

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



Date: July 17, 2024,  
To: Glenn Steckman, City Manager  
CC: City Clerk  
From: Cheryl Thompson, Museum Director  
Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 24, 4th Quarter  
April, May, June

April started off with the opening night of WAISC, Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference, taking place in the Foster Room and the Museum. It was a very nice evening with about 40 people and we were treated to a talk on our local Native languages.

Phone calls and emails started coming in from people planning to visit Nome in the summer or wanting to donate items to the Museum. It is surprising how many wonderful things are still out there. We also research for relatives who were here.

April also brought a 5<sup>th</sup> grade ANSEP class visit mostly from the area villages who were working with NACTEC.

The end of the school year brought kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class visits in May. After visiting with their class and finding out there is not a fee to get in, several students came back to visit on their own. They were a little too rowdy but I am happy that they know the Museum is a safe place to go. The biggest event in June was the port of call visit by Westerdam. We had at least 300 visitors, with so many coming in at one time that it was hard to keep track. All the visitors we encountered were very interested and pleasant. I quickly learned many of them were somewhat disappointed that they were not able to cross the Arctic Circle as they were promised due to encountering fog and ice. They quickly seemed to change their mind about that when we provided them with the current Nome Nugget and the story of the research vessel that had just spent 2 weeks stuck in the ice. Compared to other cruise ship passengers, these people seemed much more willing and eager to spend some money here. I have just learned that the other passengers do not have access to their luggage, as it has been taken to either be put on the ship or taken to the airport. That inhibits their ability to acquire and transport things. Books about Nome and the area continue to be popular and I will keep stocking them in our gift shop.

At almost the same time in June, previous Museum Director Laura Samuelson and her husband Gary made their first visit back to Nome since moving away. It was wonderful to show them our new building and especially the Collection Storage area that she worked so hard to acquire, along with other dedicated Nomeites help!

Another group who came in are people involved in the restoration of the Leonard Seppala House Project. The group included two Iditarod dog mushers, a videographer and an Alaskan fund raiser. They wanted to inspect the house, let Nome people learn who they are, and brought materials to

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work on it. They have a group of carpenters lined up to come later in the summer to do the work. The vision for the building is to be set up like a mushers cabin and educate on the importance of dogs in the settlement and life of this area.

Some of the amazing new/old items we have received this quarter are a business card, deck of cards press, and a match safe with cigar trimmer that belonged to Wyatt Earp and his partner Charles Hoxie. The match safe is embossed with 'Dexter Saloon', 'Nome Alaska' and 'W. Earp'. Another new item is a beautiful carving by local Shishmaref artist Melvin Olanna. We are looking forward to getting that on display soon.

Our visitor number was 1,061 and total money brought in \$2,331 with \$886 being donations.