

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



Date: April 17, 2024,  
To: Glenn Steckman, City Manager  
CC: City Clerk  
From: Cheryl Thompson, Museum Director  
Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 24, 3rd Quarter  
January, February, March

As expected January was a quieter month with a few highlights. Alaskan author Tricia Brown spent the day in Nome researching for a book about the sled dogs that went from this area to France during the beginning of WWI to haul supplies through the deep snow in the Vosges Mountains in France. It is a totally fascinating story of over 100 leader quality dogs picked by Scotty Allan, to join 300 freight dogs from eastern Canada in a secret mission war effort.

February had a few more visitors. The New Halen Boys and Girls basketball teams came in with their teachers, one of whom grew up in Teller. They also wanted the kids to see the inside of Old Saint Joes. We went over there and gave them a little lesson on the history of reindeer in Alaska. They were a great crew. That made me realize that I need to work more closely with the school so that when teams come to town, they know we have a nice Museum and that I will do my best to accommodate their schedule if they want to come in.

We also repaired nail holes and spot painted the exhibit gallery walls. With Public Works help moving heavier items from storage, we set up a dog mushing display. It features the All Alaska Sweepstakes Race, which was the first long distance sled dog race, I believe, in this country. Almost everything is from our collection. It also has a memorial to Howard and Julie Farley with other important Iditarod mushers who have passed. Another case features fancy gold and ivory jewelry that was made by jewelers here in Nome.

March of course brought lots of Iditarod visitors. I gave a tour of the Museum exhibits and each day had a group of die-hards who stuck with me through to the end. I can talk about a lot of details on our incredible collection. It's exciting to see people so interested to learn. With Nome Kennel Club and the Farley family, including Aaron Burmeister, we had a little get together to talk about all the contributions Howard and Julie made to Iditarod and Nome. Kirsten Bey showed us three short films about the Iditarod Historic National Trail. Carol Gales also gave a Nome History talk in relation to her home, the Discovery Saloon. We had quite a few of the participants of the Iditarod Trail Invitational come in, many of them from Europe. Neal Foster came in with a great grand niece of Roald Amundsen and I was able to show them a few things in our collection from the airship Norge.

I bought used books pertaining to the Nome area to sell in our gift shop and they went really well. The idea originated with looking for copies of the Terrence Cole book 'Nome, City of Golden Beaches'

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



which is out of print. I found 7 and sold them all, along with most of the other books I picked up. During March we had about 450 visitors and brought in \$1500 from gift sales and donations.

New excitement is that the trophy for the first All Alaska Sweepstakes Race has surfaced and the owners would like to make a long-term loan to this Museum. The team was owned by Albert Fink who was president and helped form the Nome Kennel Club. The driver and winner of the race was John Hegness. Albert Fink went on to become one of Al Capone's lawyers in Chicago and the trophy passed down there.

It is still a struggle to complete some work with no electronic files left by the previous director.

Working with our new IT company, we have been able to get our high-quality scanner for photos back in service. Photos are one of the most impressive parts to our collection and people have bought copies to use in their publications. Working with a partner we should be able to print extra high-quality photos again soon.