The Alaska Historical Society annul conference and meeting is just weeks away. The early registration deadline is August 31, 2011. You can access the registration form and find information about travel and hotels from our website, alaskahistoricalsociety.org.

Wednesday, September 21
6:00 p.m.
Opening Reception – Aboard Stan Stephens Valdez Spirit guests will pass the Old Cliff Gold Mine, Shoup Glacier, Anderson Waterfall, Trans-Alaska Pipeline Terminal, and more

Thursday, September 22
8:30 a.m.
Conference Opening
Patricia Relay, Wendy Goldstein, Andrew Goldstein
Katie Oliver, Alaska Historical Society; Chris Hanson, Museums Alaska

9:00 a.m.
Keynote address:
Marjorie Schwarzer, John F. Kennedy University, California, author of Riches, Rivals and Radicals: 100 Years of the Museum in America, will speak on the state of museums in Alaska through the lens of retrospection on where we have been and what prospects lay ahead.
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10:15 a.m.
Valdez History
Virginia Lacy, "Prince William Sound"
Early Pioneers

12:00 p.m.
Fish Fry on the Patio
State of the State – Clark Gruening, Judy Bittner, Linda Thibodeau

2:00 p.m.
Ted Stevens Papers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks
Mary Anne Hamblen
Faith and Conflict in Southeast Alaska

3:30 p.m.
Machines On the Move
Fishing and Resource Harvest In Northern Waters

6:00 p.m.
Evening Reception at the Valdez Museum & Historical Archive

8:00 p.m.
Between the Glacier & the Sea award-winning documentary on the 1964 earthquake

Friday, September 23

8:45 a.m.
Keynote Address:
Douglas Brinkley is the author of The Quiet World: Saving Alaska’s Wilderness Kingdom, 1879-1960. The Rice University professor will speak about the history of Alaska’s conservation movement and some of its most influential leaders. Following Dr. Brinkley’s address there will be a session for Q&A, discussion, and commentary on the book by other historians.

10:15 a.m.
Follow-up Q&A with Douglas Brinkley
Maritime Historiography
Janine D. Dorsey, “Navigability and Subsistence: Documenting Historical Travel, Trade, and Commerce on Alaska’s Waters”; Rolfe G. Buzzell, “Researching and Writing History in Alaska’s Turbulent Waters”; Rachel Seale, “Down By the River: A short history documenting the use of Alaska's rivers”
The Alaska Historical Society annual conference and meeting

12:00 p.m.
Local Historical Societies lunch and chat

1:30 p.m.
Digitizing the Minutes of the Constitutional Convention
Terrence Cole and Leighton Quarles

Ships of Alaska I
Bruce Merrell, “Wally’s Wicky: The Jones Act, Wally Hickel, and the Stop-gap
Ferry Wickersham”; Ross Coen, “Breaking Ice for Arctic Oil: The Historic
Voyage of the SS Manhattan Through the Northwest Passage”; Ryan Jones, “The
Russian-Finnish Whaling Company and the History of Alaskan Waters

3:30 p.m.
Alaska Historical Society annual meeting

6:00 p.m.
Awards Banquet
Dawson Moore does Governor Bill Egan

Saturday, September 24
8:00 a.m.
Breakfast Reception at the Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum

9:45 a.m.
“Alaska’s Real Women!” Writers Workshop
Michelle Dent

Ships of Alaska II
Daniel Monteith, “The Enduring Tlingit and Haida Canoes”; Rebecca Poulson,
“Sitka Boatbuilding”; J. Penelope Goforth, “History by Sea: the Ships that Made

12:30 p.m.
Tours
Walking Tour of Old Town Valdez Homes, Followed by a Visit to Old Town
Site and Pioneer Cemetery
Worthington Glacier and Copper Center Road Trip
Summer is when most of our societies find the long days very short, what with museums and visitors and all sorts of celebrations occurring. The **Palmer Historical Society** is typical. In May and June speakers were scheduled, also in June was Colony Days, and in July they had the summer picnic. They also had a fine talk on the Independence Ski Resort in the 1960s and ’70s. And there are gardens, farmers’ markets, not to mention the Colony House Museum. Oh, if someone can donate a Matanuska Maid milk bottle or two, they would be grateful. Want to see their slick Web site? Put in www.palmerhistoricalsociety.org and enjoy.

Big news, Nome’s **Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum** announced in July. Construction of the Richard Foster Building, honoring the late legislator who served Nome and House District 39 so well for nearly 21 years, will begin in 2012. The $16 million building will be in the heart of Nome and house the museum in a 14,500 square foot building. For some time the current museum, housed in the basement of an elderly building, has been threatened with flooding when Bering Sea storms rage. Nome saw various film crews in town this summer in search of footage on dogs and general Nome history.

July, always a busy month in Alaska, saw a whoopety celebration of the 25th anniversary of the **Begich Boggs Visitor Center** in the Chugach National Forest at Portage. Activities included a potluck, coffee and cake, and free-day to see the exhibits and movie.

And July saw the Copper River and Northwestern Railway Centennial Celebration in McCarthy and Kennecott. Besides speakers, Ahtna dancers, and a period-dress party, during the entire weekend of July 8-10 a circa 1920 railroad speeder and a 1938 Chevrolet auto-railer bus [could run on rails or road?? Ed.] ran on the rails while 20 or more vintage automobiles roamed the few roads of the area. All this was the result of the good efforts of the **McCarthy-Kennecott Historical Museum**.

Yep, July all right when the **Wasilla-Knik Historical Society** held its big potluck, sold raffle tickets for prizes, including an intriguing replica of Knik, the dog yard cat [Okay, a cat that lived with the dogs, but why a replica?? Ed.], and the dog team delivered the “mail.”

It’s not every historical society that offers a gold pan lesson; **Hope and Sunrise Historical Society** can direct you to the right tent. They also thank the volunteers who staff the museum, and note the gift shop offers a book on gold mining in Hope. Contact them at 907/782-3740 or e-mail timbersak@hotmail.com.

Sometimes things become a bit circular in our museums. The Field Museum in Chicago put together an exhibit of tusks and teeth on loan from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and now it’s the traveling exhibit, **Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age** at the **Anchorage Museum** until October. The usual mix of programs: August will feature Tlingit weaving, memoir writing, the cause of mammoth extinction, and Superman’s critique of the human race. If you’re there or visiting, don’t miss the opportunity to attend and participate in your favorite event. Check www.anchoragemuseum.org.
Welcome to the newest historical museum in Alaska! **Port Alexander Museum** opened in, yes, July 2010 in the tiny fishing community on very southern end of Baranof Island in Southeast Alaska. Their latest newsletter tells of the grand opening. They not only had food, drink and live music, but a handsome plaid jacket was sported, “Piccolo Pete” honors were noted, and someone got out of line”. The latter is a real achievement in a fishing community on holiday. Old photographs and stories about some early P. A. residents fill out the newsheet. Anyone who knows small places knows how much time and effort go into opening and running a museum; everyone must volunteer in some way. Saving the tangible artifacts and recalling the early residents are precious resources that grow more valuable every year. If you are in the vicinity or have a story to share, e-mail karenjeanlucas@yahoo.com, write 224 Katlian Street, Sitka, 99835; call 907/747-7803 or 907/568-2233.

A local World War II aviator and hero’s family donated his medals and flight jacket, among other items, to the **Seward Museum** the newsletter of the *Resurrection Bay Historical Society* tells us. You might spread the word that nothing honors a person more than the family giving personal effects to the local museum. Not only are visitors able to see them, but generations of the family will know there are no moths in the clothing or sun-faded photographs or letters; all is being taken care of.

The museum has a video series called **Bits of History**, available on YouTube with a link from the Seward Library site www.cityofseward.net/library/. Recent programs have been on 1941, the first hospital in town, the old Catholic Church, and a 1929 flight from Russia to Seward. Check it out!

Middle school is a difficult time for many students. They’re not small children anymore, but most are not ready for their teen years; they are changelings who shift back and forth, occasionally several times a day. Middle school teachers qualify for a shrine. The brave **Juneau-Douglas City Museum** started a program in 2005 geared towards working with children to research, write, interview and record digital stories, all to do with Juneau-Douglas history. So far 92 students have participated. This project has resulted in a most prestigious award from the American Association for State and Local History, itself a prestigious organization. If you would like to emulate this program, am sure the museum would love to share its secrets at www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum or call them at 907/586-0968.

Bronze statuettes of a Trail Blazer and his dog, 17 inches high, mounted on a wooden base, only 25 in number, are now available for $1,500 each. Contact Trail Blazer President Dan Seavey at 907/224-3518 or d.seavey@gmail.com. Current members get first chance, *The Tripod*, newsletter of the **Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance** in Seward reports. Apparently the iTREC (Iditarod Trail in Every Classroom) program is proving quite successful. Want to learn more? Just google the title.

The **Alaska State Library Historical Collections** has a new online exhibit in honor of the Golden North Salmon Derby. You can view it at http://library.state.ak.us/hist/exhibits/salmonDerby.html. The photos are from 1964-1972 and come with a challenge. If you recognize yourself or others, please let the library staff know;asl.historical@alaska.gov or phone 907/465-2925. And “if you have a good fish story to tell, we would love to hear it.”
ROSEMARY CARLTON, former Alaska Historical Society board member, retired last year after 25 years as curator of the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka, the oldest museum in Alaska. Nadia Jackinsky-Horrell is the new curator. Raised in Homer, her background is in Alaska Native art and artifacts and she comes highly recommended.

THE ALASKA STATE ARCHIVES has received a substantial grant from the National Historic Preservation and Records Commission for a two-year project to appraise 3,300 boxes of material relating to the Exxon Valdez oil spill and determine which have permanent historical value.

THE ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER in Cordova also received news of a federal grant, theirs from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Its “Voices of Our Elders” project will be made into a digital exhibition. The leadership recognized the need to document the historic and cultural knowledge of the elders before the information was lost. Information collected in oral histories will have images added and be available electronically to museum guests and community members. For details, contact museum director LaRue Barnes at larue@nveyak.org.

ARE YOU OR DO YOU KNOW an Alaskan historian or architectural historian interested in some contract work? Query is from Bonnie Houston, Architectural Historian, Regional LCS Coordinator, Intermountain Regional Office, National Park Service, P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505-0360, phone 505/988-6763. Heather Goodson can also be contacted at heather.goodson@meadhunt.com.

MANY OF US WOULD SWEAR babies today are born with a computer chip inside. At eight months they’ll crawl over to a computer and assure it they will be communicating soon. And they do. Some high school students have set up and run History Heard, www.historyheard.com or www.facebook.com/history.heard. They put together videos of world and U.S. history which can be viewed on site. Amy Addison, co-founder of History Heard, urges exploration of the project and assures teachers, students, or whoever—like-to-do-some-filming such as a local historical society, that a donor will be found to purchase a camera and tripod for you.

THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND THE ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM are accepting nominations for the 2011 Governor’s Awards for the Arts and Humanities. All are encouraged to put forth names of individuals or organizations that you feel are deserving. The deadline for nominations is September 1, so don’t delay. How to do this? For the Arts, go to www.ceed.state.ak.us/aksca; for the Humanities, go to www.akhf.org.

AN OLDIE BUT REMAINS A GOODIE - if you lived in Alaska or the Yukon for a long time and want to keep in touch with old friends just send $12.00 annually to the Alaska Yukon Pioneers Newsletter (AYP), attention Joyce Penman, Recorder, 27833 85th Drive NW, Stanwood, Washington 98292, phone 253/709-0158 or olwomn@wavecable.com. They meet at least monthly so if you’re in the Seattle area, they can tell you all about it.

THE SMITHSONIAN’S National Museum of Natural History newsletter “Arctic Studies Center” is switching from paper to digital. They urge you to e-mail ASCNewsletter@si.edu if you would like to continue to receive it. The May issue celebrated, among other achievements, the opening of the Smithsonian Gallery in the Anchorage Museum.

BEEN WONDERING how the state and national funds for historic preservation are doing, the endangered buildings of Alaska, state and national conferences on history, and general news about efforts to save our history are doing? The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology puts out the monthly Heritage with all that news. Contact Jo Antonson at jo.antonson@alaska.gov and she’ll put you on the subscription list.

A THRILLING VISIT by a large three-masted Russian sailing ship, news about a nice grant to cover the cost of a heat pump at the boathouse, and much more can be found at the Sitka Maritime Heritage Web site, sitkamaritime@gmail.com. Regular newsletters are sent out, and you can read them in the comfort of your computer chair.

THE PACIFIC ALASKA REGION OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES is now on Facebook. As of this writing they have posted photos from three of their collections. Check them out at www.facebook.com/pages/National-Archives-an-Anchorage/134677786611174.
**THE ALASKA WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME** is seeking nominations of women whose contributions have influenced the direction of Alaska in any field. The contribution can be of community, state, or national importance, but it must be established that it is of enduring value. Nominations are due November 1, 2011 and must be submitted electronically. The form can be found at alaskawomenshalloffame.org. The biographies of women already on the list can be read on the site as well.

**SEEKING TREASURES**

The Alaska Historical Society’s big fundraiser is its silent auction held as part of its annual fall meeting. The auction committee is soliciting items. Please send a description of what you would like to donate to akhist@gci.net or Box 100299 / Anchorage / AK 99510
You’ll notice the month of July figures large in this newsletter. That is when we Alaskans begin to realize summer will be winding down after August and we begin to react in two ways: either frantically trying to savor the outdoors in all ways, or pretending there are quantities of summer left; after all, there’s August and some years the warm weather extends into September.

Both views are pathetic, matched only by trying to feel superior to the places in the States where the temperatures are in the three digits. Secretly we would love to have just a few hours of truly hot weather; just enough so we can wear a light jacket or even, gasp! none. Sigh.

The only way to truly enjoy the coming weeks is to plan on attending the Annual Meeting, in Valdez this year. That will be fun; our yearly reunion without worrying about troublesome relatives. Mark September 21 - 24 on your calendars and start planning. We’re back with Museums Alaska; their theme this year is Looking Back - Thinking Ahead. Ours is Northern Waters.

And the visitors in town will mostly be gone and we can actually see locals on the street and in the museum. The pace of living will be slowing down and we’re back to our sauntering ways. Very pleasant.

D. L.