KODIAK MARITIME MUSEUM

Waterlines

Fall 2009

KMM Completes Exxon Valdez Video Archive

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2010 Events

January 11
KMM Annual Meeting
7:00 p.m.,
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center

April 16
2010 Kodiak Out Loud!
7:00 p.m.
Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium

May 1
Taste & Tales of the Sea VIII
Kodiak Convention Center

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, KMM has digitized a unique collection of video tapes made in the summer of 1989 and stored since then at Kodiak College Library. The video tapes documented dozens of public meetings in Kodiak, including the infamous "daily briefings," by Exxon representatives and government officials during that summer.

KOC library officials had become concerned that the tapes had reached their working lifetime, and that the archive would be lost.

As part of the project, KMM hired local photographer Alf Pryor to digitize the tapes and store the data on two external hard drive. One hard drive archive will become part of the permanent collection at Kodiak College Library. The other will become part of KMM's maritime related media collection.

The project was funded with a $9,000 grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Also part of the project was the collection and exhibition of still images of the spill on Kodiak Island. The photos were collected from people in the community who documented the spill from fish sites, seine boats and as part of cleanup crews around Kodiak Island

The photos and selections from the newly digitized video archive were unveiled at a commemorative forum held at Kodiak College in March 2009. The exhibition continued in Kodiak from March to June of 2009, including during Comfish and the Crab Festival.

More than 11 million gallons of oil spilled on March 24, 1989 when the *Exxon Valdez* grounded on Bligh Reef. Oil eventually coated beaches as far away as Kodiak and Chignik, on the Alaska Peninsula.

Kodiak College Director Barbara Bolson receiving digitized 1989 Exxon Valdez video archive from KMM Director, Toby Sullivan

"When Crab Was King: An Oral History" Presented at Unalaska Conference

In September, Executive Director Toby Sullivan and Board President Aldona Kouremetis traveled to Unalaska to attend a conference of the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska. At the conference, Director Sullivan presented an audio compilation from KMM's award winning radio series, "When Crab Was King, An Oral History of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery." Toby and Aldona also networked with Alaskan museum professionals and historians and attended presentations on topics ranging from the history of the Alaskan logging industry to World War II in the Aleutians.

Downtown Unalaska and the Church of the Holy Ascension, built in 1808, the oldest Orthodox church in America.

The KMM King Crab series features stories of boat sinkings, helicopter rescues, and the effect of the king crab fishery on the town of Kodiak. The series was produced by Kodiak radio guru Maggie Wall, who interviewed more than two dozen Kodiak fishermen, processing workers and townspeople who lived through the King Crab years, which ran from the 1950s to the 1980s.

The program is broadcast on KMXT and KVOK and as podcasts on KMM's website.

Travel grants for the conference came from the Alaska Historical Society and the Rasmuson Foundation.

From the wheelhouse —

As winter descends on Kodiak, this is a good time to assess the successes of the past year and to look to the year ahead. While we are still a small museum with limited resources, this year brought us plenty of exposure to the public, always a good thing for a public institution, especially one like ours which functions without a building of our own.

KMM's second annual Kodiak Out Loud fisherman's spoken word event in April was a success, as was the exhibition of photographs and video of meetings from the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil spill on Kodiak Island. KMM archived hundreds of hours of video in digital form and donated the archive on a hard drive to Kodiak College, where the original VHS tapes have been housed for twenty years. And our oral history, "When Crab Was King,: An Oral History of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery," won several wards from the Alaska Press Club, due to the creative brilliance of the producer, Maggie Wall. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our board and the support of our members, many of whom donated photographs to the EVOS exhibition or were interviewed for the King Crab oral history program.

Meanwhile we continue to lay the groundwork for a museum building to house our increasing collection of artifacts, artwork, photographs and video. The board has made it clear that a building of our own is KMM's primary strategic goal. As part of that effort, the board has voted to form two new committees– a Building Committee and an Endowment Committee, and KMM is actively seeking nominations for these boards.

And finally I'd like to thank everybody who contributed to the museum this year, either as volunteers for the fundraising dinner, or by becoming members, or by donating through the new PFD Pick, Click, and Give program. We couldn't do the work we are doing without you. Happy Holidays!

Executive Director, Toby Sullivan

Kodiak Maritime Museum

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Exxon Punitive Payout

Twenty years after the Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons of oil, punitive damages awards are finally being paid.

The Supreme Court cut the original punitive damage award from $5 billion to $508 million in June 2008,. Checks to fishermen and Kodiak Natives started arriving last year and more are expected this winter..

KMM will continue to collect artifacts, documents, and media related to the spill, with an eye toward a permanent Exxon Valdez Oil Spill collection.

Become a Member
Win a KMM Print, or King Crab CD

By joining or renewing a KMM membership at or above the $100 level before December 31, members will be eligible to win a print of the KMM logo shown below, suitable for framing. The drawing will be held at our annual meeting, January 11.

Memberships at $50 and above will receive a special edition CD: "When Crab Was King: An Oral History of the Kodiak King Crab Fishery," told in the voices of the people who lived through the king crab boom years. The CDs are also available at our online store.

KMM seeks to preserve Alaskan maritime history, from Kodiak's native marine mammal hunters, to crab fishermen, to seafood processors and the Coast Guard.

However, without a lively and engaged membership, KMM would be nothing more than a PO box and a collection of objects and photographs. We are a community of people who believe in recognizing and preserving the story of Alaska's connection with the sea. Please consider joining our crew!

Membership forms are available online or on the back of this newsletter. KMM is a 501(3)c entity– charitable contributions are tax deductible.

KMM Forms Building, Endowment Committees

In September, the KMM board voted to form two new committees. A building committee will oversee planning for a museum building. A museum building is KMM's number one strategic priority. The committee will evaluate current opportunities for land acquisition, a development timeline, facilities design, and funding options.

An endowment committee will investigate ways to design and implement a tax deductible endowment fund for the museum. The interest from a generously endowed fund could eventually provide long term financial stability to KMMs by helping to fund operational costs of running the museum.

For the community, such a fund would provide a tax deductible opportunity for those looking for a way to leave a dedicated legacy within in the community. Similar funds exist for several Kodiak non-profits, and the committee will be looking at these other plans for ideas.

As a way to set up the endowment fund, the museum is also looking at a possible partnership with the Alaska Community Foundation, a non-profit group based in Anchorage. The ACC serves as an umbrella organization for numerous Alaskan community foundations and non-profit organizations. ACC provides investment and organizational expertise with which to administer non-profit endowment funds.

In the meantime, KMM is seeking individuals with sound judgment and the ability to commit a few hours a month to the endowment committee.

Interested people should call 486-0384, or email toby@kodiakmaritimemuseum.

Carl Benson, brother of Alaska Flag designer Bennie Benson, on the *Chignik 3, i*n the late 1930s. The photo was taken by Walt Stepanoff Sr, and was donated to the museum by his son, Walt Stepanoff Jr. via Calvin Skonberg. Note the steering wheel above Carl's head. The untraditional placement of the wheel was an adaptation for driving the boat with better visibility than from inside the wheelhouse.

Tastes and Tales of the Sea 2010

The museum's annual fundraising dinner will be held next May 1, at the Kodiak Convention Center. The venue worked out great for the 2009 dinner. Historian Katie Ringsmuth spoke about the Katmai Clam industry.

For next year's dinner KMM is considering several keynote speakers, including John Bockstoce of Dartmouth Mass,.

Mr Bockstoce was curator of ethnology at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 1974 - 1986. He has written extensively on the Alaskan whaling and fur trading industries and is currently researching a book on the 20th century Alaskan fur trade. He is seeking source materials on Charles Madsen, who traded in Western Alaska and eventually settled in Kodiak. Many of Madsen's descendants live in Kodiak.

Chef Joel Chenet will again prepare the menu, with the menu determined by the subject of the speaker's talk..

Pick, Click, Give Donations to KMM

In October, Kodiak Maritime Museum received $900 from seven people who donated through the PFD Pick, Click, and Give program. KMM was topped only by the Kodiak Humane Society for the amount of donations received through the program.

In January, 2009, Alaskans were given the option to help Alaska non-profits by designating a portion of their Permanent Fund Dividend electronic application Donors can give from $25 up to the entire amount of their PFD to registered non-profit organizations. The program will continue in 2010. More information is available at pickclickgive.org.

Kodiak Out Loud Returns in 2010

"Kodiak Out Loud: Kodiak, Fishing, and the Sea," will return to the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium Friday evening, April 16, 2010. The event will coincide with Comfish 2010

Since 2008, artists from Kodiak, Cordova, Washington, Oregon, and Rhode Island have graced the auditorium stage with stories, poems, and songs about fishing and the sea. Next years' lineup includes Kodiak fisherman Dave Densmore, Cook Inlet fisherman Pat Dixon, Kodiak skiff-woman Moe Bowstern, fisherwoman Erin Fristad, Rhode Island folksinger Jon Campbell, and fisherman Toby Sullivan.

The performance has been praised by reviewers and audience members for its presentation of the lives of commercial fishermen.

Funding comes from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and local donors.

Do you know these halibut fishermen? Call KMM if you can identify these men, photographed by Roger Page in the 1970s.

Kodiak Maritime Museum
P.O. Box 1876
Kodiak, AK 99615

Dedicated to the recognition and preservation of Alaska's maritime heritage

KMM
annual meeting
January 11, 2010

Kodiak Maritime Museum will hold its annual membership meeting Monday, at 7:00 p.m January 11, 2009 at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center.

Nominations for two three-year board seats are open and a discussion of the endowment fund and building committee is also on the agenda. A speaker is being considered as part of the evening's events.

Dessert and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call KMM at 486-0384 or email toby@kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

Join Our Crew!

December 2009 memberships good through 2010!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Give a membership to a friend or family member:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

□ Check enclosed

□ Credit Card Number:_____

Exp. Date: ____ Signature: _____

Join online through our secure transaction portal at :
www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

Please start or renew my membership at this level:

☐ Greenhorn	$25.00
☐ Deckhand	$50.00
☐ Skipper	$100.00
☐ Mariner	$250.00
☐ Highliner	$500.00
☐ Legend	$1,000.00
☐ Family/ Crew	$40.00

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