



Alaska History News

Volume 32, No. 1 Quarterly of the Alaska Historical Society Spring 2004



map courtesy
Alaska State Library,
Historical Collections,
ASL-G630.A5N9

Notes From Around the State

In so many places in twenty-first century Alaska, Native languages and cultures are hanging by threads that are more gossamer than sturdy life lines. It is heartening to see the increasing interest and work among the only people who ultimately can save these; the Natives themselves. An excellent example of recent years is the **Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository** and its ongoing programs to teach the language and traditional skills all across Kodiak Island. Sewing with fish skins is this spring's project. *Sewing Traditions* will begin at the museum, then move as a traveling exhibit around the villages.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks film archivist, Dirk Tordoff, came to Kodiak to review the museum's audio and video tapes and develop a plan for future AV collections care. He also gave a one-day community workshop on care and preservation of recorded materials.



The **Pratt Museum** had its annual closure the month of January. They must have not only done the maintenance but recharged their batteries since they're returned with all sorts of art ideas. Prominent among these is the *Juried Art Show, 2004*. Longtime local naturalist and artist Toby Tyler is honored with *The Changing Face of Kachemak Bay: An Artist's Perspective*, a collection of historic photographs and art. A report on last summer's Aialik Bay, Verdant Cove dig was given and of course the stewardship exhibit of *Bears, Beetles and Darkened Waters* continues as well as the popular W.H.I.Z. Kids Program.

Notes From Around the State continued on page 3



photo by Bob Hallinen/
Anchorage Daily News

George Harper Remembered

AHS Board member Bruce Merrell remembers his friend:

George Harper, founder of the Blacks in Alaska History Project, died January 21st in Anchorage at the age of 73. George arrived in Alaska in 1981 to work for the Bureau of Land Management but soon found what was to become his passion: researching the history of blacks in Alaska. He copied photographs, collected articles and anecdotes, and assembled displays, as well as writing a series of articles for the *Anchorage Daily News* during Black History Month and giving lectures. He was scheduled to address the Alaska Historical Society in Haines last September on the history of blacks in the Lynn Canal area, but poor health kept him from attending.

One of the highlights of George's career as an amateur historian came in 1997 when he delivered a container of Arctic Ocean seawater to New Orleans for the christening of the Coast Guard's new cutter, the *Healy*. The ship was named for Revenue Marine captain Michael Healy, a black man whose legendary but checkered career saw him demoted more than once for bad conduct.

When it hit the water, the *Healy* made a larger-than-expected wave, throwing gravel, water, and driftwood into the stands and injuring some 20 spectators. Although concerned for their safety, George couldn't help laughing at the big splash the *Healy* had made, saying "When you look at it, Healy got the last laugh."



Capt. M.A. Healy

photo courtesy Alaska State Library,
Historical Collections, ASL-Healy-MA-1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This time of the year presents an opportunity for me to update you on the advocacy issues we are stressing and to ask for your help. In the next two months (the sooner the better!), I encourage you to visit or contact your legislators and ask support for the society's legislative agenda. The legislators need to hear from you (it really matters) and to know there is widespread support for Alaska's history and our historical and cultural resource agencies and programs.

Each year at the joint annual meeting of the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska both organizations establish a set of common legislative priorities. These address what AHS/MA believe are the most pressing needs of four state cultural agencies and issues of concern relating to Alaska history and museums. Both organizations agree to work with Clark Gruening, our advocate in Juneau, to secure support in the Alaska State Legislature.

The most critical issues in 2004 are to maintain, at a minimum, the existing staff at the four state historical and cultural offices and to obtain design funds for a new Historical Library, Archives, and Museum Building in Juneau. And the Society continues to advocate for passage of a bill requiring high school students to take a standards-based Alaska history course to graduate.

Bruce Parham, Barbara Smith, and Frank Norris of the Advocacy Committee have visited ten Anchorage-area legislators to express our concerns about the distressing budget situation with the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums and the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, and the dire physical condition of the Alaska State Archives. There has been a 18-year cycle (1986-2004) of budget and staff cuts ranging from 40-60 percent.

In January, the committee sent each legislator an information packet giving more detailed information. The committee then sent follow-up letters and an information packet to the Governor and all the members of the legislature. Additional information is available on the Society's Web page: <http://www.alaskahistoricalociety.org> or by calling the office: 907-276-1596 or sending an e-mail: ahs@alaska.net.

I hope that you help us by contacting your legislators and telling them history is important.

Board of Directors

Bruce Parham, *President, Anchorage*
bruce.parham@nara.gov

Barbara Sweetland Smith, *Vice President, Anchorage*
barbarasmith@gci.net

Dorothy Moore, *Treasurer, Valdez*
dmmoore@cvinternet.net

Phyllis Movius, *Secretary, Fairbanks*
pdmovius@gci.net

Geoff Bleakley, *Copper Center*
geoff_bleakley@nps.gov

Mike Dunning, *Ketchikan*
mike.dunning@uas.alaska.edu

Thom Eley, *Anchorage*
aftje@uaa.alaska.edu

Susan Grigg, *Fairbanks*
ffslg@uaf.edu

Steve Haycox, *Anchorage*
afswhl@uaa.alaska.edu

Jim King, *Juneau*
kingfarm@ptialaska.net

Dee Longenbaugh, *Juneau*
deelong@alaska.com

Bruce Merrell, *Anchorage*
merrellbd@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Frank Norris, *Anchorage*
frank_norris@nps.gov

Kay Shelton, *Juneau*
Kay_Shelton@eed.state.ak.us

Candy Waugaman, *Fairbanks*
candy@mosquitonet.com

Vicki Wisenbaugh, *Tenakee Springs*
wisentenakee@juno.com

Jo Antonson, *Assistant to the President* joa@alaska.com

Karl Gurcke, *Assistant to the Treasurer*

Judy Bittner, *Office of History and Archaeology*

George Smith, *Libraries, Archives and Museums*

Jim Ducker, *Editor, Alaska History, Webmaster*

P.O. Box 100299 Anchorage, AK 99510-0299

Tel: 907/276-1596; E-mail: ahs@alaska.net

www.alaskahistoricalociety.org

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 \$30.00 per member (\$20.00 for students; \$40.00 per family.)

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

Right now a number of back issues of **Alaska History** are on sale; \$6.00 each to non-members, \$4.00 to members. As interest and writing on Alaska history seem to be sprouting like fireweed in the spring, a useful and popular feature is the listing of new books and publications found in each issue. Send your application to **Alaska Historical Society**, PO Box 100299, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0299; remember to include your address and occupation or school you're attending.

Notes from around the state



Copper River Stories Expedition at Miles Lake.

photo courtesy *The Kennicott Star*

The Friends of Kennicott helped sponsor a Copper River Stories Expedition float trip last summer for teachers and student artists and creative writers. This was so successful there are plans to create a cyber-museum and traveling exhibit this winter. They also report the National Park Service has made good progress in stabilizing and restoring buildings at the Kennicott mill town.

This group is only on its second year, so we all send best wishes for continued success and promise to look for the cyber-museum.



The **McCarthy Kennicott Historical Museum** is actively seeking new members and volunteers. The stalwarts who have been taking care of things need more stalwarts to help with the museum, the caretaker's cabin, and a revision of the *Kennicott Walking Tour* brochure. Contact them at Post Office Box MXY, Glennallen, Alaska 99588-8998 or visit if you're in the vicinity.



Ten students and four staff formed the archaeological team at Eagle this past summer, the **Eagle Historical Society and Museums** reports. The group also went off to Fortymile to check out the old military sites at Fortymile. Eight building remains were discovered; of particular interest was the old telegraph station. Abandoned at one time, it was re-occupied at some unknown date and for an unknown purpose. More detective work is needed.

Restoration of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Residence at Fort Egbert made great strides over last summer. The lower floor now lacks only wallpaper, which is planned for this spring. Funding was from a Save America's Treasures grant.

Eagle also notes this past year it frequently had both the official high and low temperatures for the state on the same day.



Ketchikan artists, unlike the proverbial prophets, are indeed honored in their own country. The **Tongass Historical Museum** and **Totem Heritage Center** are delighted to announce a grant enabled them to buy works by three local artists. Ray Troll's sharks, Mary Ida Henrikson's Aleut are at the museum and the Heritage Center displays Norman Jackson's dance rattle.

Viewfinders: Ketchikan's Photographers is the winter exhibit at the museum. All kinds of views from all sorts of cameras are on display, so don't forget to say "cheese" when you visit the town.

If you're handy with your hands or would like to be, there is no reason to be bored this winter. The **Totem Heritage Center Native Arts Studies** program offers everything from design to masks to tanning to bark gathering next summer, all taught by leading artists.



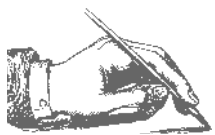
Does anyone have a piano related in any way to the Matanuska Colony? If so, please contact the **Palmer Historical Society**. If you can't visit, write them at Post Office Box 1925, Palmer, Alaska 99645-1925.



Curious about your family name and history? The group for you if you live on the Kenai is the **Totem Tracers**. They collect data on local cemeteries as well as their individual families and hold regular meetings. Send them an e-mail at totemtracers@hotmail.com or check at the Kenai library for more information.



Alaska during the winter seems to be a bright spot for artists. **The Kodiak Historical Society/Baranov Museum** had a gala reception for its newly acquired *Fisberman's Heyday*, by Bruce W. Nelson.



Letters & News

We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to the editor:

Dee Longenbaugh
The Observatory, ABAA
200 N. Franklin St.,
Juneau, AK 99801
Tel: 907/586-9676
Fax: 586-9606
Email: deelong@alaska.com

Notes from around the state



The Endurance.
photo by Frank Hurley, 1915
©Royal Geographic Society

Sir Ernest Shackleton.
photo by Frank Hurley, 1914
©Scott Polar Research
Institute



Jo Antonson sends along this note: The news in Anchorage is the opening of the Shackleton exhibit February 13th. It's been the **Cook Inlet Historical Society's** big project this past year and they have done a remarkable job. Their monthly brown bag lunches and third Thursday evening programs on the Antarctic have had packed audiences. The museum will be running a movie series on the Antarctic and in April David Bisno, M.D., will be in Anchorage to hold a seminar on the races to both South and North Poles. The seminar will be held at Alaska Pacific University; call Judy Bittner at 907/274-7165 for information on that.

Besides housing the Shackleton exhibit, the **Anchorage Museum of History and Art** is running some interesting art displays. *Fusing Traditions: Glass Art by Native American Artists* is on until April 25. The *All Alaska Juried Exhibition* is the big 30 in age, attracting a record 284 artists submitting 910 entries, and a celebration of 50 years of University of Alaska Anchorage and the Anchorage Community College is shown in *Educating Imaginations*. Lots more happening as well; check it out at www.anchoragemuseum.org or show up in person.



The six legislative priorities for the **Alaska Historical Society** and **Museums Alaska** are listed in the latest newsletter of the **Resurrection Bay Historical Society**. Not a bad idea to list these again now that the Session is underway. Here's a synopsis:

1. Support the Alaska library, museums, and archives and Office of History and Archaeology. Restore funds and staff positions.
2. Require high school students to study Alaska history for at least one semester.
3. Allocate design funds for expansion of the historical library, archives, and the Juneau state museum.
4. Maintain the Museum Grants-in-Aid funding at \$105,600. These make all the difference to the small places.

5. Fund the two FY 2005 projects of the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology: \$500,000 for emergency stabilization of the Jesse Lee Home in Seward. \$200,000 for restoration of the Wickersham House in Juneau to match a federal \$300,000 grant already received.

6. Amend the educational tax credit provision to include a business tax credit for donations to non-profit museums, libraries, archives, and cultural centers.

All modest enough requests; contact your representatives to make them happen.

Seward society also reports the obituary project continues, now numbering 1,888 from the Seward area.



Every town has its full share of good, hard-working, honest pillars of society. How sad it is that we find the more colorful sorts much more fun. It is rare that the two are combined, but the **Kenai Historical Society** memorializes Ethel "Eadie" Henderson, who died in January of 2000. She ran the Last Frontier Club for 48 years; a longevity record on the Kenai Peninsula. In 1951 oil fields and a military base were both new and the field was wide open. Yes, she had the go-go girls, the hotel, the pawn shop and a battle with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for years. She also provided a real sense of community, offering free water from her well, use of her telephone, and a place for mail to be distributed. Her generosity to the needy was famous. She also filed for and proved up a homestead.

Eadie became so beloved by the community that when the state alcohol control board recommended suspending her license in the mid-1980s, not only did 4,000 citizens sign a petition, but the Kenai City Council and the local Orthodox priest spoke up on her behalf. Her spirit was exemplified by her remarks as to why she filed for the homestead. "I had very little money to help me achieve my dream, but I was gifted with youth, spirit, ambition, and hope for the future." In the spring of 2003 residents donated a headstone for her grave.



Art is the center of the **Juneau-Douglas City Museum** exhibits to while away the winter. Local artists are particularly featured, as well as recent acquisitions of photographs and other ephemera. Visit their Web site at www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum for photos, list of events, and all sorts of other goodies, or visit in person if you can.



Tenakee Bath House.
photo postcard ©Ordway



The seven Paddock children moved to Tenakee Springs with their parents in 1920. Ray, interviewed recently for the **Tenakee Historical Collection**, not only remembered hand-trolling for salmon and far more fish and game in the area,

but when asked about crime, replied that the jail consisted of a room with a cot next to the U.S. Marshal's cabin. Although members of Soapy Smith's gang from Skagway settled in town they were all peaceful and good citizens. (A history surprise there; how many of us wondered what happened the gang after they were ousted?)



Tired of the problems of the twenty-first century already? Ready to go back fifty years to a simpler time? Nostalgia is so entertaining. And entertaining is just what the **Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association** did for a fund raiser through its second annual "Roadhouse Dinner." Cholesterol and fat content worries? Forget it. The guests chowed down on pot roast, root vegetables, mashed potatoes and homemade rolls while listening to '50s music and enjoying skits. I understand some old poodle skirts and hats with veils were also resurrected.

Remembering Old Valdez is the winter-into-spring exhibit. The museum is also used for some lively recreations of early times. Children have gold mining supplies of all sorts and an eight-foot steamship to stir their imagination. So the props are of foam board? They are just as substantial as the realization of most of the dreams of the early prospectors.

Several museums have satellite exhibits at the local airport or the library. These can be permanent or temporary, depending on time and effort expended. Have you thought of finding a glass case and showing off early aviation or old books or ledgers of your area? A painless way of reminding people your society is alive and well and offering a trip to the past.



Sitka has quite a history of hospitals. By 1835 there was a small but well-run hospital and in 1843 a substantial 40-bed building was dedicated. When the U.S. Army left in 1877, there were no doctors until 1879 when the Navy came to town. A makeshift hospital was established in an old warehouse. A few years later Sheldon Jackson Mission Hospital opened and in 1892 St. John's Maternity Hospital was founded in the Native ranche. Various other hospitals opened and closed until after World War II when Mt. Edgecumbe hospital opened on the grounds of the old Navy base on Japonski Island. This was the first tuberculosis sanitorium in Alaska and a major hospital (325 beds) as well as a research center. To find out more, consult *From Sitka's Past* by Robert DeArmond.



Russian Imperial Crest
photo courtesy Alaska State Museum, IHR 150

News & Comments

Elisabeth (Lib) Hakkinen, formerly of Haines, just celebrated her 90th birthday. She passed the milestone early in January. Cards and notes can be sent to her at 11777 SW Queen Elizabeth Street, Apt. 342, King City, Oregon, 97224-2664. Happy Birthday, Lib, and may you have many more!



The organization with the jazzy initials AASLH offers its excellent workshops on preservation, interpretation, running a historic house museum and various other matters. They can be reached at www.aaslh.org or write them at 1717 Church Street, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203-2991 or fax 615/327-9013. Oh, the initials? American Association for State and Local History. Keep reading:

The deadline to nominate an innovative or valuable local or state history project for recognition by the American Association for State and Local History is March 15, 2004. Now in its 59th year, the organization's awards are prestigious national recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local and state history. State and local historical societies, institutions, and government agencies, special subject societies, junior historical societies, individuals and organizations outside the field of traditional historical agencies are encouraged to consider nominating a project completed in the last year. Last year the AASLH recognized a book, *Amchitka and the Bomb: Nuclear Testing in Alaska* by Dean Kohlhoff, with a Certificate of Commendation as an excellent example of research and writing about the recent past and for addressing the impact of the controversial project locally and on Alaska. The year before the organization awarded John Bagoy an Award of Merit for his research on Anchorage's early families and his many projects related to preservation of the Anchorage Cemetery.

Nomination forms are available at www.aaslh.org, or by contacting Jo Antonson, AASLH State Awards chair, at ahs@alaska.net or 907-269-8714. Nominations need to be sent to Jo by March 15th. They are reviewed by a national committee in the summer. Presentation of awards will be made during the AASLH Annual Meeting, September 29-October 2, 2004 in St. Louis, Missouri.



The Society of American Archivists is conducting a survey of the archival profession this spring. The goal of A*CENSUS (Archival Census and Education Needs Survey in the U.S.) is to define the universe of archivists currently working, determine the knowledge and skills they need to do their jobs now and in the future, and

provide graduate and continuing education programs with data to support training new archivists. The project is seeking information from archival associations and organizations serving in allied fields whose members have responsibilities for historical records. This includes librarians, local historians, records managers, and museum curators.

The Alaska Historical Society has provided A*CENSUS with names of organizations and individuals in the state to be contacted. Survey forms will be sent this spring. Stand up and be counted! For more information, contact acensus@archivists.org.



Ada Blackjack was a young Inupiat woman who was the only star of the debacle that was the Stefansson expedition to Wrangell Island in 1921. None of the young men knew anything about Arctic survival nor did Stefansson prepare them before he departed for the mainland. Ada sewed the furs into warm clothing, cooked in arctic conditions, and in general kept the four men alive.

Her reward was to contract tuberculosis and be hospitalized from 1927 to 1936. Her two young sons, Billy Blackjack Johnson and Bennet Johnson, spent those years in the Jesse Lee Home in Kenai. Billy wrote a small book, *The Jesse Lee Home — Shelter from the Storm* in 1990 and allowed access to all his records for a new book, *Ada Blackjack: a True Story of Survival in the Arctic*, by Jennifer Niven. Billy Blackjack died last June.



The Public Works Historical Society is seeking manuscripts for its annual Essays in Public Works History series. Topics might address historical research on transportation, water systems, sanitation, public buildings, and public utilities. Manuscripts should be 50 to 150 pages and well documented yet written for the general reader. For more information contact Todd Shalla, Editor, History Department, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725-1925, tshalla@boisestate.edu. This is another annual event.



It is time to propose a paper for the Alaska Historical Society's annual meeting which this year will be held September 16-18 in Anchorage. The theme is Leading the Way: Statesmanship in Alaska. Program chair Bruce Merrell writes: There is a great deal of chatter in Alaska these days about a leadership vacuum, about the inability of elected and appointed officials to unite divergent constituencies and competing interests for the good of the state as a whole. Whether this is true or not, public affairs were handled differently in the past. Or were they? Who were the leaders, and how did they get things done? Was the success of the Constitutional Convention which led to statehood a foregone conclusion? What were the leadership dynamics in Native communities and how did they result in improved civil rights? In the absence of civil government, what was the process of public education? How was it that the first bill passed by the first legislature was one giving women the right to vote? Why is it that all Alaskans, leaders included, have so little interaction with our Canadian neighbors when we have so much in common? What was the role of fraternal organizations in town-building on the Last Frontier? Proposals for papers and panels on these and similar topics should be sent by April 30 to Bruce Merrell, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St., Anchorage, AK 99503, phone 907-343-2832 or email: merrellbd@ci.anchorage.ak.us.

➤➤➤ ● ◀◀◀

The following items are from the Office of History and Archaeology, those great folks who work year-round to help us with grants and workshops:

Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park and the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology are co-sponsoring a workshop for representatives from Alaska's Certified Local Governments and others interested in local historic preservation. The workshop, *Saving Our Past for Alaska's Future*, will be Wednesday and Thursday, April 21-22, 2004 in Skagway. For more information contact Bruce Noble, 907-983-9216 or bruce_noble@nps.gov.

➤➤➤ ● ◀◀◀

The Kachemak Heritage Land Trust with support from the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology is sponsoring a workshop on stabilization and preservation techniques for historic log buildings. The workshop will be May 10-14, 2004, at Kasilof, and is limited to 15 participants. Using the historic Victor Holm cabin, the course will teach participants the methods of replacing and preserving sill and wall logs in a hewn log building. Participants also will discuss historic preservation ethics and the process to meet state and federal requirements

for restoration of historic properties. For more information contact Barbara Seaman, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, 907-235-5263 or khltkbr@xyz.net.

➤➤➤ ◀◀◀

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is holding Preservation Leadership Training in Astoria, Oregon, June 5-12, 2004. This training is for state and local preservation organizations. It addresses leadership, organization development, preservation practices, issues, and strategies for action. The course is for staff and volunteer leaders of private, nonprofit preservation organizations, staff of state and local government agencies, and members of preservation commissions. The application deadline is April 1, 2004. For more information contact Alison Hinchman, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 202-588-6067 or plt@nthp.org.

➤➤➤ ◀◀◀

In late January, Governor Frank H. Murkowski appointed Candy Waugaman of Fairbanks to the Alaska Historical Commission. Candy is an avid collector of Alaskan. She is the past president of the Alaska Historical Society and has served on the Fairbanks historic preservation commission. She takes the seat filled by Mary Mangusso of Fairbanks for two terms. Mary served on the commission for over six years. She provided thoughtful comments into the different issues that came before the commission and is due many thanks. In January, Tom Taylor resigned from the commission for health reasons. He has been in the general public seat on the commission for over six years and brought special expertise to the board on geographic names and mapping. He, too, is due thanks for his good work. An appointment to his seat has not been made. If interested in being considered, individuals are encouraged to send a letter and resume to Governor Frank H. Murkowski, Attn: Boards and Commissions, P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK 99811-0001.



Past president of the Alaska Historical Society, Candy Waugaman (right) was appointed by Governor Murkowski to the Alaska Historical Commission.

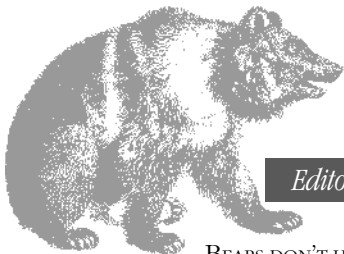

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 100299
Anchorage, AK 99510-0299



Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Permit 411
Anchorage, AK

Visit our website:
www.alaskahistoricalociety.org

stamp photo:
Logging for railroad construction, Valdez.
courtesy Alaska State Library, Historical Collections, PCA01-1293



Editor's Comments

BEARS DON'T HAVE OSTEOPOROSIS or kidney problems, there are some magnificent coral reefs in very deep water off the Aleutians, and salmon fertilize trees and shrubs. Yawn. This is a *history* newsletter, not one on ecology. But wait, there is a connection. Bears are being studied because their hibernation in tiny winter dens can lead to breakthroughs in preventing or curing human osteoporosis (they should have bedsores at least, but never do); their systems recycle calcium all winter and their kidneys do the same with the otherwise toxic urea, thus opening another avenue of research into human kidney failure.

Coral reefs are not only exquisitely beautiful but act as nurseries for all manner of small sealife, so must be protected against trawl nets that drag along the ocean bottom. Salmon carry nutrients like carbon and nitrogen when they return to their home rivers. Recent research has shown up to half of the carbon in trees and shrubs that line river banks as far as Idaho can be traced to salmon dying and thus fertilizing the vegetation.

Still claim this is information for natural historians? Think about it; all of these relatively recent discoveries came about through research. What do historians do if it isn't research? We also have to stay open to new discoveries and views or risk becoming, er, um, history. All Alaska's societies consist of historians who value and work to save our past, but we remain ready for new interpretations. Who hasn't been thrilled to find a new fact; who was really the founder of, exactly where the people built their houses, or any of those tiny facts that fit together to form a better picture of the whole. One of the rewards for taking history seriously.

Winter is a wonderful time to get into serious research via old photographs or maps or interviews or whatever is at hand. The pace is slow and good days to be inside abound. Alaskans are also famous procrastinators so this is a call to get to work. Spring will soon be here.

D. L.