

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



Date: April 9, 2025
To: Dan Grimmer, Acting City Manager
CC: City Clerk
From: Cheryl Thompson, Museum Director
Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 25, 3rd Quarter
January, February, March

The Museum had an unusually busy January with the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Serum Run to Nome. Nome Kennel Club took the lead in planning and the events covered the same time frame as 100 years ago: January 25th through February 2nd. Former Health Aide Trainer Dawyn Sawyer came up to help and present talks on research she did when she lived here. Events at the Museum included showing the film *Icebound*, a talk by Bering Land Bridge Park employee Tori Crawford, two talks by Dawyn on the disease of diphtheria and the mushers in the relay, an evening of three history talks on Nome Health Care, the aviation angle, and the facilities the Federal Government had in place that allowed it to happen, and finished with Kirsten Bey and Steffanie Johnson's 2020 trip over the Serum Trail. The last event of the celebration was a re-enactment by the Kennel Club bringing the serum into town at the Mini, and an open invitation potluck sponsored by Norton Sound Health Corporation.

Our most dedicated visitor was Elizabeth Bloedow from Bakersfield, California who realized 12 years ago that this year would be the 100th anniversary and vowed to come to Nome for it. Her father and brother accompanied her.

Starting at the same time as our celebrations, a Maine musher named Jonathan Hayes started from Nenana with a team of Seppala descendent Siberian Huskies who also followed the Serum Run trail and came into Nome on February 18th. They brought in a box from Nenana with serum vials protected by reindeer fur to represent the original serum. Their run was unusually nice but took a big windy, cold, turn when they hit the coast. It was still very windy when they came into Nome but didn't seem to faze the dogs at all. Nome's Mayor met them when they came in. Jonathon and a crew also came up last summer to rebuild the Leonhard Seppala House.

The Museum received a large wooden art creation to commemorate the Serum Run from portrait artist Jo Lynn Stressing. Part of it is constructed from wood off of an old dog house! People all over the world have heard of this amazing Race of Mercy. Don't forget that the Museum has Seppala's dog Fritz, who also ran in it.

The biggest event in March was of course Iditarod. We started off the month with a concert by Annie Bartholomew and the opening of a new exhibit. Annie and friends came and played old time music over the weekend and on Sunday in the Museum they performed an album that she wrote about gold

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rush women. The museum setting fit the music very well. We also opened our new exhibit called Felt Expressions. This features the wool felt sewing of coats, pillows and banners by the Nome Covenant Church Women and Ruth Ost Towner. Another part of the exhibit features embroideries by Leo Nagaruk known as 'Dummy'. Leo had been badly burned as a child and could hardly talk and his hands were extremely scarred with only stubs for fingers. His sewing is quite amazing.

Museum events included a daily tour, the showing of the film Icebound, Carol Gales's history of the Discovery Saloon, three short films about the Iditarod National Historic Trail, a talking session with Nome's own Aaron Burmeister and Dawyn Sawyer's talk on Diphtheria.

Museum staff has also been working on the upcoming budget for the next fiscal year. It is unclear if the remainder of the IMLS grant will come through as everyone has been put on administrative leave for three months.

Museum Collections Assistant Hannah Anderson intends to leave the Museum April 30th.

Third Quarter Visitors: 705 Gift Shop and Donations: \$2090

Below is artwork from JoLynn Stressing:

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