CHASING THE DARK: PERSPECTIVES ON PLACE, HISTORY AND ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS

Winner of the Alaska Library Association Award
For An Outstanding Work About Alaska Published in 2009

Edited by Kenneth Pratt and published by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region, ANCSA Office (Anchorage), 472 pages.

There is a little-known collection that exists here in Alaska, currently divided between the BIA ANCSA Office in Anchorage and the Rasmuson Library Archives in Fairbanks. Over the past 30 years it has evolved into the largest collection of materials ever compiled on the history and cultures of Alaska Natives.

This immensely important collection was generated because of Section 14(h)(1) in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which provided that Native regional corporations could gain land title to places that had been important to them historically and culturally. These ‘special places’ might be cemetery sites, seasonal camps, old villages, etc.

The corporations had to make application for each area, explaining why it was important to them historically and culturally. The areas were then investigated by government field crews who went to the location and surveyed, mapped,

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

David Ongley

AkLA has turned a corner. We are now fully engaged in the legislative process as never before. As of this writing, the State of Alaska has nearly completed its annual budgetary cycle. The final capital budget awaits Governor Parnell and his sharp red pencil. By the time you read this, he may have already pared back what he has declared to be a bloated budget. We can only hope that the Library Construction and Major Expansion Grant Program funding, for which many librarians and supporters throughout the State have been so diligently striving, makes it to the finish line. At stake is over $13,000,000.

Let us assume for a moment that it will be approved. (To do otherwise is far too depressing.) The effort by AkLA members in support of this program has been well orchestrated and effective. Our membership performed admirably and testified via teleconference, wrote letters and sent emails. Our lobbyist, Clark Gruening, played a pivotal role in keeping the funding on track when the House Finance Committee mistakenly thought to move the funding from the capital budget to a general obligation bond measure. Once Clark explained to several key representatives the problem with such a move, the funding was left in the capital budget.

We have worked on this legislation for three years. The message by our membership on this issue has been consistent and determined. Civil discourse seems to have prevailed. Two people in particular are owed a huge debt of gratitude for their work on this issue: former AkLA President, current Treasurer and Director of the Seward Community Library, Patty Linville, and Judi Andrijanoff, Seward’s capital campaign consultant and truly a friend of libraries. Largely because of these two library champions, over 20 Alaskan libraries stand to benefit from continued capital funding from the State. Also, AkLA Past President Mary Jo Joiner has been in the front ranks providing excellent advice and support.

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sketched, photographed, interviewed, made field notes, did background research and wrote the final reports. After the site had been “verified,” land title would be transferred.

There were over 2300 applications investigated. All the materials generated by this process were kept — and thus began the ANCSA 14(h)(1) Collection.

*Chasing the Dark* dips into this huge collection and showcases its potential; in effect it introduces the collection to the public, stressing its wealth of information on Alaska Native peoples and its importance to both the people and to researchers. It also describes the collecting process, the collectors and the collection’s vulnerability as time passes and budgets fluctuate.

What exactly is so special about *Chasing the Dark*?

The word “variety” immediately springs to mind…. As an anthology there are many authors, each writing in his own style. Some of the authors were part of the information gathering during the 1970s, 80s and 90s; they camped in the rain and winds and experienced the mosquitoes, and there is a special dimension to their articles. A bit of personality or a sense of humor or nostalgia peeks through occasionally.

Some articles are long and others are short; readers can pick and choose.

The book is graphically beautiful. There is a photo or map or drawing on almost every page. Care is taken to document the surrounding region of each place — using topo maps and photos which look down from hilltops or aircraft. The selection and quality of photos is outstanding.

The target audience for *Chasing the Dark* is the average reader interested in Alaska. It is a comfortable book, readable rather than loaded with academic jargon. Casual browsers will especially enjoy the abundance of photos.

Articles cover all areas of the state, with each regional corporation represented by at least one major article. The content is rich with information on earlier, everyday survival and life of Alaska Natives. Authors incorporate other sources into articles as well as the ANCSA 14(h)(1) materials; all of this comes together to create a consciousness for place and people.

What’s in the book? Here are a few examples:

*The Haunted Site of Nasquartulim Quullra* [pp.306-307] “a true, unembellished account” of a field experience that the editor, Ken Pratt, had in 1982. Native elders warned him not to go to an area that was haunted because it would make him sick. He went and guess what happened?

*Neets’it Gwich’in Caribou Fences* [pp.72-87]
(Chasing the Dark - Cont. from pg. 3)

***An Agattu Island Journal*** [pp.310-320]

Agattu is a far western Aleutian Island, and a 14(h)(1) field investigator shares his impressions of the evening walks he took the first few days of his stay on the island.

The Last Harvest [pp.350-374] is a fictional piece about the last fox harvest on Agattu Island in the Aleutians. Based closely on interviews of two former Attu villagers, the essential facts are true but the added characterizations make it a story which will “touch” readers in a different way. It demonstrates yet another use for the collection.

Sadly there is no index in Chasing the Dark, and the article titles in the table of contents do not always give clues as to which area in Alaska the article is about….

Chasing the Dark is a government document (although not available through the Government Printing Office) and has already been widely distributed to Alaskan libraries and organizations. If your library did not receive a free copy, or if you want an additional copy, contact the editor at Kenneth.Pratt@bia.gov

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The Hospitality and Assistance of Elders: Pete and Ruth Koktelash, Nondalton, Alaska [pp.222-227]

Two wet and hungry researchers were invited into the home of the Koktelashs and given food and shelter. The article has two full-page portrait photos of the couple, showing every wonderful life-wrinkle in their faces.

Remains of cabin at Mendeltna Creek / Photo by Mary Ellen Fogarty  [ANCSA 14(h)(1) Collection]
As to the collection ...

Approximately 90% of the collection is in the BIA ANCSA Office in Room 1132 of the Frontier Building at 3601 C Street in Anchorage.

The Program Manager is Ken Pratt (editor of Chasing the Dark), who works with two other staff members. The collection is packed into a small area; there is one table for the public to use and only two people at a time can work comfortably.

The collection is organized but not completely indexed and catalogued — thus the “institutional memory” of the staff is invaluable in assisting researchers. There is much processing yet to be done; however, the collection is usable and is being used. One of the goals is to have everything cross-referenced so that maps, photos, interviews, field notes, etc. will be easier to draw together for researchers.

Because of the limited space and staff, it is best to call ahead and arrange a time for your research.

Group tours also need to be prearranged, and are limited to four or five people at a time.

Contact info for Ken Pratt: 907-271-3695 or Kenneth.Pratt@bia.gov

The rest of the collection is in Fairbanks at the UAF Archives in Rasmuson Library and is overseen by Robert Drozda. There is...
some overlap between the two locations, but each also has unique materials that the other doesn’t. Robert is part-time and has one part-time student assistant. He is the only person who can access the collection and usually works M-F in the mornings.

Contact info for Robert Drozda:
907-474-7579 or rmdrozda@alaska.edu

Sylvia Burns, Retired Fairbanks

General guidelines to publication in *Newspoke*, Alaska Library Association newsletter:

**Not accepted:** paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons and/or libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

**Accepted:** Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably “tasteful and well-written,” of an appropriate length (much leeway here); author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes, which may include length, spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences… (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in *Newspoke.*)

**Other**—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three people, composed of AkLA members). If the *Newspoke* editor or the individual submitting has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the *Newspoke* Committee.
In addition to *Chasing the Dark*, the Alaskana Award Committee received three other wonderful nominations. They were (in alphabetical order by title): *Cold: Adventures in the World’s Frozen Places*, by Bill Streever; *Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People*, by William Hensley; and *Tide, Feather, Snow: A Life in Alaska*, by Miranda Weiss.

Bill Streever’s *Cold* (New York: Little Brown and Co., 2009) is a fascinating hodgepodge of thoughts, history and science about cold. Topics range far and wide and, even though Mr. Streever bounces from one to the next, his writing style is so engaging that he sweeps the reader along with the narrative. The book is hard to put down, whether you are reading it from the beginning or opening to a random page. He writes about spending five minutes submerged in the Beaufort Sea; failed polar explorations and horrible deaths (and survivals); frozen frog hibernation (“frogsicles”); the creation of systems for measuring temperature, wind chill and absolute zero; the hunt for woolly caterpillars near Prudhoe Bay; the formation of polygonal ruts and tussocks on the tundra; and the School Children’s Blizzard of 1888—and that’s in just the first chapter!

In addition to writing an addictive story, the author includes chatty but informative end notes “with a few references, definitions, clarifications and suggested readings.” The book also has a helpful index and three maps of the polar regions. Anyone who has a chance to read *Cold* will come away with a better understanding of the topic and perhaps even an appreciation for the way it impacts our lives.

Willy Hensley grew up in one of the world’s cold places. His book, *Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People* (New York: Sarah L. Crichton Books, 2009), as described by nominator Sara Saxton, “documents the author’s traditional childhood north of the Arctic Circle, his decision to pursue an education in the continental U.S., and his successful lobbying efforts that convinced the government to allocate land and monetary resources to Alaska’s natives in compensation for incursions on their way of life.”

Sara follows that introduction by stating: “Hensley’s candid storytelling and deep connections to the historical struggle of Alaska’s Natives to claim their lands make this memoir a crucial piece of Alaskana. The more primary source histories we can collect from this generation, the boarding school, land claims generation, the better. Hensley recounts, with a surprising degree of honesty, his experiences as a young Native politician, the fight for ANCSA, and the creation of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. And even more than this, he shares his traditional upbringing and vividly portrays the Native experience at an incredibly interesting time: learning to live with non-Natives and conform to a different set of standards, sometimes willingly and sometimes not. The body of Alaskana must include the voices of Native authors, and *Fifty Miles From Tomorrow* is a strong contribution.”

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Miranda Weiss offers a very different story of living in Alaska in her book *Tide, Feather, Snow*. Dreaming of Alaska since the fifth grade in Maryland, the science teacher seized an opportunity to move to Homer with her boyfriend John. He seemed to slide right into place in their adopted hometown, boating, fishing, birding and building with ease, while she struggled with her new environment even while she loved the beauty of her new surroundings.

Her prose is lovely and evocative right from the opening lines: “Moving to coastal Alaska meant moving to the water life, although I hadn’t known it until I arrived. Nothing is separate from the sea—not the sky, not the land, not a single day, nor my mood. I wasn’t used to this. I wasn’t ready for it.” Her story of trying to make connections with a small community, find balance and self-confidence within herself, and unravel landscape is one that many Alaskan transplants can relate to.

One last title deserving mention is *The Northern Lights: Secrets of the Aurora Borealis*, by Syun-Ichi Akasofu (Anchorage: Alaska Geographic Society, 2009). This book was nominated but it is so similar to the author’s previous titles that the committee had to consider it a new edition. That made it ineligible for the Alaskana Award but doesn’t take away from the fact that it is a wonderful book, full of accessible explanations of and updated information about the aurora borealis, accompanied by many vivid photographs.

With so many unique and different Alaskana titles, choosing just one to win the Alaskana Award is both a pleasure and a difficult decision. The Alaskana Award Committee looks forward to hearing from you later this year with nominations for some of the outstanding titles published in 2010! ❖

Many others—mayors, city and borough lobbyists, and AKLA members—spoke and wrote to their representatives and senators on this issue.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Our collective voice and concerted effort made all the difference.

Getting one year of funding approved doesn’t mean we have been entirely successful. Next year we’ll have to mount the effort yet again. It might not go as well if we let down our guard. We must be vigilant and proactive. It will again require that every member speak up whenever possible.

We will need to educate our incoming officers in the history of the project and perhaps in the legislative process as well. Libraries whose funding needs may be one or two years further out will need to know what to say, when to say it, how to say it and to whom if we expect to be successful over the long run. This may be the downside of successful advocacy: more work.

Of particular concern is the failure of the school library collection development program to pass the Governor’s scrutiny in the State Library’s budget. School libraries in larger communities are often better funded, better staffed.
Thank you to everyone who participated in the AkLA 2010 conference this year in Anchorage. As the 2010 AkLA VP for Conference, I wish to thank the many people and organizations whose time, talent and generosity have contributed to the success of the 2010 Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference committee chairs were dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working. There were twenty-six committees working on every aspect and detail of the conference. Thank you committee chairs and committee members for your participation.

Our speakers and program presenters were fantastic. We had a wide range of programs and topics to choose from, and while your presentations seemed effortless, we all know how much time and preparation goes into preparing for and presenting these programs.

Our vendors and sponsors were very generous this year. We had over thirty-five library vendor tables plus poster sessions, plus the AkLA auction and store, making the exhibits area a very busy place. I would especially like to thank Emerald Group Publishing for sponsoring a coffee and snack break and EBSCO Information Services for providing this year’s conference bags.

AkLA e-council members volunteered for some tough jobs this year and were always willing to step in when we needed coverage or help in one area or another. Thank you for your support and help this year.

I would especially like to thank all of you who chaired or worked on conferences in the past and were willing to help with this year’s conference and offer advice and reassurance when needed.

We had attendees from all over Alaska and guest speakers and vendors from all over the country. Thanks to all of you for making the conference interesting, vibrant, educational and fun. We’ll see you all again in Juneau for the 2011 conference.

Susan Mitchell
AkLA VP for Conference 2010
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TIMELINE 1960 - 2010
(A brief and by no means definitive list of AkLA’s accomplishments over the first 50 years)

Conference Host Sites: Anchorage (13); Fairbanks (12); Juneau (9); Sitka (3); Ketchikan (2); Nome (2); Kodiak (2). It has been held once in Valdez, Homer, Barrow, Whitehorse and Honolulu.

1960  *A group of Alaskan librarians gather and decide they will form a state library association.

1961  *Alaska State Library Association (ASLA) formally recognized “to promote library service and development within the state.”
       *A. Virginia Chaney elected as first President.
       *Southcentral Chapter (later Anchorage Chapter) established.

1962  *First ASLA Newsletter produced and an annual meeting conducted.
       *Northern Chapter established.
       *School Libraries Standards Committee established. They complete a survey of Alaska school libraries and recommend a program aimed at teachers and the general public emphasizing the value of school libraries. In early 1963 they send these recommendations to the Alaska Department of Education and the Alaska Education Association.

1963  *69 active members belong to Alaska State Library Association.
       *Dues are $4 for a professional librarian, $2 for a non-professional, and $1 for friends.

1964  *Constitution and By-laws committee works to combine these two documents.
       *Annual conference, to be held in Anchorage, canceled due to the earthquake in that region.

1965  *Alaska State Library Association accepted as a chapter of the American Library Association.

1966  *Robert Vosper, President of ALA, and David Clift, Executive Secretary of ALA, attend the annual conference.

1967  *Alaska State Library Association publishes *Cache of Alaska Reading*, a list of Alaska books in print to celebrate Alaska’s 100th anniversary of purchase from Russia.
       *Southeastern Chapter (later Juneau Chapter) established.

1968  *The name of the association changed to Alaska Library Association (AkLA).

1969  *AkLA takes an active role in developing the first statewide library plan, *Library Service for All Alaskans: A Statewide Library Development Plan*. The authors (Public Administration Service - PAS) recommend a strong Alaska library association.

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*54 people register for the annual conference.
*AkLA’s newsletter’s name changed to *Sourdough*, with a section entitled *Newspoke*.

1970  
*10th annual conference held in Anchorage with 93 registrants.
*AkLA joins Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) as a chapter.

1971  
*Alaska Interlibrary Loan Code drawn up and approved by AkLA, described as one of the most highly innovative and progressive codes in existence for exchange of library materials between libraries.
*First library trustees’ workshop, attended by 32 trustees and 12 librarians from around the state.
*AkLA incorporated as a non-profit organization.
*First Directory of Libraries and Library Personnel produced by AkLA.
*AkLA broadcasts over the Satellite Education Project radio network, beaming to 25 village stations. Weekly broadcasts have two series: “Stories from the North” and “What do you want to know?”
*AkLA has 73 library members and 17 associate members.

1972  
*First (and only) international AkLA conference held in Whitehorse.

1973  
*AkLA chapters begin a round-robin sharing of producing *Sourdough*. Southeast Chapter goes first.
*Work begins on the AkLA Oral Literature Project, collecting stories from Native Alaskans.
*Long Range Plan Task Force meets to suggest legislative and action programs for AkLA to emphasize in relationship to the State Library’s Long Range Plan and other goals.
*Kodiak Chapter formed.
*Task Force appointed to develop a program and rationale for implementation of the PAS plan Library Service for All Alaskans, including legislature and action programs.

1974  
*AkLA granted IRS tax- exempt status.
*Ketchikan-Metlakatla Chapter formed.
*AkLA actively supports the State bond issue for library construction. Dale DeArmond donates the woodcut “Libraries for Alaskans” to use for promotion of the bond issue.
*Bond issue passes.

1975  
*Task Force to determine legislative priorities.
*Budget includes first monies for the AkLA Continuing Education Award.
*AkLA wins the John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award for the publicity materials produced for the State Bond issue in 1974.

1976  
*Kenai Peninsula Chapter formed.
*Cache of Alaska Reading, 3rd edition published.

1977  
*Matanuska-Susitna Chapter formed.
*School Library Task Force supports position of Alaska State Library school library coordinator

(Cont. on pg. 12)
and prepares draft of school library standards.

*Continuing Education Task Force surveys CE needs and prepares recommendations.
*Stories of Native Alaskans, part of AkLA’s Alaska Native Oral Literature Project, is published. There are 14 stories, each printed on two broadsides—one in the original Native language and one in English.

1978 *AkLA hosts the annual Pacific Northwest Library Association conference.
*Sitka joins AkLA as the eighth Chapter.

1979 *Sourdough wins “Excellence in Newsletter Publishing” certificate from ALA.

1980 *Task Force on AkLA’s Goals and Objectives, and the Task Force to develop AkLA’s legislative priorities.

1981 *AkLA’s budget is $9,925.
*Annual contribution to ALA Freedom to Read Foundation begins.
*First audio conference of the AkLA Executive Board meetings.

1982 *Continuing Education Committee produces a series of statewide audio seminars.

*A lobbyist for AkLA is authorized by the membership.

1984 *AkLA’s budget is $18,150.
*AkLA’s treasurer is authorized to buy a word-processing program, not to exceed $100.
*Special Libraries Roundtable established.

1985 *AkLA’s 25th Anniversary.
*Task Force on the Alaska Library Network to plan statewide “Dialogues” to discuss the Network of today and to plan the Network of the future.
*Statewide Library Continuing Education Plan adopted.

1986 *AkLA sponsors statewide Dialogues on the Alaska Library Network.
*AkLA Implementation Task Force: “What do we want AkLA to be?”

1987 *Public Libraries Roundtable established.
*First AkASL Service Award (Alaska Association of School Librarians)

1988 *Sourdough, vol. 25, no. 3, Summer 1988. First issue to be produced on a Macintosh using
desktop publishing software.

*Isabelle Mudd appointed as the first AkLA Executive Secretary (later Executive Officer).

1989 *AkLA budget is $34,830.

1990 *New Statewide Library Continuing Education Plan.
*389 people attend the annual conference; membership is over 500.

1991 *47 of the 56 school districts in Alaska participate in AkASL’s Battle of the Books.
*The Alaska Library Association Scholarship Fund incorporated.

1992 *Audrey P. Kolb Public Library Service Award established.
*Far Site Chapter established (replacing the Northwest Mini-Chapter).

*Continuing Education Committee begins planning the State of the Art Reference (STAR) training program.

1994 *Alaska Civil Liberties Union presents to AkLA and AkASL the 1994 First Amendment Award “For Their Commitment to the Freedom to Read.”

1995 *AkLA continues its vital annual Legislative Priorities, supporting the State Library budget, SLED, and capital funding for expansion and improvement of aging library facilities.
*AkLA-L, the electronic discussion forum, begins.

1996 *Joint AkLA/PNLA conference in Fairbanks.
*In August 1996 there are 359 members, down 33% from 1994.

1997 *Revised dues schedule approved by the membership, becoming effective in 1998.
*“Strategic Planning” workshop recommends action points for AkLA’s future.
*AkLA web page developed.

1998 *AkLA legislative priorities include “continuous funding for statewide licenses to access full-text databases.”

1999 *AkLA Scholarship Fund reaches the $50,000 level, and becomes self-sustaining. This has been a major initiative of the Association since the early 1990s.

2000 *First time secure web registration for the 40th conference.

2001 *First AkLA Library Advocacy Award presented to Sitkans Ben and Karen Grussendorf.

2002 *Catalogers’ Roundtable established.

(Cont. on pg. 14)
2003  *First online Continuing Education survey.

2005  *AkLA’s silent auction at the Barrow conference makes $3,765 profit. Half of the funds go to Continuing Education and half to the scholarship fund.

2006  *Over 350 people attend the annual conference in Anchorage.


2008  *AkLA and AkASL lobby for and get Public School Library Collection Development Grants (AS 14.56.360-.375).

2009  *Membership approves change in terms of office of the President and Vice President/President Elect.

2010  *THE ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY! ❖

Compiled by Nancy Lesh 2010
University of Alaska Anchorage

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
LIBRARY AUTOMATION SYSTEM UPDATE

The Library Corporation will be furnishing a new library automation system to the Anchorage School District in the near future. The current ASD library system was installed in December of 1999 and has not had a significant upgrade since that time.

Library Corporation offers a 21st century library patron interface called Library Solution for Schools that will engage students. The system meets the need to be easy enough for users with a broad range of skills to quickly search, sort search results, check patron records and place holds. The system is visually appealing and easy to navigate, and is capable of developmentally appropriate search pages, while accommodating a minimum of 60,000 patrons and 1,500,000 items.

A team of librarians and administrators worked on the RFP process since March 2009 and the recommendation was forwarded to the Anchorage School Board in April 2010. We expect to have it operational by the time school starts in the fall of 2010. ❖

Ruth Jean Shaw
Anchorage School District
Attached is a photo of me, author Sherman Alexie and Mary Jo Joiner (AkLA’s newest past president) at the opening night reception of AkLA’s Conference at the Captain Cook in Anchorage.

I know that Mr. Alexie hates to fly – so I asked him how his flight was up from Seattle. In less than two minutes he told us a funny story about the man next to him on the plane—we were still laughing about it when this photo was taken. What a swell guy!

Delivered is a photo of me, author Sherman Alexie and Mary Jo Joiner (AkLA’s newest past president) at the opening night reception of AkLA’s Conference at the Captain Cook in Anchorage.

He was so friendly and approachable that I entirely forgot to tell him we’d just read his book (Absolute True Story of a Part Time Indian) at our book club here in Delta - dang it!

What a memorable evening—topped off with his amazing speech at UAA later that night.

DELTA

Attached is a photo of me, author Sherman Alexie and Mary Jo Joiner (AkLA’s newest past president) at the opening night reception of AkLA’s Conference at the Captain Cook in Anchorage.

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What a memorable evening—topped off with his amazing speech at UAA later that night.

JUNEAU

The annual visit of Paula Savikko’s class of second graders to the Alaska State Archives has become somewhat of a tradition. Ms. Savikko contacted Archivist Larry Hibpshman in 2008 to request a visit. She said her class was studying their our community unit and would like to have information about their home town, Douglas, Alaska. What could archives staff possibly find in the collection that might be of interest to 7 an 8 year olds?

Quite a bit, actually. A panorama of Douglas and the Treadwell Mine, ca. 1915; photo of a man riding the ferry Alma, ca. 1925 before the Juneau-Douglas bridge was built; preliminary plan drawings of the Juneau-Douglas Bridge, ca. 1960 and 1895 blueprint of the Douglas School and “Teacherage.” Add an image of the 1908 Douglas Fourth of July Parade borrowed from State Library Historical Collections, plus images of Alaskan children ca. 1900-current, plus a visit to the big room where we keep the records and the safe where we keep very special records, and you’ve got your program!

Of course they especially enjoyed climbing our rolling ladders and moving our mobile shelves but they did pay attention. We have thank you letters to prove it! Anyone who wants a copy of the script should contact Hibpshman (larry.hibpshman@alaska.gov).

Savikko brought her 2009 class in and this year we also hosted two classes ~ Ms. Savikko’s and Ellen Ferguson’s. Ferguson’s students particularly liked having their picture taken with their teacher in the back of our step van. (PHOTOS FOLLOW)

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library

Larry Hibpshman
Alaska State Archives
JUNEAU
and better represented in the legislative process. Many libraries in smaller communities are still losing ground and are very much in need of the funding this program will bring. We know this. It is critical that school administrators, lobbyist, and mayors, as well as senators and representatives, know this also.

The game has begun but has a long way to go before it ends. More heroines like Patty and Judi will be needed, as well as continued vigilance.

Donald Ongley, President
AkLA
CONFERENCE 2010 PHOTOS  BY ELLEN DAVIS

http://www.flickr.com/photos/1914462@N00/collections/72157623630689218/

(Cont. on pg.19)
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CALENDAR
ALA Annual Conference. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.
June 25-28, 2010
9th Northwest Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Conference.
Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus, Portland, OR
Sept. 16-17, 2010
Alaska State Literacy Conference. Girdwood, AK
Oct. 15-16, 2010
PNLA. Schweitzer Resort, Sandpoint, Idaho
Oct. 17-22, 2010
American Library Association Midwinter Meeting. San Diego, CA
Jan. 7-11, 2011
AkLA Conference. Juneau, AK
Feb. 17-20, 2011