

ndividuals interested in Alaska history are invited to submit proposals for papers, panels, and poster sessions for the Alaska Historical Society annual meeting and conference. The society's 2010 annual meeting, held in association with Museums Alaska and the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society, will be September 15-18 at Fairbanks. The theme is *Energizing Alaska*.

As a frontier state that is rich in natural resources and experiences some of the most extreme environmental and climatic conditions in the world, Alaska has always had a unique relationship with energy. Some connections are obvious: Prudhoe Bay, the pipeline, the proposed Rampart Dam, the Amchitka underground nuclear blasts, and the development of infrastructure to bring heat and power to communities off the road network. Several key elements in the long history of Alaska's indigenous peoples—subterranean housing, subsistence hunting and fishing, and the keeping of dog teams for examples—have depended on achieving that fragile balance between energy consumption and conservation. We also refer to industries that "fuel" the Alaska economy, as well as people who have been the "sparkplugs" behind significant events. There are volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, and other natural releases of energy, of course, that have shaped the Alaskan landscape. The meeting is an opportunity for historians, interested individuals, and researchers in other fields to examine the role of energy in its numerous and diverse forms, in Alaska's past, present and future.

Proposals for papers, panels, and posters should be sent no later than May 15, 2010 to Ross Coen, Conference Planning Committee, ross.coen@alaska. edu; address: P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510. Proposals should include name of presenter(s), contact information, title, and an abstract of no more than 200 words. Presenters will have access to audio-visual equipment and will be given 20 minutes for their papers. Posters will be displayed throughout the meeting. Presenters are to register for the conference.

Alaska Historical Society 2010 Conference Student and Emerging Professional Travel Awards

The Alaska Historical Society offers two travel awards for a post-secondary student and an emerging professional to attend its annual meeting. This year the meeting will be in Fairbanks, September 15-18, 2010. Each award will consist of reimbursement for documented travel expenses up to \$750 and a conference registration package. Eligibility: An applicant must be a 2010 member of the Alaska Historical Society at the time of applying. Student applicants must be graduate students or upper-division undergraduates in spring or fall 2010 with a course of study related to Alaska history. Emerging professional applicants must be employed in Alaska historical or cultural work and have been so employed for less than five years. Applicants are to make a presentation at the meeting. Information about the meeting and the call for papers are at http://www.alaskahistoricalsociety.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, 2) title and abstract of presentation, and 3) a résumé. 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. The application **deadline is June 1, 2010**. Electronic submission is preferred.

Send application to akhist@gci.net or mail two copies to: Doug Capra, Chair, AHS Awards Committee P.O. Box 100299 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0299

Message from the President

Katie Ringsmuth

Pacific Connections:

Linking Alaska and Hawaii Histories



Verso: "Aloha, Hawaii-Congratulations are extended to the newly-elected Senator Oren Long and Rep. Daniel Inouye by (from l. to r.): Sen. Ernest Gruening (Alaska); Senator Long, himself; former Deleg. John Burns (Hawaii); Rep. Inouye, himself; Sen. Lyndon Johnson (Tex.); Sen. Mike Mansfield (Mont.); Rep. Carl Albert (Okla.); and the venerable Sen. Theodore Francis Green (R.I.)." August 1959.

ike so many Alaskans this winter, my family and I escaped the cold and ice of Anchorage and flew to Hawaii for a week. We left on a dreary, seven-degree February morning, and after a quick six hour flight, arrived at Maui, where it was eighty degrees warmer, with blue skies, warm breezy trade winds, and color everywhere. We saw ancient volcanoes, sandy beaches, and so many whales they looked like salmon leaping from Bristol Bay! From December to March, humpback whales give birth and nurture their young in the waters surrounding the island of Maui. Soon the humpbacks will swim northward to spend their summers in the nutrient-rich waters of coastal Alaska. Humpbacks, however, are not the only things that link Alaska to Hawaii. Similar geologic forces that are driving the Pacific plate beneath the North American plate shaped the spectacular volcanic landscapes of Alaska and Hawaii. They both were inhabited by people who expertly navigated and subsisted from the sea.

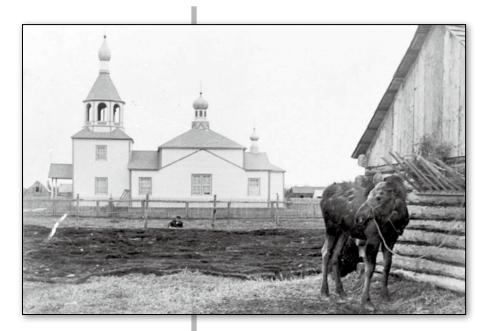
Exploration during the eighteenth century linked Alaska and Hawaii, too. While on his way to Alaska in search of the Northwest Passage, Captain James Cook stumbled upon Hawaii, and on return from Alaska, the great world explorer was killed on the Big Island over a stolen rowboat. In the nineteenth century, whether it was Stanford Dole growing pineapple or Del Monte canning salmon, Alaska and Hawaii shared a similar story of big business and absentee capitalism. People from around the world were hired to work in the emerging industries, which changed the racial makeup of both places dramatically. Economic success led to political inclusion. Hawaii became a U.S. Territory in 1900 and Alaska twelve years later.

In Completing the Union: Alaska, Hawai'i and the Battle for Statehood, historian John Whitehead points out that during the mid-twentieth century, Alaska

and Hawaii shared a common national experience. Both territories were greatly affected as American outposts facing Asia during the Second World War; and later as parts of a strategic defense system against Russia during the Cold War years. The vital roles that Alaska and Hawaii played during those pivotal moments in history eventually earned the $49^{\rm th}$ and $50^{\rm th}$ states admission into the Union. This provided opportunities for a new generation of leaders to emerge onto the national scene, including Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii and Ted Stevens, a Republican from Alaska. Both became powerful U.S. Senators and good friends.

Today, the stories of Alaska and Hawaii remain entwined. Tourists from around the world are awed by their wild and exotic splendor and in turn help drive both states' economies. Both continue to maintain culturally strong and politically engaged indigenous peoples, while immigrants from all corners of the Pacific call Alaska and Hawaii home. But for me, I suppose I like our cetaceans' link to Hawaii best. As spring approaches and summer nears, it's nice to know that the humpbacks will be coming home to Alaska soon. They'll bring their babies here to eat and grow strong and like us, will dream of the warm clear waters and beauty of Hawaii.

Notes from around the state



The Russian Orthodox Church in Kenai, Alaska. A domesticated moose stands in foreground right. UAF-1973-203-21

Winter in Alaska has a lot of charm until around early March when it gets tiresome. There's just so much skiing, skating, and enjoying the cozy indoors by the fire a person can take. The **Kenai Historical Society** has come up with some nifty ideas to prevent you burning your skis in the fire for something different. First, a local speaker whose parents came up as newlyweds and not only stayed but took lots of photographs, followed by noting approvingly the Kasilof Regional Historical Association has moved a 127-year-old winter watchman's cabin to the museum grounds and is looking for help with repairs. And that's not all; they're going to have an exhibit of the local Orthodox church's icons and artifacts while the church's foundations are replaced this summer. (That's the actual building's foundations, not the religion, in case you were becoming worried.) Snapshots at Statehood is for sale at the museum as well. They also celebrate the opening of the Walmart Supercenter in town today. A busy, busy bunch. If you need to contact them, thegriz@acsalaska.net works, or you can write Post Office Box 1348, Kenai, Alaska, 99611.

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The Winter Lecture Series at **Sheldon Jackson Museum:** An Alaska State Museum will close with a flourish in April when the authors of a book on a captain of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, Michael Healy, present a talk on "Hell Roarin" Mike, (1839-1904), the most famous ice-skipper of his day. The sub-title of their book, *From American Slave to Arctic Hero* gives an idea of Healy's life and the interest in it today. Want to learn more but can't make it to Sitka right now? Google Sheldon Jackson Museum and enjoy.

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The ever-lively **Resurrection Bay Historical Society** tells us a most jolly Christmas was held in Seward in 1911, according to the *Gateway* of that date, concluding with the rather off-putting news that the staff was enjoying homemade candy and excellent cigars. Some things have improved with time. The same paper noted in 1915 that an effort to move the territorial capital from Juneau to Seward, the natural choice, failed. *Snapshots at Statehood* is a new book with many illustrations, 288 pages, and a good index. Published by the **Kenai Peninsula Historical Association**, it is for sale at the Seward Museum for \$15.00 or can be ordered from them by sending a check for \$20.00 (to cover the postage) to Post Office Box 55, Seward, Alaska, 99664.

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2010 is a very big year for the **Palmer Historical Society**. Along with their usual busy summer plans, they will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Matanuska Colony. They always have good ideas, so expect an outstanding Colony Days this year. You can become a member for a measly \$10.00 per year and get some of the yummy recipes they often include in their newsletters. Just send a check to Post Office Box 1935, Palmer, Alaska, 99645-1935 or see some photographs and history at www. palmerhistoricalsociety.org.

All Alaskans know the problem of making needed repairs to buildings during inclement weather, but the newsletter of the **Cape Decision Lighthouse Society** details some impressive problems last fall. The equinoctial storms were blowing, so the usual anchorage was full of logs and waves. The wind snapped the flagpole in two and blew a window out of their new door. The essential chimney repair work was especially exciting, particularly when the sea spray lashed the roof. But all got done and now the lighthouse is ready for the coming season's work. Want to help out this summer, or just know more? The new Web site is www. capedecisionlightorg, e-mail capedecisionlighthouse@yahoo.com or use Mr. Bell's nifty invention at 907/747-7803. No more paper newsletters unless asked for.

Star Wars was a seminal movie in many ways and certainly has inspired the **Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center** during the eponymous exhibit there. The display subtitle is Where Science Meets Imagination and the museum takes full advantage, from photography to comic strips to sculpture and more. You can see it all until April 25, so if you're going to be in Anchorage, keep it in mind. Of course, you can take a virtual tour at www. anchoragemuseum.org.



Commander U.S. Revenue Cutter Bear.

Captain M.A. Healy, U.S.R.M.,

Notes from around the state

The Special Collections department of Juneau's Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) has recently made the Sealaska lectures given for Native American Indian History Month in November 2009 available online. On Sealaska's webpage or Special Collections' blog interested patrons can find links that allow them to view the video footage of the lecturers speaking on Tlingit and Haida history. Some of the lecturers include emeritus UAS professor Wallace Olson speaking on early Spanish-Tlingit interactions, current UAA professor Jeane Breinig speaking on Native reactions to Statehood, and Sealaska Corporation Board of Director Byron Mallott speaking on ANCSA. SHI Special Collections seeks to encourage the study of Southeast Alaska's Native people and serve as a public and professional archival repository and library. SHI Special Collections has plans to begin contributing its historic photograph collections to Alaska's Digital Archives during fall 2010.

In December 2009 SHI also released a series of books that reveal how to carve Tlingit objects in its ongoing effort to perpetuate Native art forms. The *Tlingit Wood Carving* series includes three volumes: *How to Carve a Tlingit Tray*; *How to Carve a Tlingit Hat*; and *How to Carve a Tlingit Mask*. The primary author of the volumes is Tlingit artist Richard A. Beasley, though others such as former SHI ethnologist Kathy Miller also contributed to the volume.



Tlingit baseball players at Sitka, April 1905. P0021, Item 21, Bessie Visaya Photograph Collection, Special Collections Research Center, Sealaska Heritage Institute. The **Tongass Historical Museum** reports the Ketchikan artists exhibit proved immensely popular. It was followed by *Ketchikan, 1912-1922: The Photographs of David Nicoll* featuring vintage images of the city and vicinity. Always great fun to see your town as it was. The **Totem Heritage Center** had cedar bark weaving among its many programs this past winter. February was also enlivened by Dr. Sven Haakanson, Director of the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, teaching a class in carving Alutiiq masks. The icing on the cake was his presentation on his efforts to identify and document Alutiiq masks held in museums and libraries around the world. The newsletter also has information on nearby Fort Tongass. Want to see their Web site? Google them via Ketchikan City and they'll pop right up.

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A couple of events now past reportedly were great fun and informative. The **Sitka Maritime Heritage Society** held its annual meeting in February with a panel on the history and state of longlining; true stories from the audience encouraged.

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The $McCarthy-Kennecott\ Historical\ Museum\ is$

a small but active group. Last year they had a good walking tour of the town and museum and expect even greater things this summer. Their newsletter also has the account of the fascinating first ascent of Mount Blackburn in 1912 by a middle-aged woman. Dora Keen, a society woman, became a travel writer who also liked to climb mountains. It took her two tries, the last one 33 days on the mountain because of storms and avalanches, but she made it and then married her guide and moved to McCarthy. That's one of the joys of our state societies; they share local history we had never known. If you're hoping to know more about the area, send \$15.00 (or \$20.00 for a family membership) to them at Post Office Box MXY, Glennallen, Alaska, 99588-8998. To check out McCarthy, Google them and pick through the sites that come up.

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As with all good museums, the **Alaska State Museum** does far more than simply provide new exhibits from time to time. Not to say they don't have new displays; *Gift to Gallery - New Acquisitions: 2004-2009* opens May 7 and features over 100 of the approximately 500 new objects. These range from artifacts of World War II in the Aleutians to paintings to Tlingit spruce root baskets to items recently recovered from old Alaska shipwrecks. There are various rotating exhibits, lectures, family activities and docent training on tap. And, of course, they lent a few artifacts to Down South museums.

Notes from around the state

The Alaska State Museum has provided conservation interns to small Alaska museums the past two years. The **Baranov Museum** and the **Alutiiq Museum** and **Archaeological Repository** in Kodiak have been among the lucky museums. Others will be helped in the future.

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The **Pratt Museum** of the **Homer Society of Natural History** can be found at www. prattmuseum.org. There's a complete listing of exhibits, collections, and all you need to know. Closing in mid-March is their traveling exhibit, *The Big One: Earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest.*

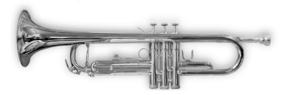
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The world has pretty much forgotten the 11,000,000-gallon Valdez Oil Spill of 1989; we would expect ExxonMobil sincerely hopes so, but the **Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Association** is doing its best to remind us all by upgrading the museum's oil spill exhibit this year. Their newsletter also reviews the town's sports teams. In the early days, what better way to show a rival town you're probably better than they are? And don't forget the enjoyment the attendees have, cheering the hometown and sharing their sorrow when they lose. For modern sports photographs as well as a tour around the museum, go to www.valdezmuseum.org. Valdez also had a fine turn-out for the 1920s to 1960s home movies of their pioneer aviator. Owen Meals.

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They may be closed for the winter at the **Knik Museum** and **Mushers' Hall of Fame**, the newsletter of the **Wasilla-Knik Historical Society** reports, but if you have a group anxious for a tour, call 907/376-7755 and leave a message or try Diane Williams at 907/715-8565. Otherwise, be on the doorstep when the museums open June 1 at 1:00 p.m.

The *Polk Directory* of 1915-1916 listed the occupations of the residents, the newsletter of the **Tenakee Historical Collection** reports. As expected, several combined skills, such as a barber-cum-operator of a billiards hall, or a grocer who also rented hotel rooms. Surely the big favorite was the man who listed his band and orchestra - bet that enlivened Tenakee party times. The newsletter has a nice



piece on the difficulties of making a trail from Hoonah Sound to Idaho Inlet. Between the rainy weather, a cook who turned homicidal, a worker badly hurt in an accident, and the near destruction of their wanigan, it was not a pleasant 1927 autumn. The leader, Chris Wyller, is the subject of a small biography. The map and photographs of the Grave Island site are outstanding, and the Killisnoo writing of November, 1900, interesting. If you want to see all of this for yourself, call Vicki Wisenbaugh at 907/736-2243 or write tkehx@juno.com or write them at Post Office Box 633, Tenakee Springs, Alaska 99841. To be a member is \$15.00 per year; family \$25.00.

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Feeling a bit bored? Place yourself at the computer and try www.CERHS.org. After that, go to cerhs@gmail.com and send an e-mail there or to info@cerhs.org. Following that, you can call 907/688-4706 if you're so inclined. Among other reasons, you'll like the old-timey beef stew recipe that you can spruce up with ginger for reindeer or with bay leaves for moose. The **Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society** aims to please. If you live in the area, show up at the old Chugiak School at 10:00 a.m. Fridays to volunteer for the *Finish It, Fix It, File It Fridays*. Nothing beats being part of a local history crowd!



www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org

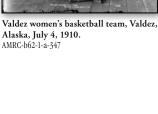


We welcome your letters, news and pictures. Please send them to the editor: Dee Longenbaugh
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Alaska History News 5



News & Information

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES, as its name suggests, is dedicated to helping fund places named as a National Historic Landmark. ROSSIA, the acronym for Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska, received a matching grant last year from one program which will total \$255,000 if half the funds can be raised. The money will be used to repair Kenai's only NHL, the Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, which needs some major work. To donate, send what you can to ROSSIA at Post Office Box 212315, Anchorage, Alaska, 99521-2315. Visit www.rossialaska. org/holy_assumption.html for more information.

WANT TO HELP the Wrangell Museum, but would like something in return? No problem. Just send \$25.00 to the Friends of the Wrangell Museum at Post Office Box 2019, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929 and you will receive historian Pat Roppel's monthly distillation of Southeast Alaska's history. Read about the first canneries, why 1874 was not a good time to sell whiskey in Wrangell, and the history of Dry Strait. And that's in only one issue! You'll be glad you joined Pat's friends.

IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY THIS YEAR, you might see internal fireworks coming from the Sitka National Historical Park. Nothing visible, but there should be from the blow-out the park is putting on to celebrate its centennial. Established in 1890 and an official national park in 1910, it is one of the oldest (and smallest) of all the United States national parks. The birthday party was set for March 20th and the official 100th birthday March 23. Sitka has been a mix of Russian, Tlingit, and Alutiiq people for a very long time, so each month there will be notice of that. There are also lectures, events, activities, the 4th International Conference on Russian America, a new totem pole, and much more. Go to www. nps.gov/sitk (no, the "a" is not part of sitk) for a full listing.

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BRIDGET BURKE, head of the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections at the Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks has been appointed by Governor Sean Parnell to the Alaska State Historic Records Advisory Board. Two others, Laura Samuelson, director of the Carrie McLain Memorial Museum in Nome, and Zachary Jones, archivist for Sealaska Heritage Foundation and instructor at the University of Alaska Southeast, have been reappointed. Good wishes to Anne Foster, who recently resigned from the board and from her position as archivist in the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, Fairbanks to become the archivist at Yellowstone National Park.

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WANT SOME IDEAS and help on the research you're doing or planning on genealogy? If you're at the Loussac Library's Wilda Marston Theater in Anchorage Saturday, April 17, 2010, you can hear the "DearMYRTLE" seminar by Pat Richley. Other

genealogy groups will also be represented there. Go to www. DearMYRTLE.com for more information. Register soon at www. Anchoragegenealogy.org as seating is limited.

TO KEEP UP with the state and national historic preservation news, look no further than www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/. To subscribe to the **Heritage** newsletter go to, oha@alaska.net and put Heritage Subscribe as the subject. Questions, additions? jo.antonson@alaska. gov will answer and help.

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WORK CONTINUES by the Iditarod Historic Trail

Alliance on preserving the original Iditarod Trail and its shelter cabins. Needed easements have been secured on 92% of the route; the efforts continue to finish the job. If you're truly interested, go to http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/iditarod for a complete report. Young and enthusiastic? Join the National Trails Youth Council. More information available from PNTSCommunications@gmail.com. The Trail Alliance is not limited to work alone; Seward celebrated the centennial last month of the Jujiro Wada and Alfred Lowell expedition to prove the feasibility of a Seward to Iditarod winter route. Among the entertainments was a skijor fun run.

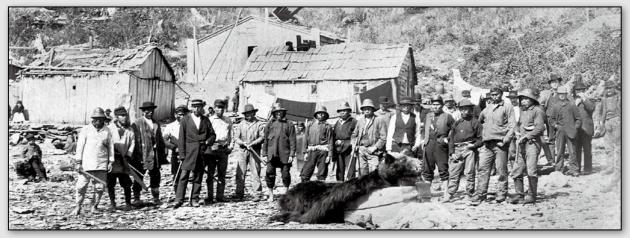
AND WE CAN'T STOP promoting the Alaska Yukon Pioneers Newsletter. For \$12.00 per annum you receive monthly news about old friends from Alaska and the Yukon. Besides news, there are also poems, reminiscences, and notice of meetings. A true bargain. Send a check to AYP, Joyce Penman, Recorder, 27833 85th Drive, NW, Stanwood, Washington, 98292. E-mail is olwomn@wavecable.com or phone 253/709-0158 or 360/629-3554.

SECOND CHANCE to Pick. Click. Give.

Some Alaskans who filed online for their permanent fund dividend did not get the opportunity to donate to a variety of Alaska nonprofit organizations through the Pick. Click. Give. program. The division has announced that it is giving all Alaskans who filed online a second chance to make donations between April 5 and May 31, 2010. The Alaska Historical Society is one of the eligible nonprofit organizations, and grateful to the people who contributed through the program last year. If you qualify, please consider making a contribution during this second chance opportunity. To do so, go to www.pfd.alaska.gov.

Pick.Click.Give.

News & Information



Cabinet card photograph of "Chief Kawee and tribe, Juneau," by Winter & Brown, circa 1870s. P0049, Item 21, Richard Wood Photograph Collection, Special Collections Research Center, Sealaska Heritage Institute.

MAGGIE SAMUELSON of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, needs your help if you're a wild-berry picker in Alaska. Help her out by taking her rather short survey at www. surveymonkey.com/s/8V8T58JF. She will be very grateful.

SAVE THESE SEPTEMBER DATES...

SEPTEMBER 15-18 are the dates for the joint conference of the *Alaska Historical Society* and *Museums Alaska* at the Wedgewood Resort in Fairbanks with the local assistance of the *Tanana-Yukon Historical Society*. Around the themes of "Energizing Alaska" (AHS) and "Reflection & Renewal in a Changing Time" (MA), will be papers and panels with pre- and post- conference workshops and tours currently in the planning stages. The dates will not conflict with the *Pioneers of Alaska* Conference and were specifically set to encourage Pioneers' participation.

WEDGEWOOD RESORT has reasonable conference rates and facilities including furnished 1 and 2 bedroom apartments with kitchens for sharing. Also on site are extensive walking trails connecting to the *Alaska Bird Observatory* and the *Creamer's Field* wildlife complex with restored Farm House and Barn. The onsite *Antique Auto Museum* showcases classic cars, vintage riding costumes, and historic Alaskan transportation photos.

PLAN TO SPEND some extra time before or after the conference to enjoy Fairbanks and UAF's summer attractions and get some quality research time in the UAF Rasmuson Library.

CHECK the AHS and MA websites for evolving information regarding early bird discount conference registration, airline and rail transportation discount codes, etc.

Alaska Historical Society

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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 book is the society's *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.alaskabistoricalsociety.org.



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Editor's Comments

t's rather exciting to be in the middle of a revolution, as well as rather frightening. Our old world is rapidly disappearing and we're a bit apprehensive in the not-so-brave new one. I am speaking, of course, of computers and the ever-expanding software that runs them. About 25 years ago, I was in Juneau and invited for lunch by some friends. At the time, I was cheerfully resisting learning anything about computers, announcing typewriters were good enough for me; I was too old. In fact, that was why I loved 18th century Classical music; that's where my technology lay.

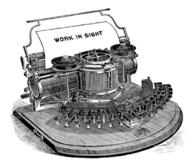
So it was a bit alarming to hear two friends arguing about the merits of their respective computers as the men were at least twenty years older than me.

Time went on, I bought a computer and some elementary software and gradually began learning. Even set up a Web site with the aid of a computer guy. After I began editing the AHS newsletter, the societies around the state began to have Web sites. These would usually be heralded with the happy news that Bobby or Jimmy had set it up. At the site, it was all too often in something black on a fuzzy maroon background that made it impossible to read, and the links didn't work.

More time passed, and now almost every society has a very slick Web location with all sorts of information and clear photographs. Now there's the to-me alarming news that various newsletters will be printed only on the internet. What?? So I'm urging the groups to please continue sending me a print copy until I can learn to handle the newest method.

Remember - I still love 18th century classical music.

D.L.



Hammond model 1B typewriter circa 1870s. Unlike most typewriters of the time, the Hammond 1B allowed the typist to see text as it was entered, thus the caption, "WORK IN SIGHT."

Classified Illustrated Catalog of the Library Bureau, 1899, The Library Bureau, Boston, USA.