



# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Spring 2013

Volume 31, Issue 2

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## Save the Dates for Two Great Events in May!

### Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Fundraiser

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation will be hosting our annual 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties Fundraiser on **Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 6pm** on the grounds of the Oscar Anderson House Museum. As always, proceeds from the event will benefit AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Historic Property Grant Program. Light fare and refreshments will be served. For more details on the event, check out our website ([aahp-online.net](http://aahp-online.net)) and "like" us on Facebook.

### Oscar Anderson House Museum 2013 Fun Run

SATURDAY  
MAY 4th

1 PM to 4 PM

WALK OR RUN 2K FOR OSCARI!  
(all proceeds support Oscar Anderson House Museum)

\$20 adults  
\$5 kids 5-15  
Under 5 free (strollers welcome)

REGISTER AT:  
[aahp-online.net](http://aahp-online.net)

OR BY CONTACTING AAHP AT:  
[akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com) / 907-929-9870

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## About AAHP

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1982 as a private, nonprofit corporation. AAHP is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic heritage as manifested in its buildings and sites. AAHP aids in historic preservation projects across Alaska and monitors and supports legislation to promote historic preservation, serving as a liaison between local, statewide, and national historic preservation groups. Additionally, AAHP publishes a quarterly newsletter and holds educational workshops.

## Message from the President



Happy Spring Preservationists.

And what a fantastic spring it's been for AAHP. This month AAHP secured a grant through the Alaska Community Foundation to send a board member to partake in the American Association for State and Local History sponsored workshop titled *Historic House Museums Issues and Operations*. The workshop will take place in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, just south of Nashville.

With the Oscar Andersen House Museum in mind, a program partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage, we hope this workshop will serve to strengthen interpretative aspects of the museum as well as the business side of things such as marketing, earned income, and membership programs. Our Administrator Allegra Hamer will be joining our board member at the workshop and we wish them both thanks and safe travels.

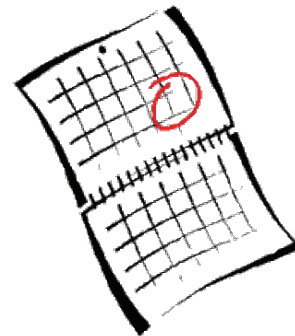
This April, we celebrated History Day. History Day is a nationally recognized event contest supported in Alaska by AAHP in partnership with the National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. This program contest asks elementary and secondary students to choose, research, analyze, and make conclusions on a historical theme by means of documentary, performance, website, paper, or exhibit. This year's theme was *A Turning Point in History*. Students were to reflect on an event, person, technology, (etc.) that changed the course of our history. I had the pleasure to join in the judging of website submissions and what a fun and enlightening process it was for me. I learned not only how tech savvy our kids are today creating awesome, easily navigable websites, but also unique and in depth facts of our shared history. Many thanks to Darrell Lewis for heading up the Alaska contest and to our board member Gloria Collins for her support. Congratulations kids! Great work!

Please stay tuned for AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties List announcement next month.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the season,  
Anne

### Stay Tuned!

**We will be announcing our Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties List during Preservation Month in May!**



**Thank you.** AAHP Board Member Valerie Gomez and AAHP Administrator Allegra Hamer will attend the American Association for State and Local History's Historic House Museum Issues and Operations two-day workshop in Murfreesboro, Tennessee this spring.

This project is part of AAHP's Board and Staff Development for the Oscar Anderson House Museum Program and has been made possible by a grant from the Capacity Building for Charitable Organizations Fund of The Alaska Community Foundation. This is one of many funds established at ACF and supported by generous donors who want to make a difference in Alaska.



## A Warm Reception For Oscar Anderson's Granddaughter!

By Jessica Verges



*Donna Burgess (in yellow) talks with AAHP members and volunteers about the Anderson Family*

On February 24, 2013, AAHP members were invited to a reception at the AAHP office to visit with Oscar Anderson's granddaughter, Donna Burgess.

About 15 visitors joined us to share stories of Anchorage's history, learn about the Anderson Family, ask questions about the museum and, best of all, get to know Donna! Thank you to our volunteers for providing light refreshments for our guests, and a very special thank you to Donna for visiting with us!!

To learn more about the Oscar Anderson House Museum, please visit our website at [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com). The museum opens for the 2013 season on May 28<sup>th</sup> - we look forward to seeing you there!



## A message to the Iditarod Race sent from the mountains of Anchorage

By Darrell Lewis and Allegra Hamer



*On March 17, 2013, when the last musher of the 2013 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race was safe in Nome, the Arctic Valley Star was switched off for another year. (Photo: courtesy John Pennell, U.S. Air Force)*

Visible from all over Anchorage and across Cook Inlet, the Arctic Valley Star located on Mt. Gordon Lyon has been an icon in Alaska's largest city for decades. The 300' x 300' star, lit by 350 60 watt light bulbs, is turned on the day after Thanksgiving each year and is turned off when the last Iditarod musher comes into Nome each March.

The highly visible star is a link to part of Alaska's Cold War past. If you look closely at this photograph, you may just be able to make out the outline of the former Missile Launch and Storage area of Nike Site Summit, one of 145 Nike Hercules Missile sites constructed across the nation as the last lines of defense against Soviet bombers during the Cold War. A thousand feet higher and a mile away, is the former Integrated Fire Control (IFC) area of the Site, which includes the barracks, command center, and radar for the site. In November 1960, the men stationed at Nike Site Summit constructed the Arctic Valley Star on the side of the mountain to wish the residents of Fort Richardson and Anchorage a Merry Christmas.

A half century later, the Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) – an AAHP partner – was founded to develop Nike Site Summit into an Anchorage Cold War historical attraction that educates the public about the frontline role Alaska played in our nation's defense, honors the sacrifices made by soldiers of Alaska's Cold War era, and links them to Alaska's current and future strategic military importance.

In 2012, the first public tours of Nike Site Summit were offered. **In 2013, more tours are planned: a solstice tour on June 21<sup>st</sup>, and morning and afternoon tours on both July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>.** For more information on these exclusive tours and to purchase your reservations, please visit: <http://www.nikesitesummit.net> or call the AAHP offices at 907-929-9870.

## Alaska History Day State Contest

By Gloria Collins

What do many Alaska students and the week of April 8 – 12, 2013 have in common? The Alaska History Day State Contest for 2013!

Many students in grades 6 – 12 statewide are competing for a chance to attend the 2013 National History Day Contest being held at the University of Maryland from June 9 – 13 this year. During the national contest, students have the opportunity to visit our nation's capitol in Washington, D.C.

Students attending schools that participate in the National History Day Program learn history by doing history—that is, selecting and researching a topic, then presenting their findings in either an exhibit, documentary, performance, website, or paper. Except for papers, which must be done individually, students may work individually or in groups of up to five for the other four categories. This year's theme was "Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events."

The state contest could not happen without the help and guidance of teachers. Teachers help coordinate local contests earlier in the year, which involves schools and school districts, to help prepare students for the state contest.

This year's state contest, as in 2012, was an all-digital

contest, with all entries submitted electronically. Judges not only evaluate the students' projects, but also, via web cam or teleconference, they interview the students having the top four entries in each of five categories in both the junior and senior divisions. The top two entries from each category in each division are eligible to attend the national contest.

Alaska History Day is excited about using an all-digital format for the contest, which has saved so much time administratively that we have been able to move the state contest from March to April. This gives students more time for their projects. Our goal for the future is a completely live contest, bringing students and judges together from across Alaska in a "virtual" contest.

As of press-time for this newsletter, we are not able to provide you with the names of the winners. However, we will have that information for the next newsletter, so stay tuned! You may also visit our webpage at <http://www.alaskahistoryday.com/index.html> for updates.

Our thanks to the many teachers and judges who so willingly gave their time to help Alaska's students prepare for the future by working with the past.

And—Congratulations to the 2013 winners!

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## Dan Seavey Named to Iditarod Hall of Fame

By Lee Poleske, IHTA Board Member

Dan Seavey, one of the original mushers in the 1973 Iditarod Sled Dog Race, and long-time champion of the Iditarod National Historic Trail has been inducted into the *Anchorage Daily News* Iditarod Hall of Fame. His list of accomplishments in stewardship of the Trail is unequaled.

Dan currently serves on the Board of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA), an AAHP partner. Dan ran the first two Iditarod Sled Dog Races in 1973 and 1974, in the 25th anniversary Race in 1997 and in 2001 with his son Mitch (the 2013 Iditarod winner) and grandson Danny, the first time three generations of mushers had run the race together. In 2012, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Race, three generations of Seaveys again ran the Race and this time it was grandson Dallas who was the winner; Dan was sponsored by IHTA, as the Centennial Musher to publicize the Centennial of the Iditarod Trail.

He served on the board of the Iditarod Trail Committee for several years representing the mushers. In 1982 he organized the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers to re-establish the historic Iditarod Trail between Seward and Girdwood. Over the years, he and other Trail Blazers have put in thousands of hours locating, marking and clearing the trail between Seward and Girdwood. He received the Citizen of the Year award in 1990 from the *Seward Phoenix Log* for spearheading the building of a bike path from downtown



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Sewall

Seward, Mile Zero of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, to the Small Boat Harbor, since expanded to Mile 5 on the Seward Highway.

When the Iditarod National Historic Trail was established by Congress in 1978 he served on the Advisory Board established by that Act. When the Advisory Board was replaced by the non-profit Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance in 1998, he was elected to the new board and has served on it ever since.

Most recently, Dan suggested to the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers that they take on as the Seward Iditarod Centennial Trail project the erection of a statue in Seward of a prospector and his dog setting off for the gold rush town of Iditarod. The Trail Blazers agreed and the statue, sculpted and cast in Alaska, was dedicated in May of 2012.



### Advertise in the AAHP Newsletter

Business Card	\$35
¼ Page	\$65
½ Page	\$125

Prices are for one issue of the AAHP Newsletter. AAHP has the right to refuse advertisements that they deem inappropriate for this venue.

# Preservation Notes

Preservation news from around the state. To submit, email us at [akpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:akpreservation@gmail.com)



March 27 (Good Friday), 1964, 5:36 pm

Next year, Alaska will mark the 50th anniversary of the most powerful earthquake to date in North America and the resulting tsunami which devastated shore communities throughout the Northwest. Were you in Alaska that historic day? Do you or your family have memories to share?

The Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center is currently developing a commemorative exhibit, due to open in 2014. The exhibit's curator, Jenya Anichenko, would like to hear your story. If you can share your experience, memories, or if you have items which survived the earthquake and would consider loaning to the Museum for the exhibit, please contact her at [janichenko@anchagemuseum.org](mailto:janichenko@anchagemuseum.org).



## AAHP 2013 MEMBERSHIP AND/OR TOP TEN ENDANGERED DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership term is 12 consecutive months.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15  | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100     | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 & above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40   | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit* \$45 (*includes federal, state, & municipal agencies) |   | Membership \$ _____                               |

I/we wish to make a tax-deductible gift to the

**AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties matching-grant account**

*(Donations to AAHP are tax deductible, as allowable under IRS regulations.)*

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I also wish to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

- Fund Raising     Membership     Education     Legislation     Public Relations     Projects & Issues

## Trivia Corner

### Trivia Question:

This building was part of a National Register Historic District listed in 1976. The district draws significance from the mining industry and demonstrating the value of Alaska to the U.S. Government and American citizens at the turn of the century. The town was founded in 1898 and has been abandoned since 1953.

Name this Historic District?



Check out our Summer 2013 Newsletter for the Answer!

### Winter 2013 Trivia Question Answer:

Who built the Frances House? And what was his/her occupation?

**Answer: Jerry Eicherly, Postmaster and owner of the Post Office.**

## Alaska Association for Historic Preservation

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