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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: February 21, 2012**

### **GETTING BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS** *ASM Features Alaskan Exhibit Donated by Friends of the Alaska State Museum*

A WWII bayonet. Salmon cans. A William Seward bobble-head doll given away to fans at a minor league baseball game. What do these items have in common? They, along with many others, will be view at the Alaska State Museum from through March 1, 2012 as part of a special exhibit of artifacts donated by the Friends of the Alaska State Museum.

Since 1960, the Friends of the Alaska State Museum have donated hundreds of artifacts relating to Alaska's history and cultures, often purchasing items the Museum would like to acquire but cannot fund on its own.

"The Friends have stepped forward to purchase some outstanding artifacts for our permanent collection," said Steve Henrikson, ASM Curator of Collections. "These objects fill gaps in our existing collection and significantly augment its potential for research."

Objects included in the February exhibit include:

- Japanese propaganda posters depicting imaginative, heroic scenes from the Japanese invasion of Attu in 1942.
- Japanese bayonet, found after the Battle of Attu in 1943, when Allied forces retook the island with heavy loss of life, which fits a Japanese rifle already in the collection.
- Haida Tobacco Basket: a rare form of spruce root basket, 19th century, with exquisite "skip stitch" decoration. Used to hold a tobacco chewing mixture. Originally carried on a lanyard hanging from the neck.
- Desk Set from the Governors House. Reportedly used by President Harding during his stop in Juneau in 1923.
- Salmon Cans: hand-soldered cans with labels from 1890-1920, including a "Meteor Brand," Alaska Packers Association recently found recently in a dump in Chile.
- "Bobble Head" of William H. Seward: a souvenir distributed at a minor league baseball game in Auburn, New York (Seward's hometown).
- Model Canoe: a highly-accurate model of a Tlingit dugout from Yakutat, featuring a projecting cutwater, which protects the hull from damage from floating ice.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3; however, through April 21 and in conjunction with the "Out of the Rain exhibition, free admission is available to those who bring a donation of canned food for the Southeast Alaska Food Bank. 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:**

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

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