



Alaska History News

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Juneau Hosts Terrific Conference

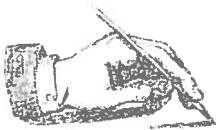
Alaska's state librarians, together at the Alaska Library Association's annual meeting held in late February in Juneau. From left: Dick Engen, Karen Crane, and current state librarian Kay Shelton.

Photo by Jim Simard.



Great Work
Recognized
with
AHS Awards

See page 3.



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

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Through sheets of rain, dense fog, and autumn sun the last day, the Alaska Historical Society joined with Museums Alaska friends for another great annual conference in Juneau last October. The AHS theme, *Passages: What Were They Seeking?* seemed to capture the spirit of Juneau's local history perfectly. Presenters explored ways in which the passages of Southeast Alaska have shaped the destiny of the area over time. Sessions included topics on Tlingit culture, exploration, exciting glacier crossings, Lynn Canal's submerged heritage, and a fascinating study that traced the origins of Alaska's potatoes. Historian Dave Arnold gave the keynote address in which he took the audience on a historiographic journey through Southeast Alaska.

Many familiar faces attended and made presentations: Richard Dauenhauer and Nora Marks Dauenhauer discussed their forthcoming book *Russians in Tlingit America*; Bob King looked at the intriguing life story of Crescent Porter Hale, a Bristol Bay salmon canner; Terrence Cole examined the *Fairbanks Daily New Miner's* role in the campaign for Alaska statehood; and Bruce Merrell and Frank Norris unveiled *The Alaska 67: A Guide to Alaska's Best History Books*. A few newcomers were welcomed: Steve Lloyd discussed the sunken history of the bark *Torrent*; Susan Larrabee—recipient of the new AHS Student Travel Award—presented a paper on the Alaska Highway; and Sunny Worel intrigued those attending with a story of two young women who came to Juneau for work and adventure and were later murdered.

From the opening reception at the Governor's Mansion to the final pint on the Alaskan Brewing Company Tour, the annual meeting was also the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Gastineau Channel Historical Society. The tours and events reflected the society's pride in and

dedication to the preservation of Juneau's historic homes and buildings, diverse cultural heritage, and beautiful setting. Society members and Juneau-Douglas City Museum staff went all out to make conference participants feel at home in Alaska's vibrant, charming, capital city. So when we convene at the 2007 meetings in Homer let us not forget to raise our glasses to Juneau, especially to those who organized the fun-filled, event-packed schedule. Many thanks again Gastineau Historical Society members and Juneau-Douglas City Museum staff and friends.

Katie Ringsmuth, AHS 2006 Program Chair

AASLH AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

Award nominations are due by the end of March for national recognition by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for exemplary work of state and local historical societies, public institutions, specialized subject societies, junior historical societies, private museums, individuals and organizations. The Leadership in History Awards are given for general excellence, exhibits, public and educational programming, special projects, publications, and individual achievement. Nomination forms are available at www.aaslh.org. Complete nominations should be sent to Alaska state team captain Dennis Chapman, Wrangell Museum, P.O. Box 1050, Wrangell, AK 99929, phone 874-3770, email museum@wrangell.com. Last year the Juneau-Douglas City Museum received not only a leadership award, but selection as one of the five best projects from AASLH for its fish trap restoration, exhibit, and companion education program. It is such a pleasure to have the great work of our local historical societies and museums recognized nationally.

What's in a (Nick) Name?

Baghdad on the Tundra."

This was the headline for an article about Anchorage that ran in the *Seattle Times* in 1951. Beneath a large aerial photo, the author described the northern boomtown with its youthful population and its "new spirit of feverish construction and growth." There was a time (certainly gone forever due to recent events) when "Baghdad" meant foreign, exotic, and that's what Anchorage was, especially for those flying here at night, "seeing for the first time its pattern of glittering lights, winking like jewels in the midst of a vast, forbidding, wilderness."

Anchorage has had other nicknames: "The Diamond on the Buckle of the Railbelt," for one. This mouthful was used on the masthead of an early newspaper and seems intended to distinguish the railroad construction headquarters from its lesser brethren, mere lumps of coal such as Fairbanks and Seward. "The Outlet on the Inlet" was another hopeful early moniker that stressed Anchorage's port city status. "Portal to Alaska" was tried, and quickly forgotten. "Air Crossroads of the World" updated the transportation concept, pointing to the city's strategic location between Asia and Europe. (Although the port continues to handle a majority of all freight into Alaska, almost no passengers arrive in Anchorage by water these days. Since an anchorage is a place to drop anchor before going ashore perhaps our city name should reflect current transportation realities and have its name changed to "Runway.")

But descriptions of Anchorage haven't always been vehicles for boosterism. John McPhee in *Coming into the Country* famously wrote that "a large cookie cutter brought down on El Paso could lift something like Anchorage into the air. Anchorage is the northern rim of Trenton, the center of Oxnard, the ocean-blind precincts of Daytona Beach. It is condensed, instant Albuquerque."

Or consider a 1952 issue of the *Anchorage Daily News* that described Alaska's largest city as a "Shortcut to Hell" and "a veritable Sodom." It seems that when a prohibitionist minister visited he was shocked by what he saw: "Eleven saloons for every church and 20 bartenders for every clergyman." Blaming the influx of military personnel, the lack of law enforcement, and the weakness of the courts, he went on to call Anchorage "a Manchuria for liquor barons, gamblers, prostitutes, and dope peddlers."

It's a human trait that we compare new places with more familiar ones. For me, on this late winter day with sunshine glittering off the snow, with chickadees and redpolls crowding the feeder hanging from a birch in my backyard, it doesn't look like Albuquerque, Manchuria, or Baghdad. It looks like Alaska. And it looks like home.

Bruce Merrell, President



Aerial view of ship docked at port in Anchorage, Alaska, with buildings on shore and other boats in water at right. Sign on building at bottom right reads: "U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Agency".

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, Ward Wells Collection.

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Visit our Website:
www.alaskahistoricalociety.org



2006 ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS

At the annual meeting last fall, the Alaska Historical Society recognized individuals, historical societies, and public institutions with its 2006 awards for outstanding research, writing and promotion of Alaska history.

Creating Alaska, a special program of the University of Alaska, received the **Esther Billman Award of Excellence**. The program had a broad range of programs, culminating during the winter of 2005-2006, the 50th anniversary of the writing of Alaska's constitution. Program activities included oral interviews, creation of a website, publication of materials for adults and young people, preparation of a traveling museum exhibit, production of a documentary, hosting symposia, speaking at numerous civic events and schools, and hosting a youth summit. Through the diverse efforts, many Alaskans became more familiar with Alaska's constitution and learned about the state's origins. One of the program's next activities is to index and select sections of the tapes of the convention to add to the Alaska Digital Archives in cooperation with the Alaska State Archives and Alaska Historical Society. Four individuals at the University of Alaska, were specifically recognized for their efforts with **Creating Alaska**: **Karen Perdue**, **Terrence Cole**, **Joseph Hardenbrook**, and **Ann Ringstad**.

Patricia Roppel received the **Historian of the Year Award**, for publication of *Striking it Rich: Gold Mining in Southern Southeast Alaska*. The book brings attention to southern Southeast Alaska and makes its mining history better known and understood. Pat has been researching and writing about Southeast Alaska for more than thirty years and she has made previously unknown information available with more than nine books, numerous articles, and a weekly column she wrote for several years for the *Southeastern Log*. Currently, she writes a monthly newsletter for the Friends of the Wrangell Museum and is editing a history of the community. Pat has been praised by many for generously sharing her research. Her information is thorough, accurate, culled from reputable sources, and responsible in its conclusions.

Willette Patricia Janes of Douglas was recognized with the **Evangeline Atwood Award**. Sadly, she died last April. The Gastineau Channel Historical Society wrote: "If ever there was a friend to our local history, Willette was that friend." She started researching and writing about Juneau and Douglas in 1983. Her works include area mining, buildings, shipwrecks, cemeteries, and dairy farms. She developed an educational aid for the schools, and a museum exhibit about local trails and their mining connections. Her publication, *In the Miner's Footsteps*, is in its fifth edition. Willette helped revive the Gastineau Channel Historical Society, volunteered at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum and Last Chance Mining Museum, and donated over 250 items to these museums.

Mike Blackwell and the **Juneau-Douglas City Museum** were recognized for the **Bob DeArmond Alaska History Project**, "Digital Bob," with the **Pathfinder Award**. More than 700 columns that Bob DeArmond wrote for the *Juneau Empire* and *Info Juneau* are now accessible and searchable on the world wide web. Mike Blackwell promoted the idea and worked with Jane Lindsey and Ellen Carrlee of the City Museum to scan, mount, and index the articles. It is a terrific accomplishment, and nice to have the information available at a person's desk wherever he or she might be. The project also is an excellent model for other groups.

The **Gastineau Channel Historical Society's Gastineau Heritage News** is the 2006 recipient of the **Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Newsletter Award** for the best newsletter published by a local historical society. Each newsletter has a theme. Recent topics have been the military in Juneau in the 1940s and life in the Indian Village in the 1950s. The society has received this award in the past. It is more than worthy of note that this newsletter has been published—and recognized for its excellence—for more than 16 years.

The Alaska Historical Society reviewed its awards this past year, and changed its Beginning Professional Award to **Student and Beginning Professional Travel Scholarship Awards** to help people attend and participate in the Alaska Historical Society/Museums Alaska annual meetings. This year **Susan K. Larrabee** received an award. Susan just completed her master's degree in Northern Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Kathryn "Kay" Shelton, an effective leader as well as a worker for Alaska history for more than 30 years, was recognized with the **Contributions to Alaska History Award**. Before becoming director of the Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums in 2005, Kay headed the Historical Collections of the state library for more than 20 years. She promoted and helped design Alaska's Digital Archives (VILDA), directed the Alaska Newspaper Microfilming Project, and helped lead the Gold Rush centennial commemorations pioneering with the Alaska's Gold primary sources curriculum. She has edited or compiled *Some Books about Alaska* and *Alaska Books: A Core List of Books for Libraries*. Her service to the Alaska Historical Society has included being president for three years, serving on the board of the directors, being program chair, and this past year being a member of *The Alaska 67* committee.

The final award, the **2006 Beaver Log** (President's Award) is given by the Alaska Historical Society president. Bruce Merrell presented the award to **Jackie Pels** who edited, and oversaw design and printing of *The Alaska 67*, the society's new publication with annotated recommendations of significant books about Alaska history. Jackie has presented a number of papers at Alaska Historical Society meetings and encouraged and assisted numerous researchers. She started Hardscratch Press and has published over a dozen books. Currently she is working with Ray Hudson on a history of the Jesse Lee Home.

Congratulations to all of the 2006 AHS award recipients for great work.

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NOTE: Rogan Faith gave a paper on the *Martha Angeline* at the annual meeting in Juneau. He asks that the woman who knew two sisters named Martha and Angeline and spoke to him about them after his presentation to please get in touch with him at rsfaith@gci.net.

Notes from around the state



Bob Reeve's plane on the Valdez mudflats in 1938.

University of Alaska Anchorage Archives and Manuscripts Department.

Although it's thrilling for a museum to finally have proper storage areas where light, heat, and moisture are controlled, it's not very visually exciting. Therefore the **Valdez Museum** newsletter contributes some lively stories and pictures. Bob Reeve, the famous "glacier pilot" began his career on the Valdez mudflats. It was a bare

bones operation. The newsletter states, "The roar of Reeve's blue and orange plane echoed off the mountains, and mud flew everywhere as it skimmed over the surface of the flats and lifted off toward the glacier fields. Needless to say, the local ducks and geese weren't too thrilled about this arrangement."

There is also an excellent account of the Filipino "Alaskeros", the cannery and fisheries workers brought to the area in early Territorial days. Contractors took terrible advantage of them until the late 1930s when they finally unionized. There's a fascinating mention of the assassination of the union president and secretary. Do tell us more!



Lucky Wrangell! Pat Roppel has decided to do another year's worth of her monthly newsletter celebrating the town and area's history. She picks up on not only geographic names but some of the more enchanting developments of one of Alaska's slightly eccentric towns. In 1902 the newspaper editor there wrote that Wrangell was not ready for municipal government as it would be too expensive. However, if the entire \$500 license fee imposed on saloons was given to the town instead of merely half, no further taxes would be necessary. "The only reason I drink is to support the school" could have been the cry, Roppel points out.

Want to find out more about canneries, the electric plant, ships, and other interesting facts about Wrangell? Send \$20.00 for 12 issues to the **Friends of the Wrangell Museum**, Post Office Box 2019, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929. They have several projects underway and the money will be very useful.



Prohibition of alcohol in Alaska began with the U.S. occupation in 1867 and continued off and on for a very long time. However, Alaska was very large and enforcement was spotty until national Prohibition. In fact, the Russians in Sitka had advised drinking rum rather than vodka, as vodka wasn't strong enough for the climate.

One of the talented smugglers in Sitka was Alexander Phil, the **Sitka Maritime Heritage Society** newsletter points out. There are many stories about his supplying the thirsty miners on Chichagof Island; in fact, a rocky entrance from the open Pacific into sheltered waters there is Phils Pass on the chart. A skillful captain could negotiate the area that stopped the official boats.

The slow but necessary work on the Japonski Island Boathouse continues; a new foundation is now in place on the National Registry building. Stonington prints, maritime T-shirts and caps are all for sale. Show your support and contact SMHS, Post Office Box 2153, Sitka, Alaska, 99835. Want to see before you buy? Go to their slick site at www.sitkamaritime.org.



Black History Month is celebrated around the state; nowhere better than by the newly renamed **Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center**. Movies, music, civil rights, and poetry are among the features for the month of February, which began with city officials and a barbeque. During the month some of the diverse populations of Anchorage will also be honored.

The "Earth, Fire and Fibre XXVI" exhibition got under way in January and after early March will begin its tour of the state. All Alaskan artists are invited to submit entries in this major annual event. If you can't wait for it to come to your community, drop by the museum or get a taste of the display and other goings-on by clicking on www.anchagemuseum.org.



The newsletter of the **Wasilla-Knik Historical Society** shows the members are good Alaskans. Food is important. The Dessert Auction made a record amount, the old Herning-Teeland-Mead Mercantile building they own is now called "Herning's Place", and is a restaurant, of course. This year the gift shop will add site-made ice-cream and chocolates, as well as home-made jams and jellies. And naturally they're serving refreshments at their 90th Anniversary of Wasilla Throw Project. Yum!



The group devoted to preserving and restoring the famous original course, the **Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc.**, reports that in January of 1911 the first Iditarod race was held. The winner covered the 20 mile course in 2 hours, 28 minutes, and 54 seconds. That doesn't sound very fast. Only five finished of the original eight teams entered. We thought the old timers were tough guys with great teams; maybe we should rethink that. Then we read that the -40 temperature had warmed up to zero, a blizzard was blowing, the hard-packed trail was obliterated; in fact it was covered so deeply the winner could scarcely see his lead dog. Perhaps those guys were tough after all.

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 semi-annual *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 feature is the society's new publication *The Alaska 67* with annotated recommendations of good books on Alaska history. Send your application to Alaska Historical Society, P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0299; or join through the Website alaskahistoricalalso-ciety.org.

If you'd like to get the newsletter or just find out more about the group, write them at Post Office Box 2323, Seward, Alaska, 99664.



The Resurrection Bay Historical Society notes that Seward has had some rough times in the past. December 11, 1941, much of the town was leaving as no cars were allowed, a full blackout was in effect, the mayor was considering conscripting all able-bodied men for the Home Guard, and worst of all, had drastically shortened saloon hours to daytime only. He said the city had enough problems without complicating them with drunkenness.

At least most of the town wasn't staked with gold claims, as had happened in 1908. Hard on a downtown when the area near the local bank is claimed.

Best of all, the threat of Portage City taking over Seward's importance as the coast terminus of the railroad was beaten back in 1913. It was revealed, when the superintendent came to check out the bay, the way was marked with flour sack pieces; the main intersection marked by an entire sack. There were no inhabitants in the area and the proposed two-mile tunnel would have to be six. What a relief! Now Seward would be the largest city along the railroad.



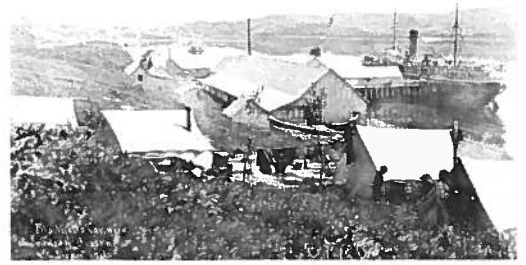
The Colony House Museum is featured in an upcoming PBS television special, "America's Heartland," and the **Palmer Historical Society** is looking for an extended version of the film "Alaska Far Away" to be released soon. Join the society and perhaps you'll be in the movies yet! Write them at Post Office Box 1935, Palmer, Alaska 99645-1935, or visit their cool site at www.customcpu.com/ait/david/psociety.htm. If you forget how to do it, just go to Google and put in the name.



Is the right name for someone who is technology oriented and knowledgeable,

but also is persevering, a techno-beaver? If so, that is the perfect description of the recent projects of the **Juneau-Douglas City Museum**. Fresh from the triumph of *Digital Bob*, the digitizing of historian R. N. De Armond's bountiful writings, they are now techno-beaving (I like that term) on a historic structures database, all about local historic structures, as you may have guessed.

How about gathering a clutch of people to work on community history? Local historians with



Blodgett's Cannery, Kodiak.
University of Alaska Fairbanks Archives.

good ideas and slim wallets are encouraged to apply for grants as much as \$1,000 to the City of Juneau. The museum and city Parks & Recreation office have applications, or tap away at www.juneau.org/museum/parkrec for details.



Kodiak is a fishing town, now and for over a hundred years. Lieutenant Commander Jefferson Franklin Moser was the first officer to actually be given a ship by the U. S. government to study the salmon resources of Alaska, which he did for many years. He was considered the greatest salmon expert in Alaska, which is not surprising if you consult his reports. He also had to make harbor charts, take photographs of the canneries, and generally cover the Alaska coast for the U.S. Fish Commission. The **Kodiak Historical Society** tells us about the lieutenant in its feature on Moser Bay in the latest newsletter.

When one lives in a community, one can easily forget that not all readers know the town buildings. The invitation at Christmastime to stop by the museum states that a craft activity will be had on the porch for the children so parents can gather inside around the warm samovar. Fortunately, on another page the enclosed porch of the Kodiak museum is shown, so we can stop worrying about the little kiddies in the snow. Check out the Web site at www.baranov.us or e-mail them at baranov@ak.net. If you're stubborn about the Internet, there's always 101 Marine Way, Kodiak, Alaska, 99615 or try the new-fangled telephone at 907/486-5920.



What's the one thing better than having a well-documented collection of Alaska Native artifacts? It's having the owners donate it to the local museum. The **Tongass Historical Museum and Totem Heritage Center** newsletter reports the Kubley family gave them what were once "curios" for tourists. These now prized Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimsean baskets, carvings, and beadwork objects were from the family store, begun in Ketchikan in 1902 and operated until 1956.

Along with appreciation for Native arts, today's Native artists are becoming recognized nationally. Tlingit weavers Anna Brown Ehlers and Teri Rofkar each received major grants from the United States Artists Foundation, and Haida Delores Churchill a cash award from Alaska's Rasmuson Foundation. Ketchikan basketmakers also swept a competition held at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. Best of all, the event was held in the winter.

Sometimes an exhibit takes on a life of its

(Continued page 6.)



A group of the colonists' children at Camp 8 in the Matanuska Valley Colony in Palmer. From the official album of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Matanuska Colonization Project, 1935.
Alaska State Library Historical Collections.

Notes from around the state

own. The "Boomtown: Ketchikan in the 1950s" photographic display was so popular a new one is being prepared because the public demanded it. Fortunately, they have a very large collection to choose from.



Here's an idea for program chairs: the **Kenai Historical Society** asked various retired local law enforcement officers to speak. A most interesting topic, coping with life in Bush Alaska requires ingenuity as well as knowledge. The newsletter reports a member who learned not to hang a side of bacon right outside the tent at fish camp. There was also the problem of running a sink drain at

the cabin. Far more progressive than neighbors who chopped a hole in the ice and carried water, they invested in a sink, pump, and pipe. However, they had no way to drill a hole in the floor. What to do? Husband marked an "x" on the floor, stood on a chair, and blasted it with his shotgun. Worked just fine.

And coping with long Alaska winters is made easier when a community event, such as the Peninsula Winter Games in Soldotna, is held. Begun in 1977 as a weekend affair, it now runs the entire last week of January and includes indoor and outdoor games and sports. Keeps the blood circulating and spirits up.



Paul Silook Family at mealtime.
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Dorothea
Leighton M. D. Collection, UAF-1984-31-24.

Food for Thought: The Role of Food and Nutrition in Alaska's Past

CALL FOR PAPERS • SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2007 • HOMER, ALASKA

Amateur and professional historians are invited to submit proposals for papers, panels, and poster sessions for the annual meeting of the Alaska Historical Society.* The Society's annual meeting, in association with Museums Alaska, will be held at Homer, September 26-29, 2007.

It is widely known that Alaskans are gutsy people. But Alaskans lived and died by the quantity of their food and especially the quality of their nutrition. The pursuit of food drove ancient hunters across the Bering Land Bridge, and preservation and cultivation techniques allowed these nomads to settle Alaska. Some of the first European explorers to Alaska died not from ferocious animals or treacherous seas but from lack of vitamin C. Klondike gold miners overcame White Pass, surviving on rice and beans. Depression-struck farmers toiled to re-create the American heartland in the Matanuska Valley. Alaska's massive salmon runs attracted industrial fish cannery who provided Americans with a protein-rich meal and linked Alaska to markets all over the world.

Spanning geography and time, Alaskans' diets reflect a range of historical factors from migration and settlement, processing and preservation technology, religion and rituals, exploration and exploitation, cultural prejudices, landscape management, capitalism, and environmental degradation. From the Tlingit First Fish ceremony to the blue ribbon cabbage at the Alaska State Fair, the 2007 theme offers opportunities to better understand not only what Alaskans eat and the history behind it, but why we make the selections we do and how these choices came to be. Understanding the role of food in Alaska's past is food for thought and maybe even sustenance for our future.

Written proposals for papers and presentations should be sent no later than April 30, 2007, to: Katherine Johnson Ringsmuth, Program Chair, Alaska Historical Society, 19915 Highland Ridge Drive, Eagle River, Alaska 99577; phone 907.830.2251; email KatmaiKate@aol.com.

**Individual presentations will be 20 minutes long. Proposals for panel sessions should include three participants and planned for 60 minutes in length.*

News & Information

LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION

When the Coast Guard decided to automate all the lighthouses in Alaska, there were a number of buildings left, many of them fine old structures. Someone had the wonderful idea of turning these over to non-profit groups to preserve. Juneau has Sentinel Island, other groups have Five Finger Light and Point Retreat, and now Sitka has produced the Cape Decision Lighthouse Society to repair and restore the Cape Decision lighthouse and out-buildings. Their newsletter is a model; text and pictures about the work done last summer, sketches of members, and even a "Literary Corner". For pictures and a general tour try their Web site capedecision.org. If that wakens a passion to see photos of old Alaska lighthouses, you can tap in 5fingerlighthouse.com, lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=826, or you can simply Google the name of the lighthouse and enjoy the results.

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HISTORY CHANNEL SAVE OUR HISTORY GRANTS AVAILABLE

The History Channel has announced two Save Our History grant programs. Teachers can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 in partnership with historical societies, museums, preservation organizations, libraries, archives, and other related non-profit organizations for projects that teach students about their local history and engage them in its preservation. The application deadline for this program is June 1, 2007. The second program is a mini-grant program. Teachers can apply for up to \$500 to fund field trips and interdisciplinary local history preservation projects. Guidelines and application forms for both programs are available at www.saveourhistory.com.

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ALASKA YUKON PIONEERS

"I wonder whatever happened to..." is familiar to anyone who lived any place for a long time and is said when meeting a friend and discussing old times. If that fits you, the answer may lie in the AYP (Alaska Yukon Pioneers) monthly newsletter. Their address and editor have changed; now write Ethel La Rose at ethellarose@hotmail.com or send your \$12.00 for a year's subscription to La Rose at 9512 First Ave. N.E., #204, Seattle, Washington, 98115-2018.

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"Old Sourdough" souvenir dish.
Collection of Candy Waugaman.



Cape Decision Lighthouse before the pier and helipad were constructed. The boathouse, shown on the right, burned down in a fire in 1989.

Cape Decision Lighthouse Society

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2007 CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

The Alaska Historical Society offers two travel awards of \$500 each to encourage students and new professionals to attend its annual meeting in Homer on September 26-29, 2007. Each recipient will be introduced at the closing banquet and invited to submit a short article for the AHS newsletter. The award will be in the form of reimbursement for documented expenses up to \$500. Winners will also receive basic registration and a banquet ticket.

Eligibility: Each applicant must be a 2007 member of the Alaska Historical Society at the time of applying. Each applicant for the student award must be a graduate student or upper-division undergraduate in spring or fall 2007 with a course of study related to Alaska history and cultures. Each applicant for the professional award must be currently employed in Alaska historical or cultural work and have been so employed for less than five years at time of applying. Applicants are encouraged to propose presentations for the meeting. The call for papers is at <http://www.alaskahistoricalandsociety.org/>

Application process: Each applicant must submit 1) a letter with a statement of eligibility and an explanation of how attending the meeting will enhance academic or professional development and 2) a current résumé or c.v. Applications will be judged on the applicant's achievement in Alaska history relative to current status and the likely benefit of the meeting for the applicant.

Send letter plus résumé or c.v. as attachments to ffslg@uaf.edu or mail three copies to:

Susan Grigg, Chair, AHS Awards Committee
Rasmuson Library
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK 99775-6808

Applications must be sent by June 8. Electronic submission is preferred.

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Non-profit Org.
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Anchorage, AK



"Food for Thought" Call for papers.
(See page 6 for details.)

Photo from the official album of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Matanuska Colonization Project, 1935.

Editor's Comments

Getting through the winter in Alaska can be a slow process. Now is the time to be totally honest, brushing aside all lame excuses like "snow is so much fun" or "the trees look so beautiful with iced branches", and admit you've thought how nice it would be if you were a bear. Just find a nice small, warm den, crawl in and sleep the winter away. No work, no shoveling snow, no house to clean; you just wake up in the spring and find the extra pounds have melted away and you're lean and fit.

On the other hand, what would the society do without you? Who knows what bad laws would be passed while you were dreaming warm dreams (if bears think of Mexico or the Caribbean)? Who would protect the old buildings that depend on you for existence? Who would contribute some good ideas for the summer displays?

So, might as well be resigned to being human. After all, that is a good excuse as well. "I'm only human" covers a lot of territory.

Dee Longenbaugh



Feeling any bear envy?
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center Library and Archives.