

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



Date: January 16, 2024,
To: Glenn Steckman, City Manager
CC: City Clerk
From: Cheryl Thompson, Museum Director
Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal year 24, 2nd Quarter
October, November, December

October brought a slowdown of guests to Museum. While the cruise ship season has ended, life at the museum is still happening. An opportunity came about for the museum to acquire 'Jano's nugget', a 41-ounce gold nugget that Jano Kralik and his son Michael found at Gold Run. With help from the Nome Historical Foundation, it has been secured and we look forward to placing it on display sometime in the next year. Thank you, Nome Historical Foundation!

On October 26th the museum presented a talk about the Beringia Russian Sled Dog Race featured in a photo exhibit. Sue Steinacher spoke about her experiences mushing dogs in Russia and Charlie Lean talked about staking trail for the Hope Race which ran in both Alaska and Russia. We had a good turn out of mostly mushers, plus about 15 to 20 teenagers and staff from NACTEC. The kids were really attentive and it was interesting to see them think about kids in Russian villages, not all that far away.

In November, Mo Davis left to move to Petersburg and Rick Anderson came to work. Rick has lived in Nome for a long time and is interested in history so we are very happy to have him. He's also skilled at fixing things like the door on Nome's first phone booth and the light in it.

One big accomplishment in November was the packing up and return to Germany of an artifact display on tools used to build a sod roofed dwelling. Even though these artifacts originated in Alaska, they were brought back over from Germany in about 2014 for the display. Due to the death of the professor the following year and the lengthy permit process for their return, it was just accomplished now. An associate working for the professor's widow came to Nome and together we carefully checked and packed each item and they were safely returned to Germany with no problems. The regulations concerning marine mammal parts and import/export are quite rigorous even when the items are hundreds of years old.

In December, on a foggy day in the villages, the museum entertained visitors who could not complete the Operation Santa Claus. People from Air Guard, Army Guard, Commissary (military grocery store), and the band, who were all here for various reasons, came in to visit.

I have had a couple meetings with our grant coordinator from IMLS, Institute of Museum and Library Services. This is a \$100,000 grant to basically put our collection on line, that the previous Director

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secured. We have a grant extension to June of 2024 and if needed (probably) can ask for another one-year extension.

Our most successful event in December was a Family Fun Night at the Foster Building organized and advertised by Marguerite. It was December 21st and the kids were on school break. The Library, Museum and Katirvik Cultural Center all took part with different activities or crafts. The Museum was basically just open with the regular exhibits but we featured the KIVA planks. These are very nice, precise, hardwood blocks that can be stacked quite tall. I was impressed with how much the kids were engaged in playing with them. There were almost 90 people overall and 60 of them made it into the museum.

The final museum activity of the year was taking down the Russian Dog Race Exhibit and mailing it back to the owner.

That last weekend also had the Public Works crew (Harry Karmun) put a new coat of finish on the wood floors in the lobby and Foster Room. When more oil arrives, the Museum floors will be done also. It really brings out the rich color of the wood.

A possibility of an acquisition has come up: the availability to purchase Scotty Allen's sled from 1909. Scotty Allen drove the winning team in the All Alaska Sweepstakes in 1909 and we also have the beautiful silver trophy from that year. It would be quite a match.

We have started using one of the museum's 3 cash registers from the collection to handle the money brought in through purchases. Our Square System handles the actual transactions but the cash register gets attention. A tag on the bottom of the drawer shows it was purchased in 1900 for a business in Nome. It has been fun to use.

Our statistics for the fourth quarter are 390 visitors and \$328 taken in.