

# ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *and* MUSEUMS ALASKA

## *September 25-28, 2019 in Kodiak, Alaska*

### **J. Michael “Mike” Blackwell** (1937-2019, Juneau)



Juneau born, Mike Blackwell traveled the world in the Navy, his career as a geological engineer with Dames & Moore, and natural curiosity. His fondness for Juneau was reflected by leading historical and geological walking tours of Juneau for the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. Among his many local philanthropy beneficiaries include the creation of the Marie Darlin Arts & Literature Prize.

### **John B. “Jack” Coghill** (1925-2019, Nenana)



Jack Coghill served his home community of Nenana as mayor for 23 years. Active in public service, he was twice elected to the Territorial House, was an active delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention (1956), was elected to the State Senate then served as Lt. Governor under Walter Hickel (1990-1994) as members of the Alaskan Independence Party.

### **Kathleen “Mike” Dalton** (1925-2019, Fairbanks)



Writer, newspaper reporter, and political advocate, Mike Dalton helped document Alaska's history. She wrote for the Fairbanks Daily News Miner then worked in the offices of Senator Ted Stevens, Governor Jay Hammond of Lt. Gov. Jack Coghill. A dedicated member of the Pioneers of Alaska Women's Auxiliary No. 8, she was the matriarch of the Fairbanks Republican Women's Club.

### **Bettye J. Davis** (1938-2018, Anchorage)



Originally from Louisiana, Bettye Davis relocated to Anchorage with her Air Force husband. She worked as an Alaska Psychiatric Institute nurse and State social worker, and was a member of the Anchorage School Board for 11 years including 2 years on the State Board of Education. From 1990-1996 she served in the State House, then in 2000-2012 became the first African-American to be elected to the Alaska State Senate.

### **William “Bill” E. Davis** (1929-2018, Sitka)



Colorado born, Princeton educated, and avid mountaineer Bill Davis came in 1961 to teach and administer at Alaska Methodist University. He later worked at the Office of Technology Assessment in Washington, D.C. before returning to Anchorage and his deep commitment to his church, community, and the Cook Inlet Historical Society. Retiring to Sitka, home of spouse Nancy Yaw Davis, he continued his devotion to family, history and community. Bill was a familiar host and attendee of many AHS conferences.

### **Willard Eugene Dunham** (1930-2019, Seward)



Although born in Montana, Willard Dunham lived 75 years in Seward. He worked for the Alaska Railroad, as a pharmacy assistant at Eielson Air Force Base, and for the Alaska Dept. of Labor. As a community leader he attracted to Seward the Alaska Vocational-Technical Educational Center, the Sea-Life Center, the Spring Creek Correctional Center, and the new Seward Library/Museum.

### **Lone E. Janson** (1927-2019, Anchorage)



Freelance historical writer, Lone Janson arrived in Alaska seeking adventure which included cooking on the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, housekeeping in the Governor's Mansion, and cannery work. She edited the "Alaska Native Management Report" and authored numerous books including the "Copper Spike", "Mudhole Smith, Alaska Flier." In 1982 she received the Alaska Historical Society's "Historian of the Year" award. She was a familiar and devoted AHS conference attendee.

### **Lee Brookins Jordan** (1930-2018, Eagle River)



Newspaperman Lee Jordan arrived in the Army at Whittier in 1948. He joined the Anchorage Times and created the "WE'RE IN" Alaska Statehood headline. He founded the Chugiak-Eagle River Star (Alaska Star) and as a local sports advocate published the Cook Inlet Sports Review. He was a stalwart community supporter and advocate.

### **Lorraine “Lorie” Kirker** (1944-2019, Houston)



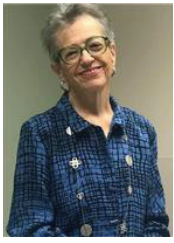
In the Aleutians, Lorie and Benjamin Kirker taught at Adak, Dutch Harbor and King Cove. Retiring to Houston, Lorie started "Alaskana Books" in the Palmer historic district with stock from "Gene" Short's Anchorage Alaskana store. A documenter of King Cove and the Matanuska Colony, Lorie worked to ensure her book store was a warm and welcoming place for collectors, young people, and community members.

### **Michael Edward Krauss** (1934-2019, Needham, Mass)



Linguist, scholar, and Alaska Native language advocate, Michael Krauss arrived in 1960 with degrees from Columbia and Harvard to teach at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His experience with the decline of the Eyak language bolstered his advocacy for documentation of Alaska Native languages and the creation of the Alaska Native Language Center and Archive.

**Sherry Valentine Lestenkof**  
**(1943-2019, Kona, Hawaii)**



Original from California, Sherry and her family moved to Anchorage in 1962. She worked for the State Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the Division of Elections. She married Jake Lestenkof in 1981 and became a dedicated volunteer for the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restitution Trust and co-founded the Anchorage Breast Cancer Focus Group.

**Howard Luke**  
**(1923-2019, Fairbanks)**



Born in Nenana, Athabascan elder Howard Luke was known throughout Interior Alaska as an avid dog musher, culture bearer, and teacher of traditional skills. Welcoming to all who wished to learn about Athabascan language and culture, he began the youth Gaalee'ya Spring Camp on the Tanana River.

**Keith H. Miller**  
**(1925-2019, Anchorage)**



Originally from Seattle, Keith Miller arrived in Juneau in 1946. He worked on a Fairbanks Exploration gold dredge, for the Internal Revenue Service and was elected to the Alaska House and later the Senate. He was Secretary of State in 1969 then Governor when Walter Hickel resigned to become U.S. Secretary of Interior. Keith then became Governor and the North Slope oil lease sale yielded \$900 million to the State treasury.

**Mary Ciuniq Pete**  
**(1957-2018, Bethel)**



Born in Stebbins, Mary carried her Yup'ik values through a distinguished career as an educator, director of the Kuskokwim Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and as the first Alaska Native woman to serve as Subsistence Division Director at the State Dept. of Fish and Game. She was appointed to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission by President Barack Obama.

**George Milton Ramos**  
**(1930-2019, Anchorage)**



Born Wooshjixoo Eesh of the Yeil (Raven) Moiety, the L'uknax.adi (Coho) Clan and Xix.ch" (Frog) House in Yakutat, George Ramos was a Tlingit culture bearer who served on the Sealaska Heritage Institute Council of Traditional Scholars. Educated at Mt. Edgecumbe High School and Griswold Business College in Cleveland, Ohio, he served in the military and worked as a police officer, magistrate, cook, commercial fisherman,

hunter and for Alaska Airlines. He led the Mt. St. Elias Dancers, passing on Athabascan, Tlingit, and Eyak songs and dances.

**Robert Dane Shaw**  
**(1944-2019, Potomac, Maryland)**



After a 34-year career in Anchorage as Alaska State Archaeologist, Chief of History and Archaeology in the Alaska State Division of Parks, and State Historic Preservation Officer, Robert Shaw retired to Maryland. An accomplished researcher and writer, he was also an artist and craftsman who particularly enjoyed teaching traditional art forms in Alaska Native youth summer heritage camps. Bob was a

familiar face at AHS conferences.

**Candy Waugaman**  
**(1946-2019, Fairbanks)**



Consummate collector of Alaska and Yukon materials, Candy Waugaman was appreciated for her generosity and extensive knowledge. Her encyclopedic memory and collections were consulted by scholars and hobbyists alike. Embracing electronic technology, her reach extended internationally. While superficially gruff, Candy was welcoming and generous. She donated many items for non-profit auctions and

fund-raisers. Her informational auction booklets accompanying the donations are often the only sources about the artists or items. She attended many AHS/MA conferences and generously donated Alaskan for the fundraisers.

**Patricia B. Wolf**  
**(1940-2019, Anchorage)**



Born in New York City, Pat and husband Aron came to Anchorage in 1967. Pursuing Alaska studies at Alaska Methodist University she studied under Saradel Ard and initially became an Anchorage Museum docent, then Curator of Education and served as Director for 20 years. She facilitated the Museum Foundation creation and forged a Smithsonian relationship to house the Arctic Studies Center. Over her career, Pat

organized and hosted many AHS conferences.