

**CARRIE M. McLAIN MEMORIAL
MUSEUM**
PO Box 281
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-6630



Date: October 9, 2024
To: Brooks Chandler, Interim City Manager
CC: City Clerk
From: Cheryl Thompson, Museum Director
Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 25, 1st Quarter
July, August, September 2024

July started out with a family visit of descendants of a former Nome Post Master. People are always happy when we can find something on their relatives. I also continue to receive phone calls and emails about the same.

July 20th we had a full house with visitors from the ship Roald Amundson and the museum also hosted a craft fair. One highlight was a German passenger who brought his childhood book about the Diphtheria Serum Run to Nome. He said he was one of the few passengers who knew anything about Nome before getting here. He had the Park Service stamp it for him. We also learned this summer there is a whole contingent of people who seek out all the Park Service stamps from every park. With the park's visitors center closed for remodel this summer we had to track the stamps down a few times. Library staff made the day for two couples by being able to get it for them through outside connections.

We ended the month with a visit from Kathy Hemphill who donated 7 items made by artist George Ahgupuk. They are colored pen and ink drawings on leather. Her grandparents, Jacob(Jack) and Loretta Anderson, lived in Nome from 1930 to 1946.

August brought a great nephew of Lucky Swede John Brynteson to town. They didn't know if anyone would even know of his great uncle and was very pleasantly surprised to find out that we definitely do!

State of Alaska got a grant to rescan the Recorders Books. A company called US Imaging Inc. had the contract to do the work. They had 2 teams of two people each, scanning 24/7 for 2 weeks. The scanners are nearly brand new with this being the 5th job they've been used for. The sample scans are really good.

The Nome covid-19 book, Stronger Together, was published. A book signing and art exhibit was jointly sponsored by the Library, Museum, and Cultural Center. It was especially nice to hear the artists thoughts on the pieces that they had made. We had a good turn-out.

The carpenters for the Leonard Seppala House came up and built a copy of the building. Some interesting things were found in the walls and it was discovered to be a pre-fab building from Seattle. It is not quite finished at this time.

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The very end of August I was able to hire the Beltz History teacher as a very part-time employee. It is already working out very well as he has involved his students in various history projects that he has learned about through the Museum. It's great to have a strong and enthusiastic employee to help.

September brought the last 5 cruise ships in. It is interesting to notice the different personalities almost, of the groups. We hosted a couple of craft fairs on visits, but there was another group that I wish we had a craft fair for. That group, as a whole, was very interested and engaged. The Discovery Tours people have been very supportive this summer. They say that the visitors have very good things to say about the museum, they don't expect to find such a nice museum in Nome and the word seems to be getting around to other cruise ships.

An introductory meeting was held in the Foster Room for planning Nome events to educate about and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1925 Diphtheria Serum Run. The Nome Kennel Club is planning a week-long celebration starting September 25th through February 2nd. All ideas for events are welcome and there will be continuing meetings.

The Museum Director attended the Museums Alaska Conference in Fairbanks. It was good to reconnect with museum people around the State and learn some new things in conservation. Visits to the Antique Auto Museum, The Museum of the North, and the Morris Thompson Visitors Center were astounding. These places are highly recommended to everyone.

The Director has also attended 3 free Zoom meetings on access to Archives held around the State, that are available for use.

Visitor numbers were 2,267

Sales \$4,690

Donations \$1,770