

# Past & Present

Juneau-Douglas City Museum: Collecting, preserving and interpreting Juneau-Douglas history and culture

Volume 14, Issue 2

May 2010

## Support the City Museum

### Get an Annual Pass Today

Purchasing an annual pass is one of the best ways to show your support for the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.

An annual pass allows the pass-holder and a guest unlimited museum visits to the Museum through December 31, 2010. It's a perfect way to share Juneau's history, art, and culture with your family, friends, and summer visitors.

Passes are available in the Museum Store for \$20. If you can't make it in to the Museum, mail us a check or call us at 586-3572 with your credit card and we'll mail your pass to you.

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## All Things Eagle and Raven will Delight and Inform all Ages



Museum staff with our new feathered friends. From left to right: Museum Administrative Assistant, Claire Imamura; Curator of Collections & Exhibits Addison Field; Curator of Public Programs, Alysia McLain; and Director Jane Lindsey.

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum is pleased to open our new summer exhibit *All Things Eagle & Raven*.

*All Things Eagle and Raven* is a celebration of these two birds and their multi-faceted connection to our everyday lives.

“When approaching this exhibit topic, Museum staff looked at ways to bring everyday experiences, cultural connection, art and facts about eagles and ravens into one room,” says Museum Director, Jane Lindsey.

Exhibit panels highlight the life cycle, size, weight, and flight of ea-

gles and ravens, and explain how they see. The panels also feature unique attributes such as the social networking and caching abilities of ravens and the keen eyesight and hunting abilities of eagles.

Northwest coast art, eagle and raven objects, and contemporary art from the Museum's collection show the wide variety of artifacts and facets in which eagle and raven exist within our community.

*All Things Eagle and Raven* also includes a video of performances of eagle and raven songs by Yees Ku Oo; eagle and raven Tlingit phrases from

Linda Belarde of Sealaska Heritage Institute; and a series of local eagle and raven photographs by Juneau resident Doug Jones.

Felted replicas of eagle and raven nests created by fiber artist Sara Lee are accompanied by information about mating, nesting, and parenting habits.

“One of the most surprising and rewarding exhibit elements has been the community eagle and raven stories that we received this winter through our all-call,” says Lindsey. “We selected four raven and four eagle stories to be illustrated and incorporated into the exhibit. These stories demonstrate our community's active and dynamic connection to these birds and our environment.”



Winter in Juneau, digital print by Larry McNeil. JDCM2009.43.002

## Hands-On-History Room Returns

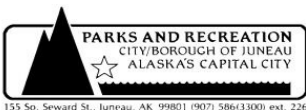


The latest version of our popular Hands-On-History room, *School Time* is an interactive exhibit featuring an old fashioned school room with a variety of school related themes including: geography, art, math, science and of course recess.

In addition to the oversized chalkboard, old fashioned toys, fur touch board, and dress up areas, we've added an ore scale and other artifacts reflecting Juneau's mining history that let you practice your math skills and even determine your weight in gold.

See historic photos of classes from schools in Juneau, Douglas and Treadwell.

Once you've explored *School Time*, stop by the "Office" and use the seal press to make your very own diploma - a unique keepsake from your visit to the City Museum.



155 So. Seward St., Juneau, AK 99801 (907) 586(3300) ext. 226

## Lighting and Gift Shop/Visitor Reception Upgrades Area Underway

The Museum continues working towards facility improvements with lighting, visitor reception, and gift shop upgrades.

In July 2009, we pulled all gallery incandescent lights and replaced them with LED bulbs. We have seen a 3-5% reduction in heat. We will continue to track temperature and energy savings this summer to give us an accurate picture of our savings.

This coming fall, we will replace as much gallery track as possible and upgrade to dimmable LED track heads. Dimming will allow us more control in exhibit lighting and will maximize energy savings while prolonging the life of our bulbs.

Additionally, with the assistance and guidance from the CBJ Engineering Department we have re-allocated savings from



Current reception area.

past Museum capital improvement projects and combined them with our lighting project to include an upgrade to our reception desk and gift shop area.

A reception/ gift shop upgrade will allow the Museum to better utilize the Museum's entry way. In this way we hope to offset visitor reception congestion and offer more space for volunteers to answer

questions, direct tourism requests, take admissions, and make gift shop sales. We are also looking at more efficient ways to display and store gift shop items to maximize sales and inventory storage.

Look for more exciting changes at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum this fall.

## Juneau History Grant Applications Available Now

Let the Juneau Douglas City Museum help you dig a little deeper into Juneau history with a Juneau History Grant.

Applicants may apply for up to \$1,000 to assist with projects that document, preserve, or improve access to the history of the Juneau-Douglas area. Projects may include, but are not

limited to publications, performances, public presentations, videos or other types of media.

Individuals, organizations educational groups, and all history enthusiasts are encouraged to apply.

Applications must be post-marked or hand-delivered to the Museum by **4:00pm on Monday, June 14, 2010.**

Applicants will be notified by July 14, 2010 of the Committee's decision.

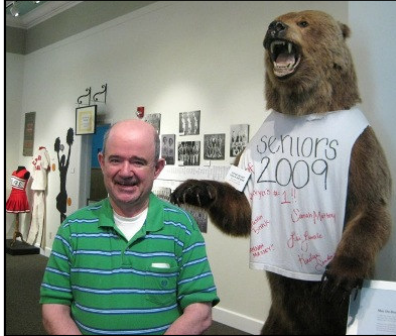
Applications are available at the Museum's front desk or online at: [www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/grant.php](http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/grant.php).

For more info. about the Juneau History grant contact Alysia at 586-3572 or [Alysia\\_McLain@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:Alysia_McLain@ci.juneau.ak.us)

## Volunteers on View

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum is pleased to highlight two extraordinary volunteers:

**Dan Beason** has volunteered at the Museum for 15 years and has contributed a whopping 2,900 hours of service! His friendly nature brings smiles to the faces of all our guests and he is al-



ways happy to chat with visitors. In addition to his cheerful presence at the front desk, Dan spearheaded efforts to make the Museum more green by hauling our recyclables to the Recycling Center every week. When he is not at the Museum (which is not often), Dan can be found supporting the arts all over town. He is a regular ticket-taker for Juneau Lyric Opera, Juneau Arts & Humanities and the Juneau Symphony, and always has a front row seat at Folk Fest, concerts in the park, basketball games and Fireside Chats at the glacier.



**Jean Clayton**, a transplant to Juneau from Haines, has volunteered at the Museum since 2003. Jean is always willing to fill in at a moment's notice and is happy to lend a hand with any task, whether it's stuffing envelopes, affixing stickers to thousands of coffee lids, or addressing newsletters. In addition to the Museum,

Jean volunteers at the visitors' center, serves as president of the Southeast District of the American Legion, and organizes Grandma's Attic for the Salvation Army during Public Market. As Jean says, when she retired, she didn't quit working, she just quit being paid for it! We're grateful that she's continued her service to the community here at the Museum.

If you are interested in meeting people from around the world, sharing your love for Juneau, and learning more about your community, volunteer at the City Museum. Contact Claire at 586-3572 or by email at [claire\\_imamura@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:claire_imamura@ci.juneau.ak.us), or visit our volunteer webpage for more information: [www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/volunteers.php](http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/volunteers.php).

## Museum Store

### Flap your wings into the Museum Store

After you check out the exhibit *All Things Eagle & Raven*, flock over to the Museum Store for some feathered fun. We have finger puppets, native design plush eagles and ravens, bookmarks,

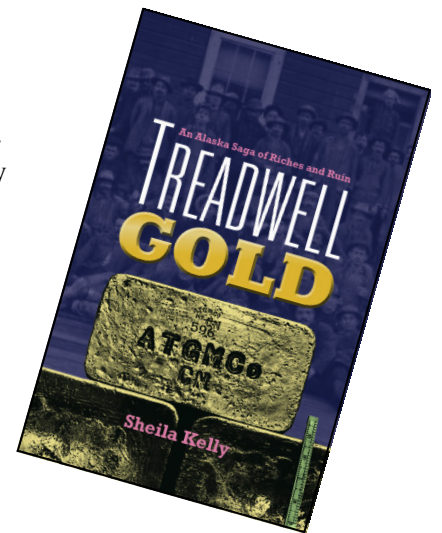


and books for all ages. For kids, check out the clever *Raven: A Trickster Tale of the Pacific Northwest*, Alaskan artist Evon Zerbetz's *Ten Rowdy Ravens*, the beautiful illustrations in *Eagle Boy*, or Dale DeArmond's legend and woodcut pictures in *Raven Charm*. For adults, we have eagle and raven stories in *Haa Shuka: Our Ancestors* and *Heroes & Heroines in Tlingit-Haida Legend*.

Birds aside, the Museum Store has many other new items this summer. *Treadwell Gold: An Alaska Saga of Riches and Ruin*, a new book by Sheila Kelly about life in Treadwell, is available now. Buy your copy in the Museum Store and get it personalized by the author at a special *Coffee & Collections* presentation at the Museum on May 29 at 10:30am.

The Museum Store now carries *For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*, the PBS documentary about Elizabeth Peratrovich and the Alaskan civil rights movement, featuring your friends and neighbors as extras! We also have new Juneau cookbooks, memoirs, and brochures for sale. Come check out all the new treasures.

The Museum Store is always interested in carrying Juneau-related items by local artists. If you're an artist or crafter whose work reflects the Juneau-Douglas area, contact Claire by phone at 586-3572 or email at [claire\\_imamura@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:claire_imamura@ci.juneau.ak.us).



## Collections Management Upgrades

We have had a very busy winter in the basement going through the photograph, archival and audio/visual holdings in the permanent collection.

During the summer of 2009 we received a Grant-in-Aid from the Alaska State Museum to upgrade our archival collections.

Over the course of the winter we erected new shelving, and Brenda Wright performed the long and arduous task of moving the archival holdings, photographs and audio/visual objects from their previous storage area to the new shelving.

In total Brenda moved 3,258 photographs, 71 objects, and 2,016 archival holdings. She found 6 lost items, re-filed 29 misfiled objects, scanned 185 photos for the database, fixed 292 incorrect locations and added over 180 new catalog records to the database.

Along the way we re-discovered history that had been "hidden in plain sight" for years. It was a fun project which had the added benefit of freeing up nearly 50 lineal feet of storage space in the compactor storage unit. So keep those donations coming!

## Got Mining ?

As mining is the defining act in the founding of Juneau, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum is writing grants to work with mining historians, mining professionals and community members to build a hands-on exhibit that explores the community that built and fueled the industry, and the industry that built this community.

We will hold a public mining roundtable with mining historians, professionals, and community members with the following set of questions to guide discussions and exhibit content:

1. How can we impress the fact that at the turn of the twentieth century, Juneau was the mining capital of the world? What was going on in hard rock mining at that time?

2. How was it possible, with Juneau's low grade ore to become the mining capital of the world?

3. Who were the people who created this legacy, how has this legacy impacted our community?

4. The history of our community as the mining capital of the world today seems romanticized compared to present day mining controversies that exploration and development incite. How can we best interpret Juneau's mining history along with current mining development? Has the technology remained the same?

5. Was hard-rock mining controversial in Juneau in the past? If so, what were those controversies, how were they resolved?

6. How does mining im-

act our environment past and present?

Museum staff Alysia McLain, Curator of Public Programs, Addison Field, Curator of Exhibits and Collection, and Director Jane Lindsey will take this information and work with exhibit contractors to build a hands-on exhibit that explores the history of mining past and present through the people who came to work in the mines and built the community of Juneau, the technology that was developed, and environmental impacts.

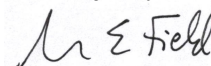
Look for announcements about the development of this exhibit and please contact Museum Director Jane Lindsey at 586-0968 or [Jane\\_Lindsey@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:Jane_Lindsey@ci.juneau.ak.us) with your thoughts.

## From the Collections Corner...

This summer's temporary exhibit in the Murray Gallery, titled *All Things Eagle and Raven* has helped us display many objects that have never been on exhibit before, items that haven't seen the exhibit gallery in twenty years, and new art and history objects that we collected in preparation for this show.

Director Jane Lindsey has been actively pursuing Rasmuson Foundation Art Acquisition Initiative funding to purchase art from local artists. Over the last 8 months we have collected work by Charity Green, Barbara Craver, David Walker, David Woodie, Ella Bentley, Salty Hanes, Brandon Hauser, Tony Newman and Dan DeRoux through this program. The Rasmuson Art Acquisition Initiative continues to be a success and to help us develop our collection of Juneau art and artists.

I am looking forward to the summer when we can look closely at some of the donations that have come in over the last several month. We will also be looking toward the horizon and beginning to collect for our 2011 summer show, tentatively titled *Chainsaws & Outboards*. We are looking to explore how the introduction of these two forms of material culture changed how we live our lives in Southeast Alaska. So don't clear the old internal-combustion engines out of your backyard shed just yet, or if you do, give me a call first.



Addison Field

Curator of Collections & Exhibits



## The Fine Balance of Exhibiting and Preserving our Cultural Heritage

By Addison Field, Curator of Collections & Exhibits



Pictured above are the two sides of a coin from the Shell Simmons exhibit case at the Juneau International Airport. Note the uneven patina, likely caused by accumulated exposure to contaminants in the air or case. The side of the coin pictured above left was showing in the case. Both sides originally had an even silver colored patina.

Normally this section of the newsletter is reserved for a listing of the donations that have come into the Museum over the last 4 months. As you can see there is going to be something different in this issue. We felt it timely and very important to talk about our satellite exhibits at the Juneau International Airport.

Earlier this year, we were asked because of very reasonable circumstances beyond our control, to de-install our two exhibits at the airport. The passenger hold area on the second floor of the airport is going through an extensive renovation project and consequently, we lost our exhibit space.

In April, I went out there and de-installed the *Geol-*

*ogy of Southeast Alaska* and the *Shell Simmons* exhibit cases. It was sad to see them go, but we hope at least to have the geology exhibit back on display somewhere, some time soon. The Shell Simmons exhibit is a different story.

Installed in 1996, the exhibit stood the test of time very well, however, 14 years was too long to have some of the objects in the case on exhibit. The exhibit space was "hot," and I mean that in two ways. First is heat, the objects in the case were subject to fluctuations in temperature and humidity that have a cumulative, negative effect on the condition of the objects. Second, it was "hot" in the sense that light levels were high. All those windows in

the waiting area were great for the view, but they subjected the objects to high levels of both visible and non-visible light exposure. The result was *visible* damage to the objects in the case. The best example is color fading to Ray Renshaw's uniform that can be seen simply by flipping back the jacket's collar.

We are lucky enough to have a wonderful collection of objects and ephemera that relate to Juneau's aviation heritage in general, and Shell Simmons's legacy in particular. It is time to get those objects off display, to "rest" them, so they can be preserved for future generations.

When we put an object into the Museum's collection we do it with a legal

responsibility to care for it in perpetuity. We want to be able to share Juneau's aviation heritage with our grandchildren 50 years from now. If we take care of the things we have now, they will still be around to share with future generations.

We know that there will be many people, including myself, disappointed at not seeing those exhibits at the airport, but rest assured we will do all we can to continue to bring satellite exhibits like these to the community. At the same time we will continue to follow our mission, taking precautions to safeguard our collective heritage.

## Past & Present

Newsletter of the  
Juneau-Douglas City Museum  
located at the corner of Fourth and  
Main Streets in Alaska's Capital  
City.

### SUMMER HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

### ADMISSION:

\$4 adults  
Youth 12 & under free

### CONTACT US:

Phone: 907 586-3572  
Fax: 907 586-4512  
[www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum](http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum)

### Mailing address:

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Juneau, AK 99801

### MEET OUR STAFF:

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907-586-0967

## CITY MUSEUM SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

### May

29 **Coffee & Collections: Treadwell Gold, An Alaska Saga of Riches and Ruin** Book signing & reading with Sheila Kelly, 10:30am at the City Museum. Coffee provided by Heritage Coffee Company.

31 Museum closed in observance of Memorial Day.

### June

1 Solo Artist Applications for Fall 2011/Winter 2012 available at the City Museum and at:  
<http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/SoloArtistExhibit.php>  
14 Juneau History Grant applications DUE. *See page 2 for details.*

### July

4 Museum closed in observance of July 4th Holiday.  
TBA Annual JCVB & JDCM volunteer summer get-together.

### August

9 - 13 Juneau Explorers Week summer kids program,  
Monday - Friday, 12:30pm-4:30pm. *Look for information in June.*  
17 Solo Artist Applications DUE for the Fall 2010/ Winter 2011 season.

