

# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION

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## RIKA'S ROADHOUSE AT BIG DELTA STATE HISTORICAL PARK

by: *Bill Coghill*

Last month I had the opportunity to spend a couple of delightful hours visiting Big Delta State Historical Park on the Richardson Highway a few miles north of Delta Junction.

The park has a special significance for me. In 1907 my father walked from Valdez to Fairbanks. The journey took several weeks. While I have no records, my father probably stopped at McCarty's trading post, built at the site in 1904, on his 380 mile journey. Travelers averaged 15 to 20 miles a day and log roadhouses, like McCarty's and later Rika's, sprang up to accommodate them.

A plaque near the roadhouse notes that accommodations were rustic. A dollar would get you a spot on the floor, bench, or table to roll out your blanket. Two dollars would put a hot meal in your belly.

Later, around 1909, the trail between Valdez and Fairbanks was improved to a wagon road. Eventually, through the efforts of the Alaska Road Commission, it became a road suitable for automobiles. By 1932 it was possible to make the journey in two days. The Valdez Transportation Company, a mail, freight, and passenger carrier, was one of the earliest to operate this route. Although my father did not participate in this route, from 1908 to 1916 he owned and operated a stage serving the mining areas around Chena and Fairbanks.

With the improvement of transportation modes, roadhouses disappeared, or began providing more sophisticated accommodations, such as separate bedrooms. They also offered additional functions, serving as trading posts, fur exchanges, post offices, restaurants, and liquor stores. Rika's, Roadhouse provided all these services.

Today, Rika's Roadhouse is a wonderfully restored reminder of the history of the early 1900's. The roadhouse contains a portion of the original floor dating from 1909. It was made of the ends of wooden boxes and whatever other wood was available. There are also numerous outbuildings at the site. A restored sod roof log cabin now contains exhibits managed by the Delta Historical Society. The barn, restored by the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, contains original animal stalls along with additional exhibits. A well kept garden, springhouse, ferryman's cabin, reconstructed windmill, and animal pens recreate some of the varied services once offered by typical roadhouses. Alaska Road Commission and WAMCAT buildings further contribute to the ambience of the park. The park concessionaire, Whitestone Farms, also operates a restaurant and a gift shop. Just a short distance away, the Alyeska Pipeline suspension bridge crosses the Tanana River.

Big Delta State Historical Park operations closed for the season September 18, but I encourage you to stop at Rika's Roadhouse in the future and enjoy a great part of Alaska's past.



*Rika's Roadhouse - Big Delta State Historical Park (9-19-90)*

## BOOTLEGGERS COVE CABIN UPDATE

by: *Kerry I. Hoffman, Executive Director, Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.*

Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.'s (AHPI) effort to stabilize and rehabilitate the Bootlegger Cove Cabin continues.

Plans are prepared, building and utility permits secured, and now winter is upon us. We had hoped to move the Bootlegger Cove Cabin and rehabilitate it this fall. However, construction prices are higher now than they will be in the spring so the current plan is to do the work then. In the meantime, the roof of the cabin has been braced so it will not collapse under the weight of another winter snow.

The plan is to move the cabin further away from the railroad right-of-way and rehabilitate it back into a single family dwelling. Special care will be taken to retain the historic fabric of the cabin during this process.

AHPI will then lease the cabin to a responsible tenant. The presence of an on-site resident will discourage vandalism to the cabin and overall mischief at the site. In addition, AHPI will be able to recoup its investment in the project.

Several building suppliers have offered to either donate materials or to sell materials at a reduced cost for use on the project. One thing we are still seeking is donation of earth-moving equipment and an operator, both a major cost to the project. If anyone knows of a source for a donation, please contact me at 274-3600. Be watching for activity to begin in the spring.

# FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

# 1990 IN REVIEW

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by: Bill Coghill

1990, the tenth operational year of AAHP, has been one of excellent progress.

Our board got off to a flying start with a one-day "Goals and Assessment Seminar" led by Lisbeth Henning, Assistant Director of the Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We reviewed the responsibilities of state historic preservation organizations and then assessed AAHP's mission and goals. Out of that assessment, seven committees (Education, Fund Raising, Legislation, Membership, Nomination, Projects and Issues, and Public Relations) were established along with committee goals and a work calendar.

Several notable accomplishments have occurred during 1990. Our mission statement and goals underwent substantive revision and were approved at the May 17 board meeting. (The revised mission statement and goals are reprinted below for your information and reference.) A detailed list of officer, committee chair, and board member duties was developed and subsequently approved at the July 16 board meeting. A major rewrite of our bylaws, the first since 1981, was completed and approved by the board October 8. The concept of setting a "focus" for AAHP has also been approved and specifics are currently being formulated.

Rolf Buzzell refined the computerization of our financial accounts. We hired Sue Glover as a part-time staff person, and completed an in-depth revision of our mailing list. With this newsletter issue, we reach our goal of publishing quarterly during 1990, another first for AAHP. Greg Curney, Newsletter Coordinator, deserves a great vote of thanks for the number of issues and increasing the quality of the information and format of the newsletter.

In 1990 Kennecott Mine was listed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the nation's eleven most endangered historic sites. AAHP has taken a part in the effort to preserve Kennecott. AAHP board member Mike Jungreis has been one of the catalysts developing an umbrella corporation for the Friends of Kennecott. He serves on the Friends of Kennecott Board and AAHP Directors Janet McCabe and myself serve as advisors. As AAHP President, I submitted letters to Governor Cowper and both state and federal legislators in support of stabilization funding for the mine structures.

AAHP supported the Icon Preservation Task Force during 1990 by administering a state grant for \$43,900. We donated \$500 of our budget toward travel to the Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow for task force personnel.

We officially supported the effort of the National Park Service to study the feasibility of establishing a national historic park at Dutch Harbor interpreting Alaska's World War II involvement.

On a final note, I am proud to say our membership now stands at 171, comparing dramatically with last year's 80 members. Broadening our membership base is truly rewarding to me, it means each of you has helped us gain strength and momentum toward preserving Alaska's historic resources. Together we can make a difference. Please continue your support as we move forward.

The continued dedication of our officers, especially our hard working Executive Director Donna Lane, and the able assistance of our board members makes AAHP a valuable and effective organization. Thanks you.

## ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

### Organization

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation was founded in 1981 as a private statewide, non-profit corporation.

### Mission Statement

AAHP is dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through education, promotion and advocacy. Preservation of the built environment provides a vital link and visible reminder

of the past, emphasizing the continuity and diversity of Alaska.

### Goals

1. Promote communication between the general public and AAHP in support of historic preservation in Alaska and develop a network of preservation supporters;
2. Educate and inform the public about historic preservation through a quarterly newsletter, workshops, and other means;
3. Initiate, monitor and support legislation to promote historic preservation in Alaska;
4. Provide assistance to local and statewide historic preservation projects;
5. Serve as liaison between local, statewide and national historic preservation groups;
6. Establish an endowment to support historic preservation in Alaska.

Approved by the Board of Directors 5/71/90

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES—1990

by: Kate Lidfors

- Historic Structures Report and stabilization/restoration work at Slaven's Cabin, a historic roadhouse on the Yukon River, Yukon-Charley Riverways National Park and Preserve.
- Historic Preservation Plan prepared with the local Historical Commission for the City of Unalaska.
- Feasibility-suitability study for a national historical park or World War II interpretive center at Dutch Harbor.
- Exchange with the Andrei Rublev Museum, Moscow, to develop a research program related to Russian America and assist the Icon Preservation Task Force in its inventory and documentation work for the historic Alaskan Orthodox churches
- Oral History Project at Kennecott Kids Reunion.

## AAHP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1990

### OFFICERS:

Executive Director:	Donna Lane
President:	Bill Coghill
Vice President:	Janet McCabe
Secretary:	Kate Lidfors
Treasurer:	Rolf Buzzell

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Education:	Gail Hollinger
Fund Raising:	Charles Hawkes
Legislation:	Michael Jungreis
Membership:	Jack Sinclair
Nominating:	Janet McCabe
Projects & Issues:	Russ Sackett
Public Relations:	Lin Garrison

*The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AAHP) was founded in 1981 as a private, statewide, non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources through education, promotion and advocacy. Preservation of the built environment provides a vital link and visible reminder of the past, emphasizing the continuity and diversity of Alaska.*

# HISTORIC NEWS NOTES FROM JUNEAU

# AAHP ANNUAL MEETING

by: Donna Lane

- The Gastineau Historical Society and Juneau-Douglas Museum sold raffle tickets throughout the summer on a historical quilt created earlier this year. The drawing was held at the annual meeting and potluck of the Historical Society on October 25. Close to \$8000 in raffle tickets were sold. These funds will be shared between the historical society and the museum.
- The Juneau-Douglas Museum hosted a reception on the evening of November 9 to mark the opening of an exhibit of the artwork in the Juneau Centennial Art Collection. The work, commissioned during Juneau's Centennial Year, has been on display in city buildings and offices throughout the community. Residents can view the entire collection through the end of December at the museum.
- The City and Borough of Juneau has just completed a Historic Structures Report for the Jualpa Mine Camp in Last Chance Basin. The remaining structures are immediately adjacent to a commercial salmon bake and provide a great deal of "local color" for thousands of summer visitors. The city's next project is an inventory and study of the Treadwell Mine Site and Treadwell Townsite on Douglas Island across from Juneau.
- A Certified Local Government (C.L.G.) grant will fund an upcoming historic study of dairy farming in the Juneau area. Contractor Willette Janes, who has worked on other historic building studies, will compile the history through a series of interviews, examination of tax records, and on-site surveys. There are quite a few remaining buildings at the sites of several formerly active dairy farms.
- The Alaska Division of Tourism has given the City and Borough of Juneau a grant for Volume II of the Historic Neighborhoods Study which covers the Downtown Historic District. Scott Foster will edit and compile a readable document comprised of existing buildings inventories and National Register information.
- Two ordinances will be introduced in November to the Juneau Borough Assembly in the interest of preservation and history. The first ordinance will grant tax exemption to those who repair and rehabilitate historic structures which retain facades and characteristic of the era in which the building was erected. The second ordinance requires that anyone demolishing an historic structure be required to supply historic record photos of the building before demolition.

The annual meeting of AAHP will be held in conjunction with the Alaska History Conference being held November 27 through December 2 at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. The conference theme is "Science and Technology in Alaska's Past" and combines annual meetings, workshops, and anniversaries of the Alaska Historical Society, Museums Alaska, Cook Inlet Historical Society, and the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.

AAHP is hosting a brunch at 10 a.m., December 2, 1990, in the Discovery Room at the Captain Cook Hotel. The food and harp music will be excellent. Photographer Gib Whitehead will entertain and educate us with his multi-projector slide show, "Memories of McCarthy and Kennecott."

AAHP's annual meeting begins at noon in the same room. After a short business meeting we will feature two speakers: Lyle Perrigo, a Principals with Perrigo Associates, and Ted Trueblood, P.E., a partner and manager of Civil Engineers at Tryck, Nyman and Hayes.

Lyle's presentation is "Acquiring Scientific and Technological information as part of the preservation process. A corrosion engineer with varied interests, Lyle has spent several years investigating historic structures and what they can teach regarding problem solving. Ted will speak about cost-effective methods of rehabilitating historic structures in Alaska illustrating his presentation with slides of local projects.

There are two "package" options which include conference registration and many of the receptions and meals. Museums Alaska activities are the focus of one option, while the second one focuses on historical society activities. The historical society "package" includes the AAHP brunch/annual meeting. Each package costs \$140.

You may register for **BRUNCH ONLY** for \$15. **ATTENDANCE AT THE AAHP ANNUAL MEETING IS FREE.**

Registrations had to have been mailed by November 16 to guarantee space. A few spaces, on a first come first serve basis, will be available on the day of the brunch. Contact Donna Lane at 762-2633 for additional information.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues are payable by December 31 of preceeding year.

Benefits include subscription to the quarterly AAHP newsletter \* workshops & seminars \* annual meeting \* historic preservation advocacy.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student .....	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor .....	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual .....	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend .....	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family .....	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor .....	\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit .....	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....	\$ 500.00 & above

*(federal, state, and municipal agencies included)*

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Also, I would be glad to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

- |                                       |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership       | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Projects & Issues |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE w. \_\_\_\_\_ h. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return To: The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation  
Old City Hall, 524 West fourth Ave., Suite 203  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Attention: Treasurer

# COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Education:** Don't forget the AAHP Annual Meeting and brunch December 2, 1990, at the Captain Cook Hotel.

**Legislation:** The legislation committee is coming up with a timeline for their efforts. They are considering a proposal to change the law so that all preservation money would be funneled through a single office. The committee is also looking at the way Oregon freezes tax assessments for certified historic structures.

**Membership:** AAHP now has 171 paid members compared with 80 last year. If you want to know if you are paid up, check the mailing label on your newsletter. The number after you name indicates the year you are paid through. 1991 memberships are now due.

The AAHP picnic held in Seward this year was a success. Membership Committee Chair Jack Sinclair was an excellent host.

**Nominating:** The nominating committee is currently looking for people interested in serving on the Board of Directors or Board of Advisors. The deadline for applications is November 23, 1990.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON EITHER THE AAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR BOARD OF ADVISORS?

To comply with state statutes regarding quorums, AAHP is restructuring its governing body. In 1991, AAHP plans to have both a Board of Directors and a Board of Advisors. Directors will be responsible for management of the organization. Advisors will provide council for the directors and inform them regarding local preservation issues throughout the state.

Directors will be elected at the annual meeting December 2, 1990. Advisors will be appointed at the first Board of Directors meeting in 1991. Statewide representation will be considered in these appointments.

The AAHP Nominating Committee is seeking applicants for both boards. All positions are volunteer. The deadline for applications is November 23, 1990. Please submit a brief letter of interest and qualifications to Bill Coghill, Nominating Committee, 7005 Fredricks Dr., Anchorage, AK 99504-1127, or call 333-4746.

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FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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