

# Past & Present

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

Volume 9, Issue 3

September 2005

## THANK YOU City Museum Volunteers!

The City Museum staff is well aware that volunteers make it happen, however this year there is cause to extend an *extra* THANK YOU to our volunteers for all of their hard work.

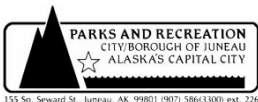
Through the years the Museum averages 1,558 volunteer hours annually. This year we have greatly surpassed that average with **2,415** volunteer hours!!!

Way to go Volunteers!

**THANK YOU!!!**

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155 So. Seward St., Juneau, AK 99801 (907) 586-1300 ext. 226

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMING THROUGH JANUARY



Boy on Steamship, JDCM 94.09.001

With a full lineup of classes and public programs, the continuation of two of our special summer exhibits, and the return of the ever-popular Hands-On History Room, the City Museum offers something for everyone this fall.

**Sunday, October 2nd**, Carmen Bria, Chief Conservator at the Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Arts in Denver, will be conducting a special conservation clinic at

McPhetres Hall. This will be an opportunity to learn about fine art painting conservation through a slide show that highlights current treatment of the Frances Davis paintings from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The public is also invited to bring their own paintings for Mr. Bria to examine, and discuss possible conservation treatments and costs. Please note that this is a conservation clinic, appraisals will *not* be given.

**On Sunday, October 9th, the City Museum is proud to host the opening event of Beyond Heritage Week from 7:30 to 9:30.** The evening will include performances of the Salmon Boy story as well as other stories, guest speakers, and refreshments.

**Friday, November 4th, local diver John Lachelt will show a film about the**

**Princess Sophia at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.** There will be time after each showing for discussion.

**On Saturday, November 5th, Peter Giessel and Gary Scarbrough will test (and destroy!) truss and beam bridges here at the City Museum.** Kids will have an opportunity to make their own bridges out of various materials. Contest information for the Annual Balsa Bridges Competition that is held in February, will also be available.

**Finally, you won't want to miss the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Arts and Crafts Fair held on December 2-3.** Families will have an opportunity to learn about Alaska's Native cultures and meet Alaska Native artists while they demonstrate and sell silver, soap-

*Cont. pg. 2*

## Banner Year at the City Museum

Staff work very hard to align the museum with its mission and the Community's interests and needs. We are very pleased to report that this last fiscal year the museum reached the highest attendance in our operating history. With an average of 18,500 visitors a year, this year just under 23,000 people walked through our doors. Just about every

month July - June saw an attendance increase. This means not only have we been successful in bringing in more summer visitors, we have also once again increased fall and winter attendance. This is encouraging news. In fact, last fall and winter (October-April) the museum counted almost 5,000 visitors. Attendance

stayed strong in fall and winter public programs (2,064) and educational tours (1,092), with a dramatic increase in casual drop-in use to look at exhibits, do research, and play in the Hands On History children's room.

Thanks to our free winter admission sponsors, our *Cont. on pg. 2*

*Upcoming cont. from pg. 1*

stone, ivory and wood carving, basket weaving, beadwork, regalia, halibut hooks, and more. All of these programs are free to the public.

The City Museum is also holding several classes this fall. **Sock Monkeys: A Spin off a Classic will be held on October 15th.** Sewers ages 10 and older are invited to learn about sock monkeys and make one of their own to take home. **Home Sweet Home: Gingerbread Houses will be held on December 10th.** Kids and adults can get ready for the holidays by decorating their very own gingerbread houses. For class times and registration fees, contact the City Museum at 586-3572.

This fall is also your last chance to check out two exhibits that will be ending in December. **Pleasures and Perils: Juneau's Steamships and Shipwrecks** explores the heyday of steamship travel on Alaska's Inside Passage, offering everything from underwater finds to an interactive knot-tying station. **Forty extremely rare early mining photographs** offer a glimpse into another prominent aspect of Juneau history, and feature handwritten annotations by someone with significant technical knowledge of mining engineering. Last but certainly not least, our **Hands-On History Room will return on October 7.** This self-exploration room features a dress-up closet, vintage kitchen and schoolroom, authentic old-fashioned toys and games, and a variety of other activities for children of all ages.

We hope to see you at the City Museum this fall!

## New Faces at the City Museum

We have three new faces at the City Museum this fall. Katie Mahoney and Christina Smiraglia are our new interns, and Jessalynn Rintala is our new Office Assistant! Interestingly, Christina Smiraglia and Katie Mahoney met at the Old York Historical Society in Maine last summer where they both were interning, and Jessalynn hails from Kennebunk, Maine. All three are new to the area, and we are very pleased that they chose to join us here.

Christina Smiraglia is completing her MA in Museum Studies at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. She is originally from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, another small state capital, and she received her BA in Art Conservation and

Ceramics with a minor in Art History from the University of Delaware. Christina loves the expansive wilderness and laidback friendliness of Alaska, which is a relaxing contrast to her busy metropolitan life back East.

Katie Mahoney, who has a BA in French Studies from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, comes to us from western Massachusetts (which she hastens to assure us is NOTHING like Boston). She arrived on July 1<sup>st</sup>, originally intending to leave in mid-October, but liked Juneau so much she has decided to extend her internship to mid-December. She has experience interning at a variety of historical societies throughout New England, and is very excited to be working at a museum where she doesn't

have to memorize facts about Puritans. She's had a great two months in Juneau, and is looking forward to spending the fall here.

Jessalynn Rintala recently graduated from Pomona College in southern California, where she received her BA in French. In the past, Jessalynn volunteered for the Kennebunkport Historical Society (of Maine), which involved wearing a complete Victorian-era costume! Although she enjoyed her work there immensely, life at the City Museum, being corset-free, is decidedly more comfortable. She likes it here very much and is eagerly anticipating her next Alaskan adventure.

*Welcome Christina,  
Katie & Jessalynn!*

*Banner Year cont. from pg 1.*

fifth year of free winter admission makes it easier than ever to include the museum into weekly and monthly plans. We are so very proud to announce our third year of sponsorship from the Pioneer Book Committee (October), the Gastineau Channel Historical Society (November), and Michelle and Robert Storer (December, March, and April). This year we have a new donation in the memory of Dick Pegues (January, February). This year, donors not only paid free winter admission they paid this year's admission increase from \$2/winter (18 and older) to \$3/winter. We are indeed fortunate that these individuals and organizations have opened the doors to a wonderful community re-

source such as ours, please use it.

Along with a record high in visitor ship, donations to our permanent collection have also reached an all time high. With an average of 400-500 items donated yearly, to date, the museum has recorded 777 new items into its permanent collections. This number is high in part to the large donation from the estate of Harold Fossum that we received in January. As a devisee in Harold's will, the museum will also receive a cash gift that will be used in the establishment of an endowment fund. Last year, another generous donor gave us two original artworks, which are outside the scope of our collections for the purposes of establishing an endowment fund. A stone lithograph *Winter Preparation*, and

*Land of Long Shadows* a 1990 original oil painting have been donated for resale in memory of Paul Luis Gagnon. Both works are by Fred Machetanz, one of Alaska's preeminent painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The museum has sold *Winter Preparation* and has placed *Land of Long Shadows* on display in the gift shop where it is currently for sale. Please contact, Jane Lindsey if you are interested in more information about *Land of Long Shadows* or our endowment fund. We feel very fortunate to have this kind of community support and very proud to be the Juneau-Douglas



# New Summer Program Familiarizes Kids with their Community

This summer the City Museum offered a new summer program called Juneau Explorer's Week. This half-day, week long "camp" gave children the opportunity to explore our community with local historians and artists. "We wanted to provide a fun and educational alternative for children during their summer vacation," said Curator of Public Programs, Alysia McLain.

During the week, children participated in a wide variety of outdoor and indoor activities. Activities included: making their own spruce root cordage with Mary Lou King; listening to a local history presentation by local elder Rosa Miller; making wrapping paper with homemade potato stamps and building lanterns with local crafter Anne Castle; hiking the historic Treadwell Trail with Jim Geraghty; panning for gold with Michael Orelove; touring the Last Chance Mining Museum with Renee Hughes; ex-



Kids participating in the Juneau Explorer's Week Program spend an afternoon checking out Juneau's Public Art. Here kids sketch images of Patsy Ann.

ploring our historic downtown area with Mary Pat Wyatt, surveying Juneau's public art and wrapping up the week by swimming at the pool!

Based on activities from Juneau Explorer packets, a previous summer program in which parents could purchase a packet of activities to do with their child, the Juneau Explorer's Week provided an opportunity for kids to get out and explore the area with knowledgeable guides. "The packets were a

wonderful concept, but we found that parents wanted more of a camp program during the summer. We used the packet as a starting point for developing the camp," explained Alysia McLain.

In addition to the day's activities, kids were given a take-home sheet that described what they had done that day and provided follow-up and/or related activities they could do with their families. Eighteen children ranging from 8 to

13 years old participated in the program and the response from both the kids and parents has been overwhelmingly positive.

This new summer program also provided the City Museum with a wonderful opportunity to work with other Parks and Recreation Departments including the Zach Gordon Youth Center, which graciously provided space for some of the craft activities and the Augustus Brown Swimming Pool who allowed the group of explorers to participate in open swim.

The overall success of Juneau Explorer's Week is due in large part to the assistance of local artisans and historians. The Museum extends a special thank you to Mary Lou King, Rosa Miller, Anne Castle, Mary Pat Wyatt, Michael Orelove, Renee Hughes, Jim Geraghty and museum intern Katie Mahoney for their time and effort!

## POP QUIZ: What's Selling in the City Museum Gift Shop?



Just a few of the many items that can be found in the Museum Gift Shop this season!

Which of the following is the best-seller for July & August in our gift shop?

- A). *Juneau: City Built on Gold* video, \$14.95
- B). Authentic blasting cap boxes, \$7.50
- C). Mark Kelley greeting cards, \$1.50
- D). Treadwell Mine trail maps, \$0.48

Let's discuss.

**Option A:** *Juneau: City Built on Gold* is one of our staples here at the Museum, giving visitors a feel for Juneau history and putting locals in touch with their roots. However, it's not our #1 seller this summer.

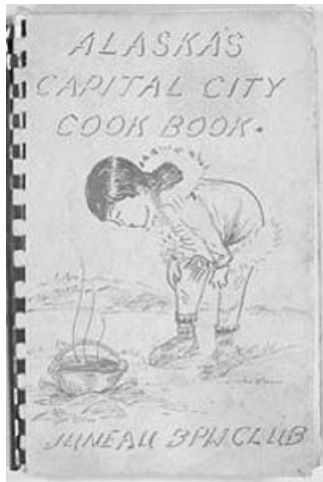
**Option B:** Our historic blasting cap boxes were collected by Art Walther, who came to Juneau in 1935 to work at the AJ mine. He was a bulldozer (rock blaster), a hoist man and a night watchman until the mine closed in 1944. We've sold 17 of them this summer - but they're not our most popular item either.

**Option C:** Greeting cards with the photography of Juneau's own Mark Kelley are gift shop favorites. Pictures of everything from bears & eagles to floatplanes & helicopters fly off the shelves, but even then, they're not our bestseller...

**Option D:** ...Which leaves us with only one choice remaining. The Most popular of all is an item we produced right here at the Museum: our guide to the Treadwell Mine Historic Trail. We've sold 57 since July 1<sup>st</sup>. With the aid of one of our many regional maps & guides, find your own way through the Perseverance Trail (guide, \$1), Evergreen Cemetery (Historical walk guide, \$1), or one of *90 Short Walks Around Juneau* (book, \$6.50). If you're looking for a real adventure you might find yourself in need of an infrared map of the Juneau ice field (\$3) - or then again, maybe the Treadwell is more your style...

## Alaskan Recipes from Our Collection

Over the past few years the Museum has acquired a variety of Alaskan Cookbooks. We thought you might enjoy reading (or, for those braver folks- *trying*) one of these recipes...



**JELLIED BEER SALAD**  
(From Mrs. P. R. "Peggie" Holdsworth, Juneau)

2 Teasp Plain Gelatin  
½ Cup Cold Water  
½ Cup Boiling Hot Beer  
½ Cup Cold Beer

Soak gelatin in cold water... add to hot beer. When dissolved, add cold beer and mold. Place in refrigerator to set. When serving, place in center of serving plate with bed of lettuce...arrange cold ham, tongue and cheese slices around salad and decorate with slices of dill pickles and pickled beets. Serve with rye bread...cold beer...and a good song ringing clear.

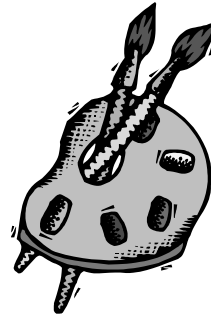
From ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY COOK BOOK: Favorite Recipes from the Kitchens of Alaska, sponsored by Business and Professional Women's Club, Juneau, Alaska (2004.53.003)

## Solo Artists Selected for Fall 06/ Winter 07 Season!

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum is pleased to announce Tony Newman, Michael Francis Kelly and John Hermley, Jr. as our solo artists for the fall 06/ winter 07 season.

The City Museum schedules individual artists, groups, and organizations to exhibit in our temporary gallery October through April each year. In the past, there had been more venues for artists to exhibit their work. Typically, the museum would receive requests or approach artists to exhibit for one month in our temporary gallery. Over the years, there seems to be fewer venues for artists to show their work and the Museum has begun to receive more requests from artists for exhibit space. We hear now, from artists, that our 600' gallery is one of the largest spaces to show in town. We felt that establishing a solo artist exhibit process would be the best way to respond to the increase in requests and the most appropriate way to look at applicants through the

eyes of our mission. "I'm really excited by the artists that we have selected not only because of their talent and ability to convey their ideas creatively, but because their work reflects strongly on Juneau community and environment" said Director Jane Lindsey.



The Museum received 10 applications to fill 4 slots for the fall 06/ winter 07 season. A review committee made up of Museum Director Jane Lindsey, Curator of Collections & Exhibits Ellen Carrlee, Curator of Public Programs Alysia McLain, Past Solo Artist Rob Roys and interested community member Noelle Dersé reviewed and evaluated the applications. The Committee se-

lected Tony Newman, Michael Francis Kelly and John Hermley, Jr. as next year's solo artists based on a combination of their talent and the strong connection of each artist's work to the Museum's Mission. Tony Newman published Juneau-themed cartoons in the *Juneau Empire*, and *Capital City Weekly* and will exhibit a ten-year retrospective on Juneau history through his cartoons. Photographer Michael Francis Kelly will present photographic images that explore the science and art of the Juneau Ice field. As a life-long Juneau resident and avid photographer, John Hermley, Jr. will exhibit images of people and places in Juneau circa. 1960- Present.

The City Museum will continue to reserve the right to invite artists and groups to exhibit in our galleries for such exhibits as 12X12 and Team Survivor Bra-Dazzler Exhibit. However, the Museum is looking forward to continuing the solo artist application process on an annual basis.

## Iowa Museum Dedicates Veterans Project to the USS Juneau Sullivan Brothers

Ike Leighty, Bill Leighty's father, and member of the board of trustees of the Iowa based Grout Museum met with Director, Jane Lindsey to talk about an important project the Grout is undertaking. The five Sullivan brothers, from Waterloo Iowa, requested to serve together after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and were stationed on the fated USS Juneau when it was torpedoed on November 13, 1942, following the battle of Guadalcanal. In honor of

this sacrifice which is seen as one of the largest family sacrifices in our countries military history, the Grout is naming their current museum expansion, "Grout Museum Sullivan Brothers Veteran Museum and Research Center". This 27,000 sq. ft. addition will collect, preserve and interpret the artifacts and stories of Iowa veterans, establish a veterans registration database, and conduct oral history interviews. It is touching that Ike took the

time to visit our local museum to introduce us to a project that Juneau shares a piece of history with. As requested, the City Museum plans to share its USS Juneau research files with the Grout, and they in turn will send us a inventory of their files. If you are interested on more information about the Grout's expansion or have information on the USS Juneau to share with the Grout, please contact Jane Lindsey at 586-3572.

# Recent Acquisitions

April-August 2005

Ellen Carrlee



An early image of Telephone Hill with icebergs from Taku floating in the channel in the vicinity of what is now the Goldbelt Hotel.  
2005.38.091 Donated by the Bureau of Land Management.

Number	Donation
2005.13	Steamship Menus Gift of Mike Blackwell
2005.14	Salmon Derby, Folk Fest, Political Items Gift of Rebecca Tyson Smith and Damon Stuebner
2005.15	Historical Latch Gift of Annette G. E. Smith
2005.16	Souvenir "Spokane" Spoon Gift of June Hall
2005.17	Pharmacy Bottles and Scale Gift of Jim McCorcle
2005.18	Historical Douglas Fire Dept. Log Transfer from City Vault
2005.19	Historic Boy Scout Master Uniform, Awards Gift of Dennis Harris
2005.20	Dale DeArmond Fire Dept Print JDCM Purchase
2005.21	Historic Airline Tickets, Stamps Gift of Dee Williams



Early image of the Juneau Indian Village, with Willoughby Ave. still on pilings, canoes pulled upon tide lands. donated by Bureau of Land Management . JDCM 2005.38.106.

- 2005.22 Historic Aerial Photos, AJ Items, Booklets  
Gift of Willette Janes
- 2005.23 Postcards and Stickers of Current Events  
JDCM Purchase
- 2005.24 Sports and Gold Medal Memorabilia  
Gift of Andrew Krueger
- 2005.25 Belcher, Lehman Photos and Quisenberry Painting  
Gift of Robert and Doris Simon
- 2005.26 1908 Douglas Union Photo  
Gift of Dick McCormick
- 2005.27 Large 1961 Photo Map  
Gift of Joel Orelove
- 2005.28 Centennial Medallion of the Masons  
Gift of Mount Juneau-Gastineau Lodge #21
- 2005.29 Douglas Cook Book  
Gift of Marlene McNabb
- 2005.30 Mary Joyce Political Card  
Gift of Mary Anne Greiner



Floyd Dryden's WWI dog tags, donated by Pat McLearn. JDCM 2005.41.080

- 2005.31 Vavalis Model Boat, Kitchen Items  
Gift of Vivian Lovaas
- 2005.32 Theater Posters, "Juneau Packers" Tee  
Gift of Lee Powelson
- 2005.33 Historic Aviation Tags  
Transfer from Library
- 2005.34 Historic ANAC Cache Gift Shop Items  
Gift of Marie Olson
- 2005.35 Juneau Photos from 1950  
Gift of Lawrence Weston
- 2005.36 AJ Office Phone, Cannery Clock  
Gift of Pat Costa
- 2005.37 Governor's Mansion Ornament, Signatures  
Gift of Skip Gray
- 2005.38 Historic Photos of Juneau, AJ Construction  
Gift of the Bureau of Land Management
- 2005.39 Fine Art Prints by Larry McNeil  
JDCM Purchase
- 2005.40 Salmon Derby Pin  
Gift of Dan Beason
- 2005.41 Floyd Dryden's Archival and WWI Items  
Gift of Pat McLearn, Librarian F.D. School

**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.

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Visit us on the web  
[www.juneau.org/  
parksrec/museum/](http://www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum/)

Jane Lindsey, Director  
Jane\_Lindsey@ci.juneau.ak.us

Ellen Carrlee, Curator of Collections & Exhibits  
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

Jessalynn Rintala, Office Assistant I  
Museum\_OA@ci.juneau.ak.us

Katie Mahoney, Intern  
Museum\_Intern@ci.juneau.ak.us

Christina Smiraglia, Intern  
Christina\_Smiraglia@ci.juneau.ak.us

## CITY MUSEUM EVENTS CALENDAR

### September

- 16 Volunteer Recognition Event on Orca Point Whale Watching Cruise, 8:30am-2:00pm  
23 Free Winter hours begin, Tuesday-Saturday, Noon-4pm

### October

- 2 Painting Clinic with Carmen Bria, 1:00-5:00pm, at McPhetres Hall  
7 First Friday public reception, Hands-On Children's Room returns  
9 Beyond Heritage Kick-Off Event, 7:30-9:30pm  
15 Sock Monkey making class for ages 10 and above with instructor John Leo, 10:00am- 1:00pm, at Zach Gordon Youth Center  
18 Museum closed in observance of Alaska Day.

### November

- 5 First Friday public reception, *Princess Sophia* presentation by John Lachelt, 4:30- 7:00pm.  
6 Special Saturday, Balsa Bridges Demonstration with special 'construction-zone' for kids, 1:00- 3:00pm  
11 Museum closed in observance of Veterans Day Holiday  
24-25 Museum closed in observance of Thanksgiving

### December

- 2-3 Native Arts and Crafts Fair, Friday: 4:00- 8:00pm, Saturday: Noon- 5:00pm  
Make Gingerbread Houses with Anne Castle, 11:30am-12:30pm, 1:00-2:00pm, 2:30-3:30pm, at Zach Gordon Youth Center.  
TBA Volunteer Holiday Potluck at the City Museum  
25 Museum closed in observance of Christmas Day

### January

- 1 Museum closed in observance of New Year's Day  
6 Fish trap replica construction begins