

# Past & Present

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

Volume 11, Issue 3

September 2007

## VOLUNTEERS

### Make it Happen!

THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers! We graciously appreciate your time and effort to keep the Juneau-Douglas City Museum going strong! This year, volunteers donated 1,800 hours!

This fall, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum is looking for volunteers who are interested in baking cookies for our Halloween program in addition to (or in lieu of) welcoming our visitors.

If you are interested in donating your baking skills please contact Alysia at 586.3572.

## CHANGES AT THE CITY MUSEUM THIS FALL



Museum office assistant Jessalynn Rintala checks out the zoetrope, (the newest addition to the *Playful Pastimes* exhibit) while Museum Intern, Hannah Baldwin looks on.

This fall the “little museum that can” is moving FULL steam ahead!

In August, the Pioneer Book Committee and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum launched a new website based on the book *Gastineau Channel Memories Vol. I*. Originally published in 2001, the book, and new web-site, contain a collection of stories and photographs of families who came to this area during the period of Juneau’s founding to statehood (1880 to 1959).

The website is accessible through the Museum’s homepage at [www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum](http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum).

On the exhibits front, be

sure to spend some time in our ever popular *Playful Pastimes* exhibit to see the newest addition - a ZOETROPE!

Originally invented in 1834 by William Horner, the zoetrope is an optical toy that creates the illusion of motion. Bruce Harr took on the challenge of constructing the zoetrope and local cartoonist TOE provided the label and artwork.

During First Fridays, stop in for some recent film history! The Museum has teamed up with the Juneau Underground Motion Picture (JUMP) Society to showcase past films from their bi-annual festival. Each month a different

festival will be featured starting with the first JUMP film festival held in July 2002. So if you missed a festival or want to see your old favorites stop by the Museum this fall!

Curator of Collections & Exhibits Addison Field, is starting to de-install the Frontier Kitchen exhibit in preparation for the installation of an assay lab. The new exhibit will be comprised mainly of artifacts from the recent Bureau of Land Management acquisition. The new exhibit will open November 2nd.

On November 10th, Addison will present “Bureau of Mines - Assay Lab” as part of our new *Coffee & Collections Series* beginning in October. Co-sponsored by Heritage Coffee Company, this monthly lecture series will highlight various items from our collection. (see page 3 for more information).

Museum staff will also be working towards converting the current Mining gallery into our new temporary gallery space for solo artist exhibitions and

**Continued on page 4.**

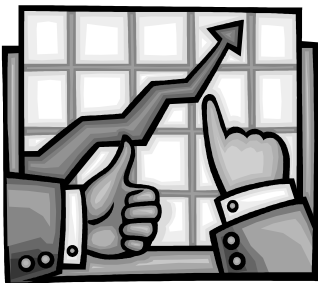
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Visitor Survey Project</i>	2
<i>Thank You to Donors</i>	2
<i>Free Winter Admission</i>	2
<i>Fall Programming</i>	3
<i>CounterPoint POS system</i>	4
<i>Four Story Totem Restorations</i>	4
<i>Collections Corner</i>	5
<i>Recent Acquisitions</i>	5
<i>Events Calendar</i>	6

## Grant allows Museum to participate in Visitor Survey Project

In August, the Museum received a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation's Management Assistance program to fund a visitor survey project at the City Museum during the winter and summer of 2008.

Through this visitor survey, the Museum will perform a scientific measurement of visitor experiences within the facility. Testing will take place during the winter to target our local audience and again during the summer to target our tourist audience. The information will then be sent outside to be analyzed in conjunction with ten other Alaska Museums.



Scott Carrlee at the State Museum organized the project, which is being offered by the American Association for State and Local History. The process will begin in late September when Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Addison Field attends a planning session at the Museums Alaska Conference in Homer.

The data we get from this survey project will help to identify our strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement in visitor services and help chart the direction of the museum in years to come!

## Volunteers honored at annual appreciation event



Museum staff & volunteers pose at the end of the annual volunteer appreciation event. This year volunteers enjoyed a whale watching tour to Orca Point Lodge - a small token of our gratitude for all of your hard work. Thanks so much!!!

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations to the annual volunteer appreciation event.

### Four Seasons Marine

Miss Scarlett's, The Alaska Zipline Adventures, Rejuvenation Day Spa, Island Pub, Northstar Trekking, Doc Water's, Rie Munoz Gallery, The Jewel Box, Heritage Coffee Co., Alaska Brewing Co., The Observatory Bookstore, Jane Lindsey, Jane Terry, Alysia McLain.

## Free Winter Admission Marches Into its Seventh Year

This fall and winter marks the seventh year of free winter admission and through the generosity of local groups and donor's, we are happy to report, it is going strong.

When free winter admission first began in 2001, our average winter visitation (October-April) was approximately 1,700 people. Last year, winter visitation soared to 5,308 visitors, the biggest visitation to date! Thanks to our sponsors we can say with confidence that the free winter admission program works for this community.

With the expansion of our ever popular Hands-On History Room, our free winter admission sponsors invite young and old to come and explore the Museum, make a shadow puppet, tie a nautical knot, weave on our twinning loom, and make a rubbing. You can also play the old and new matching game and the fur board matching game. For the more theatrically inclined, we invite you to visit our old-fashioned dress-up closet, find the tea set and have a tea party. And... don't forget to give the zoetrope a

spin.

The fall 2008/ winter 2009 sponsor's are: October, Friends of the Gastineau Channel Historical Society and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum; November, A Friend of the Museum; December, Robert and Michelle Storer; January, A Friend of the Museum; February, The Pioneer Book Committee; March and April, Robert and Michelle Storer.

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring a month of admission contact Museum Director Jane Lindsey at 586.3572.



# Fall Programs

# at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum



## **NOW SHOWING!**

Join us for First Fridays this fall to view past Juneau Underground Motion Picture (JUMP) Society film festivals. Each month we will feature a different festival beginning with the society's first festival in July 2002. The films will then show continuously throughout the month.

**July '02** - Friday, October 5th 4:30-7:30pm.

**January '03** - Friday, November 2nd, 4:30-7:30pm.

**July '03** - Friday, December 7th, 4:30-7:30pm.

## Coffee & Collections Series

Join us for a series of presentations highlighting the Museum's collection. Coffee for this program is donated by Heritage Coffee Company. Each program runs from 10-11:30am.

**Saturday, Oct. 6th at 10am.**

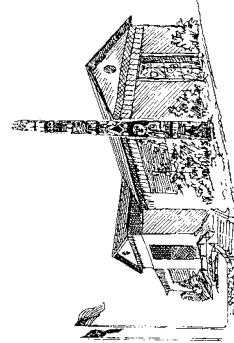
*1880s Voyage of the Steamship ANCON: A presentation of Southeast Alaska historic photographs* (recent photo acquisition) with Jim Geraghty.

**Saturday, Nov. 10th at 10am.**

*U.S. Bureau of Mines - Assay Lab*, with Curator of Collections & Exhibits, Addison Field.

**Saturday, Dec. 1st at 10am.**

*An In-depth look at Halibut Hooks*, with local Native artist, Donald Gregory.



## *History of Filipinos in Juneau*

**Tuesday, Oct. 23rd, 7-8:30pm.**

A presentation by Jenny Strickler-Pro and Dante Reyes on when and why Filipinos first started to come to Juneau and how they contribute to the community.

## **Halloween Extravaganza**

**Wednesday, Oct. 31st 4:30 - 7:00pm**

This FREE event is co-sponsored by the Canvas and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.

### At the Museum:

Ghost Stories with Grace Elliot, Sheila Fisher, & Pat McLearn. Two sessions at 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

At the Canvas: Mad Scientist Lab, Decoupage Lanterns, face painting, and decorate your own trick or treat bag, and demonstration of basket weaving w/ recycled candy wrappers - so save those Trick or Treat wrappers!

## **Annual Native Arts & Craft Fair**

**Friday, Dec. 7th 4:30 - 8:00 pm &**

**Saturday, Dec. 8th 1:00 - 5:00 pm**

This annual fair offers the community an opportunity to learn about Alaska's Native cultures and meet Alaska Native artists as they demonstrate techniques and sell their wares made from a variety of materials including: silver, soapstone, ivory and wood carvings, woven baskets, and beadwork. This event is co-sponsored by Donald Gregory of the Sealaska Heritage Institute and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.



## **PROFILE PORTRAITS**

**Saturday, Dec. 8th 10am - 4pm.**

Drop-in for an old-fashioned silhouette portrait to give to family members or keep for yourself.

Cost: \$5 per portrait.

## **Games & Toys Day**

**Sunday, December 16th TBA.**

Join the Juneau-Douglas City Museum and The Canvas for a day of creative play. Before video games, computers, television sets and radios, kids had to be innovative when it came to playtime. Learn old fashion games at the City Museum and create your own toys out of recycled materials at The Canvas Art Studio.

The City Museum offers a variety of free programming and for-pay classes for youth and adult throughout the fall and winter.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website at: [www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum](http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum) or call 586.3572.

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



If you were the City Museum's new point of sale (POS) system, you would know that the barcode above says "hello, reader!" Luckily for us, we are welcoming the first barcode-literate member into the Museum family this fall with the installation of CounterPoint. CounterPoint is a computer-based POS with some powerful capabilities, including a touchscreen. It will be a great boon to the Museum in all kinds of ways: CounterPoint is primed to simplify goings-on at the front desk, keep inventory, gather precise admissions statistics, facilitate our accounting and, yes, read all the barcodes we can throw at it. The Juneau-Douglas City Museum: speaking robot since fall 2007.

Museum Gift Shop popular with visitors and locals this season

The City Museum's gift shop has been doing a spirited business this summer with our new vintage toys and our beautiful handmade beaded jewelry. Florence Weschenfelder recently donated 30 copies of Pioneering in Alaska, by Ernest Weschenfelder, to the gift shop to benefit the Museum Acquisition fund. It is a wonderful account of living in Treadwell and homesteading on Spuhn Island. Another generous person donated several Juneau and Douglas high school yearbooks. The Museum was able to fill in a few gaps in our reference library and the rest were added to the gift shop where old timers have excitedly snatched them up to complete their own year book collections.

Four Story Totem Pole Restoration planned for Spring 2008

Thanks to the Alaska State Museum grant-in-aid program and the downtown Juneau Rotary Club, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum has received funding to clean, repair, and repaint our beloved Four-Story Totem on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Main Street. In April of 2008, the 67 year old totem is coming down.

The totem will be removed from its mount and laid down in the museum's side lawn where it can be cleaned and allowed to dry. Laying it down will allow local school children the chance to see the entire pole up close. Keep your eyes peeled for educational opportunities for youths and adults alike! Haida carver Lee Wal-



Four Story Totem pole being raised on June 4, 1994.

lace, son of the original carver John Wallace, will travel up from Ketchikan to repair and paint the fifty-foot cedar pole. Part of this process will include re-attaching the head of the oystercatcher figure. This sculptural element was removed in 2004 when it became loose.

After the totem has undergone treatment, it will be re-raised during a celebration that will coincide with Celebration 2008.

Totem poles are of great importance and historical value in Southeast Alaska. Preserving them creates a link between the present and the past and acts as a reminder of the stories of Northwest cultures and ties the community to the land.

Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Addison Field will be heading up this project and is looking for volunteers to help clean the pole and prepare it for Lee's work. Please call the museum if you have an interest in helping with this project.

Changes at Museum cont. from page 1

community art shows such as the 12 x 12. By reconfiguring the gallery we hope to offer solo artists a more prominent space to exhibit their work and provide a more versatile space for programming.

In addition to all the exciting happenings with our exhibits, things are stirring up in programming as well. Curator of Public Programs, Alysia McLain and Korry Keeker from the Juneau Empire, will be working with local middle school students to create digital

stories and podcasts relating to the Museum's *Politics, Personalities and Power* exhibit on Juneau as Alaska's Capital city. This project is the third phase of the Capital City project that began in 2004, with the planning and 2005 installation of the exhibit curated by June Hall. The Museum anticipates completing this interactive component of the exhibit in May 2008.

In preparation for this phase of the project, Alysia received a cultural leadership grant from the Rasmuson Foundation to attend two consecutive workshops on digital sto-

rytelling at the Center for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley, California this past June. The training covered creating your own digital stories as well as methodology for teaching others how to make a digital story.

And last, but *certainly* not least, the Museum would like to announce that we have **extended our winter hours!** The City Museum will be open to the public Tuesdays - Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. We hope to see you soon!



## FROM THE COLLECTIONS CAVE...

It has been an exciting time in collections this summer! We have received many wonderful collections, but I have to mention two large and very exciting ones.

The first big acquisition of note is the ongoing collection of objects from the Juneau – John Rishel Mineral Information Center on Mayflower Island. The present facility on the island was opened in 1950. It was a part of the US Bureau of Mines until 1996 and then transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. Although the Mineral Center is now closed, the Museum is in the process of collecting objects from the facility. We have been focusing primarily, though not exclusively, in two different areas.

First is the fire assay lab, which we will put on exhibit this winter. We have collected crucibles, cupels, molds, presses and the various things needed to determine how much gold is in an ore sample. Secondly, we are also focusing in the area of field geology. We have collected many of the tools that a field geologist would have used while exploring for minerals in Alaska. Since the facility is over 50 years old, we have been lucky enough to collect similar objects from different eras of field research. This will make these objects a lot of fun to exhibit!

The second major acquisition we have completed this summer is the purchase of a collection of historical photographs from a collector down in California. The owner wished to sell the photographs of Juneau, Douglas, and Southeast Alaska to the Museum for \$10,000. After successful negotiations with the dealer and a lot of help fundraising by Jim Geraghty, we raised over \$7,000 toward the purchase of these photos. The photos include images of Juneau from its days as a mud and stump city. A project is now underway to definitively date the collection. We would like to thank the following people and organizations for making the acquisition possible: Jim Geraghty, The Gastineau Channel Historical Society, Mike Blackwell, Mike Grummet, Sunrise Fisheries, Robert Garrison, James and Mary Lou King, Maritime Hydraulics, Mark Whitman.

Lately, we have been looking for objects that relate to movies that were filmed in the area and cinema entertainment in the community. So if you have any movie posters from flicks that were filmed here, were a member of the Mickey Mouse Club when it met at the Capital Theater, or just have a good story, please come by for a visit!

- Addison Field

## Recent Acquisitions May - August 2007

- 2007.10 Photograph Collection, Gift of Carlotta Francisco
- 2007.11 Trevor Davis Postcards, Gift of Constance Davis
- 2007.12 Letter Sweater and Coastal Airlines Coveralls, Gift of Ross Soboleff
- 2007.13 Rie Munoz Gauche, Gift of Jim & Norma Jean McCorcle
- 2007.14 1943 *Totem* Yearbook, Gift of Jane Mackinnon
- 2007.15 Photograph Collection, Gift of Bernice Shick
- 2007.16 1936 *Taku* Yearbook, Gift of Terri & Roger Shattuck
- 2007.17 Oil Paintings by Rick Clair, Museum Purchase
- 2007.18 Urine Bottle from Treadwell Hospital, Gift of Kasey Watts
- 2007.19 Elks Club Ledger, Gift of Lee Harris
- 2007.20 Territorial Ring, Gift of Robert Goldstein
- 2007.21 Foundry Mold, Gift of James & Beverly Rodewald
- 2007.22 Mining Collection, Transfer from the Bureau of Land Management
- 2007.23 Mexican Mine Dividend Warrant, Gift of Karen Hofstad
- 2007.24 Yearbook Collection, Gift of Sharon Lowe
- 2007.25 Collection of Dale DeArmond Art, Gift of Rie Munoz Ltd.
- 2007.26 Tlingit Baskets, Museum Purchase
- 2007.27 Landerkin & Winter Photograph, Gift of Jim Geraghty
- 2007.28 Yearbook Collection, Gift of Jim Jacobsen
- 2007.29 Schmitz Photograph Collection, Museum purchase with support from Jim Geraghty, The Gastineau Channel Historical Society, Mike Blackwell, Mike Grummet, Sunrise Fisheries, Robert Garrison, James and Mary Lou King, Maritime Hydraulics, Mark Whitman.



**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.

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Juneau, AK  
PERMIT NO.  
61

Visit us on the web

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

Jane Lindsey, Director

Jane\_Lindsey@ci.juneau.ak.us

Addison E. Field, Curator of Collections & Exhibits

Addison\_Field@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

Hanna Baldwin

Museum\_Intern@ci.juneau.ak.us

Jessalynn Rintala

Museum\_OA@ci.juneau.ak.

**CITY MUSEUM EVENTS CALENDAR**

**September**

20 Last day for *Genuine Juneau, 1925* historic guided walking tour.

**October**

1 Museum begins **new winter hours**: Tuesday - Saturday 10am-4pm. Office hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

4 Museum Office Assistant I, Jessalynn Rintala's last day.

5 First Friday: Juneau Underground Motion Picture Society (JUMP) & the City Museum presents a look back at JUMP society film festivals. The July 2002 JUMP film festival will be shown from 4:30-7:30pm. Film shown continuously throughout the month.

6 *Coffee & Collections Series: 1880s Voyage of the Steamship ANCON: A presentation of Southeast Alaska historic photographs.*, (recent JDCM acquisition) by Jim Geraghty. 10am at the City Museum. This event is co-sponsored by Heritage Coffee Co.

18 Museum closed in observance of Alaska Day Holiday.

31 Halloween Extravaganza: Storytelling by Grace Elliot, Sheila Fisher, and Pat McLear. This is a FREE program co-sponsored with The Canvas. 4:30-7pm. (See page 3 for more details).

**November**

2 First Friday: Assay Lab Diorama & January 2003 JUMP Film Festival viewing. 4:30-7:30pm. Film shown continuously throughout the month..

10 *Coffee & Collections Series: Bureau of Mines: Assay Lab* with Curator of Collections & Exhibits Addison Field. 10am at the City Museum. This event is co-sponsored by Heritage Coffee Company.

9 Museum Intern, Hannah Baldwin's last day.

12 Museum closed in observance of Veterans Day Holiday.

22-23 Museum closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

**December**

1 *Coffee & Collections Series: Halibut Hooks* with Donald Gregory. 10am at the City Museum. This event is co-sponsored by Heritage Coffee Co.

7 First Friday: July 2003 JUMP society film festival viewing, 4:30-8:00pm. Film shown continuously throughout the month.

7-8 Annual Native Arts & Craft Fair, Friday: 4:30-8:00pm, Saturday: 1:00-5:00pm.

8 Profile Portraits drop-in activity \$5/ portrait. 10am - 4pm.

16 Games & Toy Day at the City Museum and the Canvas. TBA. (See page 3 for more information)

17 Volunteer Holiday Potluck. TBA

25 Museum closed in observance of Christmas Day Holiday.

