

Past & Present

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

Volume 12, Issue 2

May 2008

Walking Tour Guides Needed!

Do you love history? Do you love sharing that history with others? Then do we have the volunteer opportunity for you! The Museum is currently looking for guides for our *Genuine Juneau 1925* historical walking tour offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 1:30 pm beginning May 6 – September 16th.

We are looking for folks who are willing to donate 1 hour of their time weekly or bi-weekly to share their knowledge about our wonderful town, enjoy meeting people from all over the world, and get outside all at the same time! For more information, please contact Alysia McLain at 586-3572 or

Alysia_McLain@ci.juneau.ak.us.

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We Got a Ticket to Ride: Revving Up for Summer

Just in time for summer, the museum is happy to unveil several new and exciting exhibitions. To kick-start the new season into high-gear, the Museum will open *91 Miles to Ride: Juneau's Biker Culture* on Sunday, May 18.

Despite having only about 91 miles of 'cruisable' road, Juneau has had a thriving motorcycle culture since the 1930's. This unique history will be explored in depth through photos, objects and memorabilia.

Jane Lindsey, the Museum Director, was pleased to bring this exhibition to the museum. "It is a good fit for the Museum's mission which fosters among its diverse audiences an awareness of Juneau's cultural heritage, values, and community memory. I think this exhibit has something for everyone and profiles some incredible Juneau people, incredible bikes, and gives the viewer a

glimpse of an American passion in the last frontier."

Guest curated by Sarah Asper-Smith, the exhibit will run through September 27 and will feature four classic motorcycles including a 1924

The opening will coincide with International Museum Day and a full day of events and activities are scheduled to be held at the Museum. Some of the highlights include a city wide run with a drive-by at the Museum at 12:30, a slow race in the Centen-



Museum Staff Ready To Ride: (L to R) Addison Field, Curator of Collections; Alysia McLain, Curator of Public Programs; Krystal Willeby, Museum Intern; Jane Terry, Administrative Assistant I and Jane Lindsey, Museum Director.

Henderson inline IV on loan from Ed Squibb, a 1936 Harley Davidson Knucklehead on loan from Steve "Razz" Rasmussen, a 1946 Indian Chief on loan from Don Howell and a 1975 9' long customized chopper on loan from Craig "Oz" Orsborn.

nial Hall parking lot and the Great Bike Race for kids of all ages at 3:30pm at the Museum.

Also premiering this summer is *Fun, Frolic and Fireworks: The 1959 Statehood Celebration*. Created in honor of *Continued on Page 4*

MUSEUM WORKS WITH LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CREATE JUNEAU DIGITAL STORIES

Since this past Fall, Museum staff have been making weekly trips out to Dzantik'i Heeni and Floyd Dryden middle schools to work with 6th and 7th grade students on a digital story project. The project is Phase III of the Capital City project, which resulted in the installation of the exhibit *Politics, Personalities and Power* in 2005. This third and final phase of the project focuses on working with local middle school students to create an interactive component for the exhibit.

Over the course of the school year the students have selected topics, learned how to conduct primary source research, conducted oral history interviews, and learned how to edit digital media. The final project will be a compilation of the student's narration, interview clips, and historical photographs. These "digital stories" will then be put on display on two touch screens located in kiosks in the *Politics, Personalities and Power* gallery.



Floyd Dryden 7th graders research their projects in the museum

Topics for these projects include: *Juneau as Alaska's Capital*- early history, the move from Sitka, as well as present government and capital move issues. *Cultures of Juneau* including Filipino; Tongan/South Pacific; Haida; Tlingit & Anglo-European. *The Quest for Statehood* with stories about Alaska as a territory vs. a state; an in depth look at the state constitution; the process of becoming a state; Judge Wickersham; Ernest Gruening & Bob Bartlett; how Statehood Affected Native Communities and looking back at 50 years. *Elizabeth Peratrovich and Civil Rights in Alaska* including her biography; a history of the ANB & ANS and their role in today's society; Elizabeth Peratrovich's speech to the Senate; a Look at Discrimination Then and Now; and her motivation to stand against discrimination.

Curator of Public Programs, Alysia McLain who has been heading up the project says "This is a great way for local students to gain a sense of ownership and investment in their community museum. The kids were really excited about the interviews and I think it is just a wonderful experience for the students to meet people who were present at some of our state's and town's most significant moments."

The students are currently assembling the pieces of their digital stories and an official opening of the interactive kiosks is anticipated for late May.



Abby Lowell, Multimedia Online Editor for the Juneau Empire, teaches Dzantik'I Heeni 6th graders about story-building

Special Thanks: The Museum would like to thank the following informants, teachers, and support staff that have been instrumental in carrying out this project:

Informants:

Albert Shaw, Representative Andrea Doll, Senator Kim Elton, Angelina Matorre, Clark Gruening, Dante Reyes, Della Cheney, Dennis Egan, Ed Carrillo, Elva Bountrager, George Rogers, Jim Geraghty, Kathy Ruddy, Kim Elton, Linda Belarde, Marie Darlin, Marie Olsen, Marlene Johnson, Kueni Maake, Morris Carrillo, Nancy Douglas, Patty McNeil, Ross Soboleff, Roy Peratrovich, Jr., Selina Everson, Wes Keller, and Lt. Governor Sean Parnell.

Support Staff and Teachers:

Barb Mecum, David Ringle, Debbie Hull, Elizabeth Villanueva, Tom Miliron, Elizabeth Gifford, Ray Imel, Stan Ostrowski, Sheila Degener, Korry Keeker, Abby Lowell, Ryan Conarro, and Cristine Crooks.

MUSEUM FACE LIFT: A NEW LOOK AND A NEW ATTITUDE

If you have visited or driven by the museum recently, you may have noticed that there are fewer trees out front and increased activity outside the building. In mid-April, we began a three-stage process to bolster the exterior of the Museum. The first step was to prune and cut down trees and bushes, repair rot, and power scrub the building. In the next couple of months, we will repaint the exterior and add new flowering bushes and shrubs. As the official statehood flag raising site on July 4, 1959, this is an appropriate time to prepare for the 50th celebration of statehood festivities in 2009. Keep an eye out as the building transforms and begins to shine with additional pride and care.

The colors chosen will enhance the historical integrity

of the building, echo the original colors and also compliment the other buildings in the area. These colors have been approved by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Historic Resources Advisory Committee. If you would like to see the color



Museum Front Cleared of Extraneous Brush

scheme that has been selected and the proposed landscaping list, please contact Director, Jane Lindsey.

In connection with recommendations from our facility assessment capital improvement project last year, we will continue pursuing funding for a heating and ventila-

tion upgrade, enlarging the turnout area at the side of the building to accommodate large school and tourism buses, and a new lighting system in the Museum galleries. We are also currently writing a grant to the Alaska State Museum grant-in-aid program to fund oversized collection storage racks in the basement for 2009.

This is an important time to organize and upgrade our oversized collection storage because we will soon rent offsite storage as well. It is important to note that most museums rent offsite storage, and this in no way stops the museum from collecting. Most museums need more space as they collect through the years. Finding solutions to this issue is not easy. The flip side to collections storage issues is that having to think about storage of a potentially large donated object ensures that we are collecting within our mission.

Odds and Ends

Alysia McLain Becomes Full Time

This time last year, the museum took a hard look at the seasonal Office Assistant 1 position. Each year, it has been quite a challenge to recruit someone to help with increased visitation and get them quickly up to speed with the busy museum environment. Considering how important it is to elevate all of our staff to full-time, the museum approached Alysia McLain, the Curator of Public Programs and asked her if she would like to be increased to full-time and run the summer walking tour. We believe that Alysia's experience is more efficient in the long run in regards to running our facility. Although there will be less of us, we are all here more, and we think our staff is a good example of 'less is more'.

50th Celebration Committee

The Museum is an active member of the Juneau Celebrations Committee, a committee comprised of a diverse and vibrant group of Juneau businesses, the chamber, the tourism industry, non-profits, and life-long community members. Our common group goal is to work within the art, history and culture of this community to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Alaskan statehood in Juneau in 2009. Planning is underway for a very special year of reflection and celebration as our state turns fifty. For more information on programming and ways to become involved, email juneaucebrates@yahoo.com or contact Director, Jane Lindsey.

Revving Up for The Summer Cont.

Alaska's upcoming 50th statehood anniversary, the exhibition explores the celebration held here in Juneau on July 3, 4, and 5th, 1959. Told through pictures, objects and actual film footage of the July 4th Parade, the exhibition harkens back to a gentler time and place when the whole of Alaska came together to celebrate as one.

In addition to these temporary exhibits, the permanent galleries have undergone some recent changes with the addition of new materials that interpret Juneau's rich mining history. New exhibits include a brand new diorama of a working assay lab and historical photographs. A new exhibit case that takes an intimate look at the life of a hard rock miner using the equipment and personal effects of Juneau miners will be installed in early summer.

With a number of new changes and several thrilling new exhibitions, this summer season is sure to be a hit!



New Diorama of the Bureau of Land Management Assay Lab

Money Matters: Grants and Donations

GRANTS

The Museum, in connection with the Historic Resources Advisory Committee and the Community Development Department, has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the state and historic preservation office to compile information on historic resources from both departments in a publicly accessible online database.

Primarily, this project will focus on putting our historic structures surveys online. The city has been diligently putting together historic structures surveys for over two decades.

In correlation with the project, a historic preservation architect will be hired to review and update these reports. Museum and Community Development interns and volunteers will then be utilized to input information into a database complete with images.

The database will also incorporate information about historic structures that are currently on the Museum's website. This will enable the site not only to give structural and condition reports on properties, but information on the historic use of a site as well.

FOSSUM MONEY

We are happy to report that we have found a good home for the \$48,000 that was gifted to the Museum by the estate of Harold Fossum in 2006. Because this money was given without restrictions—meaning, the gift was not designated for a specific purpose -- it has taken time to sort out the intent of the funds.

Beginning fiscal year 2010, \$3800 a year will be placed in our Museum Acquisition's fund for the purchase of Juneau history objects, and \$800 a year will be placed in the free winter admission fund. We will continue to budget this amount every year until the gift is spent in full.

We believe that Harold would be happy with this usage of his gift as he was the original sponsor of free winter admission and quite a collector of Juneau history and Alaska. The fact that for some ten years to come we can attribute two months a year of free winter admission to the memory of Harold O. Fossum is a gift to all.

This has been an important lesson for the Museum. When funds are donated, they need to come to the museum with a specification, or restriction; otherwise, it may not be an easy task to make sure that the intent of the donation is honored.

2007/2008 JUNEAU HISTORY GRANT PROJECTS COMPLETED

For the past 17 years, the City Museum has managed the Juneau History Grant which has helped fund a diverse range of projects from individuals, students, and local organizations. This season we are pleased to report that the tradition of high quality projects that document, preserve and/or improve access to the history of the Juneau-Douglas area still rings true.

Best Cook of the Week Cookbook by Anne Castle is a compilation of recipes and write-ups from the Juneau Independent column "Best Cook of the Week". The cookbook contains a number of indexes including surname,

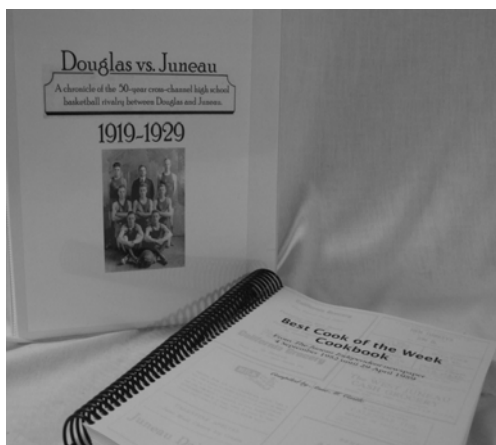
recipes and photographs of the cooks when applicable. The cookbooks are available in the Museum Gift Shop for \$40.00.

The Basketball History Committee is working on the *Juneau-Douglas High School Basketball History Part: 1 Archival Compilation 1906 to 1956*. Committee members include Mike Grummett, JHS '55 (Chairman), Dick Forrest JHS '52, Tony McCormick DHS '54, Dick McCormick DHS '46, and Mike Blackwell, JHS '55. This extensive project set out to compile a definitive, factual record of high school boys and girls basketball in Juneau

and Douglas from 1906 to 1956. The completed project will include narrative introductions, plus additional information on newspaper clippings and yearbook photos.

The Committee has completed one chapter (1919-1929) of *Douglas vs. Juneau: A Chronicle of the 50-year cross-channel high school basketball rivalry between*

Douglas and Juneau.



Due to the enormous amount of information found by the Committee, they have been granted an extension

by the Juneau History Grant Committee to continue working on the project into the next year. The end product will not only be a valuable resource on Juneau and Douglas Basketball history, but will also be the basis for the Museum's 2009 summer exhibit on the History of Basketball scheduled to open in March 2009 to coincide with Gold Medal Tournament.

Running Toward the Fires: The First 100 Years of the Juneau Volunteer Fire Department project submitted by Sandy Harbanuk and the Juneau Volunteer

Firefighters Association is a history of Juneau's fire service, firefighters, and fires within the overall context of Juneau's first 100 years. The final publication, including photographs is expected to be completed by mid-May and will be a comprehensive look at this compelling Juneau history .

If you have an idea for a project, please apply for the 2008/09 Juneau History Grant! Look on Page 6 for more details.

Visitor Survey Update

We will be starting our second round of visitor surveying on the 15th of May! Back in August, we received a grant to fund participation in the American Association for State and Local History's Performance Management Program (AASLH). We worked in conjunction with AASLH to customize a questionnaire and this winter we initiated our first round of surveys. The first round was focused on getting input from our winter user ground. So it is time now to begin our second round of testing, which will run from May 15 through June 30. This round is focused on getting feedback from our summertime visitors. When this testing is done, we will forward the results to AASLH. Then, in October, we will receive the results, which we can then use to help us chart the course of the museum over the next 5 years!

Bra Dazzler Art Exhibition

Call to artists: Team Survivor Perseverance and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum are calling artists to create bra-inspired art for the 2008 Bra-Dazzler Art Exhibition. This juried art extravaganza will exhibit in October to raise awareness of Team Survivor's fitness based cancer support programs. **The deadline for submissions is Saturday, September 27th.** Entry forms are available now at Juneau-Douglas City Museum and online at www.teamsurvivorak.org and www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum. Call 957-0381 for more info.

Callout: Juneau History Grant Projects

It's time to tell your Juneau story! Juneau History Grant Applications are currently being accepted at the museum and the deadline is fast approaching. All applications must be post-marked or hand-delivered to the Museum by **4:00p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2008.** Applications are currently available at the Museum's front desk or can be found at www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum/.

TOTEM POLE RESTORATION PROJECT

In May, the Museum will undergo a massive and challenging project as the "Four-Story" totem pole is taken down for restoration. The 40-foot pole was donated to the City by the Juneau Rotary Club in 1962 and moved to the front of the Museum at the corner of 4th and Main in 1994.

Executed by Haida carver John Wallace, the pole includes adaptations of four stories Haida: the Monster Frog, the Man with the Fish Trap, Chaawank and the Land Otter Men, and the Shaman at Island Point Town.

The restoration project is sponsored by an Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid with additional support from Juneau Rotary. Addison Field, the City Museum's Curator of Collections and Exhibits is coordinating the project. He stresses, "Totem poles are a part of Alaska's collective heritage, so it is important for coming generations that we preserve what we have now, so that they can be enjoyed in the future."

The Museum was fortunate to commission Lee Wallace, carver and grandson of the original

artist, to work on the historic totem. The pole is scheduled to be taken down on May 19. After extensive cleaning, Lee will begin restoration work on Thursday, May 29.

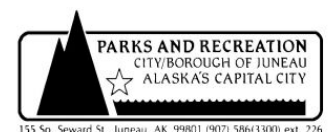
Mr. Wallace will be making several necessary repairs including re-attaching the missing oyster catcher's head and will then repaint the pole using traditional colors and techniques. A Master Carver, Lee Wallace has been carving for many years and has worked on a number of historical pieces throughout Alaska including the last restoration of the pole in 1994.

A re-dedication ceremony is planned for June 6 on the Museum grounds at Noon to coincide with the biennial Celebration 2008. A number of events are planned in correlation with the event including an open house on Saturday, May 31st to meet and talk with Lee Wallace and there will also be a community totem pole activity taking place inside the Museum. Wallace will also present an evening program (TBA) on how restoration techniques have changed over the years by reviewing the 1994 restoration, how things were done in his father's day and tradi-

tional practices. Wallace will also present an overview of the stories represented in the Four Story totem pole.



4-Story Totem Pole which will soon be restored



FROM THE COLLECTIONS CORNER...

Hello Everyone! Borrowing a commercial fishing aphorism, when we acquired the BLM collection last summer, we “plugged the hold!” Space in our compactor storage has become extremely hard to eek out. We are making more room by building new storage mounts, purchasing new archival storage materials and boxing and moving things around. Needless to say, this takes a lot of time and space. In an effort to help alleviate this shortage, we are going to purchase and install a shelving system for our large object storage. This coming fall, we will be making the necessary changes to the basement to install the shelves. It should be an exciting time for us! This doesn’t mean we have stopped collecting...no way. So keep calling us whenever you find something you think the museum should keep for posterity. Right now we are still looking for basketball related materials. Thanks for all your help!

- Addison Field
Curator of Collections & Exhibits

Recent Acquisitions - January -May 2008

- 2008.01 1950s Cleaning Supplies
Gift of Gail Roust
- 2008.02 Volunteer Fire Department Badges
Gift of Jim Carroll
- 2008.03 Corporate Seal
Gift of Roger & Terry Shattuck
- 2008.04 Photographs by Marilyn Holmes
Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase
- 2008.05 Totemic Carving by Rick Beasley
Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Purchase
- 2008.06 Bill Ray Lithograph
Museum Purchase
- 2008.07 1906 Photographs
Gift of Ruth Peterson
- 2008.08 Mining Hard Hat
Gift of Rod Cleland
- 2008.09 Claudia Kelsey Drawings & Etc.
Gift of the Kelsey Estate
- 2008.10 Thane Coin
Gift of Marie Darlin
- 2008.11 Book: “Land of the Midnight...”
Gift of Gastineau Channel Historical Society
- 2008.12 Ephemera of the USS Alaska
Gift of James D. Thompson

- 2008.13 Postcard
Gift of Minnie MacLennan Aline
- 2008.14 Statehouse Photograph Collection
Gift of Katherine Smith
- 2008.15 Postcard and Envelope Collection
Gift of Edith Carter Estate



Bill Ray Lithograph, Museum Purchase, JDCM 2008.06 .001

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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[www.juneau.org/
parksrec/museum/](http://www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum/)

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CITY MUSEUM EVENTS CALENDAR

May

- 6 Walking Tour Begins: Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 1:30 p.m.
- 18 Juneau Museum Day, *91 Miles to Ride: Juneau Biker's Culture* Grand Opening. Stop by the City Museum, Alaska State Museum, Last Chance Mining Museum, & St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church for summer exhibition openings & family activities. Noon-5 p.m. Free shuttle available.
- 19 4-Story Totem Pole comes down for restoration work
- 29 Guest Carver, Lee Wallace begins work on 4-Story Totem Pole
- 31 Open house for the 4-Story Totem Pole restoration project

June

- 5-6 Rededication ceremony for 4-Story Totem Pole on Museum grounds, Noon
- 16 Juneau History Grant applications due by 4 p.m. For more information call 586.3572 or go to www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum

July

- 4 Annual July 4th Celebration, Museum Closed

August

- 4-8 Juneau Explorers Week

