

# FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

8/3/2012

*This newsletter is available weekly and previous issues are available at [http://museums.alaska.gov/LAM/about\\_lam/FridayBulletin.html](http://museums.alaska.gov/LAM/about_lam/FridayBulletin.html).*

*Submissions for the Friday Bulletin should be sent to [linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov) and may be edited for content and length if used.*

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## NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

### STATE TO DIGITIZE DECADES OF LEGISLATURE'S AUDIO RECORDINGS

The Alaska State Archives and the Legislative Affairs Agency have begun a collaborative project to digitize the Alaska State Legislature's House/Senate Floor and Special/Standing Committee audio recordings dating from the 1960's to 2004.

The Archives is providing hundreds of original master reel-to-reel tapes and over 20,000 audio-cassettes to Legislative Information Services, which has procured the technical equipment and tasked three staff to copy the content into MP3 format and make it available on both agencies' webpages. Some of the recordings are quite fragile and in need of preservation, but migrating the content to newer media is the current best solution.

Shay Wilson, the network/programming supervisor who will administer the project for Legislative Affairs, said, "Our goal is to digitize all extant analog audio recordings and update bill/committee information going back to Statehood. Recordings will be posted online as they are completed."

The length of the project is unknown because of staff and technical considerations, but it will consume more than one year. “It is an optimal situation for all parties,” said State Archivist Dean Dawson. “The Legislature will have its historical meeting recordings available via the web and, most importantly, Alaskans will possess instant access to valuable information that previously could take several days to obtain.”

## **WWII AT THE STATE MUSEUM IN JUNEAU**

Dr. Alexander Dolitsky, Director of the Alaska-Siberia Research Center, online at <http://www.aksrc.org>, will present an illustrated lecture, entitled “Alaska at War: The Alaska-Siberia Airway During World War II” in Juneau on Friday evening at 6:00. Dolitsky’s book on World War II, *Allies in Wartime: the Alaska-Siberia airway during World War II*, is available for interlibrary loan through the State Library, as are several of his other titles.

In 1941, the Russian air force was decimated by the German Blitzkrieg, and they called for assistance from their allies. Help from the Americans came first in the form of “Lend-Lease,” a program supplying Russia, Britain, and other countries fighting the Germans in Europe with \$50 billion worth of “tools,” including tanks, ships, aircraft, vehicles, munitions and other needed goods. Aircraft and supplies were ferried to Russia via the Northwest Staging Route—a string of airbases leading from Great Falls, Montana to Siberia via Canada and Alaska. Over 36 months, from October 1942 to October 1945, the operation delivered nearly 8000 aircraft to Russia, with over 600 Soviet pilots stationed in Montana, Fairbanks, Galena and Nome. 2012 marks the 70th anniversary of the Alaska-Siberia Airway, and will be celebrated in October in Fairbanks and Yakutsk.

The lecture is free and open to the public, and a book signing will precede and follow the talk.

On display at the museum are two World War II exhibitions: “When Over There Was Here” and “Kiska: A World War II Battlefield Landscape.” This summer marks the 70th anniversary of two seminal events in both World War II and Alaska state history: the Aleutian Island Campaign and the construction of the Alaska-Canada (ALCAN) Military Highway. Through photos and other artifacts, these exhibits tell the story of Alaska’s role in WWII through a rare showing of actual weapons, uniforms and other gear used by Allied and Japanese forces.

## **NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA**

### **ACCESS CONTENT FROM PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIBRARY ASSOC CONFERENCE**

Many of you may know of, and some may be attending, Into the Wild: Surviving & Thriving in Uncertain Times, the annual conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association, occurring now in Anchorage. Don’t miss out, even if you were unable to attend! Presentations, handouts and additional resources for many of the sessions will be made available on the conference web page at <http://www.pnla.org/events/conference2012/index.html>.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## WHEN NOT TO GOOGLE

This post from Gary Price's blog, LJ INFOdocket, "Google It?: Internet Searches Often Provide Inaccurate Information about Infant Sleep Safety", is a great reminder of the importance of using reliable resources, especially for health information. Some good resources on the open web are highlighted, but keep in mind, also, our health resources on the Digital Pipeline, including Consumer Health Complete.

General-purpose search engines (Google, Bing, Blekko, etc.) are incredibly powerful tools but it's also useful for users to have a very basic understanding about how they work, what they contain, what they don't contain, how to avoid problems with what's found and at the same time to know when, where, why, and how to go direct and utilize specialty resources and databases.

The following summary is of a forthcoming article appearing in *The Journal of Pediatrics*. [Note: I've truncated the original summary here. For the original blog post, including the full article summary and a link to the full text preprint, see <http://www.infodocket.com/2012/08/02/health-info-google-it-internet-searches-often-provide-inaccurate-information-about-infant-sleep-safety/>. ]

From the Summary:

Seventy-two percent of adults thought that they could believe most or all of the health information on the internet, and 70% of adults said that information that they found on the internet impacted their health or their actions pertaining to their health or the health of their children. According to Rachel Y. Moon, MD, pediatrician and SIDS researcher at Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC, "It is important for health care providers to realize the extent to which parents may turn to the internet for information about infant sleep safety and then act on that advice, regardless of the reliability of the source."

Is your library pointing your users to the most reliable resources for health information?

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