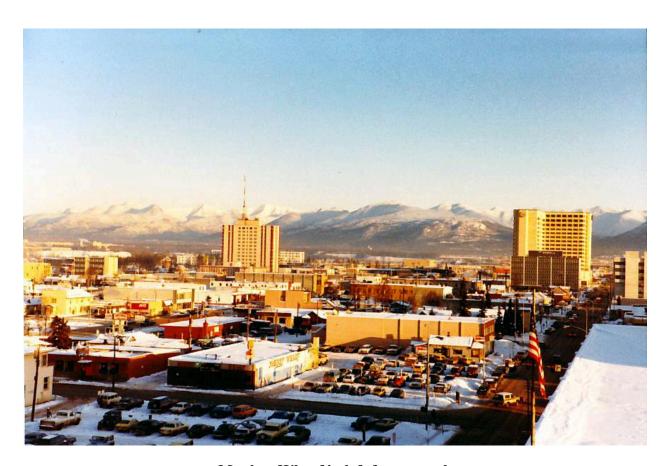


From the Anchorage Yellow Pages – 1977



From the Anchorage Yellow Pages – 1978



Monkey Wharf in left foreground.

Photo by Jackson Steele.



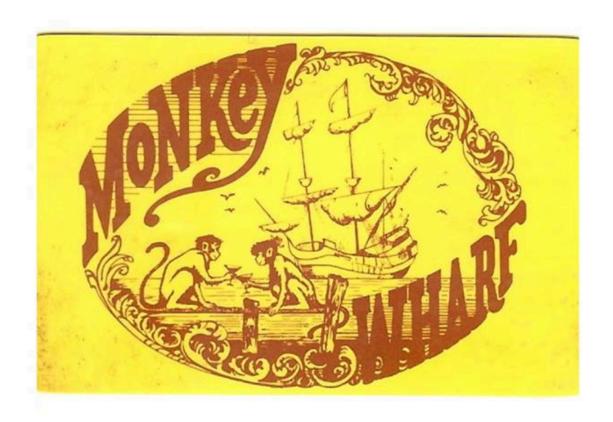


Photos by Stephen Cysewski





Mike Byers collection



000069

Your card number entitles you to be the recipient of prizes awarded at random drawings. This card must be present to win.

Now that you are a full — fledged Monkey, remember that a smart Monkey is a Monkey that doesn't monkey around with another Monkey's Monkey.

REMEMBER, IT'S FUN WHERE THE MONKEYS ARE 529 C St. Anchorage, Alaska 276 - 3911 COCKTAILS — DINING — DANCING

Downtown lot may go to Park Service –

FOR SALE: New offices could be built on old Monkey Wharf site.

Anchorage Daily News (AK) - Thursday, May 23, 2002

Readability: 11-12 grade level (Lexile: 1240L)

Author: Tony Hopfinger Anchorage Daily News; Staff

One of the last big tracts of vacant downtown land, where a barroom of screeching monkeys once stood, could become the new home for the National Park Service.

JL Properties of Anchorage is considering whether to bid for a federal contract to build offices, a shop and warehouse for the Park Service on a two-acre lot between Fifth and Sixth avenues and B and C streets across from the Anchorage 5th Avenue mall.

The potential deal comes just months after Anchorage developer Mel Tipton and partner Samantha DeLay-Wilson said they bought the property for about \$2.6 million from J.C. Penney Co. Inc.

They had hoped to build a hotel and make the land available for a new Anchorage convention center. But voters last month rejected a ballot initiative to raise the city's hotel bed-tax to finance the proposed convention center.

Now they are selling their recently acquired land. And JL Properties is interested in buying it as the firm plans to bid for the Park Service contract, said Jon Rubini, an owner of JL Properties, one of Anchorage's busiest developers.

The Park Service would be a tame tenant compared to others who have called the downtown block home.

From an Oriental restaurant to a jewelry shop, the empty lot was once a bustling mix of small businesses. The rowdiest was the Monkey Wharf, a roughneck saloon where pipeliners elbowed up to watch dozens of monkeys play in glass cages behind the bar.

"I once opened that cage ... and it was a killer. It was the worst odor I have ever smelled," said Tipton, who visited the joint before it closed in the late 1980s.

By the early 1990s, the Monkey Wharf and its neighbors were gone. The land today resembles a small city park, its borders lined with flowers in summer.

It is one of 18 sites citywide that the Park Service is considering. The agency wants to consolidate and expand its two Midtown offices under one roof, a move that would affect resource managers and archaeologists, planners and cultural experts, said Jane Tranel, a Park Service spokeswoman.

The agency, which declined to identify sites its eyeing, needs about 60,000 square feet of offices, as well as additional space for storage and a telecommunications shop.

JL Properties is among an unknown number of developers or property owners expected to soon bid for the contract. Rubini said the land across from the mall is one of two downtown sites his company is looking at. He declined to identify the other site.

JL Properties has been in the middle of several big public and private projects in recent years.

Last year Elmendorf Air Force Base awarded a \$400 million contract to the developer and its partner to privatize about half of the base's housing. It also began work on a 10-story, \$35 million office building in Midtown to house Arctic Slope Regional Corp.'s offices and some ASRC subsidiaries.

Then last fall, JL Properties bought a stake in the struggling University Center mall. The University of Alaska Anchorage said this week that it hopes to buy a portion of the mall from JL Properties.

Reporter Tony Hopfinger can be reached at thopfinger@adn.com or 907 257-4344.

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Personal recollection from Doug Vandegraft: The Monkey Wharf was the very first bar that I visited after moving to Anchorage in August of 1983. I recall the aquarium above and behind the bar where a dozen or so small monkeys resided. What I will never forget was observing a table where an older man and two scantily-dressed young women were taking turns indulging in a pile of cocaine. I had never before witnessed such a bold violation of the law in such a public place. No one else in the bar seemed to notice except me. I asked my companion "Isn't cocaine illegal in Alaska?"
