

PRESS RELEASE

Alaska State Museum

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KUSKOKWIM IMAGES ON DISPLAY AT MUSEUM

A portfolio of images of village life along the Kuskokwim River by photographer James H. Barker is now on exhibit at the Alaska State Museum. The sixteen black and white photographs were taken in southwestern Alaska in a region known as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The land is flat, covered by tundra and laced with rivers, sloughs and lakes. The Native Alaskans there are Yup'ik, whose culture is based partially on subsistence. The portfolio is part of the museum's collection and will be on view throughout the summer.

Barker is a long-time Alaska photojournalist and commercial photographer who lives in Fairbanks. He is best known for his photo essays on Alaska Native people and for his photographs documenting scientific research in Antarctica. His book, *Always Getting Ready: Yup'ik Eskimo subsistence in Western Alaska*, published by the University of Washington Press, is now in its 3rd printing

Barker has had solo exhibitions of his photographs at Alaska's major museums as well as at the Field Museum in Chicago, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Indian and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

Summer hours at the museum are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. General admission is \$5. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.