

# Collection Conversations

Quarterly Letter from the Curator of Collections & Exhibits

## Conservation of POA Murals

Dear Friends,

Many of you are familiar with the 1887-1907 *Pioneers of Alaska Photographic Mural* that hangs in the gallery near the entrance to the City Museum. The mural was first loaned to the City Museum back in 1994 and last October it was officially donated to the Museum's permanent collection by the Pioneers of Alaska Men's and Women's Igloo #6 (accession number 2012.38). The mural in the Museum's collection consists of 171 individual images of the men and women who were members of the Pioneers of Alaska Association. The mural photographs were taken by William H. Case.

Depending on how frequently you visit the Museum, you may have noticed that the mural was taken down off the wall between the end of November 2012 and the end of May 2013. During that time the mural in the Museum's collection, along with a similar mural still in the possession of the Pioneers of Alaska Men's and Women's Igloo #6, were being cleaned and stabilized at

Zukor Art Conservation located in California.

While at Zukor Conservation, the two murals and their boards were cleaned, any creases and lifting edges were flattened and the murals were mounted on a 1/2" backing board made of an archival material called Tycore. Once the murals were returned to Juneau, the Museum reframed them in their original wooden frames and both were given new conservation quality glass with 99% UV protection. The new high quality glass and the conservation treatments by Zukor will help insure that both murals last long into the future and are able to be seen and enjoyed by generations to come.

This conservation project was made possible through a partnership with the Pioneers of Alaska Men's and Women's Igloo #6, their generosity, and their continued support of the City Museum. The goals of this project were the preservation of the two murals and that both would be back in Juneau



*Pioneers of Alaska 1887-1907 Photographic Mural,*  
 William H. Case, JDCM 2012.38.001

and display ready by the Pioneer's of Alaska's annual convention, which will be held here in Juneau at Centennial Hall this month, September 18-21, 2013.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to contact me. And don't forget to stop by the City Museum to take a gander at our mural, which is back on display. A list of the individuals found in the mural is located at the front desk, just ask any volunteer to see it.



Two of the in-progress images provided by Zukor Art Conservation



Label from new glass put in the frames for both murals.

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## New Acquisition Highlight

So far this year the City Museum has added 25 new collections to its permanent collection, equaling over 2000 individual items (plus 6 boxes of the Joseph Alexander Collection still being inventoried).

The collection I'd like to highlight in this newsletter was donated by Carol Zebold over the summer (accession number 2013.14). Carol Zebold is the step-daughter of Wallis George who managed the Juneau Cold Storage for many years and who built the Baranof Hotel. Included in the collection are two photograph albums, one from each of those businesses.

The Juneau Cold Storage album has a beautiful leather cover and contains 116 photographs. The photographs document the life of the Cold Storage building from its



*Workers in storage room of the Juneau Cold Storage, c.1930-1940, JDCM 2013.14.137*

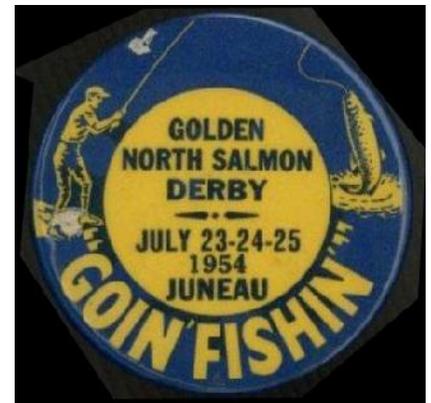
construction in 1927 to the 1956 fire. The photographs from the intermediate years document the building, the workers and the fish.

The Baranof Hotel album has 51 images from the formal opening of the Baranof Hotel in March of 1939. The images include not only the

guests in their formal wear but also photographs of the hotel's interior, including the suites, bathrooms, lobby, lounges, and the diner. The staff—cooks, maids, and bellhops—were also photographed.

In addition to the two albums, the City Museum also received two Alaska Steamship

Company ashtrays, pin back buttons from a variety of festivals and events including the 1954 Salmon Derby, news clippings related to the Juneau Cold Storage, a Cocktail Menu from the Baranof Hotel's Bubble Room, and a variety of fish product labels.



*Golden North Salmon Derby Pin Back Button, 1954, JDCM 2013.14.188*



*Dinner at the Opening of the Baranof Hotel, Roger Dudley, March 10, 1939, JDCM 2013.14.002A.*

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