However, the tournament has mainly featured teams from communities in Southeast Alaska.

The tournament's emphasis is fun, friendly competition, and good sportsmanship. Also important are the funds raised which are contributed to college scholarships, training beyond high school, and worthy projects in Southeast communities.

The Gold Medal Basketball Tournament, Alaska's longest running competitive sports event, has evolved in many ways over the years. In 2016, the tournament's 70th anniversary, there were 22 teams in four brackets. One of the brackets was a women's bracket. The games were played in the Juneau-Douglas High School gymnasium from March 20th through March 26th. The champions were teams from Kake, Angoon, Klukwan, and Haines. Another change was the origination, in 1961, of the Gold Medal Basketball Tournament Hall of Fame. Herb Didrickson was the first inductee. As of 2015 there were 115 members. MVP and Sportsmanship awards were also added over the years.

The Gold Medal has become a part of the cycle of the seasons in Southeast Alaska. As one participant put it "Gold Medal has become part of our culture."

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection includes miscellaneous Gold Medal material and various notes from Lloyd H. "Kinky" Bayers. Gold Medal basketball tournament official souvenir programs are also included in this collection.

SUBJECTS

Gold Medal Basketball Tournament - Juneau
Basketball – Tournaments - Alaska - Juneau
Juneau Lions Club – Alaska

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder A

Gold Medal Tournament newspaper clipping copies 1947. The first year of the Central States Gold Medal Tournament.

Folder B

Gold Medal Tournament newspaper clippings 1955-1957, 1963-1964

Folder C

Bayers, L.H. - Basketball notes, Gold Medal Memorabilia

Folder D

Official Scoremaster Score Book – Bill Ray's team, 1963-1964

Folder 1

Gold Medal Programs:

1947 – **No Program in collection**

1948

1949

1950 – *Fourth Annual*

1951 – **No Program in collection**

1952 – *6th Annual*; newspaper clippings and additional information

1953 – *Seventh Annual*

1954 – *Eighth Annual*; newspaper clippings and additional information

Folder 2

Gold Medal Programs:

1955 – *Ninth Annual*

1956 – *Tenth Annual*

1957 – Publication: This Month In Juneau, Alaska's Capital; February 1957;
Vol. II, No. 3; [Brochure, not official program]

1958 – *Twelfth Annual* (2 copies); newspaper clippings

1959 – *Thirteenth Annual*

1960 – *Fourteenth Annual*

Folder 3

Gold Medal Programs:

1961 – *Fifteenth Annual*

1962 – *Sixteenth Annual*

1963 – *Seventeenth Annual* (2 copies)

1964 – *Eighteenth Annual*

Folder 4

Gold Medal Programs:

1965 – *Nineteenth Annual*

- 1966 – *Twentieth Annual*
- 1967 – *Twenty-First Annual* (2 copies)
- 1968 – *Twenty-Second Annual* (2 copies)

Folder 5

Gold Medal Programs:

- 1969 – *Twenty-Third Annual* (2 copies)
- 1970 – *Twenty-Fourth Annual* – Dedicated to the members of the Gold Medal Hall of Fame: Gil Booth (Metlakatla), Jeff David (Haines, Metlakatla), Herb Didrickson (Sitka ANB), Richard Hansen (Petersburg, Juneau Imps), Moses Johnson (Sitka ANB), Roger Lang (Sitka ANB), Herman Ludwigson (Ketchikan Rockets), John Mills (Ketchikan Athletic Club), Duane Vincent (Ketchikan Rockets)
- 1971 – *Twenty-Fifth Annual - Silver Anniversary* (Photocopy only)
- 1972 – *26th Annual* (2 copies, 1 is a photocopy) – Dedicated to the members of the Gold Medal Hall of Fame: Gil Booth (Metlakatla), Jeff David (Haines, Metlakatla), Herb Didrickson (Sitka ANB), Richard Hansen (Peterburg, Juneau Imps), Moses Johnson (Sitka ANB), Roger Lang (Sitka ANB), Herman Ludwigson (Ketchikan Rockets), John Mills (Ketchikan Athletic Club), Duane Vincent (Ketchikan Rockets), Louis Bonnett (Juneau, Mikes)
- 1973 – *27th Annual* (Photocopy only) – Dedicated to the Juneau-Douglas Crimson Bears and Coach Jim Hamey
- 1974 – *28th Annual* – Dedicated to Konrad Leis, Jr.
Newspaper – Southeast Alaska Empire; Gold Medal Edition, March 7, 1974;
“28th Annual Gold Medal Tournament” pgs. 1-20.

Folder 6

Gold Medal Programs:

- 1975 – *29th Annual* (Photocopy only)
- 1976 – *30th Annual*
- 1977 – *31st Annual*
- 1978 – *32nd Annual*
- 1979 – *33th Annual*

Folder 7

Gold Medal Programs:

- 1980 – *34th Annual*
- 1981 – *35th Annual* – Dedicated to the Memory of Dick Hotch
- 1982 – *36th Annual*
- 1983 – *37th Annual* – Grand Marshall of the Tourney, Del Hanks
- 1984 – *38th Annual*

Folder 8

Gold Medal Programs:

- 1985 – *39th Annual*
- 1986 – *40th Annual* – Dedicated to the Memory of Lion Lew Love
- 1987 – *41st Annual* – Dedicated to the Memory of Jeff David
- 1988 – *42nd Annual* – Dedicated to the Memory of Ivan Gamble, Richard Kito,
Roger Lang
- 1989 – *43rd Annual* – Dedicated to the Memory of Vern Metcalfe

Folder 9

Gold Medal Programs:

- 1990 – *44th Annual* – A Salute to Dr. Joseph O. Rude
- 1991 – *45th Annual* – Dedicated to the Gold Medal Communities of Southeast
Alaska and Canada
- 1992 – *46th Annual* – Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of Basketball and
Sportsmanship

Folder 10

Gold Medal Programs: 1993-1995

- 1993 – *47th Annual* – Dedicated to all of our Fans, Advertiser, Players/Wives,
Coaches/Managers, Team Sponsors, Score Keepers, Spotters,
Announcers
- 1994 – *48th Annual* – Dedicated to Juneau—The Capital City
- 1995 – *49th Annual* – Dedicated to Alaska - The 49th State

Box 2

Folder 11

Gold Medal Programs: 1996-1997

- 1996 – *50th Annual* – Dedicated to Lion Walter Soboleff - The Grand Lion of the
Gold Medal Tournament & to the Memory of Lion Chauncey
Jacobs
- 1996 Gold Medal Calendar – 50th Anniversary – Juneau Lions Club
- 1997 – *51st Annual* – Dedicated to the 50th Gold Medal Tourney

Folder 12

Gold Medal Programs: 1998-1999

- 1998 – *52nd Annual* – Dedicated to the 17th District US Coast Guard
- 1999 – *53rd Annual* – Dedicated to the Premiere Season of Women’s Gold Medal
Basketball

Folder 13

Gold Medal Programs: 2000-2001

- 2000 – *54th Annual* – Dedicated to all team coaches and managers, past and
present. Four former coaches and one former manager
are featured. Bill Walton, Sitka ANB; Charles Buchert, Sr.,

Metlakatla VFW; Bill Doucette, Ketchikan Rockets; Arnold “Swede” Wasvick, Petersburg Wasvick & Torwick; and sometimes coach but most renowned as a manager, Ralph Peters (and wife Eileen) of the Ketchikan Rockets.

“Gold Medal 2000” – A publication of the Juneau Empire celebrating the 54th Gold Medal Basketball Tournament

2001 – 55th *Annual* – Dedicated To the Life and Times of Juneau Lions First Gold Medal Hall of Famer Herb Didrickson (2 copies)

“Gold Medal Hoop Shots” – 2001 – Featuring the 55th Annual Lion’s Club Gold Medal Basketball Tournament. 2nd Annual Juneau Empire.

Folder 14

Gold Medal Programs: 2002-2005

2002 – 56th *Annual* – Dedicated to the memory of Bill Tompkins and Terry Pegues

2003 – 57th *Annual* – Dedicated to First Responders: The People Who Save Lives

2004 – 58th *Annual* – Dedicated to the Communities of Southeast Alaska Who Support the Gold Medal Tournament

2005 – 59th *Annual*

Folder 15

Gold Medal Programs: 2006 – 2009

2006 – 60th *Annual* – Dedicated to the Unsung Heroes of the Gold Medal Tournament

“Gold Medal: Celebrating 60 years of tradition and competition”,
Juneau Empire, Sunday, March 26, 2006

2007 – 61st *Annual*

2008 – 62nd *Annual*

2009 – 63rd *Annual* – Lion Monarch Dr. Walter A. Soboleff

Folder 16

Gold Medal Programs: 2010-2013 (2010 not acquired)

2010 – 64th *Annual* – **No Program in collection**

2011 – 65th *Annual*

2012 – 66th *Annual* – Dedicated to the Memory of Lion Monarch Dr. Walter Soboleff

2013 – 67th *Annual*

Folder 17

Gold Medal Programs:

2014 - 68th *Annual*

2015 - 69th *Annual*

2016 – 70th *Annual* – “Remembering our Past” (2 copies)

Folder 18

Gold Medal Programs:

2017 – 71st *Annual* – “One Hundred Years of Lions”

2018 – 72st *Annual* – The Lions say, “Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa, Nt’oyaxsn, Thank you, Southeast.”

Box 3

Newspapers

1. (Gold Medal Edition) “28th Annual Gold Medal Tournament”
Southeast Alaska Empire; Thursday, March 7, 1974;
(p. 1-20)
2. Juneau Lions Club 71st Gold Medal Tournament March 19-25, 2017;
Juneau Empire, Capital City Weekly