

# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

645 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

MARCH 1996

VOL. 15, ISSUE 1

## AVIATION MUSEUM HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

On January 7, AAHP held its annual meeting at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, near the Anchorage International Airport. Approximately 40 members and friends were on hand to share in the festivities.

The meeting kicked off with an informal reception and luncheon. Executive Director Bill Coghill opened the meeting, and President Pat Murphy made a few additional remarks. He was followed by Sue Cogswell, the museum's Curator of Collections, who gave a brief talk. Museum director Ted Spencer then provided some historical commentary and discussed future plans for the facility. The crowd then filtered out to one of the hangars, where museum volunteers Don Robinson and Dave Pratt demonstrated the complex process of aircraft restoration, using as an example the ongoing work on their Travel Air S-6000-B. Ted Spencer and other staff also gave a conducted tour of the remainder of the museum's aircraft collection.



*Dave Pratt (right) explains the process of aircraft restoration in one of the museum hangars.*

The crowd then returned to the main auditorium where the annual business meeting was conducted. Pat Murphy provided an outline of the organization's 1995 accomplishments, and Steve Peterson gave a treasurer's report.



*Those who gathered for the reception prior to the meeting included Sue Cogswell, AAHM's Curator of Collections; Chuck Hawley, AAHP Advisory Board member; and the following members of the Board of Directors: Sylvia Elliott, Frank Norris, Gillian Smythe, Pat Murphy, and Steve Peterson.*

A key part of the business meeting was the election of new board members. Just two of the five Board of Directors members whose terms were due to expire asked to be renominated. As a result, three new members were appointed to the board. They include:

- \* Terri Carter, of Soldotna, who conducts legacy tours,
- \* Sylvia Elliott, an Anchorage historical consultant, and
- \* Maria Wisdorf-Strobel, a long-time Alaska resident.

Both Terri and Sylvia were former members of AAHP's Advisory Board. Maria, who lives in Anchorage, is interested in political issues and will co-chair the legislative committee.

Bill Coghill noted that several changes have also been made on the Advisory Board. Terri Carter and Sylvia Elliott, as noted above, have left the board, and Jana Harcharek (from Barrow) and Marti Murray (from Unalaska) have also terminated their involvement. In their stead, three of the Advisory Board's new members were former members of the Board of Directors: they include Karen Stanley (from Ketchikan), and Janet McCabe and Bonnie Houston (both from Anchorage). A fourth new Advisory Board member is Rogan Faith of Anchorage, who has been a regular attendee at recent AAHP board meetings.

## COME TO THE INDEPENDENCE MINE WORKSHOP!

Can Independence Mine's remarkable historical legacy be saved? Do Alaskans have the wherewithal to preserve this spectacular Hatcher Pass-area historical site, or will we stand idly by while the forces of inertia and neglect allow these buildings to disintegrate and collapse? Preservationists throughout the state recognize the importance of the mining and milling complex, but they also recognize that site preservation will not come cheap. Alaska's state budget, during the 1990s, cannot hope to finance this effort. Even so, the site can--and should--be saved. Given the lean financial times in which we live, the question presents itself: HOW CAN INDEPENDENCE MINE BE SAVED?

If you're interested in the future management and operation of Independence Mine State Historic Park,

come to the community workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 30, from 10 AM to 4 PM. The workshop will held at the Motherlode Lodge, on Hatcher Pass road, 14 miles north of the Glenn Highway. If you plan to attend, you must pre-register by March 25 by calling the Finger Lakes (Palmer-area) State Parks office at 745-3975.

The workshop, co-sponsored by the Alaska State Parks Foundation and Friends of Independence Mine, will feature talks by State Parks Director Jim Stratton; Park Ranger (and AAHP President) Pat Murphy; architect Don Wyckoff; environmental activist Chip Dennerlein; and Mat-Su Borough archeologist Fran Seager-Boss.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*by Bill Coghill*

Will 1996 be our best year ever? As your membership chair, I believe that our organization can become more popular than it has ever been before. We already have 231 paid members for 1996, and we did not reach this level until mid-September last year. AAHP finished the last two years with just over 250 members. So, let's go for a new record!!!

I would like to give a special salute to the five members this year who joined at the \$100 (Friend) level. Twenty-three more of you joined at the \$50 (Contributor) level. We are most grateful for your support.

Last fall, we sent a special membership letter to Alaska members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, hoping that they might extend their support to AAHP, which is NTHP's statewide organization. 51 people responded to our letters, and there are now 101 of us who are both NTHP and AAHP members. Welcome aboard!

PLEASE CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL ON YOUR NEWSLETTER. If it shows "96" after your name, you are current. If not, we hope you will consider joining or renewing. AAHP relies heavily on memberships to carry out its functions and to help preserve Alaska's important historic resources. THANK YOU.

**PLEASE NOTE** that our new address--since September 15 of last year--has been 645 W. Third Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. A few of you are still using our former address. Please check your records to be sure the address is correct.

### JOIN US AND PRESERVE ALASKA'S HISTORY!

Membership runs from January 1 thru December 31. Benefits include: \* the quarterly AAHP newsletter, \* workshops and seminars, \* annual meeting, \* historic preservation advocacy.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student . . . . . \$10  | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor . . . \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual . . . . \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend . . . . . \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family . . . . . \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor . . . . . \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit . . . \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor . . . \$500  |

In addition, I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to our newly-created historic properties grant account (*see related story on page 3*).

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

I would be glad to participate in AAHP activities in the following areas:

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: AAHP, 645 W. 3rd Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501, attn: Treasurer.

## AAHP'S FIRST ANNUAL GRANT COMPLETED

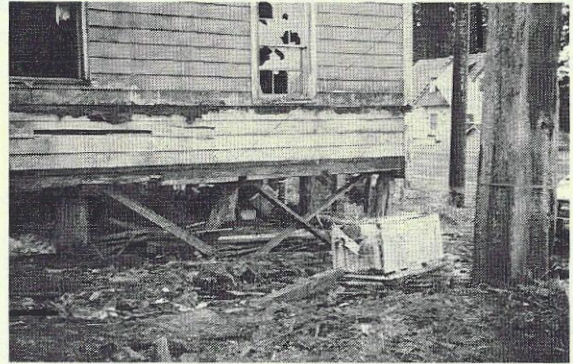
by Russ Sackett

The Chief Kashakes House, in Saxman, was the first recipient of AAHP's Ten Most Endangered Properties Preservation Grant. Dorothy Utterberg, an owner of the old house, received AAHP's first matching grant in May 1995 to begin addressing foundation problems. Mrs. Utterberg's application was one of three received by AAHP last year.

Through the grant and its match, a lump-sum contract was let with a local contractor to clean up the site, remove refuse from around and under the house, remove the house skirting, develop a drainage system under and around the house, and begin leveling the floors. AAHP is pleased with the result of the first year's grant. During the performance of the work, the house received community attention through an extensive *Ketchikan Daily News* feature article.

To achieve the work identified by the grant, a non-profit group was established and a special account was set up

to administer the grant's match. AAHP hopes that through our seed money, the favorable press provided and the organization established to administer the project, that the Chief Kashakes House will receive continued restoration through local sources.



One of the uses for the grant funds was to remove the old skirting. This photo, taken midway through the project, shows the foundation and the trace of the former skirting.

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## AAHP ANNOUNCES ITS 1996 HISTORIC PROPERTIES GRANT

As noted above, our organization's first Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Grant was recently completed. On the basis of that experience, and the lessons learned from it, AAHP is preparing to award its second annual grant. As it did last year, the Board of Directors has committed \$3,000 toward this matching grant. This past December, AAHP's president solicited contributions to the grant fund from members and friends. As a result of that mailing, we have received 32 contributions accounting for more than \$1,500. *Thank you for your support!* These contributions have been placed in a special grant account that will be used in assisting the ten most endangered properties under our grant program.

This year, the properties that are eligible for our grant program are those that were on our 1995 list. They include: 1) the St. George Sealing Plant; 2) the Ketchikan Ranger House; 3) the Mt. McKinley Masonic Lodge #183, in Cordova; 4) the Victor Holm Cabin, near Soldotna; 5) the Masonic Temple, in Fairbanks; 6) the Ascension of Our Lord Chapel, in Karluk; 7) the Chitina Cash Store, in Chitina; 8) the Chief Kashakes House, in Saxman; 9) the Bruhn-Ray Mine Bunkhouse, near Hope; and 10) the Smith Stamp Mill, near Valdez. Applications were mailed in early February; completed nominations are due at the AAHP office by March 29. We will award the grant to the successful applicant during National Historic Preservation Week, May 12-18, 1996.

## NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR THE 1996 TEN MOST ENDANGERED PROPERTIES LIST!

All AAHP members, by now, should have received a letter requesting nominations for properties to the 1996 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties list. Each May, during National Historic Preservation Week, AAHP announces its Ten Most Endangered list; it has done so since 1991. We rely on our members to identify historic properties around the state that are threatened. From these nominated properties, the Board of Directors vote for, and select, the ten properties that will be on the list. Properties that are listed (and only those properties) will be eligible to apply for the Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties Preservation Grant the following January.

SO ... If you know of a property that you'd like to nominate to the list--be it a house, store, industrial building, or any other historic structure--please send your nominations to the AAHP office by March 29, 1996

\* \* \* \* \*

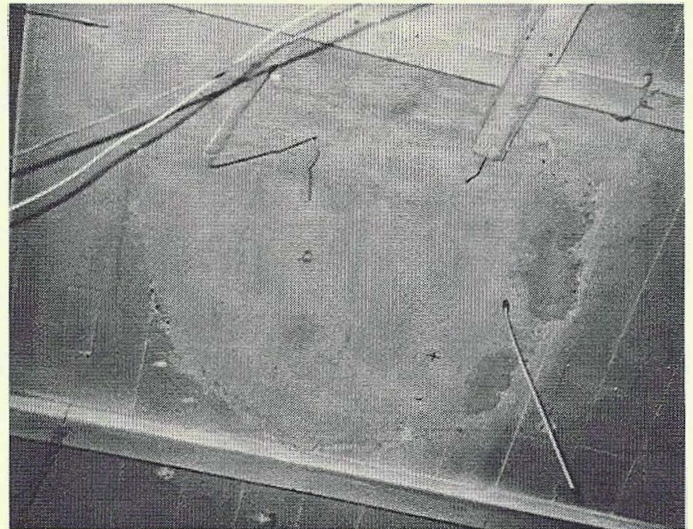
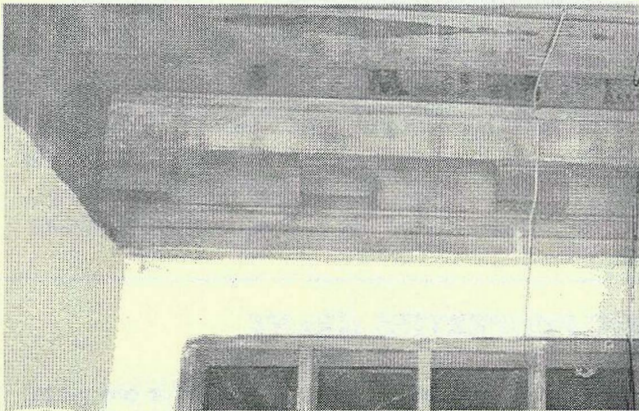
AAHP tips its hat off to Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc.! On January 31, the *Federal Register* announced that Cottage #25, which serves as AHPI's office, had been listed on the National Register for Historic Places. The Municipality of Anchorage now has at least 21 NRHP listings; at least 11 properties are in downtown Anchorage.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OLD CITY HALL!

by Julie Johnson

The renovation of the Old City Hall is almost complete--and just in time for the building's sixtieth birthday! Its new lease on life began last fall when Anchorage Historic Properties, Inc. (AHPI) became the project manager for the renovation. The building was plagued with problems, including a leaky roof and an inadequate heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) system. AHPI promised to fix the problems to create office space for the Anchorage Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

To this end, AHPI designed a \$1.7 million renovation project. Plans included an elevator, lead and asbestos



*During the renovation, workers discovered a patch in the ceiling (above) where a fire pole had been; they also found several exposed dentils (left).*

abatement, new HVAC system, energy efficient windows, and a rejuvenated interior. Exterior renovation begins in April, weather permitting, with lead paint abatement and concrete repair. Painting is scheduled in May. The "facelift" will be complete when the clock--in working order!--is returned to its home atop the building.

AHPI will hold its annual meeting at Old City Hall on May 6 at 6:30 p.m. AAHP members are welcome to attend. A building tour will be the evening's highlight.

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