

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

11/18/2011

This newsletter is available weekly and previous issues are available at http://lam.alaska.gov/about_lam/FridayBulletin.html.

Submissions for the Friday Bulletin should be sent to linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov and may be edited for content and length if used.

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NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

WHO WE ARE: JERRY DUNCAN (MICROFILM IMAGING OPERATOR)



As a micrographics filmer I'm responsible for the filming of the state's collection of newspapers and historic papers from explorers in Alaska. For example, I filmed the field notes for the Frederica De Laguna photograph collection so that we could match the photograph collection to the field notes collection.

The De Laguna photograph collection has an online finding aid that can be viewed from http://www.eed.state.ak.us/temp_lam_pages/library/historical/collections03.cfm along with material on other Historical Collections groups of photographs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALA EMERGING LEADER CORAL SHELDON-HESS

As previously mentioned on the AkLA-L list, UAA librarian Coral Sheldon-Hess has been selected for the 2012 American Libraries Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders program. She is being sponsored by the Association of College & Research Libraries -Science & Technology Section (ACRL-STS) which will help defray travel costs to attend conference.

For the full announcement about the class of 2012, see <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/2012-class-emerging-leader-participants-announced>.

To learn more about the Emerging Leaders program, visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders/index.cfm>.

If a staff member from your library, archives or museum has been tapped for a national program, we would love to share the good news on *Friday Bulletin*. (Hat tip to Patience Frederiksen and Mike Robinson for this item.)

NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA

SHI UNCOVERS ANB 1921 PROGRAM

Over at the SHI Special Collections Research Center blog, archivist Zach Jones talks about his discovery of a document from 1921:

I recently came across the ANB Grand Camp Program for 1921 (scan below). While no minutes from the 1921 meeting have survived (although SHI has published the 1920 ANB minutes), the 1921 program lists the convention's agenda and the topics discussed. Some of the issues of the day included fishing rights, segregated schooling, civil rights, and discussions on sovereignty and land ownership, such as through a reservation system.

For the complete post along for the scan of the 1921 program mentioned by Zach, please visit <http://shispecialcollections.blogspot.com/2011/11/alaska-native-brotherhoods-1921-grand.html>.

ARLENE'S CAVEATS ON PRIMARY SOURCES

In a post titled "How much do you trust records?" UAA archivist Arlene Schmuland reflects on some material she recently noticed in the Alaska Pacific Consolidated Mining Company records. After quoting from an oral history featuring miner Joe Sertich, she observes:

My reaction to this is mixed. At the same time I find it really funny, I'm also kind of freaked out. I'm used to looking for bias, teaching how to look for bias, especially in personal records, but I think a lot of us tend to assume that corporate records are somehow cleaner. More accurate. In this collection, I've seen some of these forms that the miners filled out. And if I were assessing them for bias, I'd figure that miners might be exaggerating a little as to how much ore or such they'd pulled out of the mine to make their productivity look better. But it would never have occurred to me that they might be flat-out lying about the amounts of materials they consumed while working!

Arlene is quick to point out that primary sources remain valuable. One just needs to look at them in context:

Maybe the lesson is (and it's one I really, really like) is to remember the archivist's secret weapon: context. If you were to review other records that came from the mine that year—say, the purchasing records—it would become very clear very quickly that something was amiss, that it would be very difficult for the miners to be using double the dynamite that the mine was bringing in. Part of the reason I like this lesson is that for a long time I've thought it was dangerous for a researcher to rely on a single archival document and not read or assess the surrounding and related material when tracking down answers.

Because we agree with Arlene that context is very important, we urge you to read her entire post at <http://www.consortiumlibrary.org/blogs/archives/2011/11/10/how-much-do-you-trust-records/>.

NICE VETERANS DAY USE OF DIGITAL ARCHIVES AND BLOGGING

Also from the UAA Consortium Library's Archives and Special Collections blog is a Veterans Day post at <http://www.consortiumlibrary.org/blogs/archives/2011/11/11/our-thanks-2011-2/> that combines the power of blogging with the authoritative resources of Alaska's Digital Archives.

The post consists of captioned photos from collections held by UAA that related to the military in Alaska. Clicking on a photograph takes you into that record in the Alaska Digital Archives. From there you can easily explore related pictures and see the items in context.

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