



645 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

JANUARY 1999

VOL. 18, ISSUE 1

\*\*\* SPECIAL ANNUAL \*\*\*

\*\*\* MEETING ISSUE \*\*\*

## WASILLA WELCOMES AAHP TO JANUARY 30 MEETING

On January 30, at 12:30 p.m., Alaska Association of Historic Preservation members and friends will converge in Wasilla for their annual meeting. The confab will take place in Mead's Coffee House (located in the newly-refurbished Teeland's General Store) and at the Old Wasilla School.

The lively get-together will feature a variety of discussions and amusements. Kicking off the meeting will be a social hour, featuring a light lunch (soup and pasta salad). Following will be a brief overview of AAHP and its accomplishments during the past year, presented by various of the organization's board members. Commencing immediately thereafter will be four (4) short presentations on statewide preservation activities. They include:

- \* AAHP's 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties and AAHP's Grant Program, by Sean Boily (AAHP)
- \* The History of Teeland's Store, by LeRoi Heaven (Wasilla-Knik-Willow Creek Historical Society)
- \* Knik Archeology, by Fran Seager-Boss (Mat-Su Borough Planning Dept., Div. of Cultural Resources)
- \* Air Force Cold War Facilities, by Casey Buechler (Environmental Planner, U.S. Air Force)

The meeting, open to everyone, will last until approximately 3:00 p.m. Teeland's Store is located in downtown Wasilla, just one block east of the Parks Highway. To get there, drive along the Parks Highway until you reach the traffic signal at the corner that announces "Knik-Goose Bay Road" (for those turning west) or "Wasilla-Fishhook Road" (for those turning east). Turn east and go one block; then turn right and go one more block to Teeland's Store, which is located on the left side of the street.

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

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Benefits include...

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * the quarterly AAHP newsletter | * annual meeting                 |
| * workshops and seminars        | * historic preservation advocacy |
| ___ Student .....\$10           | ___ Contributor .....\$50        |
| ___ Individual .....\$15        | ___ Friend .....\$100            |
| ___ Family .....\$25            | ___ Sponsor .....\$250           |
| ___ Non-Profit.....\$25         | ___ Benefactor .....\$500        |

Donations to AAHP are tax deductible as allowed under IRS regulations.

I/we would also like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the AAHP Top Ten Most Endangered Buildings preservation matching grant account.

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. WE THANK YOU!

Please return to: The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation, 645 West Third Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2124

## ***WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH AAHP'S "TEN MOST ENDANGERED" LIST?***

by Russ Sackett and Sean Boily

We're glad to report that, in just the few months since AAHP announced its "Ten Most Endangered" properties list last May, activities have taken place to restore, mark, or interpret half of the properties on our list. Details follow.

### *\* First Avenue Historic Streetscape, Fairbanks:*

The Tanana-Yukon Historical Society applied for and received an AAHP grant in the spring of 1998 for the production of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to be broadcast on Fairbanks area television. Elevating public awareness is a critical first step in the preservation of a historic district in need of protection from encroaching development, such as the First Avenue district in Fairbanks. The PSAs developed and produced this fall consist of two 60-second and one 30-second spot. The tapes highlight the importance in preserving the historic streetscape. In August 1998, a public workshop was held in Fairbanks to discuss nominating the streetscape to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. Late this fall, the Joint Fairbanks North Star Borough/City of Fairbanks Historic Preservation Commission, as the Certified Local Government, receive a grant from the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer to have a nomination prepared.

### *\* Matanuska Colony Cannery, Creamery, and Warehouse, Palmer:*

The property owner, State of Alaska Division of Agriculture, is still in negotiations with Heritage Properties, Inc. for transfer of the property for rehabilitation. Negotiations have now been going on for 14 months. Although Heritage Properties had received an AAHP grant for the photo documentation of the historic property and buildings, they were not comparable enough with the status of the negotiations to proceed with the commitment of photo documentation this year. The unused AAHP grant moneys will be applied to the 1999 grant program. Unless this property is successfully transferred to a sympathetic owner, it remains threatened.

### *\* Independence Mine, Hatcher Pass (near Palmer):*

The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has received \$2,000,000 of TEA-21 money to develop interpretation of the site, upgrade public access throughout the site and to repair the Water Tunnel and associated trestles/decking. It appeared that the Alaska Dept. of Transportation would approve use of TEA-21 money for stabilizing the camp buildings. However, this was denied and the buildings remain threatened. The State of Alaska is still proposing to seek a concessions contract for private sector preservation of the old mining buildings and compatible business activities at the site.

### *\* Golden Zone Mine (28 miles southwest of Cantwell):*

A National Register of Historic Places nomination has been completed and reviewed by the Alaska Historical Commission. The Commission has approved the nomination and it is to be forwarded to the "Keeper" of the National Register of Historic Places for final review and placement in the National Register of Historic Places. The owner of the property has established a plan for preserving the property and is looking for the necessary capital. The owner is Chuck Hawley, who is an AAHP Board of Director - email: hawleyak@corecom.net.

### *\* Ladd Field National Historic Landmark, Fort Wainwright (near Fairbanks):*

A boundary review has been completed that increases the number of contributing resources to this National Historic Landmark from 24 buildings and structures to 51 buildings and structures when accepted. An Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan for Fort Wainwright will be completed this February. The plan

# THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1999

## Endangered Historic Properties

To increase public awareness of endangered historic properties, the Alaska Association for historic Preservation identifies the State's ten most endangered historic properties during National Historic Preservation Week each May. The properties on this list are nominated by individuals and historic preservation organizations throughout the state. AAHP requests your assistance in identifying historic properties that are endangered. To nominate a property to the endangered list, please complete the following by March 31, 1999, and mail to :

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation  
645 West Third Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2124

Property name nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name if individual preparing form and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone - Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Description:

(complete other side)

Property history:

Why is property endangered?

Activities under way to save property:

Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places:  yes  no

Please provide a minimum of one (1) publishable photograph of the building with this nomination.  
Multiple photos and/or slides are preferable.

*TEN ENDANGERED LIST UPDATE (cont.):*

calls for the preservation and adaptive use of the historic resources. However, approximately 18 of the contributing buildings have been tentatively identified by the Army for demolition under their square footage reduction program. This remains a threatened historic property.

No information has been recently reported for the remaining five properties:

- *Saints Sergius and Herman of Valaam Church, Nanwalek (English Bay), Alaska*
- *Immaculate Conception Church, Fairbanks*
- *Alaska Nellie's Cabin, Lawing*
- *McCrary Homestead, mile 101.5 Old Richardson Highway*
- *Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Chapel, Ninilchik*

If you have new information on these or any of the other Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties, please drop an e-mail to Sean Boily at <smb@ecihyer.alaska.net> or mail the information to AAHP to the attention of Sean Boily or Russ Sackett. Thank you!

***EUGENE HECK LUCKY RECIPIENT OF AAHP SCHOLARSHIP***

Eugene J. Heck has been awarded the second annual AAHP scholarship of \$500. The scholarship is given to an Alaska resident who is an undergraduate or graduate student in the field of architectural history or some aspect of historic preservation.

A committee of three members of the executive board found Mr. Heck deserving of the award. He is seeking a Masters degree in Public History Resource Management at the University of California at Riverside. He will graduate in June 2000 and will return to Alaska, where he hopes to work in the field of cultural tourism. He has done volunteer work with Dr. Rolfe Buzzell at Hope and Sunrise and was for some time on the board of directors of Beans Cafe in Anchorage. Congratulations to Gene and thanks to all who applied for the scholarship.

***HISTORIC HOUSE PRESERVATION GUIDE JUST PUBLISHED***

Heritage Preservation and the National Park Service have just released *Caring for Your Historic House*, a new publication that addresses how to care for historic houses. This illustrated guide focuses on the importance of maintenance in preserving historic houses. The book is a compilation of essays by 22 leading preservation practitioners covering the following topics: the whys and wherefores of historic house care, getting to know your house, establishing a maintenance program, structural systems, roofs, exterior masonry, exterior woodwork, wooden windows, exterior paints and other finishes, plaster, wallpapers, interior paints and other finishes, interior woodwork, flooring and floor finishes, heating, cooling, and ventilating systems, kitchens and bathrooms, lighting and electrical systems, caring for the landscape, fire protection, appraisals, insurance, preservation easements, and estate planning. *Caring for Your Historic House* provides practical information and resources for solving the most commonly encountered problems for a historic house owner. At the same time it stresses the importance of defining a comprehensive approach and set of goals before you begin. It is recommended for anyone caring for an older home.

*Caring for Your Historic House* can be ordered, for \$39.95 hardcopy or \$24.50 paperback, from:

Heritage Preservation  
1730 K Street NW, Suite 566  
Washington, DC 20006-3836

Orders can also be made by telephone (202-634-1422) or fax (202-634-1435).

## ***BENJAMIN B. TALLEY, A REMARKABLE ALASKAN: 1903-1998***

by Carol Pimat, AHPI

Benjamin Talley, a great friend of Alaska, died on November 27, 1998, after a long and distinguished military career. He was 95.

Talley entered military service in September 1926 as a commissioned officer with the rank of lieutenant. He graduated from Army Engineer School in 1929. Following graduation, he served for nine years with the 29th Engineers and the Engineer Detachment at Wright Field (Ohio) specializing in aerial topographic surveying. While there, he was promoted to the rank of captain. In September 1929, Capt. Talley was designated executive officer for the District Corps of Engineers in Portland, Oregon.

Talley came to Alaska in September 1940 to supervise construction of an airfield at Yakutat for the Army Corps of Engineers. After completing that assignment, he was assigned Alaska Area Engineer. Talley supervised construction of Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Field in Anchorage, Ladd Field near Fairbanks, and airfields at Umnak and Adak in the Aleutians.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Talley became officer-in-charge of military construction in Alaska. He oversaw the work of 14,000 troops in the Army's engineer units in the Aleutians. In addition to the airfields, Talley supervised the construction of a railroad spur to connect the Alaska Railroad with a deep water port and construction of a freight depot on Prince William Sound, later known as Whittier. His responsibilities eventually included 28 of the 39 wartime construction projects throughout Alaska. Talley, a lieutenant colonel at the time, left Alaska in mid-June 1943 for assignment in Europe.

Talley enjoyed a long and brilliant career with the U.S. military; he retired after 30 years of service, he had attained the rank of brigadier general. His contributions to Alaska were numerous and indeed significant.

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