



# BARANOV QUARTERLY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ♦ DECEMBER 2006

## Join us this December at the Baranov Museum

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### Saturday, December 9, 2006

Gather your elves and come down to the Baranov Museum for our annual Holiday celebration! On Saturday, December 9th from 10am to 12pm, Father Christmas will be visiting with youngsters and spreading good cheer. Kids young and old can enjoy free pictures in front of our Kodiak bears. A craft activity for kids is planned on the porch to allow parents and guests to take advantage of free museum admission and 10% off all merchandise in the museum store. Stop by and warm up around the samovar!



### Saturday, December 16, 2006

The Kodiak Historical Society has commissioned local writer Sue Jeffrey to author a book on the evolution of the Baranov Museum building and its significance to history. With our eyes on 2008, the bicentennial year of

the building's construction, we are gathering the collective memory of this remarkable building. For many months Sue has been reaching out to locals to record their recollections of the Erskines, and their personal anecdotes of the building's colorful history. We also know that many more of you have memories to share about the Erskine's, the Erskine House and/or the Baranov Museum and we don't want to miss them. So, we'd be honored if you could take the time to stop by the Museum on Saturday, Dec. 16 between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and chat with Sue. Whether it's for a few minutes or three hours, we want to hear from you.



This wooden figure and model kayak paddle were found under the attic floorboards in the Erskine House in 1979. Now the Baranov Museum is looking for more hidden "treasures" about the building and its long and varied history. Stop by the Museum on Saturday, December 16 from 10am to 4pm if you have a personal story to share.

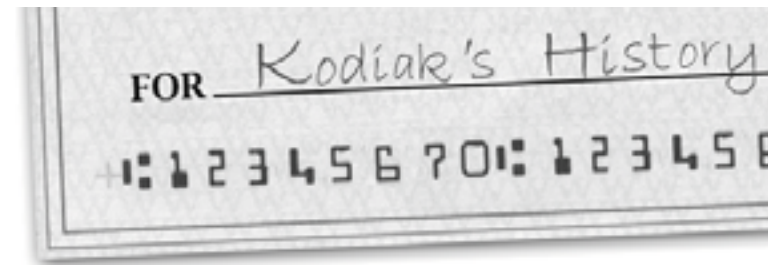
## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Short radiant days and long nights with multi-colored trim. The Holidays are here and it is a great time to visit the museum. This may sound trite, but I believe that the essence of the Christmas season is essentially the same principles guiding the evolution of the Museum. It's about community spirit, and remembrance, and being grateful. I am grateful to be part of an organization that has such a large extended family. I am grateful to be part of an organization that has successfully built trust. I am grateful to be part of an organization that is in the business of remembering the courageous men and women who have lived here.

On the note of remembrance - the Society has embarked on an exciting publication project. We are working with Sue Jeffrey on an illustrated history book to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the building's construction in 2008. The building truly is the perfect narrative tool to tell the overarching history of Kodiak as it has been at the heart of town overlooking the channel all these years. It was decided early on that the people of Kodiak were the audience for whom the book should be composed. We will be including the more recent 20th century history, the story of the Erskine family, and the War years. The book will feature illustrations and historic photographs from our archival collections (the earliest Kodiak photographs are from the late 1880's). It will also allow us to portray Kodiak through the memories of long-time residents. We are very grateful to all of you who have spoken with Sue and entrusted your personal stories to the Museum. There is much to learn and much to share.

It is always nice to see you and yours this time of year.

Katie O. Parker  
Executive Director



The time is now for the preservation of our unique history and heritage. Celebrate the season by making a tax deductible donation to the Baranov Museum.

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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Kodiak Historical Society is to collect, preserve, research and exhibit historically significant artifacts, documents, photographs and other data relative to the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands area; to evaluate and interpret the materials in the collections for educational purposes and presentation to the public; and to continue to develop and maintain a library of rare books about the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands area.

### MUSEUM STAFF

Katie O. Parker, Executive Director  
Alice Ryser, Archivist  
Ellen Lester, Curator of Collections  
Ani Thomas, Education Coordinator  
Nancy Pierce, Gallery & Gift Shop

### MUSEUM HOURS

Summer Hours  
Mon - Sat: 10 - 4, Sun: 12 - 4  
Winter Hours  
Tues - Sat: 10 - 3  
Closed Sunday & Monday  
Admission \$3.00



The Kodiak Historical Society collects objects, archives, photographs, books, and audiovisual material through donations and purchases. The Baranov Museum cares for over 1900 objects, 20,000 photographs and file cabinets filled with archival materials - available to researchers, book authors and students. At the June Acquisition Committee meeting these objects were added to the permanent collection. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the generous donors who gave donations to the permanent collection and the teaching collection.

**Martha Randolph** - a pharmacy bottle from Wodlinger Drug Store, two fox fur coat cuffs from her sister Marie Olsen's childhood coat, a beautiful table runner embroidered on Monk's cloth by the late Father Gerasim.

**Dave McMahan** - Five glass fragments from the Baranov/Laxman Glass Factory in Irkutsk through the Talci Museum.

**Louise Cobb** - Wooden library table from the Karl & Dera Brunstad family home in Kodiak.

**Edward Sargent** - Wooden cribbage board made of inlaid wood used by his grandfather, Frederick S. Sargent.

**Pete & Sally Ramaglia** - Schaeffer Ballpoint Pen with the inscription: Jack Hinckle Delegate Alaska Constitutional Convention - 1955.

**James Duros** - Audio reel to reel and cassette taped interview of Benny Benson in 1971.

**Neil Sargent** - Wooden side table from the Frederick & Fevronia Sargent home, a piece from his grandfather's, Frederick S. Sargent, furniture

**Mary Monroe** - Crab Festival poster 2005

**Genie Martz** - Ivory Buttons from Afognak

### Purchases

Artist Priscilla Messner's *Chapel Sunlight*, a water color of the Russian Orthodox Chapel in Kodiak

The next four pieces of art were purchased with funding from the Rasmuson Foundation's Art Acquisition Initiative, administered by Museums Alaska:

Artist Amy Speer: Egg Tempura Icon, *Father Herman, Wonder Worker of Alaska*.

Artist Gloria Selby: Oil painting, *Looking Into the Brownie Camera*

Artist Sven Haakanson: Carved Mask, *Hooked*

Artist Bruce Nelson: Acrylic painting, *Kodiak & the Katmai Coast*

Last summer several art prints and Afognak related objects were loaned to the Kodiak Senior Center and the Afognak Native Corporation respectfully. Since much of the art collection is stored on the second floor of the museum and inaccessible to the public, a collection of prints is now enhancing the Senior Center's recently renovated rooms until next summer. Also this summer when the Afognak Native Corporation opened their new building in Anchorage with a special exhibition area, they asked to exhibit objects in our collection related to Afognak. Since our first curator, Eunice Von Scheele Neseth was born in Afognak and started collecting when the Kodiak Historical Society was newly formed, there were many suitable objects to choose from. Collections from the Kodiak Historical Society continue to reach new venues. Last fall six of our exquisite grass baskets, made by local artist Arlene Skinner, were loaned to the Anchorage Museum of History and Art for her Solo Exhibition.

Several interesting ivory pieces, received as a temporary incoming loan from Michael Rasmussen, are on display in the Eskimo culture case. The pieces were collected by Bill Bulen while he lived in Alaska.

On pleasant winter days remember to stop in the museum to see the exhibits or visit the off site displays. Again we thank all our donors and especially our volunteers who donate many hours helping in the museum store, library project, gallery hosts, board and committees and collection photography.



Recently accessioned into the Museum's permanent collections is this wooden cribbage board, donated by Edward Sargent. The board belonged to Fredick Sloane Sargent, the customs officer in Kodiak in the late 19th century.



*Looking into the Brownie Camera* by Gloria Selby, 2005. From left to right: Annie Kewan, Marie VonScheele, Alvin Nelson and Paul Kewan. Purchase of this artwork was made possible by the Rasmuson Foundation's Art Acquisition Initiative.

It is always great to see a full house. That was the collective sentiment of the Kodiak Historical Society Board of Directors after this year's successful annual meeting. How rewarding to have so much active member interest and support in the Museum. Certainly, our guest speaker Chris Wooley was a draw. Before his presentation, "The Native Village of Woody Island: an Alutiiq Historical District", Chris lightheartedly warned the audience that he could talk about Woody Island history for hours. Indeed we could have listened for hours. On the business side, Treasurer Martha Randolph presented the annual financial report with sincere gratitude for member generosity, solid satisfaction with our ability to maximize our resources and a cautious optimism for our continued financial growth. Elected to the board for three-year terms were the three incumbents: Pat Holmes, Nancy Kemp and Mark Schreiter. New officers for the year include Reed Oswalt, President and Pat Holmes, Vice President, with Martha Randolph and Mike Rostad continuing as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

The evening concluded with the drawing of our 2006 Fall Fundraiser Raffle. Our raffle this year was a resounding success with every ticket sold a week before the meeting. Coming away as winners on the night:

**Natalie Horn** - Two round trip tickets to any destination on Alaska Airlines.

**Patty Holmes** - \$250 gift certificate to the Baranov Museum store.

**Lee Goodhart** - \$250 gift certificate to the Baranov Museum store.

**John Mink** - \$1000 cash.

John Mink decided to reinvest his winnings in the Kodiak community, donating \$500 to the Baranov Museum and \$500 to the Kodiak Arts Council's Gerald C. Wilson Drama Scholarship Fund. Our deepest thanks to John for this generosity. And special thanks to Alaska Airlines for donating the Grand Prize tickets!

### Gift Cards Now Available at the Museum Store!

With so many unique and hand-crafted items, the Baranov Museum Store is certainly a fun place to shop. This year our new Gift Cards allow you to pass along that fun to your friends and family. Gift Cards can be purchased at any amount - you choose the amount! A great gift for teachers, coaches, co-workers and for the person who has everything.



### BARANOV MUSEUM STORE

There is no better time to shop at the Baranov Museum Store than the Holidays. Our Christmas collections include a style and a price range for everyone. Many pieces are one-of-a-kind, and the handcrafted quality ensures that these pieces will be part of your family's holidays for many years to come. There are new things arriving every day. And our expert gift-wrapping is free of charge.





Earlier this year, I received an e-mail from a Wally Arneson who was requesting information on his mother, Edith Arneson who owned a restaurant in Kodiak in the early 1940's. He was hoping to find someone here in Kodiak that remembered her. Wally and some of his family traveled to Kodiak to meet with me. I was able to set up a meeting with them here in the museum with Dr. Bob Johnson and Myrtle Olsen to talk over those early War years and fill Wally and family in on life in Kodiak back then. From all the laughter I gathered they had a good visit and the only sad part was so far no-one remembered Edith. A short time later I was leaving King's Diner and had run into Clora Clymer. I asked her if she remembered an Edith Arneson. She did! How exciting for Wally and family, I could hardly wait to give them the news and Clora's phone number. They have since been in contact with Clora by phone. Wally has thanked us for all our help finding this connection to his past, something that meant so very much to him. Should any of our readers recognize Edith please give me a call.

Alice Ryser, Archivist



Edith Arneson in her restaurant in Kodiak, 1943. The name of the restaurant under Edith's ownership is uncertain. In the 1950's it was known as the Rice Bowl.

A couple of the new collections just recently donated to the museum: The Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard donated over 500 colored slides taken in the 1970s-1980s. A wonderful addition to our photo collection. Bradley Troth donated 28 slides taken during the early 1950s of Kodiak and the Naval Base. Below are a couple pictures from that collection.



The old Kodiak Fire Hall, located in the vicinity of what is now the Wells Fargo parking lot. This once undulating area of downtown was made level during the rebuilding of Kodiak after the 1964 earthquake & tsunami.



The Baranov Museum building with the Sargent family home in the background.

Moser Bay

1.5 miles across, NW shore of Alitak Bay at the South end of Kodiak Island; 56 59 N, 154 08 W

Moser Bay, located on the south end of Kodiak Island, is a commemorative name for Jefferson Franklin Moser who steamed here in 1897 on the research vessel *Albatross* and soon became regarded as Alaska's foremost authority on salmon.

In 1887, Alaska's salmon resources were well known and developed. Alaska had 16 canneries and packed half a million cases of salmon that year. (Roppell, 1986). The earliest studies of Alaska's salmon were by Tarleton H. Bean. Bean was hired by the the US Fish Commission to research the habits and biology of Alaska salmon as well as harvest methods. Bean began his studies in 1879 and published the first report on Alaska's salmon fisheries in 1887. Even though his report was the primary reference for many years, the scope of his work was greatly limited by one major obstacle. The US Fish Commissioner, Marshal McDonald seemed convinced that a study of Alaska's Salmon could be "well undertaken" without a designated vessel. Bean, with no vessel to access, was forced to rely on canneries for transport and hospitality. Because of this, his study was limited to Karluk and Cook Inlet and completely ignored other vital fishing areas. Bean knew that a vessel was essential and fought hard for this indispensable tool in investigating the salmon fisheries. The salmon industry boomed after his first report and while the US Fish Commission talked of studies that would eventually help regulate the fisheries; salmon study was not given proper attention and energy was not allocated. In these pre-territory days, the US Treasury Dept and the US Fish Commission shared the responsibilities of regulating Alaska fisheries laws. Enforcement was laughable. It was an enormous challenge with inadequate resources and thousands of miles



Albatross- Alaska's Pioneering Research Vessel Built in 1882 on the Atlantic coast, the iron twin screw steamer was 234 feet long and 384 tons. She was rigged as a brigantine. She moved to the Pacific in 1888 for the purpose of marine surveys and made annual trips to Alaska for over 20 years. She helped collect information on the sealing industries and cod first and later turned to salmon. In 1892, the fisheries research vessel was assigned to patrol the Bering Sea and was mounted with a revolving cannon. In 1897 she was commanded by Moser for the chief purpose of salmon research. The Albatross met her end when she went on the rocks in bad weather while trying to enter Lituya Bay. Photo courtesy University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, Cobb 3121.

to cover. With the industry growing at break neck pace, a documented understanding of the resource became imperative. Alaska historian Patricia Roppel has written "In 1897, Alaska's salmon research finally came to the forefront. The Albatross, under the command of Lt. Commander Jefferson Moser, USN, played an integral part of the investigation." (Roppel, 2004).

Jefferson Franklin Moser (1848-1934) was commissioned by the US government in 1897 to survey and record information on Alaska's salmon fishing grounds. He conducted extensive surveys of the fishery from 1898-99. He produced *Alaska Salmon and Salmon Industries*, an authoritative work published by the US Fish Commission. However, more work needed to be done and he returned in 1900 to survey Bristol Bay and the previously untouched Prince William Sound. Particularly, he was instructed to

explore sockeye streams and lakes since sockeye was the most sought after of Alaska's five species. The scope of his work was to include information on spawning grounds, characteristics of the surrounding vegetation, species of salmon entering the streams, their movements, timing, length of run, size of fish, signs & causes of depletion, natural and artificial obstructions, and fishing methods and their relationship to the maintenance of supply. In addition, statistics were to be collected from the canneries about their streams fished and the catch from each. He warned that without regulation and enforcement, "...the canneries will gradually have to be abandoned" (Moser, 1899). He concluded that "there is no work on the coast upon which the Albatross could be employed that will bring a better return for its money (than the study of salmon)" (Moser, 1899). He mentions in his report that salmon is the traditional staple food

References:  
Orth, Donald, 1967. *The Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*, Geological Survey Professional Paper 567. U.S. Government Printing Office.  
Roppel, Patricia. 2004. "The Steamer Albatross and Early Pacific Salmon, *Oncorhynchus* spp., Research in Alaska." *Marine Fisheries Review*, pp 21 - 31. Online at <http://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/mfr663/mfr6633.pdf>.



## MEMBERSHIP

We would like to extend sincere thanks to all of our new and renewing members from September, October and November. Your continuing support is truly appreciated.

### SPONSORS

Best Western Kodiak Inn, Karl Gurcke, Shirley Heglin, Pat & Patty Holmes, Matt & Chris Jamin, David & Marita Kaplan, Nancy Kemp, Tom Martin-Shilanski & Associates, Kodiak Fish Konnection, Roy & Linda Madsen, Dan Ogg & Sue Jeffrey, Rob & Gail Otto Family, Saltonstall Family, Joe & Jenny Stevens, Norman C. Sutliff.

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To become a new or renewing member please call the Baranov Museum at 486-5920. If we have inadvertently left you, your spouse, or your business off the list, please call for corrections.

The Baranov Museum is operated in partnership between the Kodiak Historical Society and the City of Kodiak. The Kodiak Historical Society is funded in part by the City of Kodiak, the Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska State Museum, Alaska State Council on the Arts, the Rasmuson Foundation, and many private donors. We thank you all for your support!

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for the Natives of coastal Alaska. He advocated sharing the streams and resources with Native subsistence fishers.

Naming and mapping of features went along with the job and was not new to Moser, who had spent time working for the Hydrographic Division of the U.S. Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey (USCG GS) before taking command of the Albatross. Many features he named after his crew while he was in command of the Albatross 1897-1904. Some of the names he gave to features near Moser Bay include:

**Tanner Head** on Alitak Bay, named for Lt. Commander Zera Luther

Tanner, USN, Commander of the Albatross from 1882-1894. In 1890 Tanner sailed to Alaska to explore cod grounds and fur seals. Salmon study was tacked onto this voyage but was not the priority.

**Fassett Point** on the eastern shore of Moser Bay, named for Harry C. Fassett a member of his party.

**Hepburn Cape** between Portage and Deadman's Bay at the head of Alitak Bay named for Ensen A. J. Hepburn a member of his party.

**Kempff Bay** on the western shore of Alitak Bay named for Ensen Clarence Kempff, a member of his party.

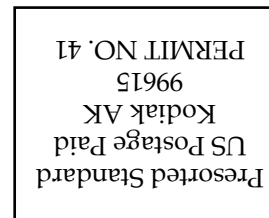
**Rodman Reach** between Tanner Head and Kodiak Island named in 1900 for Lt

Hugh Rodman a member of his party. There are many more that he recorded as local names or descriptive names. These include Lazy Bay, Bare Point, Hog Island, Dot Island, Horse Marine Lagoon, Village Islands in Uganik Bay, and Arnkil Island in Afognak Bay. His legacy is all over the southern coast of Alaska.

Moser retired in 1904 as rear admiral and went to work for AK Packers Association as vice president and general manager. He became a powerful force and was considered the authority on Alaska salmon.



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KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 BARANOV MUSEUM  
 101 Marine Way  
 Kodiak, AK 99615



## Yes! I want to help preserve and share Kodiak history

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

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Please send a gift membership from me to: at the \$\_\_\_\_\_ level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

My check made payable to the Baranov Museum is enclosed

Please charge my membership(s) to my credit card:

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to begin / renew my membership as a:*

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- Patron ..... \$ 250 - 999
- Benefactor ..... \$ 1000+

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