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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 2, 2013

Cutting-edge Technology 1914: The Baldwin Locomotive Joint Presentation about this Locomotive

JUNEAU – A rare electric locomotive used to haul ore in the Alaska-Gastineau mine near Juneau in the early 1900s is slated to be on permanent display in the new State Library, Archives and Museum building. A joint lecture by Kyle Watt, Curator of the California State Railroad Museum and industrial preservation specialist Randy Hees will be presented at the Alaska State Museum on Tuesday, July 9th, at 7 p.m. This is no charge for this presentation.

According to mine historian David Stone, the electric locomotive was one of two built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works for the Alaska Gastineau mine in 1914. The Alaska-Gastineau mine, located in the Sheep Creek valley just south of Juneau, used them to haul ore from 13 underground levels of the mine to the processing facilities located at Thane. The mine was one of the world's largest gold mines, and the use of electric locomotives was innovative at the time and helped the mine become an industry model of efficiency and low-cost operation. The locomotives had a low-profile design to allow use underground, and were powered by two 90-horsepower electric Westinghouse motors with electricity supplied through a cable system.

Photographs of the locomotive in operation, complete blueprints of all the parts, and service documentation is preserved in the Alaska State Library Historical Collection—part of an extensive archive of mining in the Juneau area donated by the Alaska Electric Light and Power Company.

Summer hours at the museum are 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. daily. Summer admission is \$7, with a \$1 discount for age 65 and older. 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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