

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,  
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums

395 Whittier St.

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718

907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: February 21, 2012**

## **A VISIT FROM THE PRESIDENT ASM Guest Researcher Reconstructs First-Ever Presidential Visit to Alaska**

JUNEAU – Ninety years ago, oil did not flow from the North Slope, cruise ships did not ply the Inside Passage, and Sarah Palin was but a glint inside another glint in her grandfather’s eye. One can only imagine what Warren G. Harding encountered when he became the first U.S. President to visit Alaska in 1923—until now.

Join Alaska State Libraries, Archives, and Museums Guest Researcher Jim Geraghty as he presents “President Harding in Alaska,” at the Alaska State Museum, Wednesday, Feb. 29 from noon to 1 pm. Geraghty has spent countless hours traveling the country in search of information on Harding’s “Voyage of Understanding” aboard the *USS Henderson*, at the time, the largest ship ever to dock in Alaska. In this lecture, Geraghty digitally reconstructs the visit by assembling hundreds of photos of the numerous towns and villages along the presidential route.

Jim Geraghty appears as part of the 2012 Andrew P. Kashevarof Memorial Lecture Series, held every Wednesday in February at noon, featuring new research by Museum staff, visiting artists, and scholars. Drawing from the collections of the State Library, Archives, and Museums, in some instances presenters will display new and/or seldom-seen historical photos, documents, and artifacts. Admission to the lectures is free; visitors are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. 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.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

395 Whittier, Juneau, AK

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

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