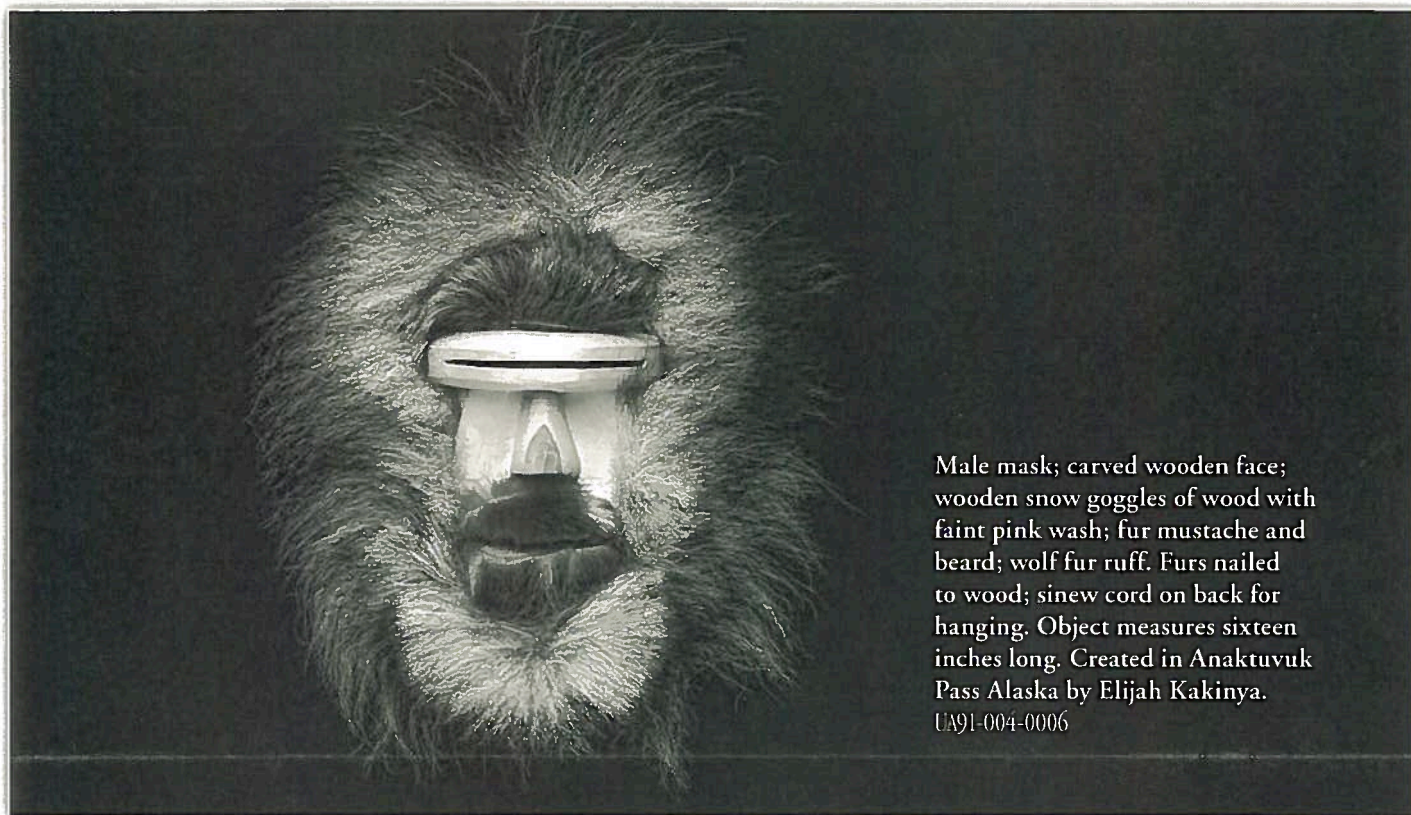




Alaska History News

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Summer 2011

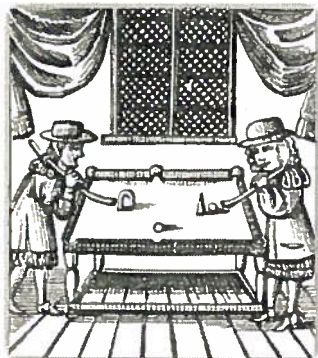


Male mask; carved wooden face; wooden snow goggles of wood with faint pink wash; fur mustache and beard; wolf fur ruff. Furs nailed to wood; sinew cord on back for hanging. Object measures sixteen inches long. Created in Anaktuvuk Pass Alaska by Elijah Kakinya. UA91-004-0006

Notes from around the state

Simon [Paneak's] only weapon was a .22 bolt-action rifle. He wrote that he could kill any animal in the mountains if it were hit in the right place with the first shot. He proved it by killing a grizzly that had found his meat cache. He used three "little bullets" to do it.

—William E. Brown
Gaunt Beauty, Tenuous Life (1988)



A game of "Cue sports." Engraving from *The Compleat Gamester* by Charles Cotton, 1674.

The people of Anaktuvuk Pass, the home of the inland Inupiat, the Nunamiut, were very proud last year to enlarge their **Simon Paneak Memorial Museum**. Everyone loved the old mannequin of a Nunamiut in full caribou clothing, but now there's far more; new displays, digital photo galleries, a library, elder's room, and proper storage room. Go to <http://spmm.nsb-ihlc.com> and see not only the new building, but a video of the opening that included traditional singing and dancing. Of course, you can always call 907/661-3413 or write them at Post Office Box 21085, Anaktuvuk, Alaska, 99721, but the video is enchanting.

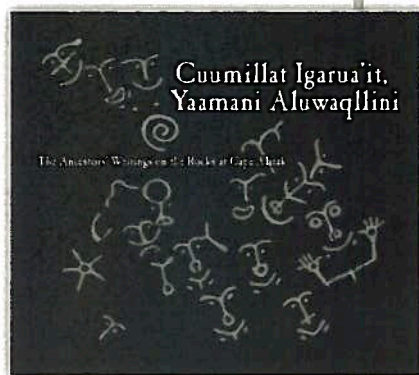
Definitely a busy summer is shaping up for the **Pratt Museum** in Homer. Regular fish feeding in the aquaria, historic harbor walking tours, and viewing the remote live antics of bears on the cam will occur. Many other events taking place too. www.prattmuseum.org is their cam, so to speak.

Restoration of two buildings and an active farmers' market ensure the **Wasilla-Knik Historical Society** will have a very busy summer. They also report the July 2010 outdoor potluck weather was chilly and very wet, but attendance was excellent.

We can't help but wonder how and why the old pool hall became the **Knik Museum**. Its centennial was celebrated at the potluck, and all cheered when the dog team arrived with the "mail". Okay; yes, it's in quotes, but what dog team and what was the mail?

Notes from around the state

The **Dorothy G. Page Museum** in Wasilla is gearing up for a busy summer; they expect around 10,000 visitors will enjoy the three exhibits they have planned. All three are about the Alaska flag, and we understand about the farmers' market, but someone please explain if William and Kate are expected at the Royal Celebrity Tours. For more information or to subscribe to the newsletter, write 300 North Boundary Street, Wasilla, Alaska 99654-7128 or phone 907/376-2005.



The Cape Alitak
Petroglyphs
May 2011 - May 2012

At the southern tip of Kodiak Island, where the land reaches far into the rough waters of the North Pacific, Alutiiq ancestors recorded their stories in stone. Carved into the bedrock of Cape Alitak, images of animals and people guard the storm tossed entrance to the Alutiiq world.



Sydney Laurence in his studio.
Photograph by Robert J. Wells.
ASL-P01-4380

Petroglyphs are drawings on rocks and great fun to try to decipher. The **Alutiiq Museum** has an exhibit on the rock art of Cape Alitak of the Kodiak Archipelago. Google Alutiiq Museum + Cape Alitak to see the video.

Short biographies of members and well-known locals from the past continue to be found in the newsletter of the **Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society**, including a lovely reminiscence of woman who appointed herself to knock on the doors of residents with the right blood type when blood was needed after an accident. She would then speed the donor to the hospital, white-knuckled though donor might be from her driving. Later she was replaced by a blood bank, but still remembered gratefully. Check out the society's new web site at www.cerhs.org.

Fiber arts, wood carving, and wildlife photographs are all on the summer menu of the **Sheldon Museum** of Haines. Stop by if you're in the area.

Get Your Motors Running: Chainsaws and Outboards on the Last Frontier is the main 2011 exhibit at the **Juneau-Douglas City Museum**. Self-explanatory title, but go to www.juneau.org/parkrec/museum and poke around, or call 907/586-3572 if you want to talk to a real person. Many museums have a Friends of the Museum program, and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum has decided to jump in. A print of their Sydney Laurence painting of Juneau is a lure to the high-rollers. If you have questions

about a similar program, I am sure they'd be happy to chat. Call 907/586-3572 or e-mail museum@ci.juneau.ak.us.

Eagle, Alaska, is accustomed to being off the road system during the winter, but last summer rockfalls from the forest fires of 2004 and 2005 meant they were also isolated until late fall, the **Eagle Historical Society & Museums** newsletter reports. Jean Turner, their president recently retired; she had served during two earthquakes, two major fires, and two flood disasters (we all recall the dreadful river flooding in the spring). She definitely deserves some placid weather. This is the "Big 50" for the society and museums; their spring newsletter has excerpts from a 1940s diary. Also, buy your raffle tickets now for chances to win the quilt and hand-carved Yukon birds. Tickets are \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00; winners announced at the Christmas bazaar. For all the news, go to www.eagleak.org/



Until 1867 Russia was welcome in Alaska, but by 1958 it was all downhill. Anti-communist fervor gripped the state and among the dangers was milk, the **Palmer Historical Society** informs us. Russia was conducting nuclear tests and who knew if the Mat-Su milk was radiated? Lots of news stories and Palmer was made a regional Civil Defense center. A presentation on this was made this spring.

"When [mothers] were putting their breakfast on the table, they saw not only Wheaties and milk, but they also saw strontium 90 and iodine 131... They feared for the health and life of their children."

—Blanche Posner of Women Strike for Peace, 1962 Congressional panel of the House Committee on Un-American Activities

Three photograph albums helped the spring lope past for **Palmer Historical Society** members. One album is a complete mystery, one partially so, and the third the pride of the family. Want to know more? Try www.palmerhistoricalsociety.org or go in person.

Notes from around the state

"Wearing a hat is like having a baby or a puppy; everyone stops to coo and talk about it."

—Louise Green



Perhaps you think of something passé as old hat, but you might rethink the term when you see the *Just Old Hats: Headgear in Alaska History* exhibit this summer at the **Alaska State Museum**. Over a hundred hats belonging to Alaska Natives, Russians, Siberians, Saami and covering military, ceremonial, miners, and just everyday Alaskans are on display. Wear your hat when you visit and purchase a \$40 annual membership that will include a free companion membership. Already a member? Wear your hat, show your card, and get another as a gift for a friend.

was prosecuted for killing his wife's lover in San Francisco in 1874. The jury decided he was justified. The things we learn reading Alaska's newsletters! Easy reach at www.museums.state.ak.us/asm/asmhome.html

Photographs are in season; the **Hope and Sunrise Historical Society** directs us to Hopealaska.info, then to its photo gallery for a nice shot of the Nathan White's Bear Sled postcard. The museum has regular programs as well as being open for the summer beginning May 7, 2011. A booklet about the Hope schoolhouse is \$5.00, and don't forget: the Sunrise Tour is of the old locale of Sunrise.

Robert N. DeArmond's "Annals of Lincoln Street" is featured in the **Sitka Historical Society** newsletter. In other news of our impressive late Alaska historian, his archives, donated by Bob and his son, Bill, are being processed into the society's database. The Fourth International Russian American Conference, held in Sitka last August, has a web site; check out www.2010RAC.com/ for a full account of the meeting. They also have a grant to publish the proceedings. The current issue has an account of the three short local archaeological digs done in conjunction with the conference.



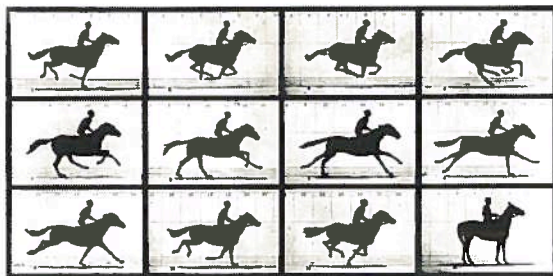
A Saami family (with hats), Norway, circa 1900.

Library of Congress

Another summer display at the museum is *Capturing the New Frontier: The First Years of Alaska Photography (1866-1891)*. The photos are culled from numerous archives and museums and are spectacular. Eadward Muybridge, famous as the first photographer

So you always thought William Henry Seward was from New York State? I did, so it was a bit of a shock to find you should contact Florida for further information, said the **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** newsletter. A relief to discover the Florida Historical Society that is raising money to restore his home is reached via Post Office Box 97, Florida, New York, 10921-0097. The newsletter also tells that in 1948 a new Seward-Anchorage railroad was proposed. Tell us if it happened or the musty old 1923 route was continued.

There is also discussion in the newsletter of the statue of a prospector and his dog being made for the **Iditarod** centennial. A minor correction will have the rifle on his pack instead of in his hand. It sounds as though some knowledgeable souls are on the committee. Want more? Go to www.

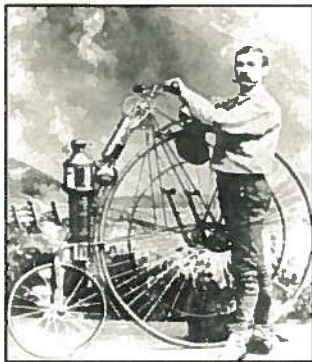


to freeze motion, e.g., show all four hooves of a trotting horse are off the ground simultaneously, not only came to Alaska, but

Right: "The Horse in Motion" by Eadward Muybridge, 1878.

Library of Congress

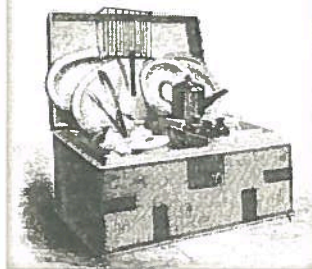
Notes from around the state



Lucius Copeland 1894. In 1881, Copeland of Phoenix, Arizona, designed a small steam boiler which could drive the large rear wheel of a "Star" cycle at twelve mph. In 1887, Copeland formed the Northrop Manufacturing Co., producing the first successful "Motor-Cycle" (actually a three wheeler).

SEEKING TREASURES

The Alaska Historical Society's big fundraiser is its silent auction held as part of its annual fall meeting. Auction committee co-chairs Andrew Goldstein and Candy Waugaman are soliciting items. Please send a description of what you would like to donate to akhist@aci.net or Box 100299 / Anchorage / Alaska, 99510



museumsusa.org/museum/info/1160173 or write Post Office Box 55, Seward, Alaska, 99664.

As usual, the **Anchorage Museum** has lots going on. There's a traveling exhibit "Mammoths and Mastadons: Titans of the Ice Age" featuring the well-preserved baby mammoth Luby, age ca. 42,000 years. *Unraveling the History of Basketry, Images from the Alaska Gold Rush*, and *Sailing for Salmon*, are journeys through Alaska history. *10,000 Years of Alaska History* and *Art of the North* tours are given over the summer and the schedule has lectures and field trips. Want to learn more? anchagemuseum.org or stop by 625 C Street. Questions? 907/929-9200.

The **State Archives** opened its first exhibit in nearly two decades, a collaborative effort, April 30. Abby Focht, Larry Hibpshman and Linda Wynne designed the exhibit with help from Alaska State Museum staff. *The Road to Statehood* examines the ongoing Statehood concept from 1897 (yes! 1897!) through the present. Most items are from State Archives collections, however, State Archivist Dean Dawson lent a mint condition 1959 license plate and the Office of the Governor lent a 6' x 4' 49-star flag. You can see the exhibit through the end of the year.

An expedition in 1911 brought a whole new meaning to breaking trail, the *Tripod*, newsletter of the **Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance** reports. The Alaska Road Commission needed to know the exact distance from Nome to Seward, so a group, led by Walter Goodwin, spent November to February one hundred years ago measuring. Few roadhouses and the usual Interior winter weather, but not much was mentioned other than finding some cut-offs that shortened the distance. A colorful member of the expedition was a butcher from Nome, said to run a restaurant there, "the swellest place in the town." The final figures? Seward to Susitna 179.76 miles, Seward, via Tacotna, Ophir and Dishakakeet to Nome, 843.67 miles, Seward to the Iditarod 512.12 miles. Iditarod

City is 113.88 miles west of Seward-Nome route. Want to sled it next winter? How about a hike this summer? In love with the Iditarod? Lots of information on Google.

The *Store Door* is the newsletter of the **Tenakee Historical Collection** and is always worth reading as they cover much more than simply the news of the little town on Chichagof Island in the Hoonah-Angoon census district. The recent issue has a fine account of the fate of the insistent motorcycle riders in the carless town, complete with several versions (all good stories have several versions); early Alaska civil government; 1901 local news in letters from Killisnoo; and great old photographs. Want your own copy? Subscribe for \$15.00 *per annum* or \$25.00 for the family; write them at Post Office Box 633, Tenakee Springs, Alaska 99841.

Alaska has its first military **Veterans Museum**, the product of ten years planning and fund raising. In a nice salute to the DVD world, 120 veterans' oral histories have been preserved on video, and many more are planned. Their address is The Market Place, 333 West Fourth Avenue, Anchorage. The web site is www.alaskaveterans.com or call 907/677-8802 for directions.

Okay, here's a mystery for you. Go to <http://youtube.com/kblprkftuo>. Did the title give it away? Look, it's only 41 seconds and great. Try it out and let me know what you thought.

News & Information

ARE YOU INTERESTED in serving the Alaska historical community on a statewide commission or board? The Alaska Historical Society submits names to the Governor to consider for appointment to two of the seats on the nine-member **Alaska Historical Commission**. This year one of the terms is open for an appointment. If you are interested in providing input on the state's policy and programs concerning Alaska's history and historic preservation please contact Gladi Kulp, AHS Nominations Committee, gladikulp@yahoo.com or 907-586-6168 before June 19th. More information about the Alaska Historical Commission can be found at: www.dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/histcomm/ahc.htm and <http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/services/boards-commissions/board-factsheets.html?i=045>

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THE ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY elects five people annually to serve on its Board of Directors. If you are interested in our statewide organization and helping promote our state's history, please consider submitting your name for nomination. New ideas are welcome. For further information go to: www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org. Nominations are due by July 31st, and should be sent to Gladi Kulp at the address in the preceding paragraph.

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THERE'S A NEW SITE ON-LINE, the **National Portal to Historic Collections**. This allows you to search through a myriad of collections, ranging from small museums to the Smithsonian. Right now it's free, but expect a subscription fee before long. It's at <http://main.americanheritage.com/search-collections>. In the meantime, enjoy!

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CAPTAIN ANNA YOUNG from Seward and Cordova has been doing signings of her books *The Lost Art of Alaska Fishing* Parts 1 and 2 as well as showing her art work around the state. She is also looking for women mariners to participate in a documentary called "Alaska Women Mariners - Then and Now." Contact her at acy1962@gmail.com or call 907/ 491-1157.

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ANOTHER INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT is a notice from the **Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association** (AMIPA) that a producer from the History Channel appeared in Anchorage last year to view the film taken by Bob Yergan of President Kennedy in a Dallas parade in 1960 and 1963; also of Dallas the day after the assassination. If you want to look, go to www.history.com/videos/jfks-last-parade#jfks-last-parade. If AMIPA in general fascinates you, call Kevin Tripp at 907/786-4980, or Facebook at www.facebook.com/alaskamovingimage. And, if you're feeling generous, make a tax-deductible donation online at www.AMIPA.org/ or by telephone 907/ 786-4980.

AN "ALASKA 67" ENTHUSIAST sent a letter about his search for the books to an AHS board member. Apparently he's thoroughly enjoying the search for the 67 books an AHS committee decided several years ago were the best books.

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SVETLANA FEDOROVA was a marvelous Russian historian, working from Moscow during the sad days of the Cold War when Russians had the records and journals but could not come in person to Alaska. Alaskans had the locales, but little access to the written material. Fortunately, she was able to come to teach in Fairbanks at the University during the last days of the USSR, and her excellent histories of Russian America were printed. She died this past year, but the memorial service requested by the **Moscow Historical Enlightenment Society "Russian America"** on March 19th of this year did not reach the state until recently. If you would like to know more about the society and view some interesting pictures, go to www.russianamerica.livejournal.com/. Don't forget to hit "translate the page" unless your Russian is excellent.

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THERE ARE A COUPLE OF NOTICES and information about historic preservation that are in *Heritage* the monthly newsletter of the **Alaska Office of History and Archaeology**. Subscribe to the electronic news at oha@alaska.net and write as the subject, "Heritage subscribe". For questions contact Jo Antonson at jo.antonson@alaska.gov. A simple, easy way to keep abreast of state and national historic preservation news.

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THE OTHER CONSTANT is the **Alaska Yukon Pioneers** newsletter for those who want to keep up with old friends. \$12.00 a year brings you the news monthly. Check to Joyce Penman, Recorder, 27833 85th Drive, NW, Stanwood, Washington, 98292, or phone her at 253/709-0158 or 360/629-3554. e-mail is olwomn@wavecable.com. New to the Seattle area and homesick for Alaska or the Yukon? They have monthly meetings and lunches.

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THE ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM has changed its newsletter to a magazine, and has moved its offices. They can now be found at 161 West First Avenue, Door 15, Anchorage, 99501, phone 907/272-5341. Door 15?? Their new building is the refitted Alaska Railroad Freight Shed. Ignore the name; it's actually a fine space. The Forum's homepage is www.akhf.org, or for extended info go to www.humanitiesalaska.blogspot.com/

2011 ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Alaska Historical Society is seeking nominations for its annual awards. Members are encouraged to nominate individuals and groups which have notably contributed to the knowledge, preservation, and understanding of Alaskan or local history the past year. Nominations can be made by letter or can be submitted electronically, but must document the individual's or group's significant contribution.

The **Esther Billman Award of Excellence** is given to a state or local society, museum, government agency, or other organization which has completed a project or series of projects contributing to the preservation and understanding of Alaskan history during the past year. Esther Billman's efforts to preserve Alaska history and develop the Sheldon Jackson Museum are commemorated by the award now given in her name.

The **Evangeline Atwood Award** is given to an individual in recognition of significant long-term contributions to Alaska state or local history. Evangeline Atwood's promotion and practice of the study and publication of Alaska history, as well as her efforts to organize historical societies including the Alaska Historical Society, are commemorated with this award.

The **Historian of the Year Award** is given to an *Alaska resident* for publication of significant new material about Alaska's past during the past year. The society initiated this award in 1974. *Nominations for this award must include a copy of the publication for review.*

The **Pathfinder Award** is given to an individual or several individuals who have indexed or prepared guides to Alaska historical material that has not been accessible. *Nominations for this award must include sample pages of the index or guide.*

The **Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Newsletter Award** is given for the best newsletter published by a local historical society over the past several years. Elva Scott served as editor of the *Eagle Wireless* for many years, making the people and historic events of the community widely known. *Representative copies of the newsletter must be submitted with the nomination for this award.*

The **Student and Beginning Professional Travel Scholarship Awards** are given to help several individuals attend and participate in the Alaska Historical Society annual meeting and conference. The deadline to apply for these awards has been extended to June 30. The awards are assistance with travel expenses and a conference registration package. Applicants must be members of the Alaska Historical Society to apply. Students must be a graduate or upper division undergraduate studying Alaska history and cultures. Beginning professionals must be employed in Alaska historical or cultural work and have been so employed for less than five years.

The **Contributions to Alaska History Award** recognizes an individual or individuals who have made a singular and significant recent contribution to Alaska history.

Nominations must be received by Monday, August 15, 2011. Please send them to: Bridget Burke, Chair, Awards Committee, Alaska Historical Society P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510-0299. E-mail: akhist@gci.net. The awards will be announced at the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska banquet at the annual meetings and conference in Valdez, September 22-25.



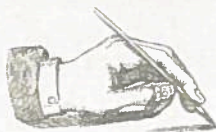
Nikita Khrushchev/John F. Kennedy, Vienna, Austria 3 June 1961
U. S. Department of State, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum



U.S. test launch, LGM-25C Titan II ICBM, Vandenberg Air Force Base, ca. mid-1960s
Courtesy U.S. Air Force

Visit our website:

www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org



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

"Jerome Wiesner, [JFK's] Science Adviser, reminded him one drizzling day how rain washed radioactive debris from the clouds and brought it down to the earth. Kennedy, looking out the window, said, "You mean that stuff is in the rain out there?" Wiesner said, "Yes." The President continued gazing out the window, deep sadness on his face, and did not say a word for several minutes."

—A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House
by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. (1965)

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ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 100299

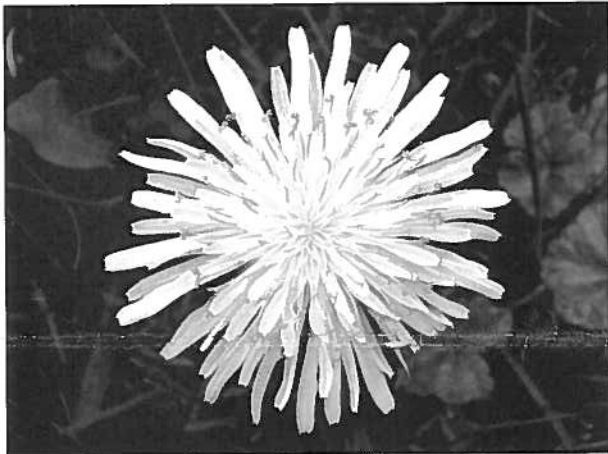
Anchorage, AK 99510-0299

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.)

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 feature is the society's publication *The Alaska 67* with annotated recommendations of good books on Alaska history.

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



Dandelion. Image by Kendra, May 2007.

*What would the world be, once bereft,
of wet and wildness? Let them be left.
O let them be left; wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.*

Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Inversnaid*

Editor's Comments

Summer is almost here. We live for the long days, the warm sun, the flowering gardens, the camping, the hikes, the fishing, the boating, and general outdoor enjoyments. We have done the spring cleaning of the house and storage areas so can thoroughly immerse ourselves in the outdoors.

Unless this and that kept coming up and here it is early June and the house and covered storage spaces are a mess. One good thing; you can't see the mess inside; all is opaque because the glass is filthy.

The yard and gardens have taken on a life of their own; giant weeds defy uprooting and the buttercup carpet is spreading. Hiking trails are being repaired, the engine on the boat died, and camping out in the rain has lost its charm.

So – the only sensible thing to do is put some lawn chairs out on the deck, get a good book, supply the drink of your choice, and relax.

Happy Summer!

D.L.



Aztec sun god, Tonatiuh, as depicted in the Codex Telleriano-Remensis. Image courtesy Chelsea Aquino.