

DEC 06 2004



Alaska History News

Volume 32, No. 4 Quarterly of the Alaska Historical Society Winter 2004

Notes from around the state



Russian-American Company flag flies in honor of Dick Pierce at the Kodiak Erskine House Museum.
(See obituary page 6.)

A chance to comment on the design of a new Library/Museum combined with a table of chocolate desserts shows the **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** knows Alaskans. Talk and food; the way to our hearts. The building will be about 32,000 sq. ft. and contain all the amenities. The group is continuing its obituary index of the Seward area; it's now up to 2,047 entries.



When an annual meeting is cancelled because of fire, insurance normally comes to mind. The **Eagle Historical Society** had a different experience. 6.1 million acres of Interior Alaska were aflame last summer and the members were either off fighting fires or protecting their property. The independent souls of Eagle postponed their 4th of July parade to Labor Day.

The cedar gazebo dedicated to society founder and long-time member Elva Scott was assembled in Amundsen Park. The pleasant covered place for all to enjoy would have pleased her very much.

Old trunks usually contain only an odor of mothballs. In Betty Wyatt's case, the chest she bought in 1970 at an auction was filled with the life treasures of Jessie Mather. The photographs, diary, artwork, and poetry has so fascinated Wyatt that she has spent the intervening years on the trail of Jessie. This

brought her to Eagle last summer, where she allowed the society to scan the photograph album that showed life in the town during the 1920s.



Individuals and groups are contributing for the fourth year to free winter admission to the **Juneau-Douglas City Museum**. A \$10,000 Grant-in-Aid from the Alaska State Museum will be used to display the 500-700 year-old fish trap found locally. This is one more example of the tremendous leverage the grants-in-aid program exerts.

After eleven years of giving small awards from its own local history grants to groups and individuals needing financial assistance for projects, funds were low. A raffle was held by the **Gastineau Channel Historical Society** that not only raised \$4,200, but the grand prize winner donated his airline tickets to the program. That's an involved community.

In keeping with its recent practice, the society devoted a large portion of its current newsletter to a single subject. In this case it's the Juneau airport, begun in 1934 by the U.S. War Department for ten Martin bombers returning from Fairbanks. Six years later the strip was paved and luxury flights began. Kids also swam in the pond at the end of the runway. The next time you're waiting to go through Security, think about the history of your airport. Usually there's time to think about the entire history of airports in Alaska.



An elegant cedar gazebo in Eagle was dedicated to Elva Scott in Amundsen Park.
Photo courtesy: Eagle Historical Society.

(Notes from around the state continues on page 4.)



2004 ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS

The Alaska Historical Society recognized seven individuals and two groups for outstanding research, writing and promotion of Alaska history this past year with awards announced in September at its annual meeting in Anchorage.

The **Cook Inlet Historical Society of Anchorage** received the **Esther Billman Certificate of Excellence**, 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 Alaska history during the past year. The society organized and conducted an extremely popular 18-month program that brought the Smithsonian Institution's Ernest Shackleton exhibit to Anchorage and included a series of programs, films and seminars on polar exploration and scientific investigations of the northern and southern ends of the earth.

Dr. Orcott W. "Jack" Frost received the **Evangeline Atwood Award**, given to an individual in recognition of significant long-term contributions to Alaska state or local history. After retiring from teaching at Alaska Pacific University, Jack continued his research and writing on early exploration of the North Pacific. Last fall Yale University Press published his biography of Vitus Bering with new information on Bering, his family, and the expeditions he led to investigate the North Pacific in 1728 and 1741. Jack also has written about Georg Steller, naturalist on Bering's second expedition. The award recognizes Jack's recent and past efforts, spanning more than a decade, to research, write, edit, and engage in the exchange of information to know and understand the history of the North Pacific, Siberia, and Alaska.

Dr. Lydia T. Black received the **Historian of the Year Award**, given to an Alaska resident for publication of notable new material about Alaska history during the past year. *Russians in Alaska, 1741-1832* is the culmination of a productive career of research and writing about the land, people and events in the North Pacific. Dr. Black is Professor Emerita, University of Alaska Fairbanks, currently living and working in Kodiak. Her new book draws on archival documents, some only recently made available. She explores the complex relations between the Russians and Native people and chronicles the lives of ordinary men and women at Alaska outposts. The book has been called "indispensable" by researchers, students and teachers who want to know about Russian America.

Marie and Dick Kent of Juneau received the **Pathfinder Award** for compilation of an index or guide to materials that have not been accessible. The Kents indexed the A-J (Alaska-Juneau) Mine personnel records, 1914-1944. The two-year project included read-

ing 45,000 records and compiling a database of 11,454 workers. The searchable database has names, dates of birth or age at the time of hire, place of birth or country of origin, name of spouse, dates of employment, and jobs at the mine. The Juneau Genealogical Society has made CDs of the index available to libraries and for sale to repay the Gastineau Channel Historical Society-City Museum research grant fund that assisted with the project.

The **Tongass Historical Society** received the **Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Newsletter Award** for *Tongass Talk*. The newsletter, under volunteer editorship, has been published since 2000 and has been key to the revival of the Tongass Historical Society. The newsletter was noted for its profiles of people who have lived in Ketchikan and reports of research, particularly about the neighborhoods of Ketchikan.

Dr. Ted C. Hinckley was the fourth recipient of the **Contributions to Alaska History Award** that recognizes an individual or individuals who have made a singular and significant recent contribution to Alaska history in any medium or activity. After making the selection, news arrived that Dr. Hinckley had died. During his long career teaching at San Jose State University in California and Western Washington University in Bellingham, Ted encouraged many young people to pursue careers in historical writing and teaching. He researched and wrote much about Alaska, particularly on the early American period, 1867-1900. Ted completed his dissertation on Sheldon Jackson in 1961. Among his many publications are *The Americanization of Alaska, 1867-1897*, and *The Canoe Rocks: Alaska Tlingit and the Euramerican Frontier, 1800-1912*. He served on the editorial committee and reviewed numerous books for *Alaska History*, the journal of the Alaska Historical Society. Dr. Hinckley will be missed; his many contributions to Alaska history are significant.

Sande McDermott was recognized by the Alaska Historical Society with one of its **Special Awards**. Her award recognizes dedicated and excellent work to preserve and promote Alaska history. Since the mid-1980s, Sande has fought for history, for high quality research, and for preserving the integrity of historic properties. She started, promoted, and unflinchingly supported *History Day in Alaska*. She has reached out to Alaska's Native groups to help them preserve cultural sites. She has spoken out for the often delicate, emotional concept of historical site preservation in Alaska's



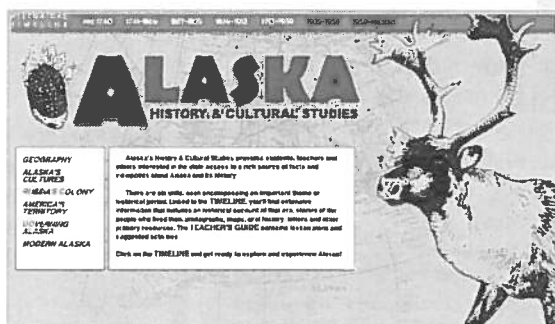
The 2003-2004 Alaska Historical Society Board of Directors. From left, front row: Dee Longenbaugh, Kay Shelton, Phyllis Movius, Karl Gurcke, Dorothy Moore; middle row: Steve Haycox, Susan Grigg, Barbara Smith, Jo Antonson; back row: Jim King, Mike Dunning, Bruce Parham, Frank Norris, Geoff Bleakley, Bruce Merrell.

wilderness areas. Sande served on the Alaska Historical Society's Board of Directors, and held offices as secretary and president. She was vice-chair of the committee that organized an international symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II in Alaska. Sande is leaving Alaska for Santa Fe, New Mexico, to head the National Park Service's Southwest Region cultural resources program.

Making the last award, Alaska Historical Society President Bruce Parham selected **Ira Perman**, Executive Director of the Alaska Humanities Forum, as the recipient of the **2004 Beaver Log** (President's Award). Ira's leadership in discussions of community, Alaska's past, and the importance of the humanities in peoples lives have forged new coalitions and encouraged many people to participate in the conversations. He has promoted the 20/20 Leadership Program, the Rose Urban-Rural Exchange Program, and Alaska History and Cultural Studies for high school students.

Congratulations to all the individuals and groups recognized this year. Around the state, excellent projects are underway and people are working hard. Publishers are producing new books. The call for nominations for 2005 will be out before one knows it. It's not too early to start thinking of individuals and groups who should be recognized by their colleagues around the state for good work preserving, protecting and interpreting the history of the Great Land.

Alaska History and Cultural Studies is a new on-line curriculum for Alaska High school students. Website design by Lucid Reverie.



Message from the President Annual meeting wrap-up

Our annual meeting in Anchorage provided us with an opportunity to meet with people from around Alaska and learn from one another more about Alaska's historic heritage. Our deep appreciation goes to our hosts, Director Pat Wolf and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art and Jim Barnett of the Cook Inlet Historical Society, and to their staff and volunteers for superb efforts in organizing the meetings and social events.

For those of you who are outside Anchorage, the Cook Inlet Historical Society kicked off its 50th anniversary at the conference and we recognize them for all they have done. We also owe a huge thank-you to the staffs and volunteers from Anchorage area historic and cultural institutions who labored hundreds of hours to organize and bring us those terrific events, open houses, and behind-the-scenes tours — the Alaska Museum of Natural History, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alaska Zoo, The Imaginarium, National Archives, Pacific Alaska Region, National Park Service, Alaska Region, Oscar Anderson House Museum, the Trooper Museum, and Wells Fargo's Heritage Library Museum. They all worked on the meeting for almost a year.

I want to commend Bruce Merrell for almost single-handedly putting together a strong program. I also want to thank everyone who presented papers and the session chairs. Our special appreciation also goes to Candy Waugaman who coordinated this year's Silent Auction. We are very grateful to all who donated books, art, and other objects.

Thanks are due to three members leaving the Society's Board of Directors. Kay Shelton and Vicki Wisenbaugh have completed their second terms on the Board of Directors. Geoff Bleakley has completed his term and chose not to run for another term. I want to welcome four new members to the board — Rosemary Carlton (Sitka), Karl Gurcke (Skagway), Katherine (Katie) Johnson (Anchorage), and Marilyn Knapp (Anchorage). Mike Dunning and Barbara Sweetland Smith were reelected. Karl was elected after a year's hiatus.

The Alaska Historical Society worked with Museums Alaska at the joint meeting to set its legislative priorities for next year. On December 6, one of the items — teaching Alaska history to all high school students — is to be voted on by the Alaska Board of Education. All comments were due November 2. I hope that the Board of Education will support this measure, which has taken years of patient effort. And, please look at *Alaska History & Cultural Studies* at: www.akhistorycourse.org, a new on-line curriculum to teach Alaska high school students about their state. Thank you, and I hope the coming year is a good one for all.

Bruce Parham, President

Notes from around the state



Oil painting of the young Dalai Lama from *Tiber: Mountains and Valleys, Castles and Tents* at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

Photo courtesy Anchorage Museum of History and Art.



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

The next time you want to one-up an Alaskan expert, casually mention the reindeer herd on Kodiak Island. As the expert starts to explain that Teller is not on Kodiak, continue with the news that a herd was introduced to the south part of the island in 1924 and thrived until a fire destroyed the range in the late 1930s. Even today there are a few left around the Ayakulik River. This and information about the summer's archaeological digs, and news of a substantial grant to preserve and expand use of the Alutiiq language can be found in the newsletter of the **Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository**. A new feature at www.alutiiqmuseum.com is the "Alutiiq Artist Database." Check it out. They're also holding a membership drive. Dues start at \$10.00 so don't plead poverty.



Shaping Space: 25 Years of Public Art in Anchorage celebrates the highly successful Alaska program *One Percent for Art* at the **Anchorage Museum of History and Art**. They also plan a self-guided walking tour.

The main exhibition is the traveling *Tiber: Mountains and Valleys, Castles and Tents* which will be around until January 2, 2005.



A half-century of existence will be celebrated next year by the award-winning **Cook Inlet Historical Society**. They did themselves proud with a fine Shackleton exhibit and lectures and plan an ambitious series titled *The Adventure of Anchorage* for 2005.



Looking for something fun and inexpensive to do at Christmas? Mary Flaherty sent along a reminder that the **Oscar Anderson House Museum**, 420 M Street, Anchorage, is decorated for an old-fashioned Swedish Christmas. Call 274-2336 for details.



A-tisket-a-tasket, Anvik has baskets, the **Anvik Historical Society** reports. Some are over 100 years old, some were just woven, and all show how important baskets have been traditionally in the Athabaskan country. A local carver has also duplicated masks collected in the 1930s by anthropologist Cornelius Osgood. One of the most interesting is the Half-Man mask, summoned only

by shamans' dreams and showing an animal head coming out of the forehead. This dream and carving insured good hunting.

Plans are well under way for a new community hall. Now if a shaman could have a good dream about that



Buildings, buildings, have kept the **Kenai Historical Society** occupied <heh, heh; little irresistible joke there> for some time. The history of the current home of the Peninsula Oilers' Baseball Club and a bingo hall, from its construction in 1957 as a retail space, has been documented, complete with photographs; the hospital is slated for a major expansion; and the first little Roman Catholic church, a log structure finished in 1954 but soon outgrown, has been completely renovated.



The first Roman Catholic Church in Kenai, a log structure finished in 1954, has been completely renovated.

Photo courtesy Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

No building, but another completed effort, is the new book *Cemetery Inscriptions and Area Memorials in Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Borough* published by the **Kenai Totem Tracers' Genealogical Society**. Contact them c/o Kenai Community Library, 163 Main Street Loop, Kenai, Alaska 99611. Cost, Priority Mail, is \$50.35 or pick up a copy for \$40.00 at the library.



The **Palmer Historical Society** has prepared a little quiz about local history knowledge. Sounds like a great idea for a winter meeting. Answers should also bring out further explication on the part of some old-timers.

In a talk by a borough official, they also heard that in the forty years since its founding, the Mat-Su Borough has grown from around 5,000 to 67,000 and continues to add residents. Hard to keep local history when farms are turned into subdivisions, but this group can do it.



Robert E. Ellis, universally known as Bob, came to Ketchikan in 1929 as the navigator on the first non-stop flight from Seattle. One of the best and certainly one of the handsomest Bush pilots, Bob went on to found Ellis Air Transport in Ketchikan. It became the major regional airline in Southeast before it wound up as part of Alaska Airlines. Bob was not only a good businessman, but a civic leader. *Bob Ellis: Ketchikan Aviation Pioneer* was the major fall exhibit at the **Tongass Historical Museum**.

Concerned about the longevity of your CD and DVD collection? Inspection and proper storage are crucial, according to Chris Hanson, Senior Curator of Collections. Learn more by reading the current newsletter of the Tongass Historical Society.

Programs for teens and anyone interested in Northwest Coast Native Arts Studies at the **Totem Heritage Center** can learn more by visiting www/city.ketchikan.ak.us/ds/mu.html, or just put in City of Ketchikan and go to the Site Map. Or, if that seems too complicated, phone 907/225-5900. Or, gasp! You can write them at 629 Dock Street.



Nike Site Summit.

Nike Site Summit?

Sounds like tennis shoes and what else? Actually, this Cold War complex near Anchorage has been on the National Register since 1995, but is now

under threat from the Army. A good deal of interest has been expressed locally, and a group is trying to save it. Sign up at www.anchoragehistoric.org.



Historical societies usually meet in historic buildings. That is very good, but often funds to keep historic buildings from collapsing



Bob Ellis, aviation pioneer, is the subject of an exhibit at the Tongass Historical Museum.

Photo courtesy Tongass Historical Museum.

are hard to find. Imagine what it's like to be in charge of an entire town site. Daunting, but the **Wasilla-Knik Historical Society** has done a great job of preserving the original heart of the Matanuska Colony. However, now they need help. All donations, from time to money, are gratefully accepted. Contact them at the **Dorothy Page Museum** at 323 North Main Street, Wasilla, Alaska 99654. In a hurry? Try 907/373-9071 or fax 907/373-9072. In a big hurry? museum@ci.wasilla.ak.us.

Their newsletter often prints tidbits from pioneer O.G. Herning's diaries. In 1918 he notes a local woman "was doing a lot of spouting" about schoolteachers and adds severely, "All uncalled for." A bit later she was "raising more H--- about school and school marms." Doesn't that make you long to know what her objections were?



The **Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society** notes a list of businesses in the area in 1954. 24 businesses were located along the highway, including five bars and two liquor stores, one with the great name of "Fire Lake Garage and Liquor Store." Talk about drink and drive was not idle then.



With all the effort to incorporate Alaska history into the schools, it is encouraging to note the **Valdez Museum** has received a grant to continue and strengthen its local history program, begun in 1997, with the area schools. Not only do the students learn history, they learn they're part of it.

It is with a heavy heart we print the obituaries of the following people. We have lost some fine scholars and can only be thankful these immortals were appreciated in their lifetimes.



Federica de Laguna
in borrowed regalia,
Angoon, 1949.
From *The Tlingit Indians*,
photo by Edward Malin.

FREDERICA DE LAGUNA

Excerpted from Gayle Ronan Sims, staff writer, *Philadelphia Inquirer*,
October 22, 2004.

Frederica de Laguna, a leading early ethnologist and archaeologist and expert on Alaska native peoples, died of heart failure October 6 at home in Bryn Mawr, three days after her 98th birthday.

Dr. de Laguna had just finished editing a book on the Eyak Indians of Prince William Sound and had prepared her epic work on the Tlingits of Yakutat, *Under Mount Saint Elias*, for reprinting.

Fellow anthropologists, to whom she was known as "Freddy," say her death is the end of a pioneering era. In 1975, Dr. de Laguna and Margaret Mead became the first women to win election to the National Academy of Sciences. She later served as its president and also was president of the American Anthropological Association.

Her fieldwork in Alaska in the 1930s and 1940s produced groundbreaking studies on the Athabascan, Eyak, Chugach, and Tlingit peoples.

Dr. de Laguna was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the daughter of two philosophy professors. Her parents taught at Bryn Mawr College from the time she was an infant. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Bryn Mawr in 1927. En-

couraged by her parents to pursue anthropology, she earned a doctorate in the subject at Columbia University in 1933. She also broke off her engagement to a fellow anthropologist because she thought marriage and fieldwork could never coexist.

In 1938, she began teaching anthropology at Bryn Mawr, a position she held until retiring in 1975 as professor emeritus. In retirement, she continued to write and lecture at several leading universities as well as make regular visits to her beloved Alaska.

During World War II she served as a lieutenant commander in the Navy Waves.

Speaking of modern archaeologists, whom she called "overspecialized," Dr. de Laguna remarked in 1993 during a boat tour to her old digging sites on Kachemak Bay: "I could smack 'em! I'm the old-fashioned one. There aren't many of us left, I might add."

She also wrote two pulp mysteries in the 1930s, reprinted in the 1990s.

De Laguna was honored for her 50 years of documentation of the Tlingits when she was invited back to Yakutat. There she was honored for the stories, songs, and studies; the 1997 documentary film *Reunion Under Mount Saint Elias* tells her tale.

Dr. de Laguna has no survivors. Her body was donated to science. A memorial service will be held at Bryn Mawr College at a later date.



Richard A. Pierce, center, with
Barbara Sweetland
Smith and Dr.
Lydia T. Black
at the Meeting
of Frontiers
Conference,
Fairbanks, Alaska,
May 2001.
Photo by Andrei Znamenski.

RICHARD A. PIERCE

By Matt Volz, Associated Press, *Anchorage Daily News*,
September 26, 2004

Richard A. Pierce, one of the foremost authorities on Russian America, has died. He was 86. Pierce was a professor of history at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

He was considered one of the most prominent scholars in his field — the history of Russia's presence in Alaska, from Russia's first settlement on Kodiak Island in 1784 to the United States' purchase of Alaska in 1867. Pierce published, wrote or edited more than 60 volumes on Alaska history, according to the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"He was an absolute pioneer in Russian Alaska history, its premier archivist and one of its premier researchers and scholars," said Jennifer Collier, executive editor of the University of Alaska Press, which distributes titles published by Pierce's Limestone Press.

"We simply would not know what we know about the Russian Alaska period without him and his dedication to the preservation and publication of critical historical documents," Collier said.

Pierce's daughter, Catherine Pierce, said he died last Tuesday in his Kingston, Ontario, home. The native of Manteca, Calif., developed a passion for Russian history after taking a course in Russian language in pursuit of a civil service job and then touring the region after World War II, she said.

"He had a great love for that subject and put a lot of energy into it throughout his academic life," Catherine Pierce said. "He was active with that until the end."

Richard Pierce received a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of California Berkeley in 1940. That's also where he earned his master's degree in 1952 and his doctorate in 1956, both in history.

Pierce was an Army sergeant during World War II and served in Europe. He was a professor of history at Queen's University from 1959-1988 and at the University of Alaska Fairbanks from 1988-1998.

His honors include being named a Fellow for the Study of Russian America in the Academy of Sciences of Russia and *Alaska Historian of the Year* by the Alaska Historical Society. This award is given to an Alaska resident for publication of notable new material about Alaska history during the year. In 2002, he was given the *Contributions to Alaska History Award* by

The Alaska Historical Society. This award recognizes an individual or individuals who have made singular and significant recent contributions to Alaska history.

Pierce donated his remains to the Queen's University anatomy department and his body will ultimately be cremated, Catherine Pierce said.

She said she planned to organize a memorial gathering in Kingston on Oct. 24. That would be 40 days after his death, a traditional period in Ukrainian culture, she said. "It seems appropriate for a variety of reasons," she said.

Editor's note: The Russian American Company flag was flown at half-staff in Dr. Pierce's honor in places as far apart as Kodiak, Fort Ross, California, Barbara Sweetland Smith's Anchorage home, Sitka, and Moscow.



ROGER MEEKS

Kenai and all who knew him miss Roger Meeks, mainstay of the historical society, library, and Senior Citizens' Center, and holder of almost every local political office over the years. He and his family homesteaded in Ninilchik in 1952, then later moved to Kenai. The city named a new footbridge in his honor; Meeks Crossing, dedicating it with full ceremony. He died August 17, 2004.

TED C. HINCKLEY

Dr. Hinckley was born in Pasadena, California in 1925, and served in the Navy Air Corps during World War II. Discharged in 1946, he entered Claremont-McKenna College and graduated in 1950. He took his Ph.D. in 1961 and taught history at San Jose State College from 1959 to 1990. He was named Outstanding Professor at the school in 1981. After his retirement, he and his family moved to Bellingham, Washington, where he became an adjunct professor of history at Western Washington University.

He wrote three books on Alaska history and edited six others, as well as contributing numerous articles to various journals. His books *The Canoe Rocks: Alaska's Tlingit and the Euramerican Frontier, 1800-1912*, *The Americanization of Alaska, 1867-1897*, and *Alaskan John G. Brady*, were acclaimed. He wrote a charming memoir, *War, Wings, and a Western Youth, 1925-1945*. He was 79 at the time of his death.

Dr. Hinckley was given the *Contributions to Alaska History Award* by the Alaska Historical Society in 2004.

He is survived by his wife, Caryl, two daughters, and three granddaughters.

News & Information

AASLH MEETING

A reminder that the **Alaska Humanities Forum** has grant money available to individuals or non-profit groups with terrific ideas and zip funds. Education, history, arts in general; the spectrum is broad. Twice yearly grants are awarded. Contact them at www.akhf.org or just check to see what they're up to at 421 West First Avenue, Suite 300, Anchorage, 99501. Phone is 907/272-5341. And don't forget — if you have zip ideas and terrific funds, they always welcome donations.

→→→ ←←←

ARTIFACTS ON LINE

Remember when the 3x5" index card was king? Then you'll be in awe of the database at www.museums.state.ak.us. Both the **Alaska State Museum** in Juneau and the **Sheldon Jackson Museum** in Sitka are putting their artifacts on-line. So far 32,000 objects, 5,000 digitalized, are available, with more coming all the time. Go to the site, follow the links, and play.

→→→ ←←←

PIONEER NEWS

The faithful folks at the **Alaska Yukon Pioneers** continue to turn out their monthly newsletters with information about past and present dwellers of the North. Write them at 2725-71 East Fir, Mount Vernon, Washington, 98273, call 360/428-1912, or e-mail at aypvera@isomedia.com with your news or questions.

→→→ ←←←

NCPH ANNUAL MEETING

NCPH (National Council on Public History — and doesn't that trip lightly off the tongue?) announces its 2005 annual meeting will be in Kansas City, Missouri, April 14-17. Contact them at www.ncph.org, e-mail ncph@iupui.edu, phone 317/274-2716, or take your trusty ballpoint and write them at 327 Cavanaugh Hall — IUPUI, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202.

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.




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

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

Board of Directors

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

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

Karl Gurcke, *Treasurer, Skagway*
karl_gurcke@nps.gov

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

Rosemary Carlton, *Sitka*
rjcarlton@gci.net

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

Susan Grigg, *Fairbanks*
ffslg@uaf.edu

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

Katherine Johnson, *Anchorage*
katmaikate@aol.com

Jim King, *Juneau*
kingfarm@ptialaska.net

Marilyn Knapp, *Anchorage*
knappmr@muni.org

Dee Longenbaugh, *Juneau*
deelong@alaska.com

Dorothy Moore, *Valdez*
dmroore@cvinternet.net

Frank Norris, *Anchorage*
frank_norris@nps.gov

Barbara Smith, *Anchorage*
barbarassmith@gci.net

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

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: akhist@gci.net

|||||
OFFICE OF HIST AND ARCH
550 W 7TH AVE STE 1310
ANCHORAGE AK 99501-3565

Messenger Feast runner
holding Messenger sticks.
Runner would travel from
host village to another
village to invite them to
the dance feast.
Photo courtesy Alaska State Library,
Historical Collections, PCA-320.



Editor's comments

Kelek or *Kivigiq*, Yup'ik or Inupiat, the Messenger or Inviting-in Feast is a traditional wonderful December celebration once nearly lost but happily now returned. Everyone is invited and the food stores gathered during the summer and fall are brought out. Eating, dancing, gossip sessions; a marvelous gathering of families and friends is held.

Such celebrations are held many places, but we Northerners derive a special joy from congregating in warm, lighted places to share food and drink and generally socialize while the snow falls and the winds blow and the temperature drops outside.

Whatever mid-winter festivals you celebrate, whether small or large, sedate, or on the rowdy side, the editor sends sincere wishes for a light-filled, warm, maker-of-happy-memories Inviting-in Feast to all of you. May all your messengers be harbingers of a deeply satisfying new year.

Dee Longenbaugh

Visit our website:
www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org