

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

1/20/2012

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: LISA BYKONEN (SITKA MUSEUM PROTECTION AND VISITOR SERVICES SUPERVISOR)



How did someone who came to Sitka to build a kayak and paddle with the whales, end up working at the Sheldon Jackson Museum? Just lucky I guess. During my time here I've had the privilege to work with highly dedicated people and I have learned so much more than I could ever convey. As with most experiences one ends up taking away more than what they bring. My background working in many different libraries, coupled with archival training, plus curatorial methods and maintenance jobs with the National Park Service supplied some of the skills on my application for a museum clerk position years ago.

My current scope of work as supervisor for SJM Protection & Visitor Services includes responsibility in operation of the facility. I make sure visitors are welcomed and safe, keeping an eye on and working with the collections, assisting with school programs, requesting and overseeing maintenance projects and I am involved in hiring, training, and making sure we have staff scheduled throughout the year. Statistics can

be an important part of the historical record, and I am the main bean counter compiling visitation and facility reports for our agency partners. The purchase of the Sheldon Jackson Museum by the State of Alaska in the early 1980's has insured that Alaska's history stays available to Alaskans. The recent addition of the building next door-the former Stratton Library-will give Sheldon Jackson Museum room to expand and continue its mission.

One of the many highlights I have experienced at the museum was when a Tlingit weaver wrapped her Raven's Tail robe around my shoulders before packing it. I felt the weight of luxurious softness woven with wool and strips of sea otter fur. It was quite an honor. A special time at the museum is every summer when Alaska Native artists demonstrate their craft in the gallery and share their culture with visitors of all ages, continuing the imagination, strength and ingenuity of survival just like their ancestors.

MUSEUM WEB CHAT COVERS SNOW & HUMIDITY ISSUES

A recording and transcript for ASM Museum Services Chat 17 has been posted to <http://www.museums.state.ak.us/ASMChat.html>. This one hour text chat covered the following topics: Cold and Snow in Alaska, Scanning and storing slides, Keeping the Relative Humidity (RH) up in Winter and Cold and low RH affecting Paintings. Most of these topics will be of interest to archives and libraries in addition to museums.

NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA

SCHOLAR DONATES ARCHIVES ON HYDABURG, HAIDA TO SHI

The universe of information about Hydaburg expanded recently with Dan Vaughn, Ph. D's donation of his field work and doctoral papers to Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI). SHI Archivist Zach Jones provided these details about the collection in a 1/12/2012 blog entry:

“The collection includes written documents, such as correspondence and meeting minutes, from Hydaburg dating to the 1920s plus photographs and field work recordings made by Vaughan as he interviewed people. He also recorded people singing and speaking in Haida.”

Read the entire blog entry, “Scholar donates archives on Hydaburg, Haida to SHI” at <http://shispecialcollections.blogspot.com/2012/01/scholar-donates-archives-on-hydaburg.html>.

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