

Copyright © 1974 by William R. Hunt

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publisher.

Originally published by Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.

Paperback edition 2009 by
University of Alaska Press
P.O. Box 756240
Fairbanks, AK 99775-6240

ISBN 978-1-60223-54-5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Hunt, William R.

North of 53° : the wild days of the Alaska-Yukon mining frontier, 1870-1914 / William R. Hunt. — Pbk. ed.
p. cm.

Previously published: New York : Macmillan, 1974.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-60223-054-5 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. Klondike River Valley (Yukon)—Gold discoveries. 2. Alaska—History—1867-1959. 3. Yukon—History. I. Title.

F931.H86 2009

979.8'03—dc22

2009007969

Cover design by Dixon Jones, UAF Rasmuson Library Graphics

Maps drawn by Erik Van Veenen

Photo section layout by Rebecca Hurbi

This publication was printed on acid-free paper that meets the minimum requirements for ANSI / NISO Z39.48-1992 (R2002) (Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials).

To Irmi with love

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Introduction	xvi
I: Early Days on the Yukon	
1 <i>Opening the Land</i>	1
2 <i>Early Trading</i>	7
3 <i>Mining</i>	10
4 <i>Forty Mile</i>	14
5 <i>Circle, 1893-96</i>	18
II: The Klondike Era	
6 <i>Seattle Gets the News</i>	29
7 <i>Skagway and Soapy Smith</i>	35
8 <i>Chilkoot and White Passes</i>	44
9 <i>Army Help and Arctic Fraud</i>	52
10 <i>Yukon Voyage</i>	58
11 <i>Glacier Madness</i>	63
12 <i>Overland and River Routes</i>	72
13 <i>Dawson City</i>	78
14 <i>Soldiers, Sailors, and Settlers on the Yukon</i>	84
III: Nome, Fairbanks, and Other Alaskan Camps	
15 <i>Nome—The American Klondike, 1899</i>	95
16 <i>The Turbulent Scene, 1900</i>	110
17 <i>Lawless Camp: Nome in 1900-1901</i>	122
18 <i>Judge Wickersham in Eagle and Nome</i>	129
19 <i>The Founding of Fairbanks</i>	136
20 <i>Tanana Valley Style</i>	152
21 <i>Founder-Swindler Barnette of Fairbanks</i>	166
22 <i>Restless Camps and Busy Trails</i>	176
23 <i>Soldier on the Yukon</i>	188
24 <i>High Rollers and Their Recreations</i>	193
25 <i>Settling Down: George Pilcher, Will Ballou, and the Lomens</i>	213
26 <i>The Guggenheims Come to Alaska</i>	222
27 <i>Other Camps</i>	228
IV: The Different Frontier?	
28 <i>Law and Order</i>	243
29 <i>The U.S. Government's Role in Alaska</i>	251
30 <i>Natives and the Mining Frontier</i>	258
31 <i>Northern Journalism</i>	266
32 <i>Labor Strife</i>	274