

THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION

OLD CITY HALL, 524 WEST FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 203, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501, TELEPHONE (907) 274-2311

Winter 1988

Vol. 7, Issue 1

Historic Happenings Around Alaska

with Bill Coghill

(Editor's note: AAHP's energetic Bill Coghill, statewide coordinator, keeps up a lively correspondence with many members across the state. Bill gathered the facts and wrote most of the following news reports.)

KETCHIKAN: Two historic preservation highlights during 1987 were publication of a 100-page guide, "Historic Downtown Ketchikan, A Restoration Handbook," by Doug Campbell; and the cataloging of a long-neglected collection of totem poles.

The biggest news upcoming for 1988 is "Historic Ketchikan," a downtown development-revitalization program that is the local version of the National Main Street Program. The Ketchikan City Council has contracted with Chuck McGee to direct the program.

A three-day workshop in Ketchikan on March 24-26 will have two major purposes. One is to kick-off Historic Ketchikan for 1988 and the second is an areawide effort within southeastern Alaska to encourage historic preservation and promote tourism.

The Ketchikan Historical Commission recently regrouped with 15 commission members and elected Doug Campbell as chairman. In conjunction with Historic Ketchikan, the commission presented a bronze plaque to the First Lutheran Church in December, and at the March workshop will give plaques to Tongass Trading Co., White Cliff School and the Grant Street Trestle.

In addition to Historic Ketchikan, the commission's major thrust for 1988 is to designate another historic district in Ketchikan that will probably include Thomas Street and a portion of Stedman Street.

PETERSBURG: Ruth Sandvik completed her Board term in December and has been replaced by Katy Fulton, who is involved in Petersburg historic activities. A free-lance writer, Katy has interviewed 50 Petersburg oldtimers. A book is in the making. A group has been organized to make a historical survey of the town. I met Katy last October in Juneau, where we were delegates to the Episcopal Diocesan Convention, and I admire her enthusiasm, especially since she has two young children.

JUNEAU: AAHP has three board members in the Juneau area: Craig Mishler, Paul Sincic and new member Gabrielle LaRoche. Gabrielle brings strong support to our historic endeavors. She is the planner of community development for the City and Borough of Juneau and has been active in pursuing preservation. The three were making plans to meet when I talked to them recently.

There is active interest in expanding Juneau's historic district beyond Franklin Street to include more of the downtown commercial area. A project in connection with the Alaska State Museum is the history of the Alaskan government as demonstrated through its official historic buildings. This will involve some archival research to determine what the territorial governor mansion looked like in Sitka prior to 1906, as well as early prototypes in Juneau.

GIRDWOOD: Cynthia Toohey, owner and manager of Crow Creek Mine at Girdwood, is a real on-scene promoter of historic places. The community has a historical society that, among other things, salvaged the old Girdwood Railroad Section House from destruction. Cynthia continues to upgrade her fabulous, restored Crow Creek Mine and recently put a new roof on the old barn. Cynthia also serves as a member of the Alaska Visitors Bureau.

MAT-SU AREA:

Wasilla: A team of individuals assembled by Wasilla Mayor John Stein will study the development of the Wasilla historical district, including consideration of a location for the Teeland's Store building. Members of the group are Dorothy Page and Ruth Ellen Anderson of the Wasilla-Knik-Willow Creek Historical Society; Pandora Willingham of the Cultural Resources Division of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; Jo Antonson, State of Alaska Office of History, and John Duffy, Chief of Planning for Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

"This area could be the cultural centerpiece of downtown Wasilla . . . and it will be great for business," Stein told the *Valley Sun* newspaper.

Mat-Su Borough's cultural resources division, headed by AAHP board member Vickie Cole, is making classroom presentations on request from teachers who want to augment the local history curriculum.

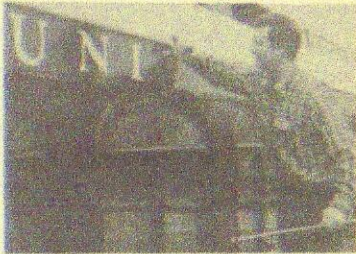
Staff from the cultural resources division completed a survey of prehistoric and historic sites on the west side of Knik Arm and located 12 sites, including dock pilings from the Goose Bay Cannery; a log cabin with a low-slug, wood-shingled loft, square notches and dovetail corners, on the east side of Point MacKenzie; and a large two-story house with dormers in the Goose Bay swamp. Copies of the survey report are available from the Mat-Su history office.

Talkeetna: The Talkeetna Historical Society has completed the Section House move and recently re-carpeted the Talkeetna Museum, where Carrie Hovel is the new curator.

Continued

FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Palmer: Restoration of the old water tower continues to occupy the time of the Palmer Historical Society. The 97-foot water tower with the faded Matanuska Maid logo has been a Palmer landmark since early 1936, when it was completed by work crews for the Matanuska Valley federal agricultural colony. The society is selling bumper stickers, seeking donations, selling pins and speaking to community groups to raise money for the tower's restoration fund.



Vernon Hines paints lettering on the side of the railroad car used by President Warren Harding during his 1923 visit to Alaska. The Fairbanks Historical Preservation Foundation is restoring the car, whose official title is the *Denali*. (Brian Schneider/*Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*)

determine it was Pullman pattern 1135-69 from Wilton Carpet, but the pictures are all in black and white. But we may have a lead.

FAIRBANKS: Janet Matheson, our vice chairperson, reports two historic projects of ongoing, special interest. One is the restoration of the Harding Railroad Car, the other an upgrade of the sternwheeler *Nenana*. Both structures are located in the Alaska-land city park. So far, no one can determine the color of the original carpet. I have been able to

Janet says they have put together a really great video on the riverboat *Nenana*, and she plans to present it at our next board meeting after January.

Donna Lane, our hard-working Anchorage board member, recently located to Fairbanks and plans to get involved in efforts there.

KENAI: Our hats are off to the Kenai members, especially Mona Painter, for the outstanding workshop last fall at Kenai. Mona is active in several Kenai Peninsula historic-related projects.



Archpriest Targonsky and Sharon Wik converse at the Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church in Kenai during the two-day historic preservation workshop at the Kenai Community College last fall.

Workshops Scheduled in Ketchikan, Anchorage

A three-day workshop in Ketchikan on March 24-26 will kick off the city's "Historic Ketchikan 88" and also bring together representatives from southeastern Alaska in a regional effort to encourage historic preservation and to promote tourism.

Southeastern Alaska communities participating in the workshop are Juneau, Haines, Hoonah, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka and Skagway.

Manager for the workshop is Chuck McGee, Ketchikan Community Development Corp., P.O. Box 3103, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901. Chuck's telephone number is (907) 225-5515.

AAHP board member Vickie Cole will be the liaison person between AAHP and the workshop. Vickie's address is Star Route Box 12930, Wasilla, Alaska 99687; her day phone is (907) 745-9681.

AAHP is planning a historic preservation workshop in Anchorage in August or early September to coincide with the visit of Jack Walters of the National Trust. The workshop will emphasize the how-to aspects of historic preservation and the economic benefits of same.

AAHP board member Eric Wallace is contact person. Eric's address is 3401 Tiezen Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99516; his day phone is (907) 563-7070.

AAHP Awards Contract For Russian Church, Icon Inventory

The beginnings of a program aimed at inventorying and preserving most of Alaska's historic Russian churches and icons got off to a start this month.

A pilot inventory of a single church and its icons will be undertaken by Barbara Sweetland Smith of the Icon Preservation Task Force under an agreement between Smith and the AAHP.

The project also will result in a program design, a tentative budget for inventories of targeted churches, an inventory format and identification of a suitable repository for materials generated by the icon project.

Smith will meet with Father Paul Merculief and the Very Rev. Joseph Kreta in Kodiak for a review of photographs taken by the priests in the 1970s. This original project, funded by the state of Alaska, resulted in the nomination of 37 Orthodox churches to the National Register of Historic Places.

The review of photographs will aid in determining which churches merit the attention of the Task Force.

The initial cost of the project is \$3,120, with \$1,000 from AAHP, \$1,250 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the balance from corporate and individual donations. MarkAir is providing air travel to Kodiak.

The project also includes consultation with Eric Wallace of public television station KAKM, which has expressed interest in producing a documentary video focusing on the art and culture of Alaska's Orthodox Church.

Smith anticipates the project will be completed in May.

New and Renewing Members

Katy Fulton, Petersburg
Ruth Sandvik, Petersburg
Jill Shepherd, Anchorage
Thelma T. Langdon,
Anchorage
Laura Bracken, Juneau
Sam McClain, Anchorage
Edward Musgrove and Mary
Ann Keller, Anchorage
William and Phyllis
Chamberlain, Anchorage
George and Danny Lou
DePalmer, Anchorage
Virginia E. Heiner,
Vancouver, Wash.
Mr. and Mrs. V. H. DeMille,
Anchorage
Dr. Victoria Wyatt, Seattle
Sally Gwin, Palmer
Bruce Staser, Anchorage
Samual Duff Combs,
Anchorage
Nancy and William Davis,
Anchorage
Bill Mundy, Anchorage
Steven L. Klingler,
Anchorage
William S. Hanable,
Anchorage
Robert D. and Ruth Jean
Shaw, Anchorage
Archbishop Macarius
Targonsky, Kenai
V. Louise Kellogg, Palmer
Bill Coghill, Anchorage
Mishler, Juneau
Rolfe Buzzell, Anchorage
David and Betty Mathews,
Palmer
Edith Bullock, Anchorage
Leigh and Hannelore
Dennison, Delta Junction
Lorene C. Harrison,
Anchorage
Phyllis Carlson, Anchorage
Betty B. Atkinson,
Anchorage
Leif L. Selkregg, Anchorage
Decema K. Slawson,
Anchorage
Rachel C. Harris, Anchorage
Lillian Callahan, Anchorage
Donna Lane, Fairbanks
Brooke and Wilda Marston,
Anchorage
Eric Wallace, Anchorage
Joan M. Antonson,
Anchorage
Beverly J. Pierce, Anchorage
Mary Ethel Clausen, Kenai
Vickie Cole, Wasilla
Eva Trautman, Anchorage
Kerry Hoffman, Anchorage
Joaquin M. Estus, Juneau
Emily DeForest, Kenai
Patricia R. Williams, Seward

Ketchikan Ponders Fate of Unique Shipyard

A shipyard built in Ketchikan in 1926 that was said to be the only covered shipyard in Alaska able to handle tall-masted ships faces probable demolition.

Built by Scotsman Lem McKay, McKay Marine Ways now is owned by Don Ludwigsen, who comes from a long line of shipbuilders. Ludwigsen faces foreclosure on the yard and hopes to save the structure for possible use as a marine museum and visitor attraction.

The Ketchikan Historic Commission is investigating the possibilities of federal or state funds to save McKay's, according to an article by June Allen in the *Ketchikan Daily News*.

Fund-raising Expert Coming to Anchorage

AAHP is making arrangements through the Western State-wide Historic Association to bring a fund-raising consultant to Anchorage. The consultant will assist AAHP and Alaska Historic Properties in planning strategies to raise money. Costs will be shared by AAHP and AHP.

Fairbanks Looking at Main Street Program

Property owners, businesses and community leaders are hoping Kate Joncas will give them some new ideas and ways to pursue the development of downtown Fairbanks.

Joncas paid a visit to Fairbanks from Washington D.C. in February to share her expertise about the Main Street program.

Main Street began as a pilot program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and has since expanded and been used by 300 cities and towns. Ketchikan also is adopting the Main Street program.

The Fairbanks Downtown Association paid most of the \$3,800 bill for Joncas' three-day visit, with contributions from the city council and borough assembly, Tanana Valley College, the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Fairbanks Development Authority and Unified Fairbanks National Trust for Historic Preservation.

New AAHP Board Elects Officers, Sets 1988 Goals

AAHP's first general meeting of the new year was held in Anchorage on January 13 at the home of Judy Bittner.

The following officers were elected:

Chairperson: Charles Hawkes, Anchorage
Vice Chairperson: Janet Matheson
Executive Director: Janet McCabe
Secretary: Beverly Pierce
Treasurer: Rolfe Buzzell

Committees are as follows: Membership, Rolfe Buzzell; Newsletter Editor, Jill Shepherd; Statewide Coordinator, Bill Coghill; Intern Program, Donna Lane; Legislation, Greg Curney; Icons, Gail Hollinger; Anchorage workshop, Eric Wallace; and Ketchikan Workshop, Vickie Cole.

The 24-member board has a vacancy. Persons interested should contact Chairperson Charles Hawkes or Executive Director Janet McCabe.

During a discussion of goals and projects for 1988, the board reiterated the primary goal of the Alaska Association of Historic Preservation, which is to promote historic preservation statewide through educational and informational programs, and to support historic preservation efforts by local communities. In addition, AAHP is directly involved in the icon preservation project.

The following is a complete list of the 1988 board of AAHP:

Judy Bittner, Anchorage	Janet Matheson, Fairbanks
Rolfe Buzzell, Anchorage	Craig Mishler, Juneau
Bill Coghill, Anchorage	Mona Painter, Cooper Landing
Vickie Cole, Wasilla	J. Thad Paulson, Sitka
Greg Curney, Anchorage	Beverly Pierce, Anchorage
Emily DeForest, Kenai	Karen Pitcher, Ketchikan
Katy Fulton, Petersburg	Jill Shepherd, Anchorage
Charles Hawkes, Anchorage	Paul Sincic, Douglas
Gail Hollinger, Anchorage	Jerry Strang, Gakona
Donna Lane, Fairbanks	Cynthia Toohey, Girdwood
Gabrielle Laroche, Juneau	Eric Wallace, Anchorage
Janet McCabe, Anchorage	

Notice to Readers

Don't be left out . . . To assure continued receipt of this AAHP newsletter, renew your membership today. Send dues to Rolfe Buzzell, AAHP Treasurer and Membership Chairman, 3308 Doris St., Anchorage, Alaska 99517.

MEMBERSHIP

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

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|---|-------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$1,000 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate | \$ 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Sustaining | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Member | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sustaining | \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Donor | \$1,000 |

MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED. Also, I would be glad to participate in the AAHP's activities in the following areas:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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