Alaska Aistory Alexe Norme 42, No. 4 Austerly of the Alaska Historical Society Minter 2014 To offen our leaders don't appreciate that knowing history is essential to understanding our world today, and for making wise decisions.

Message from the President:

Public School, Juneau, Winter & Pond, circa 1890. From Sheldon Jackson Report of the general agent of education in Alaska for the year 1888-89 (1891) [1].

am thrilled and honored to be the president this year, of this organization that does so much to promote Alaska history through such efforts as advocacy for historical programs, an upcoming cannery history initiative, a useful and attractive website, and this newsletter. The joint annual meeting with Museums Alaska in Seward this past October was successful in every way. And, the *Alaska History* journal never fails to have engrossing and original articles.

Speaking of *Alaska History* – consider giving your friends a gift membership to the Alaska Historical Society, which includes a year's subscription to this excellent publication.

And, speaking of Alaska history, we still have a long way to go before pseudo-history and urban legends don't find a vacuum to fill. Too often our leaders don't appreciate that knowing history is essential for understanding our world today, and for making wise decisions.

Getting history into the schools is probably the best way to combat misinformation, and the gullibility that feeds it. We can give students a framework of accurate information, but more than that, students can learn to work with others, come up with creative questions to ask, interview elders, conduct research that is not limited by what is on line, evaluate sources, and clearly communicate their work.

These very old-fashioned activities are known as the Four Cs of 21st Century Learning: Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Communication. Kids as young as middle school-age are not only capable of this kind of work, they need it, if they are going to become competent adults.

History Day in Alaska, part of the National History Day program, is already, and could be an even bigger part of high-quality education in our state. Students do original research and present it, then compete on statewide and national levels.

In this era of standardized testing, scripted curriculum, and reality shows, kids need real history more than ever, so they can lean how to think. Let's get more kids hooked on history.

Rebecca Poulson, President

Gateways: Past, Present and Future

Awards 2014

Marie Darlin of Juneau

received the *Evangeline*

Atwood Award, given to an

history. Marie has worked

advocate for Alaska history

individual for significant long-

tirelessly to save, celebrate, and

broadly and for Juneau history

specifically. Marie was born in

Juneau and stayed. Currently

she volunteers for the Juneau-

Douglas City Museum leading

walking tours of historic places in downtown Juneau, and at

the front desk of the museum. She is a member of the

Juneau Historic Preservation

term contributions to Alaska

THE ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY announced its 2014 awards of excellence at the annual meeting and conference in Seward. The awards recognize outstanding contributions by individuals and organizations that further the study and understanding of Alaska history. Great work by a number of folks around the state was done this year. Read on to be introduced to the award recipients!



Marie Darlin

Commission and program chair for the Gastineau Channel Historical Society. She advocated tirelessly for ten years for the new State Libraries Archives and Museums building expected to open in 2016. As a member of the Pioneers of Alaska, Marie co-edited its 3-volume *Gastineau Channel Memories*, and its predecessor, *Gold Rush Pioneers of the Juneau-Douglas Area*, about the town's pioneer families. For the Alaska Historical Society, Marie has helped organize the Local Historical Societies group and served on the Board of Directors.

The **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** received the *Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Award* for its newsletter, programs, and new museum. The society has a monthly newsletter that often includes a newspaper article from the past, hosts events and programs for the community, recently opened a new museum and keeps accepting donations and enhancing its exhibits. The group also orchestrated this year's excellent annual meeting and conference.

Juneau's **Empty Chair Project** committee received the *Esther Billman Certificate of Excellence* that recognizes a state or local society, museum, government agency, or an organization that has completed a project contributing to the preservation and understanding of Alaskan history during the past year. The project involved many individuals in Juneau, and made the important story known of the removal and resettlement of Japanese people who lived in Juneau before and after World War II. In 1942, valedictorian John Tanaka was not at his high school graduation ceremony because he and his family had been moved to Minidoka, Idaho. The community had an empty chair on the stage that year, and this year the community had a bronze chair made and placed as a memorial at Juneau's Capital School Park. In addition, there is a publication and a documentary film, and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum had a special exhibit.

Richard Bland of Eugene, Oregon, received the *Barbara S. Smith Pathfinder Award* for his translations of articles about Russian America that have made significant materials available. For more than 15 years, Richard has translated from Russian to English important scholarship on Russian America, making works that would not otherwise be accessible about Alaska's past available to many. Eleven of the articles Richard has translated about Russian America have appeared in *Alaska History* and three of them have received the *Alaska History* Award. He has translated articles for other publications as well, and this last year translated one from French.

Larry Hibpshman, who was the Senior Archivist at the Alaska State Archives from 1988 until his retirement earlier this year, was recognized with a Contributions to Alaska History Award.. The award specifically notes Larry's work as project director for the Exxon *Valdez* records project. Larry led a team of archivists that went through thousands of boxes of state records regarding the oil spill and subsequent litigation, determining what materials were archival, organizing them, and creating a finding aid for them. It was a monumental project to end one's career.



Larry Hibpshman

Larry organized many other records series and responded to innumerable inquiries for records about some one, some place, or some event in Alaska history over the course of his career.

The Student and Beginning Professional Travel Scholarship Awards recipients are Elizabeth Figus and Ulyana Korotkova, both graduate students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Elizabeth is a Fisheries PhD student and presented at the conference on the halibut fishery in Southeast Alaska. Ulyana, a graduate student in the Northern Studies program and working at the Rasmuson Library, presented on 20th century northern collections and rarities in circumpolar libraries.

The editorial advisory board members of the Society's journal *Alaska History* make an award for the best article that appeared in the last volume of the journal. Morgan and Jeanne Sherwood endowed

The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.

—Abraham Lincoln



Ross Coen

the award, and the recipient receives \$500. The *Alaska History Award, 2012-2013* recipient is **Ross Coen** for his article "Edna Ferber's *Ice Palace:* Gender, Race, Statehood and the Novel as History." The article was the initial contribution to a new section of the journal, "Revisiting a Classic" intended to provide fresh perspectives on classic works about Alaska that consider a book's impact when it was first published and examines its relevance today. Alaska Historical Society President Katie Ringsmuth presented her award, known as the *Beaver Log*, to Karen Brewster of Fairbanks. Newly elected to the Society's Board of Directors last year, Karen undertook Katie's top priority for the year—retooling the AHS website. Karen coordinated with other board members, worked with a web designer, tested the site, and then oversaw it the rest of year. Perhaps best of all, Karen has agreed to be the Society's web manager for the next year.

Congratulations to all!

Notes from around the state

Far right: Two views of the Sitka Boathouse, historic interior view (above) and contemporary photograph of exterior under rehabilitation (below).

The [Sitka]Boathouse, as part of a National Historic Landmark, will be restored to historic preservation standards. The marine ways will be restored, and the public will be able to view work on historic boats. One wing will house hands-on historical exhibits on maritime heritage, such as commercial fishing. The facility will have programs such as historical research, boat and canoe building, and navigation classes. Interpretive signs and the building itself will tell the story of World War II in Sitka and the history and significance of the Naval Air Station and its U.S. Army Harbor Defenses. http:// www.sitkamaritime.org/theboathouse.html

The Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological

Repository had the extremely busy spring and summer most Alaska museums do. They held an exhibit on ancient and recent Alutiiq weaving, with some ancient items shown. As traditional weaving is still done and students were eager to learn from the weavers, a series of classes also were held. The museum's project to preserve and promote the Alutiiq language made a highly successful beginning with a symposium that included not only children and families but art and traditional dancers. Grants have also added space for stone objects and purchase of goatskin bags. The involvement of students age 14 and up in island archaeological digs continues. This is a wonderful program-children not only learn the importance of their Kodiak history but enjoy learning proper techniques. If your group isn't doing much to make children know how entertaining their local history is-get started!

A commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Alaska Earthquake was held jointly with the **Sitka Historical Society** by the **Sitka Maritime Heritage Society** among their other programs. The thrust of the group is to finish restoring the old World War II era boathouse; great progress has been made on that. Their ultimate goal is to have a functioning covered marine railway and maritime heritage center,





the first and only one in Alaska. While they have been given grants, they point out any financial gifts are fully tax deductible. Go to www.sitkamaritime.org for details. You can also subscribe to the newsy newsletter as a member. Their email is sitkamaritime@gmail.com.

Notes from around the state



Tagalog nobility of the Philippine Archipelago at the time of initial contact with the Spanish. *Boxer Codex*, circa 1595. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagalog_ people#mediaviewer/File:Naturales_5,png



The Alaska Historical Society's principal fundraiser is its **SILENT AUCTION**, held as part of the annual meeting and conference. This year the biggest need is for a coordinator to compile the catalog, set up and recruit volunteers to help, and then settle up with the successful bidders. The meeting is September 30-October 3, 2015 in Cordova. (Donations of Alaskana—books, photos, curiosities, art--are welcome too!) Looking forward to your email to members@ alaskahistoricalsociety.org!

CAN YOU HELP!?!?

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill was the inspiration for the Baranov Museum to offer a summer film intensive for Kodiak middle and high school students. Historical research was followed by making documentaries. You can see them at www.youtube.com/barmuse. They also offered students a Russian Culture Camp with music, dance, art, costumes, and food. Why would you ask? Of course there was a Praznik (party) at the end. A children's print making workshop was held later in the summer. The current newsletter also contains an excellent article on the 1915 July 4th celebration by the Filipino cannery workers at Larsen Bay. And go to kmxt.org for the continuing Way Back in Kodiak radio programs, streamed. The annual meeting honored Filipinos in Kodiak and featured a workshop on making Parols, or Filipino paper lanterns.

It is said, only half jokingly, that if you have computer problems, find a ten-year-old. An Eagle Scout with other scouts (and a few adults) helped the **Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society** digitize over 800 copies of the 1958-1973 *Knik Arm Courier.* The records are said to soon be searchable at cerhs.com.

Riverbank erosion has its good and bad sides, the Anvik Historical Society reports. On the cheerful aspect, the area in front of the church has revealed many common-place objects like pop cans but recently parts of very old guns. One is from a Belgian 12 gauge shotgun, the other from an ancient Russian 20 gauge shotgun. On the down side Anvik River erosion has caused the village to be moved at least once. There is also the problem of storage. As many societies know, it is good to be locally known as a wonderful place to donate items; on the other hand there is too little space to properly store these treasures. The folks at Anvik report stacks of notebooks even under the office desk, as well as some items stuffing the museum porch, and an old wood stove sitting in the yard. There are several possibilities for more space or even a new building. Am sure they would love to hear from any society that has solved the problem. Write them at Post Office Box 110, Anvik, Alaska, 99558.

•:•

Lack of storage space is a common problem! Just think how you would react if your group was presented with 78 new airplanes! Fortunately, the newsletter of the **Eagle Historical Society and Museums** reports these were model planes and form a wonderful new exhibit. Whew! On the serious side, Nellie, who had lived her long life near Eagle, had a loving last trip out. They report everyone gathered at her home and followed the ambulance as it traveled through the village to the airport. Each vehicle lined up side by side and several beautiful voices sang "I'll Fly Away" as she was loaded reverently into the plane. As it took off, everyone honked their horns. The pilot, who had flown Nellie to and from Fairbanks many times, circled the plane over Eagle before heading to Fairbanks. Nellie indeed was beloved by the town. Later in the newsletter excerpts from an interview with Nellie in 2001 are included. The usual busy summer at the museum is recounted too.

Wickersham's Juneau, Part 5, continues the **Gastineau Heritage News** series on famed Alaskan judge, sole Delegate to Congress, and Juneau dweller from 1920 until his death in 1939. This issue covers the long friendship and business dealings between Wickersham and Lockie MacKinnon and their families. Various other local businessmen are also mentioned. There is also a short article on the continuing rehabilitation of **Sentinel Island Lighthouse** accompanied by photographs.

The **Hope and Sunrise Historical Society** hosted a program last August about the great 1964 earthquake and tsunami, followed by a general meeting.

A new exhibit opened this autumn at **Ketchikan Museums**. They are calling it "Continuum: A Ketchikan Timeline" but as usual with this group, they have an unusual twist. Postcards are available for folks to record family history, personal experiences, or stories—all from Ketchikan's history. Expect this is a real crowd pleaser—don't we all like to share our favorite histories and at the same time find out what others cherish? The museum will help out with artifacts and photographs. Want to read all about it? Go to www.KetchikanMuseums.org for the exhibit and more.

The **Totem Heritage Center** Native Arts Studies Center is back with its wonderful classes taught by masters from fall through winter--from use of power tools to weaving to carving to history of Northwest Coast Native Art; and the list goes on. More information? Telephone 907-225-5900 or visit the www. KetchikanMuseums.org and look for details. There again, youth classes (ages 10-18) will be available March 16-20, 2015.

Notes from around the state

One hour ago it was as beautiful a moonlit night as one ever beheld. The softest veils of cloud passed the moon and cast over the earth endlessly varied, luminous shadows. The mountain tops, trees, rocks, and all, are covered with new snow; the valleys and the lower levels are black where rain has cleared the trees. It is so beautiful here at times that it seems hard to bear. And now at this moment the rain falls as if it had fallen for all time and never would cease... a blue sky is here as wrong as rain in a rainless desert land.

-Rockwell Kent



"Chart of the entrance to Resurrection Bay, Alaska, Kenai Peninsula," end paper map from *Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska*, 1920 by Rockwell Kent.

The Resurrection Bay Historical Society is always a busy bunch, but starting last summer they became incredibly active. First, they had the annual Founders' Day in late August, then in September they planned for the annual joint conference of Museums Alaska and the Alaska Historical Society in early October. Their contributions, besides the usual host duties, including a welcome by the "Swingin' Grannies" (not singers; a softball team that last played in the 1980s), a new play about Rockwell Kent, a new mural, and post-conference tours. Even dishes and cutlery for the two hundred conference attendees were difficult to come by, let alone large venues. All went well; another success. We don't know if the society greeted the request to help with an open house at the Seward Community Library Museum in mid-November with weariness or confidence. We expect they were tired but experienced and did a fine job. They also took time October 8 to celebrate the life of a charter member of the society. Pat Williams, who recently died, would have been 105 just a few days after she died. After refreshments at the museum a bonfire was lit on the waterfront across from the park named for her. Attendees were told to dress warmly, bring a camp chair, and gather around the park sign.

The autumn meeting of the Kenai Peninsula Historical Society was October 11, hosted by the Kasilof Regional Historical Society.

"Would-be Heirs to a Fur Empire," a history of the Alaska Commercial Company, was a fall lecture at the **Tanana-Yukon Historical Society** in Fairbanks. They also hosted "Paved With Ice—John Muir's Road to Glacier Gospel" and finished the autumn series with "Mears Memorial Bridge--the Crown Link in the Alaska Railroad." In October they were also asked about locating an authentic homesteader's cabin for an exhibit proposed by the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage. They plan to furnish it with shelved goods, books, a dry sink, wood burner, and furniture from the period. The Alaska Railroad has volunteered to transport the cabin from Fairbanks down.

The **Cook Inlet Historical Society** selected Jenya Anichtchenko to receive its Brian Davies Memorial Grant for Alaska History this fall. The grant will help Jenya research the Russian North-Eastern Geographical and Astronomical Expedition, 1785-1794, led by Joseph Billings, that explored the costs of eastern Siberia and northwestern North America.

News & Information

Beer makes you feel the way you ought to feel without beer.



According to the *Trillist*, the B&B Bar in Kodiak is Alaska's oldest and "proudly displays the oldest liquor license (established 1908) in the Last Frontier." Other sources date operation of the establishment to the 1880s. Photography by Jone Suleski. https://www.yahoo.com/travel/the-oldest-bar-in-every-state-in-america-98176755662html

Here's something if you have a **Fred Meyer store** nearby. They have a new program that not only rewards the shopper with bargains, but also donates money to your historical society. Go to www.fredmeyer.com/ communityrewards for details. Nothing more fun than giving to a worthy cause by proxy.

>>> <

And, of course, if you want to get a monthly update on historic preservation in Alaska, the **Office of History and Archaeology's** *Heritage* e-newsletter is it. To be added to the subscription list send an e-mail to oha@ alaska.net with "Heritage, subscribe" in the subject line.

Did you know there is a nine-member governor-appointed Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board? I didn't either. Well, there is, and they just awarded Certificates of Excellence to former Juneau resident Larry Hibpshman who recently retired after working many years at the State Archives, and current Juneau resident Mark Whitman who does archival research for the history presentations he gives around Juneau.

A travel writer, Matt Meltzer, is working on finding the oldest restaurant in every state and reports problems finding Alaska's, so he's asking the AHS. He gives a link about the oldest bars his group, Thrillist, has done. Want to help him out? Go to www.thrillist.com/travel/ nation/america-s-oldest-bar-in-all-50-us-states-andwashington-dc

>>> <

And how could we possibly issue a newsletter without mentioning how to keep connected with old friends and acquaintances? The **Alaska Yukon Pioneers** newsletter – Henry Lawson, Australian Poet and Writer

is the way to go. \$20.00 per member per annum; send checks to Joyce Penman, Recorder, 27833 85th Drive, NW, Stanwood, WA, 98292; no landline - cell is 253-709-0158. Newsletters issued every month.

>>> <

An Alaskan museum professional on loan to the Anaktuvuk Pass museum writes about her summer there for the **Alaska State Museum, Office of Museum Services** bulletin, which also has an article that poses an interesting dilemma. A model boat builder wants to record the ringing of an actual ship's bell which an institution owns. On one hand it is good to be authentic; on the other, he plans to sell the sound with theboats. Is that ethical? Arguments for and against. The bulletin has an entertaining section labeled "Professional Time Wasting on the Web". Who could resist?

>>> <

The **Alaska Anthropological Association** newsletter's current issue contains, among other articles, a list of recent publications, 2015 conference updates, and a fine obituary of Alaska's famous Richard Dauenhauer. www. alaskaanthropology.org

The Friends of the Alaska State Museums now includes the Alaska State Libraries, and Archives. The current newsletter tells of a presentation given at a national conference in San Francisco this autumn on moving the museum collection to the new building. It was an all-out statewide effort, highlighted by moving a 36-foot long umiak by crane.

Now the **State Archives** are being relocated; no umiaks or totem poles but a multitude of records, including 2,000 cubic feet of fragile Territorial Court records. The Archives holds real gems about Alaska's history—a recent "discovery" is that in Alaska more Gold Rush prospectors committed suicide than froze to death.



Of Special Note

The Alaska Historical Commission has \$125,000 available for matching grants to plan for the **150th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase** in 2017. The grants are for projects that will contribute to understanding the history and significance of the event. Projects are encouraged for historic research and publications, restoration of significant historic properties, and heritage tourism development and information services. Projects are to be done between April 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. Applications must be postmarked, e-mailed, or delivered by 4:30 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2015. Additional information and the application are available at www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/ index.htm, or by contacting Jo Antonson, 907.269.8714 / jo.antonson@alaska.gov.

\mathcal{E}

The **Culture-Humanities-Arts-Museums Partners** (**CHAMP**) **2015 Juneau Fly-In** is scheduled for January 28-30, 2015. CHAMP is a consortium of Museums Alaska, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska Historical Society, and the Alaska Humanities Forum. The intent is to meet with legislators and tell them about the work and needs of Alaska history, museums and cultural centers, and art programs. The Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities will be presented the evening of the 29th in Juneau as well.

Whether you are participating in the fly-in or not, please find time to talk or write your state senators and representatives and tell them about your local museum, cultural center, or historical society's activities. Invite them to a program or for a tour of an exhibit. Please help show the interest of Alaskans around the state in our cultural programs, and our pride in them.

A great gift for a friend, relative, local school or library is a year's membership in the Alaska Historical Society. Your gift includes the newsletter and journal *Alaska History*, and supports important activities and programs. It's easy...go to the AHS website, www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org and then click on "membership and giving."

Visit our website: www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org



We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to the editor: Dee Longenbaugh The Observatory, ABAA 299 N. Franklin St. = Juneau, AK 99801 Tel: 907/586-9676 = Fax: 907/586-9606 Email: deelong@alaskan.com

Alaska Historical Society

Board of Directors

Rebecca Poulson, President, rebecca_poulson@hotmail.com Sitka Jim Simard, Vice-President, james.simard@alaska.gov Iuneau Katie Ringsmuth, Past President, katmaikate@aol.com Eagle River Michael Hawfield, Treasurer, mchawfield@kpc.alaska.edu Homer Rachel Mason, Secretary, rachel_mason@nps.gov Anchorage Chris Allan, sprucetip105@gmail.com Fairhanks Karen Brewster, karen.brewster@alaska.edu Fairbanks Tom Bundtzen, bundtzen@mosquitonet.com Fairbanks John Cloe, jcloe@gci.net Anchorage Ross Coen, rcoen@uw.edu Fairbanks Jeff Dickrell, jdickrell@yahoo.com Unalaska J. Pennelope Goforth, seacat@cybrrcat.com Anchorage Anjuli Grantham, anjuligrantham@gmail.com Kodiak Aaron Leggett, aleggett@anchoragemuseum.org Anchorage Averil Lerman, lermntan@gmail.com Anchorage Others: Jo Antonson, Executive Director, jantonson@gmail.com Jim Ducker, Editor, Alaska History, akhist@gci.net Dee Longenbaugh, Editor, Alaska History News, deelong@ alaskan.com

Judy Bittner, *Alaska Office of History and Archaeology*, judy. bittner@alaska.gov

Linda Thibodeau, *Alaska Libraries, Archives, Museums*, Linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov

P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510-0299 Tel: 907/276-1596; E-mail: akhist@gci.net www.alaska.historicalsociety.org 49history.blogspot.com or find us on Facebook



THE ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY is on the list for those applying for their Permanent Fund Dividend. Consider using the "Pick, Click, Give" to donate.

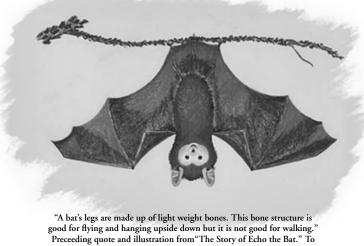
ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 100299 Anchorage, AK 99510-0299

Become a member... or if you're already a member, sign up a friend or relative. Join the hundreds who want to stay in touch with historic Alaska by sending \$35.00 for individual membership (\$25.00 for students; \$45.00 for family; \$100.00 for a patron; \$600.00 for a life membership.)

It's quick, it's easy, and you receive the semiannual *Alaska History*, the quarterly newsletter *Alaska History News*, and discounts on publications.

As interest and writing on Alaska history seem to be sprouting like fireweed in the spring, a useful and popular book is the society's *The Alaska* 67 with annotated recommendations of good books on Alaska history. Order it through the website!

Send your application for memberhsip to Alaska Historical Society, P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0299; or join through the website: *www.alaskabistoricalsociety.org.*



Preceeding quote and illustration from "The Story of Echo the Bat." To read more about Echo visit http://science.hq.nasa.gov/kids/imagers/intro/ intro1.html

ome years ago a middle-aged man purchased an old book from my shop. As he was heading out the door he stopped and looked through it. Then he uttered a sad cry. When I asked, he told me sorrowfully the book had been printed upside down.

I checked and, sure enough, the dust jacket had been put on upside down. Turned it around and all was fine and he happily proceeded out of the shop. I laughed (am afraid I did while he was still present), but happened to think of that today. When he opened the pages, indeed they were reversed, so he had the first reaction. As I knew the probable answer, and was proven right, I could be relaxed.

Doesn't that happen to each of us from time to time? Our first thought is disaster, but when we check, it is easily remedied. The purse that won't open until we find the right clasp, the appointment we forgot to keep and begin to apologize until (if we are lucky) the other person reminds us it is next week.

The lesson is not to panic--you can do that anytime, but take a few minutes to go into it a bit deeper.

My very best wishes for you to find it is indeed easily solved. If not, remember life does go on, so do what you can.

This is also to wish you a fine Holiday Season and do pass along my advice, if you have time.

D. L.

Non-profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Permit 69 Anchorage, AK