



Alaska History News

Volume 34, No. 3 Quarterly of the Alaska Historical Society Autumn 2006

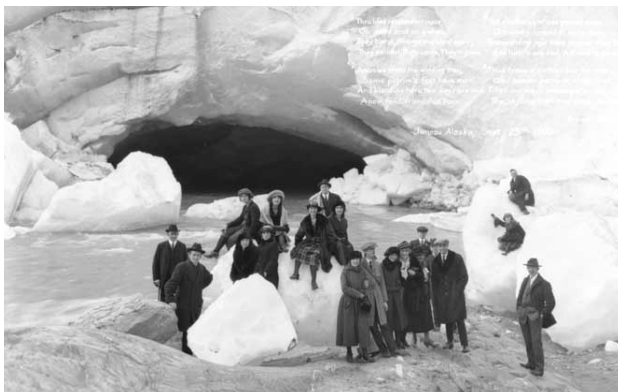
ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2006 CONFERENCE • JUNEAU

Passages: What Were They Seeking?

Autumn is migration time in Alaska.

Birds head south, the caribou herds flow like rivers to their winter grounds, and the members of the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska migrate to the annual joint conference. This year it's in Juneau October 4-7, 2006.

Registration and pre-conference workshops are available October 4, but you must be signed in for the workshops. Most of the meetings will be at Centennial Hall, but other buildings will be in use. The AHS theme this year is *Passages: What Were They Seeking?*



(left) Chautauqua Party at Mendenhall Glacier, Juneau, Alaska, September 23, 1921.

Alaska State Library Historical Collections, PCA 87-2597.

Juneau Conference Schedule

Wednesday,
October 4
thru
Saturday,
October 7

See pages 6-7.

Notes from around the state

Tributes to a founder and "secretary-forever" as she called herself, Violet Elizabeth "Vi" Redington fill most of the summer news from the **Wasilla-Knik Historical Society**. Wife of the legendary dog musher, Joe Redington, she was a strong and warm woman on her own.

They also report improvements to the museum and additions to the gift shop. If you want to see more, Google "Dorothy Page Museum" + Alaska, and enjoy the photographs and text. You can also write them at 300 North Boundary Street, Ste. B, Wasilla, Alaska. 99654. If you're really impatient, give them a call at 907/376-2005.



We're accustomed to viewing photographs of fleets anchored in our harbors, their tall masts...wait! This is a fleet of PBV airplanes sitting in Sitka Harbor in July, 1937, with a seaplane tender watching her brood. The **Sitka Historical Society** newsletter discusses the old USS *Langley*, a humble collier that morphed into the first U.S. aircraft carrier and then became a seaplane tender that visited Sitka that year. Seems the early PBVs were not amphibious; they had to be wheeled ashore in a special cart.



For a town as small and isolated as Eagle, their newsletter always packs a great deal of news. The numerous activities of the **Eagle Historical Society & Museums** are also amazing. They managed a spring potluck that honored a long time member and auctioned off baked goods and a locally made huge Alaska Silhouette quilt. They also updated their Web site, and are working on the upkeep of the six buildings that comprise their museum. And all this in a town of about 200 people.

The latest issue also contains the letters sent by an old Sourdough. Typically, they not only describe his gardening and trips around the area, but fulminate against the U.S. government in all its guises.

They also forward a request from ALSAP (Alaska Lost Ski Areas Project) for photographs and information. If you have anything to add, e-mail Tim Kelley at tkelley@alaska.com, or send the society a note at Post Office Box 23, Eagle, Alaska, 99738 if you have something on skiing at Fort Egbert. Or just check out the boffo site at www.eagleak.org.



Message from the President

The Roller Coaster Ride of History

When the kids were little we went to the Alaska State Fair in Palmer every year, saying goodbye to summer with an all-day ritual of basking in the sun or slogging through the mud, standing in awe before the giant cab-bages, eating forbidden sweet, greasy foods, wandering past the goats and pigs, and most memorably, going on the rides. Each ride was different from, and the same as, all the others: you waited your turn, you climbed in, you went up and down or around and around, and you got off. Some sucked the change out of your pockets, they whipped around so fast; others were so tame they almost rocked you to sleep.

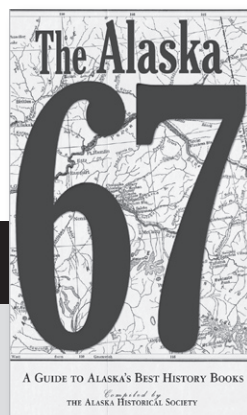
If you don't think about it too critically—a belly full of sweet, greasy food helps—our lives are like rides at the fair. We wait our turns and pretty soon, away we go: up, down, around and around, sometimes spinning dizzily, other times drifting along with imperceptible motion. There are steep drop-offs when we least expect them: a co-worker in his forties had a heart attack last week. Luckily, his ride isn't over.

We're all passengers on the roller coaster ride of history. It's a different ride for each of us but when it's over we all climb out and move to the exits, making room for the next batch of riders. There are those who try to make sense of the ride, passing on the details of what they have seen and learned, attempting to find meaning and to draw conclusions for those who come after. They are the historians.

It was a realization that some of our fellow riders at the fair were heading to the exits too quickly without sharing enough of what they had experienced that spurred Frank Norris and me to propose *The Alaska 67* project last year. Our goal was to compile an annotated description of Alaska's best history books, selected from thousands of possibilities by a group of knowledgeable editorial advisors—seasoned roller coaster riders, every one!—who listened to input from hundreds of individuals. And now it's done. Published by Jackie Pels' Hardscratch Press for the Alaska Historical Society, *The Alaska 67* describes these best books and explains what makes each one noteworthy, a handsome book of books with introductory essays by Frank Norris and Terrence Cole. It will have its debut and be for sale at our annual meeting in Juneau.

So step right up, get your very own guidebook to the roller coaster ride of Alaska history! Grab a corn dog, take your seat, and hang on!

Bruce Merrell, President



Board of Directors

Bruce Merrell, *President, Anchorage*
merrellbd@muni.org

Frank Norris, *Vice President, Anchorage*
frank_norris@nps.gov

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

Marilyn Knapp, *Secretary, Anchorage*
knappmr@muni.org

Doug Capra, *Seward*
capradr@yahoo.com

Rosemary Carlton, *Sitka*
rjcarlton@gci.net

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

Susan Grigg, *Fairbanks*
ffslg@uaf.edu

Steve Haycox, *Anchorage*
afswl1@uaa.alaska.edu

Jim King, *Juneau*
kingfarm@ptialaska.net

Dee Longenbaugh, *Juneau*
deelong@alaska.com

Alexandra J. McClanahan, *Anchorage*
ajmclanahan@ciri.com

Dorothy Moore, *Valdez*
dmmore@cvinet.net

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

Katie Parker, *Kodiak*
baranov@ak.net

Katherine Johnson Ringsmuth, *Anchorage*
katmaikate@aol.com

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

Judy Bittner, *Office of History and Archaeology*

Kay Shelton, *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



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, P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0299; remember to include your address and students, the school you're attending.

Notes from around the state



Old Town Valdez.

From the Web site www.valdezmuseum.org.

Valdez reports a new video documentary is being made to answer the ubiquitous tourist questions about the Gold Rush, the 1964 Good Friday earthquake, and the 1989 Exxon oil spill. To this editor's surprise, the video will explain that Old Town was not totally destroyed, but the majority of the town was

spared and residents continued living there for two years. No word on when it will be ready, but you can get the latest news by writing the **Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association**, Post Office Box 8, Valdez, Alaska, 99686, or tap on www.valdezmuseum.org, or call 907/835-2764.



One of the charms of working with local artifacts is playing detective. The **Kodiak Historical Society** newsletter reports the thrill of discovering the bust donated to the museum was indeed that of Tsar Alexander I that surveyed the harbor below from the dormer of the magazine that became the Erskine House and later the museum.

They also report on the origin of the name of Kashevaroff Mountain, named for one of the most prominent families on the island, indeed, in Alaska.



The **Totem Heritage Center** has its Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 class schedule complete. These are marvelous classes held by master weavers and carvers in traditional Native arts. The spruce root weaving class will be taught by **Delores Churchill**, famed Haida weaver. She was recently honored with a 2006 National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts, the nation's highest award for folk and traditional arts.



Early prospector and miner Robert L. "Bob" Hatcher was the subject of the annual meeting of the **Hope & Sunrise Historical Society**. He's known around the rest of the state primarily as the source of Hatcher Pass.



The **Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc.** reports progress in their work on restoring the original trail. The Bureau of Land Management, Alaska, has approved their \$25,000 challenge cost share grant. They also reprint an editorial from the *Seward Gateway* of February 7, 1925 in response to the national furor over the Serum Run to Nome.

The visionary editor rightly scoffed at the dispatch that said this would probably be the last Alaskan long race, "a fitting finish to a long list of records made by heroic dogs of the northlands" because the railroad would supplant dogs.

"While the sentiment is pretty, the statement is untrue, as the dog team will be Alaska's chief mode of travel in the backlands, as long as the Territory is settled." Well, how was the editor to know about the airplane? (Actually, with the restrictions on air travel these days, a good dog team on a good trail sounds enticing. No lines, no luggage search, no being treated as a terrorist because you want to board a plane—where do I sign up?)



Having a bit of an argument about establishing a Web site, or using e-mail, or perhaps going broadband instead of dial-up? Those in favor can cite the discovery of the **Resurrection Bay Historical Society**. www.imls.gov/publications/TechDig05/index.htm. Shows 78% of small museums now have Web sites, up from 40% in 2001. During those years e-mail use has risen to 84.5%, and broadband connections are rising steadily.



The **Palmer Historical Society** has likely had a busy summer, but is looking for a new editor to give us details. We all look forward to the resumption of the newsletter.



The small but growing **McCarthy Kennicott Historical Museum** reported a late spring, with 11 to 12 inches of snow on the ground in mid-May and the road not yet thawed. Surely all is well now. They also report a good reaction to their artifact display in early May at the Alaska Railroad Depot in Anchorage.



Bare Bones News is the name of the **Cooper Landing Historical Society** newsletter, so it is quite fitting that they're cleaning up the remains of a bear-killed moose calf to add to their trademark bear skeleton display known as *Dead Bear Walking*. They got the museum in shape and opened for the season in mid-May.



It's small, but the **Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society** must be doing something right. It was able to award a \$500 college scholarship to a local student. They also are publicizing a high school effort to produce a documentary film about the area, using a number of longtime residents.

There's also a reminder to write your memoirs. If nothing else, it will make things much simpler for the writers of your obituary.





Wrangell waterfront,
May 2, 1898.

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center
Library and Archives, Goetze Collection,
AMRC-b01-41-9.



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

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

Notes from around the state

Want to read about the early history of Wrangell, ranging from the first canneries to the location of old Tlingit and Haida villages, to the attempt to can tasty halibut, to the history of the Choquette family graveyard? Lots more stories, including the problem the first bank in Wrangell had with its safe. It was located in a small

room over the water along the dock, leading to worries that thieves could cut a hole in the floor and lower the safe into their boat. To get all this and more, subscribe to **Wrangell History, Past and Present** by Pat Roppel and **The Friends of the Wrangell Museum**. \$20.00 per annum for 12 issues. All proceeds go to the museum. Write them at Post Office Box 2019, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929, or click on www.wrangell.com.

The **Anvik Historical Society**, like a couple of other societies, has a mystery waiting to be solved. Descendents of the Sami (Lapp) people brought to Alaska to herd reindeer put together a traveling exhibit that was shown at the new **Tochak Museum** in McGrath. This led to interest in the reindeer herds of the area that were of importance until at least after 1931. Any information appreciated. You can write them at Post Office Box 110, Anvik, Alaska, 99558 or phone Donna MacAlpine at 907-524-3212, in McGrath for the winter.

Jesse Demientieff was raised Outside but returned to Anvik to see her grandmother's old home. Although she was just a young woman, she had carved a wonderful traditional Noisy Man mask. She married Orville Huntington of Huslia and had two children. Last winter she disappeared while caribou hunting. Her body was found in March. She was 38 years old. The mask, purchased by society members, hangs in a place of honor in the Anvik Museum.

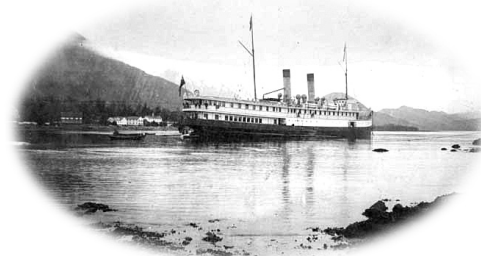
Usually the children's portion of museums is a good place to send the noisy kiddies while the parents enjoy the displays of the grown-up part. **Zoom! Planes, Trains & Automobiles** at the **Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center** is designed for the entire family. That is not to say other exhibitions are neglected. *Hunters of the Sky* is on loan from Minnesota, and photographs by Robert Glenn Ketchum, *Southwest Alaska: A World of National Parks and Wildlife Refuges* at the

Crossroads are on view. With the controversy over the proposed Pebble Mine, "Crossroads" takes on new meaning.

There are also the movies, permanent exhibitions, Native art, and many other things to see and do at the lively location.

Another piece of detective work, this one still unfinished, revolves around a photograph of the ship, C.P.R. SS. *Islander*, dated 1902 and shown at the dock in Ketchikan. It's rather murky, but everything checks out except the date. The *Islander* sank with great loss of life and an unknown amount of gold in 1901, the **Tongass Historical Museum** reports. Stay tuned.

Tuned is just what the owners of the hydroplane boats did for the races that were popular in Ketchikan in the 1950s and 1960s. Big outboards and thin plywood hulls made for some spectacular travel.



Islander having propellers repaired on beach at Sitka, July 25, 1892.

Alaska State Library Historical Collections, PCA 297-205.

News & Information

ALASKA YUKON PIONEERS

Don't forget the perennial favorite for finding and keeping in touch with friends and neighbors from Alaska and the Yukon. Write to **AYP**, 2725-71 East Fir, Mount Vernon, Washington, 98273, or phone 360/428-1912, or just tap in aypvera@isomedia.com. They publish a regular newsletter.



BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

At one time the **Alaska State Museum, Archives, and Library** were all snuggled together in one building—the Capitol. With time, that became more than snug and they wound up in their separate quarters. Now plans are well underway to bring them together again, only this time in one beautiful and very large building. This will be on land adjacent to the current museum, purchased a few years ago.



JUST RECOGNITION FOR JUNIUS

One of our members, **Junius Rochester**, has been given an Award of Merit by the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH). This is awarded for educating the public via newspaper columns, books, radio narratives, or presentations.

Always great to have a member justly recognized.



HERITAGE ALASKA REPORTS TWO PARKS ADDED TO REGISTER

What is **Heritage Alaska**? It's a publication that brings you national budget news, endangered buildings and historic sites, and grants available. It is produced by the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Please send your comments, suggestions, and information via e-mail to joa@dnr.state.ak.us, to 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, or telephone 907-269-8721.

Heritage Alaska is a one-stop shop for answers to all sorts of questions about preserving Alaska history. A recent newsletter noted the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places added the **Hydaburg Totem Park** and **Seward's Hoben Park** to the nation's list of properties worthy of preservation in June.



What are you seeking?

Come to the Annual Conference in Juneau and learn about:

Alaska Nellie

Father Hubbard

Potatoes in Alaska

Tlingit ship pilots

Adelbert von Chamisso

The Lost Village of Apolsovo

Martha Angeline

and much more.



Potato patch in Pilgrim Hot Springs, Alaska.
Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks, UAF-1973-203-30.

Visit our Web site:

www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org



ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2006 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Passages: What Were They Seeking?

Note: This is, of course, the preliminary schedule, so expect some changes when you arrive.

(above) Hunter on sled during caribou hunt in Anaktuvuk Pass, 1962.
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center Library and Archives, Ward Wells Collection, AMRC-wws-3421-44.

Wednesday, October 4

9:00-4:00 am

Pre-conference Workshop: Alaska Digital Archives Metadata. Bill Ray Center, 10th St. & Willoughby. Free, pre-registration required.

Noon-4:30 am

Registration, Main Lobby.

1:00-3:00 pm

Historic Juneau Houses Tour: Wickersham, McKanna, Garside, Cole. \$30.00 fee and pre-registration required.

3:00-4:30 pm

Board Meeting, Alaska Historical Society.

4:30-6:00 pm

Reception. Governor's Mansion. 716 Calhoun Avenue. Welcome and Opening Remarks.

7:00-9:00 pm

Harmer Johnson. Free Public Lecture. 20th Century Theater. 222 Front St.

Thursday, October 5

7:00-8:00 am

Trade Show and Silent Auction set-up, Centennial Hall Lobby and Hammond Room.

7:30-5:00 am

Registration. Centennial Hall Lobby.

7:45-8:30 am

Top of the Morning. Lobby.

8:00-5:00 am

Trade Show and Silent Auction. Lobby and Hammond Room.

8:30-9:30 am

General Session. Ballroom 1.
Conference Opening Remarks and State of the State.
Speakers: Clark Gruening, Kay Shelton, and Judy Bittner.

9:30-9:45 am

BREAK.

9:45-11:00 am

Concurrent Sessions.

Session A – Seeking an Interpretation and Preservation of Our Past

Ballroom 1. Facilitator: Gladi Kulp.
Sheldon Jackson: Plunderer or Preserver? Rosemary Carlton.
Challenge in a History Exhibition: Telling the Stories Marilyn R. Knapp.
Story of the Princeton Hall Kathy Kolkhorst Ruddy.

Session B – Publishing in Alaska

Ballroom 2. Coordinator: Erica Hill, University of Alaska Press.

11:00-Noon

General Session. Ballroom 1.
The Past is Not Dead. It's Not Even Past: Claiming and Reclaiming Cultural Heritage.
Keynote Speaker. Ron McCoy, Emporia University.

Noon-1:15

LUNCH.
Gastineau Channel Historical Society 50th Anniversary Lunch, a very special occasion. Ballroom 3.

1:15-2:15 pm

Ballroom 1.
Russians in Tlingit America: The Battles of Sitka 1802-1804.
Facilitator: Richard Dauenhauer.
Richard Dauenhauer, Nora Marks Dauenhauer, Lydia T. Black.

2:15-3:15 pm

Adventure Seekers. Facilitator: Rosemary Carlton.
A Family Adventure. Dorothy M. Moore.
The Photographs of Mary Allen. Kathy Pool.
James Wickersham: Judge on the Last Frontier. Steve Mitchell.

3:15-3:30 pm

BREAK.

3:30-4:45 pm

Annual Meeting and debut of *The Alaska 67*. Ballroom 2.
Bruce Merrell, President.
Frank Norris, Vice-president.
Sarah Barton, RISE Alaska.

5:00-9:00 pm

DINNER CRUISE: Orca Point Lodge and Alaska Magic Lantern Show. Buses leave promptly at 5:00 pm from Centennial Hall North Entrance.

Friday, October 6

7:30 am-5:00 pm

Registration. Lobby.

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Trade Show. Lobby.

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Silent Auction. Hammond Room.

7:45-8:30 am

Top of the Morning. Lobby.

8:30-9:45 am

Ballroom 1.
Seeking Sea Stories. Facilitator: Marjorie Menzi.
The Long, Colorful Story of the Princess May. Mike Burwell.
Welcome Aboard the Martha Angeline... A Roaring Twenties Floating Health Fair on the Yukon. Rogan Faith.
Crescent Porter Hale, Revisited. Bob King.
Searching for Alaska's Sunken History: The U.S. Army Transport Bark Torrent Shipwreck, July, 1868. Steve Lloyd.
Alaska's Submerged Heritage: 2006 Investigations in Lynn Canal. Dave McMahan.

Saturday, October 7

9:45-10:00 am

BREAK. Lobby.

10:00-11:15 am

Political Passages—From the Frontier to the 49th State. Facilitator: Kathy Price.
Old Alaska, New Alaska: the Military and the Passage to Statehood. John Hail Cloe.
Promoting Progress: the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner's Campaign for Alaska Statehood. Terrence Cole.
Northward Ho! The Frontier Thesis and the Alaska Highway. Susan K. Larrabee.

11:15-12:15 pm

General Session

Passages and Frontiers: Navigating Through History in Southeast Alaska. Dave Arnold.

12:15-1:30 pm

LUNCH on your own. 10% coupons for local restaurants, or pick up your box lunch in Ballroom 2, and head out for a visit to the Last Chance Mining Museum in Last Chance Basin. Limited number of box lunches available for purchase at the desk at the time of registration.

Archivist "Invitational" Lunch. Location TBA.

Local Historical Societies. Conversation and lunch. Ballroom 2. June Hall, of the Gastineau Channel Society, issues a warm invitation: This informal lunch will be a time for members of societies and other historical groups from all over the state to come together and talk about the problems and successes of their organizations. It is also an opportunity for people to add their voices to the conversation about issues they face within their organization and in their community concerning historical preservation and education. We strongly encourage people to bring samples of their membership brochures, publications, publicity, etc. to share. Box lunches and pizza are the choices of the day. Box lunches must be ordered three days ahead of the conference via the Alaska State Museum linked meeting Web site. Pizza can be ordered when registering for the conference.

1:30-2:45 pm

Concurrent Sessions. Ballroom 1.

What are YOU Seeking? Facilitator: Susan Grigg.

Presenters: Arlene Schmuland, Bruce Parham, Larry Hibpshman and Gladi Kulp.

2:45-3:00 pm

BREAK. Lobby.

3:00-5:00 pm

Ballroom 1.

Seeking History in Art, Media, and Public Perceptions. Facilitator: Kay Shelton.
In the Land of Alaska Nellie: the Creation of a Legend. Doug Capra.

"With Ice-picks in Their Hands and Their Hearts in Their Mouths": Crossing the Juneau Icefield with Father Hubbard. Kathy Price.

Picturing the Great Depression: the 1937 Alaska Art Project. Kristen Griffin.

What's Important About Alaska? Frank Norris.

Dena'ina Heritage and Representation in Anchorage. Aaron Leggett.

Two Met in Juneau and Met Their Fate: Hedvig Samuelson and Ann LeRoi.

Sunny Worel.

5:00-6:15 pm

First Friday Openings.

Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, Alaska State Museum. These venues and many downtown galleries, invite you to a monthly local event.

6:30-8:30 pm

Banquet, Awards and Recognition. Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska. Ballrooms 2 & 3.

8:00 pm

Silent Auction closes.

8:00 pm

Live music. Ballrooms 2 & 3.

7:15-8:15 am

Joint Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska boards meeting. Ballroom 2.

8:00-1:00 am

Registration. Lobby.

8:00-Noon

Trade Show. Lobby and Hammond Room.

7:45-8:30 am

Top of the Morning. Lobby.

8:00-9:45 am

Ballroom 1.

Cultural Exchanges, Cultural Collisions. Facilitator: Dorothy Moore.
Tlingit Ship Pilots and Interpreters in Southeast Alaska. Daniel Monteith.

When Two Worlds Collide: Spanish Travelers in Alaska: Discoveries and Representations of Cultural Identities. Tom Regele.

Missionary Passages: the Jesse Lee Home and the Aleut Orthodox Community at Unalaska, 1889-1917. Raymond Hudson.

Agricultural Beginnings: Tracing the Origins of Alaska's First Potatoes. Elizabeth Kunibe.

A Glimpse of Early Twentieth Century Subsistence in Bristol Bay, Alaska. John Branson.

9:45-10:00 am

BREAK. Lobby.

10:00-11:30 am

Ballroom 1.

Seeking New Passages and Places. Facilitator: Dee Longenbaugh.

"When People Laugh Together": Adelbert von Chamisso's Alaskan Adventure. Barbara Sweetland Smith.

Seeking the Northwest Passage: the Stories and Searchers of the Supposed Existence of the Northwest Passage Along the Alaska Coast. Wallace Olson.

Yakobi Island, the Lost Village of Apolovo, and the Fate of the Chirikov Expedition.

Allan Engstrom.

To the Mouth of the Chilkabk. Norman L. Smith, Sr.

11:30-1:00 pm

LUNCH on your own. 10% coupons for local cafes, or pick up your box lunch (limited number) in Ballroom 2.

11:30-1:00 pm

Alaska Historical Society Board Meeting. Egan Room.

POST CONFERENCE TOURS

1:00-3:00 pm

Capitol and Downtown Walking Tour. Meet at Juneau-Douglas City Museum, 4th and Main Street. (free.)

1:00-3:00 pm

Behind the Scenes Tour: Alaska State Museum, Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Alaska Historical Library, Alaska State Archives, John Rishel Mineral Information Center. (free.)

1:00-4:00 pm

Jerry Harmon AJ Mill & Underground Mine Tour. (\$35.00 fee and pre-registration required).

1:00-4:30 pm

Mendenhall Glacier, DIPAC Hatchery & Alaskan Brewing Company (\$35.00 fee and pre-registration required).

1:00-4:30 pm

Helicopter Sentinel Island and Lighthouse Tour (\$150.00 fee and pre-registration required. Weather dependent).



(above) Father Kashevaroff in front of the Alaska Historical Museum in Juneau.

Alaska State Library Historical Collections, PCA P44-03-003.



Indian dugout canoe in front of Auk Village.
Alaska State Library Historical Collections, PCA 87-1348.

Alaska Historical Society 2006 Conference Juneau • October 4-7

Editor's Comments

Short version of a joke making the rounds. A congressman dies and goes to Heaven. Saint Peter asks him if he wants Heaven or Hell, and demands he spend 24 hours in each place.

Hell is great; all his friends partying, green grass, blue skies. Heaven is okay, singing and floating on clouds, but a bit dull. He opts for Hell. Back down and misery reigns; friends hard at work under never-failing rain. He asks St. Peter what happened. "Yesterday was the campaign — today you voted."

A cynical story, but political discussions are in the air. Everyone loves to laugh at politicians or yell at politicians, or disagree with politicians in general, but is rather fond of local politicians with whom one agrees. This is where being an historian can be quite useful. Just what was promised for your society the last few times around, and what was delivered? And what did you do in return? Are you personally helping in the campaign of Senator Supportive? Perhaps call a few friends, or stuff some envelopes, or whatever occurs to you.

Remember — no one person can pass a law or appropriation. Have you and your society come up with some good questions or ideas to give your candidates? Did you promise and cross-your-heart to pay

Polling place for primary election in Point Hope during the 1950s.

Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library,
University of Alaska Fairbanks, UAF-2001-129-110.

attention to bills introduced
in the coming session?

Many, many people are disgusted with the vilification of opponents and personal attacks that have characterized political campaigns of the past few years. (As an historian, you may remember that's not all new—there was the time the Alaska Troopers were sent to take a legislator off an airplane because his vote was needed and he'd sworn he'd just go home rather than vote.) If we want clean, thoughtful campaigns, we can vote for the ones who run them, and make clear to the others why they didn't get our vote.

Traditionally, Alaskans love our politics. The state is still small enough and gossipy enough that good stories get around. Enjoy them, but don't forget to check facts.

Above all, after all that work, make sure you vote.

See you in Juneau in October!



Dee Longenbaugh