

Past & Present

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

Volume 9, Issue 2

May 2005

Join Us for Juneau Museum Day! May 15th Noon-5pm

Please join the City Museum, Alaska State Museum, Last Chance Mining Museum and St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in celebrating Juneau Museum Day and new this year, History Walk, a program put on by HRAC and CBJ Community Development Department. Free shuttle available at all locations.

At the City Museum:

Noon-1: John Lachelt & Annette Smith will be available to talk about shipwreck memorabilia and diving equipment.

Refreshments and children's activity will also be available.

Hope to see you there!

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The Little Museum that Could now Running at Full Steam!



Museum staff from left to right: Ellen Carrlee, Beth Weinmen, Jane Lindsey, Jane Terry and Alysia McLain.

The next time you're in the City Museum, you may see a familiar face. Alysia McLain, a former intern and temporary staff member, has joined the permanent staff of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum as the new Curator of Public Programs. Alysia joins us from the University of Oregon where she received her Masters of

Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies: Folklore with concentrations in Arts Administration and Documentary Film.

"I am thrilled to be back at the City Museum," says Alysia, "I hope we can expand our programming to reach and serve new audiences, while continuing to

engage the people and organizations that have supported our programming in the past. I am also very excited about potential new partnerships with other organizations in Juneau as well as working more closely with other staff members to integrate educational components into the exhibits."

With the addition of Alysia, the City Museum is fully staffed once again. Alysia joins Museum Director Jane Lindsey, Curator of Collections Ellen Carrlee and Office Assistant III Jane Terry.

Jane Lindsey, formerly the Curator of Public Programs at the City Museum, took

Cont. on page 2.

Summer Exhibits

This summer offers some very special exhibits at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Ellen Carrlee has been working very hard on our new summer exhibit *Pleasures and Perils: Juneau's Steamships and Shipwrecks*. This exhibit will explore the heyday of steamship travel on Alaska's Inside Passage. Early companies carried entrepreneurs north and resources south, and truly were the workhorses that connected Alaska to the lower 48. The rise of tourism and the perils of steamship travel prompted navigational aids in

a territory that received little federal attention or funding. Many underwater finds will be exhibited as well as historic footage of steamships courtesy of the UAF Rasmuson historical archives library. The exhibit will also feature an interactive knot tying station. *The Montana Creek Fish Trap*, after much loving care is ready to be enjoyed, thanks to an Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid, the Sealaska Heritage Institute, and many other caring community members. What we don't know about this trap is just as fascinating as what we do know. We look for-

ward to hearing from the community as we continue to research this rare find. In our video room we will celebrate the *Life and Work of Amy Lou Barney* (1918-2004), with a display of photography from the permanent collection of this special, life long Alaskan resident. Works in this exhibit will highlight Barney's pioneering role as a woman in the fields of both photography and aviation with special quotes from her book, *Amy Lou's Alaska*. Not to be missed, *Jeff Brown's collection of Alaska*

Cont. on page 4.

Fossum's Gift to the Community



Harold O. Fossum
1929-2004

As many of you may know, Harold Fossum was a longtime Juneau resident and fisherman who pioneered and supported the City Museum's free winter admission program for four years. An avid Alaskan collector, he was also a donor to our permanent collection. His untimely death in December was sad news not only did we lose an important Museum supporter, we lost a very special person. We hope that before Harold passed away, we were able to let him know how much he meant to our organization. Recently, in more ways than one, staff have learned that opportunity springs from misfortune. Harold has conveyed this by including us as a devisee in his will. With seed money from Harold's estate, it is our hope that we can initiate an endowment fund to support the dream of a larger building in which to house and interpret our burgeoning collection. Along with a monetary gift we have received over 300 items from Harold's estate for the permanent collection. Gifts such as these are the foundations on which we continue to grow and mature as an institution.

Thank you Harold!

Collection Strength and Weaknesses

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum has over 8,000 items in the permanent collection. Among the gems are excellent collections of artifacts from the three big hard rock mines and the US Bureau of Mines, historic postcards, yearbooks, photographs of downtown architecture, mining photographs, glass bottles, ephemera from local businesses, vintage curios, historic housewares, early theatrical items, women's clothing from 1920-1960, fishing items, vintage toys, Olympic Torch items, items from fraternal organizations, hand-tinted photographs, artwork from Juneau artists circa 1980, and large holdings of artwork by Frances Davis and Dale DeArmond. We also have an impressive collection of steamship and shipwreck items that will be highlighted in our special summer exhibit. Our collection is the continu-

ing legacy of the people who have lived in Juneau. We preserve these original materials as a public trust responsibility for researchers, students, and museum exhibits as well as inspiring our community identity. The Museum is still relatively young, and there are weaknesses in the collection. You may have some of these items or have ideas for us. The gaps include:

- * Photographs of known historical people and pioneers
- * Early photographs out the road and in the Mendenhall Valley
- * Local WWI and WWII items
- * Lighthouse and Coast Guard items
- * Objects of cultural diversity and immigrant groups (such as Filipino items)
- * Local gold bullion or nuggets
- * Mining items from prospectors and small local mines

- * Local archaeological items such as stone and bone implements
- * Well documented early local Tlingit items, such as textiles and baskets
- * Objects to interpret local government
- * Objects to interpret the history of religion locally
- * Local Arts and Crafts period, such as Albert Berry items
- * Early men's clothing and uniforms 1880's-1950's
- * Historic radio/ telephone/ telegraph items
- * Artwork from artists working in early Juneau
- * Natural history items that relate to Juneau history
- * Photographs of everyday Juneau life 1880's-1950's

Museum that Could, pg. 1

over the position of Museum Director late last year. Jane has a strong background in arts administration and public education and believes that the City Museum, "through its history exhibits, research opportunities, local artist exhibits, special presentations, educational programming and art classes, is working diligently to be a place that in one way or another touches the lives of all who live in Juneau."

Ellen Carrlee, who has been the Curator of Collections at the City Museum for over three years, feels that the recent transition in staff has "churned up a huge number of new ideas and projects." Ellen sees the City Museum as a force that can help shape the community's identity,

"providing a place for both historic reference as well as a venue for contemporary local artists."

Jane Terry, who has been with the City Museum since 1998 in the position of "support team member", believes "the future looks exciting for our 'local' museum." Jane sees how "the community, in all its facets, is slowly drawn in and incorporated in to the Museum's fabric."

In addition to our permanent staff of four, the City Museum each summer welcomes back Damon Stuebner who has worked with us for the last three years as an office assistant. Damon graces the front desk with a wide variety of local Juneau facts. Also with us is intern Beth Weinman, a Museum Science graduate

student at Texas Tech University. Beth will be finishing up her six month internship with us at the end of June and will be greatly missed!

Joining the Museum this summer will be interns Katie Mahoney and Christina Smiraglia. Katie, a student at Wesleyan University will be arriving in July, while Christina, a graduate student in Museum Studies at George Washington University, will be arriving in August. Katie and Christina will be working on a variety of projects in collections as well as "Digital Bob". Both will help with the educational components of our upcoming exhibit," Juneau: Alaska's Capital City".

Don't Wait!

Juneau History Grant Due May 15th

There is still time for you to submit an application for the Juneau History Grant! Is there some fascinating topic related to Juneau's history that you've always wondered about? Why not embark on a local-history research project with the help of a Juneau History Grant?

History lovers of all ages are encouraged to apply for up to \$1,000 to assist them in the completion of a project that will document, preserve or improve access to the history of the Juneau-Douglas area. Projects might include live performances, public presentations, research papers, recordings, videotape, use of computers or other media.

Applications are available at the City Museum 586-3572 or at our website at:

www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum.

In the Spirit of Patsy Ann



Patsy Ann on the dock.
JDCM2003.48.001
Gift of Roger Hanson

Patsy Ann, an English Bull Terrier, was named "Official Greeter of Juneau, Alaska" by Mayor Goldstein in 1934. Patsy Ann came to Juneau as a pup from Portland, Oregon, in 1929 and died in 1942. Even though she was deaf from birth, she was able to sense incoming ships and greet them correctly dockside in downtown Juneau. In addition to her duties on the wharf,

Patsy Ann was great friends with Juneau locals and businesses. It is only fitting that the Juneau-Douglas City Museum honor her memory this year, especially since our summer exhibit features steam ships.

Through the years this canine ambassador's memory has become an important part of Juneau history. As in the 1930's when local curio shops sold her postcards and biography, the modern visitor will now find a collectible toy Patsy Ann, zipper pull, and greeting card in the Museum's gift shop.

Also in line with our steamship theme, the gift shop will be adding a postcard with the image of a Native canoe designed by Sydney Laurence for an Alaska Steamship Company menu. And, for the dexterous visi-

tor, we will be stocking a nautical knot tying kit to compliment a knot typing hands-on exhibit in the new steamship gallery.

As volunteers and staff members work to greet this year's cruise ship and independent visitors, we will be remembering the welcoming spirit of Patsy Ann.



Patsy Ann pup available in the Museum gift shop for \$14.95.

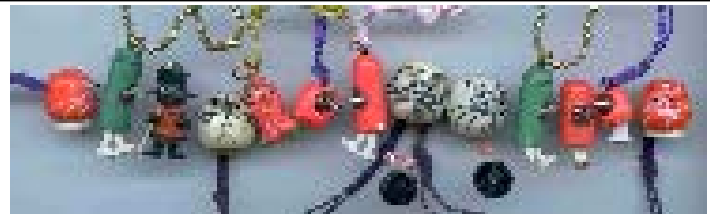
Recent Acquisitions

January-March 2005

Ellen Carrlee

Number Donation

2005.01	Mining Photo Album Gift/Purchase from Jim Geraghty's efforts (Maritime Hydraulics, Inc, Willette Janes, Mike Blackwell, Greens Creek Mining Company, Harold O. Fossum, Anchor Electric, Coeur Alaska, Inc., Rich Gordon, Mickey Lesley, Jerry Schrader, Michelle Bonnet, Mark J. & Esther Millea, Sean Boily, Mike Grummett and Bob Garrison)
2005.02	Postcard of "Salmon Creek Road" Gift of Seely Hall
2005.03	1975 letter from "Tiger" Olsen Gift of Dick and Peggy Garrison
2005.04	Nugget Shop and other historical items from the Amy Lou Barney estate Gift of Renee Guerin
2005.05	Historic Baranof Gift Shop sign Gift of Sharon Kelly
2005.06	Postcards, steamship items, photos, curio items Gift of the Harold O. Fossum Estate
2005.07	"Sourdough Joe" 45 record Gift of Jeff Brown



We really lucked out with this swarm of Glacier Bugs! "Glacier Bugs" were plastic trinkets of Japanese origin sold among the curios at the Nugget Shop in the 1950's - 60's. Donor Renee Guerin pointed out to us that astute shop owner Belle Goldstein Simpson had inventory ranging from the lowly Glacier Bug to original Sydney Laurence paintings. "You weren't going to get out of that store without spending something!" Separate donations from Renee Guerin and Mickey Lesley.

2005.08	Folk Festival Poster Gift of Alaska Folk Festival Inc.
2005.09	Alaska Line Sydney Laurence poster JDCM Purchase
2005.10	Nugget Shop "glacier bug" curios Gift of Mickey Lesley
2005.11	Painting by Rob Roys "Tree v3 the Mollusk" JDCM Purchase
2005.12	Painting by Rob Roys "My First & Last Mendenhall Glacier Painting" Gift of Rob Roys



Looking for activities for your children or younger summer guests this summer? Children 8 and older are invited to participate in the City Museum's Juneau Explorer's Week, August 8th through 12th. Museum staff and volunteers will lead kids in a variety of activities ranging from hikes along historic trails, panning for gold, making lanterns and wrapping paper, swimming at the pool and take home activities to share with the whole family! Programming will be daily from 12:30-4:30pm. The cost is \$24.70 per day or \$123.50 for the week.

For more information contact Alysia McLain at 586-3572.

Happy Exploring!

**Cont. from Spring Exhibit
On page 1,**

Board Games is the third installment of our *Collector's Series*. We hope you will enjoy this wry look at a collection of board games with Alaska as a theme. Most are out-of-print games from independent game producers, and some have been mass-marketed. Choice favorites include, "The Alaska Oil Game," "The Energy Crisis Game," and a German version of "Nanuuk." In the map gallery, more than forty very rare, turn of the century Juneau mining photos with hand written annotations will continue to be on exhibit through the summer. These photographs are by Winter and Pond, but the annotations come from someone with significant technical knowledge of mining engineering.

FISH TRAP WORK CONTINUES...

Preparation of the Montana Creek fish trap for exhibition is almost complete! The trap, estimated to be 500-700 years old through radiocarbon dating, was found in 1989 and treated with polyethylene glycol (PEG) to maintain the cell structure of the spruce and hemlock parts. Water-logged wood maintains its shape through the support of water molecules, and those must be replaced with another substance such as PEG to prevent the deteriorated cell walls from collapsing and causing the wood to crack and warp upon drying. While many original spruce root lashings have miraculously survived, they are not strong enough to hold the trap together anymore, and are being supplemented with additional lashings made from Tyvek, an inert plastic paper. Vulnerable pieces of spruce root still in place were supported with tiny bits of Japanese tissue paper soaked in adhesive and tucked between the root and the hoops. Both of these treatments were done with reversible adhesives.

Mount-making for the trap is being developed by Bob Banghart and Jon Loring. The major support for the trap involves adjustable hammock-like slings of Mylar, a clear polyester sheeting material, and clear Plexiglass. Additional support for individual sections is provided by custom-made brass mounts that can be painted to blend with the background, and padded with polyester felt to pre-



Ellen Carrlee stabilizing the lashing on the "top" portion of the fish trap.

vent damage to the wood.

The form of the trap is a large cylinder with a funnel at one end, crushed from burial into an oval shape and missing approximately 15% of its structure. The back end is bent up, and most of it did not survive burial. The size of the hoops and the distance between the staves suggest the back end was simply walled off with more wood, and did not constrict into a cone shape as some traps do. A section of twisted rope and certain tool marks suggest a trap door was part of the construction, and such clues have led to the development of questions that will become the core of our educational programming. How were the fish removed? What kinds of fish may have been caught? What kinds of tools were available to make the trap and process the fish 500 years ago? Where was the glacier when this trap was catching fish in Montana Creek? How does this fish trap compare to other traps

used in Alaska and around the world? Sealaska Heritage Institute is working with us to develop interpretive labels and Tlingit vocabulary. Steve Henrikson and Jan Criswell are taking measurements to make a full-scale model. Mary Lou King donated a smaller model she made to help demonstrate trap construction to school groups.

Fish traps of this sort were expensive and labor-intensive for a family or clan to make, and would have been removed from the water after the fish run was over. Few basketry style fish traps have ever been found in an archaeological context on the Northwest Coast. For the City Museum to be able to conserve and exhibit such a rare thing is very lucky indeed!



Juneau: Alaska's Capital City Phase 1 Complete

When the Museum began preparing for a permanent exhibit on Juneau: Alaska's Capital City, we needed to ask ourselves some questions. How can we mount an interesting and informative exhibit on the subject of Alaska's Capital City; what objects do we use; and what do middle school teachers want their students to learn about this subject? We decided to divide the project into three phases: Phase 1 Community Input, Phase 2—Research, Design, and Installation, and Phase 3—Interactive Technology. Education consultant, Cristine Crooks was contracted to conduct Phase 1. Taking advantage of Cristine's expertise at community outreach and facilitation, we also asked some questions about how the public responds to the

Museum. 144 Alaskans provided their ideas and views through surveys, meetings, and our web survey. 49% of the survey respondents wrote that they find the current museum exhibits and content of high quality, and 79% responded that the most important reason that they visit the museum is because of its exhibits. Artists' openings (43%) and historical research (39%) were two other significant reasons that people enjoyed the museum. Respondents felt that the most important characteristic of a capital city is that it has a sense of culture (43%) and history with significant buildings, structures and politics (37%). When asked to suggest topics for the exhibit, 45% responded that the history of Juneau and Southeast, including Juneau's first

inhabitants was important, as well as the relationship that Juneau has with the rest of the state. 31% would like to hear more about capitol move controversies. June Hall has been contracted to take this information and design exhibit parameters, for phase 2. The City Museum will pursue an Alaska State Museum grant-in-aid for FY06 to assist with exhibit furniture, mounts, interpretative text, label materials, and a guest curator's time. The Museum hopes to open this exhibit in May 2006. Phase 3 will be a new challenge for us as we pursue an education technology component that will encompass interactive video screens in the exhibit and a web learning site.

Coming soon to a website near you,

"Digital Bob"!

Many Juneau history buffs have read R. N. (Bob) DeArmond's *The Founding of Juneau*, and *Old Gold, Historical Vignettes of Juneau, Alaska*. Those who have lived here during the late 70's through the early 90's, may also remember Bob's column in the Southeast Alaska Empire called Gastineau Bygones ('78-'81) and *Days of Yore* in the local television guide, *Info Juneau* ('85-'91). Anyone who has had the pleasure to read these submissions can share in our excitement as we prepare for a new Juneau history project which will digitize and enter into a searchable database *Days of Yore* and *Gastineau Bygones*. **Digital Bob**, as we have begun to affectionately call it is the brainchild of City Museum volunteer and donor, Mike Blackwell. **Digital Bob** will make available a wealth of Juneau history trivia to the community at large by the fall of 2005. As luck would have it, Anne Castle, local quilter, crafter and genealogical enthusiast, of her own free will has re-keyed the entire Gastineau Bygones series of which the museum can make use. New interns Christina and Katie, expected to arrive in July and August will begin working on **Digital Bob** by scanning and proofing the 295 *Days of Yore* articles, as well as formatting into a database that has been designed for us by CBJ webmaster Patrick McGonegal. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project, and are currently trying to locate Bob's other article series, *News of the Gold Camp*. For more information, please contact Jane Lindsey at 586-3572.

Celebrating Diversity in Juneau Yesterday and Today

In March, the City Museum took part in Juneau's citywide diversity celebrations. Mary Pat Wyatt started off the celebrations by guest curating a new permanent exhibit highlighting the diversity of historic Juneau citizens. The Museum then hosted a book signing for *Meet Lydia; A Native Girl from Southeast Alaska* with Lydia Mills and author Miranda Belarde-Lewis. The book is the latest installment of a series created by the National Museum of the Native American in Washington D.C. And finally, the City Museum took part in the art activity fair held at the Armory March 31, hosting a table where Juneau youth could take part in decorating six-inch squares of fabric with images symbolizing what makes them different, special and unique. The result



Students from Floyd Dryden Middle School show off the finished quilt with volunteer Anne Castle, museum intern Beth Weinman, and museum staff member Alysia McLain.

was over 30 brightly colored panels that were later assembled into a quilt, with the assistance of volunteer

Anne Castle and by local teenagers taking part in National Youth Service Day.

Juneau-Douglas City Museum
155 South Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Past & Present
Newsletter of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum,
located downtown at the corner of Fourth and Main
Streets in Alaska's Capital City.
Phone 907 586-3572 • Fax 907 586-3203

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[www.juneau.org/
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Jane Lindsey, Director
Jane_Lindsey@ci.juneau.ak.us

Ellen Carrlee, Curator of Collections
Ellen_Carrlee@ci.juneau.ak.us

Alysia McLain, Curator of Public Programs
Alysia_McLain@ci.juneau.ak.us

Jane Terry, Office Assistant III
Jane_Terry@ci.juneau.ak.us

Elizabeth Weinman, Intern
Museum_Intern@ci.juneau.ak.us

CITY MUSEUM EVENTS CALENDAR

May

- 5 The Great Mines of Juneau presentation by David Stone, Centennial Hall, 6:30-8:30pm.
Tickets available at Hearthside Books and at the City Museum.
- 7 Tour Guide Training: Juneau History with Linda Daniel, 9:00 AM - Noon. Registration required.
- 7 City Museum Volunteer Training and Season Preview, Noon – 1:30 PM
- 15 Juneau Museum Day & History Walk, Noon - 5:00 PM. Participating organizations include the City Museum, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Alaska State Museum, the Last Chance Mining Museum and History Walk is a new program coordinated by HRAC and CBJ Community Development Department.
- 15 Juneau History Grant applications due
- 16 First day of summer hours. Summer hours will be **Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Saturday and Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.**

July

- 4 Museum Closed for Independence Day.
- TBA JDCM/JCVB Volunteer Appreciation party.

August

- 8 - 12 Week long Juneau Explorer Summer Program begins at the City Museum, 12:30-4:30pm daily.
- TBA All call for Winter Art Exhibition 2006 proposals.