



Google Street View

Moose Creek Lodge (a.k.a. The Creek)

3560 Old Richardson Highway, North Pole, AK (907) 488-9378
64°42'28"N 147°08'33"W

License Issued: July 12, 1976 to Earl Farnsworth

CLOSED 2019

Amenities: Pool tables, darts, horseshoes, food

Web site: None

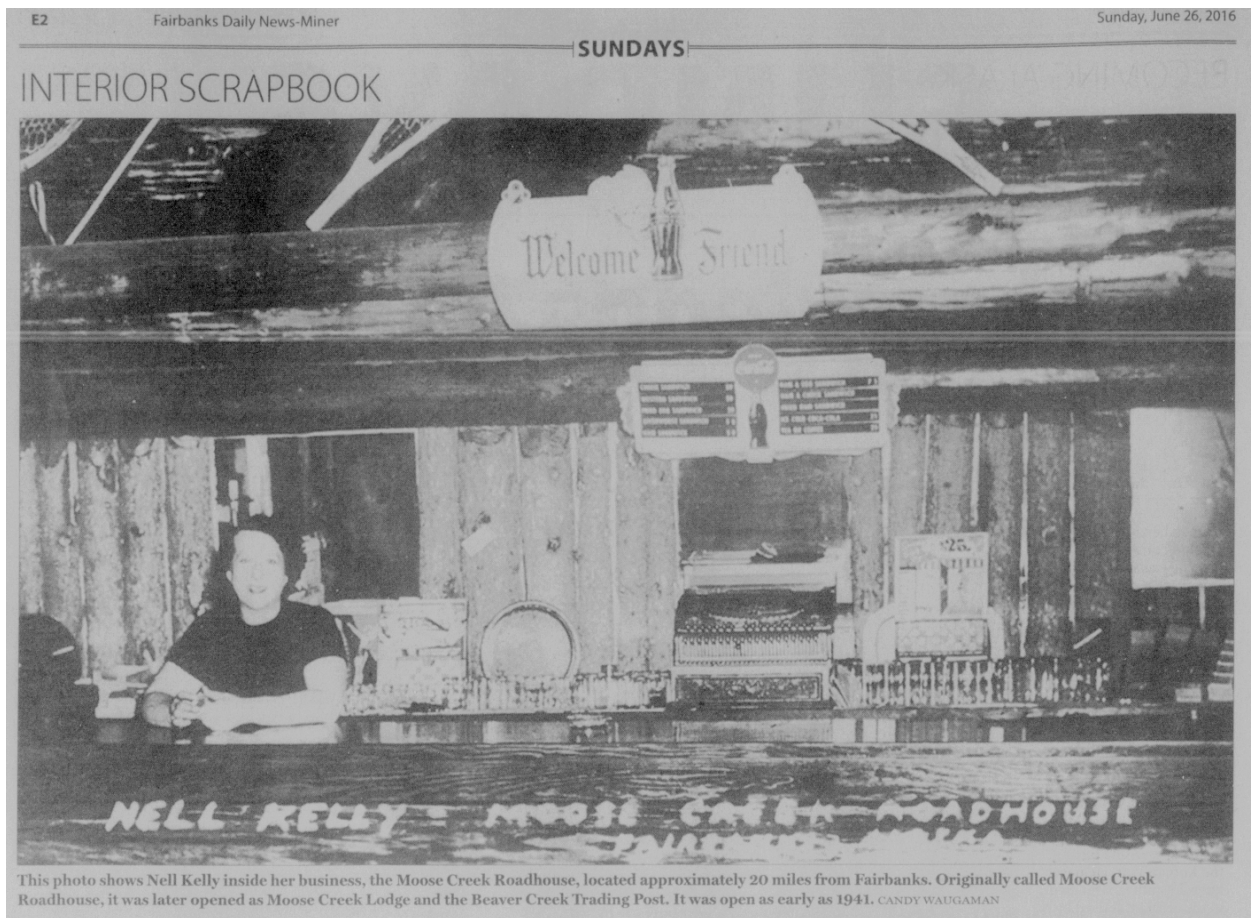
History and Notoriety: In 1940, Lewis and Marjorie Severance moved to Fairbanks from South Dakota. By 1946, Lewis owned the Yellow Cab Co., and the following year bought Nell Kelly's Moose Creek Roadhouse, which opened in 1941. He renamed it the Moose Creek Lodge, named for the nearby creek. He sold the bar to Thomas "Tommy" and Jeanne "Jeannie" Jones in 1948. "Tommy" had been a commercial fisherman in Kodiak and a bartender at the Mecca Bar in Fairbanks. Jeanne was known for her skill at cooking and making cocktails. For a time, they also owned the Top Hat Club in Fairbanks. The stress of raising two boys and running two bars prompted them to get divorced in 1956 but they were back together two years later. For a time, they advertised the bar as the "Old" Moose Creek Lodge. Failure to pay taxes forced them to foreclose on the bar in 1970. The bar was closed for six long years until Earl "Easy" Farnsworth bought and re-opened Moose Creek Lodge in 1976.

The bar is situated on the north end of what is now the Eielson Air Force Base, known as the 26-Mile Airfield from 1943-1948. The bar was popular with those stationed at the base, particularly during the 1950's and 60's. It has always been popular with the local Moose Creek residents, and served as a polling place in the 1960's. A re-route of the Richardson Highway in the 1990's separated the bar from the main flow of traffic, but not enough to be a deterrent.

William Sherman and Shelby Jene' Hawkins bought Moose Creek Lodge in 1979 and changed the name of the bar to The Cuckoo's Nest. Four years earlier, the Academy Award winning movie *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* had been released and was still very popular. The regulars continued to refer to the bar by the old name, and the next two owners used both names on the liquor license. Owner Bonnie Grace dropped Cuckoo's Nest name from the license in 2000. Many locals refer to the establishment as simply The Creek.

Visiting the Moose Creek Lodge: The Creek is primarily a locals bar with occasional servicemen and tourists in the summer months. The old ranch-style building has seen many gatherings, and according to former bartenders, lots of "drama."

Author's Note: Lodge owner Melanie White Jordan relinquished the liquor license in 2019.



Nell Kelly inside the Moose Creek Roadhouse circa 1945.
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner – June 26, 2016



**MOOSE CREEK
COCKTAIL LOUNGE & DRIVE-IN**

Mile 23 - South of Fairbanks, Alaska

JEANNIE AND THE JONES BOYS

— 9 MILES TO NORTH POLE, ALASKA

46

From *Alaska Highway Sketches* by Connie Silver - 1963

WALLOKEN Party

Saturday Nite, Oct. 30 featuring:
"Mona Lee" and "Stihwater Flats"
(also featured every Fri. & Sat. nite 10-?)
Y'all Come!
Moose Creek Lodge
Now owned and operated by "EASY"
23½ mile Old Richardson Highway

From the *Fairbanks Daily News Miner* - October 28, 1976

