July 4th
Images from the VMHA collections

Early Celebrations at
Old Town Valdez
July 4th, 1906

A dog walks the parade route in Old Town Valdez and watches as the Valdez Fire Department draws the 1886 Gleason and Bailey hand-pumped fire engine down McKinley Street. The engine, purchased by the town in 1902 could draw water from a well, creek or its internal tank filled by a bucket brigade.

The pumper is now on display at the Valdez Museum.
Both views of the parade feature Marshall Quinn on horseback followed by the Valdez Band and Hose Cart. Phinney S Hunt’s photography studio is pictured on the left in the bottom image and The Valdez News in the top. What more can you find?

July 4, 1907
Amateur photographer Phinney Hunt wrote on his photographs taken during Valdez’ Gold Rush era and early history and here notes the July 4th, 1908 date.

Pictured is the 1907 Ahrens Steam Fire Engine No. 131 “Continental Model,” drawn by two horses and followed by the Valdez Fire Department, all wearing hats and uniforms that sported a double breasted button up shirt with the VFD emblem.

The Ahrens was restored to its glory and decorated in shiny red paint and gold leaf after being hit by a snow plow in 1960. It is now on display at the Valdez Museum.
The crowd makes room as ladies race down McKinley Street in Old Town Valdez during the July 4th celebration. This photo also pictures businesses that line the frontier town’s main street and includes the Valdez Bakery, Louie’s Café, Owl Drug Company and the Valdez Bank and Mercantile run by Sam Blum & Co.

What more can you discover in this photo?