

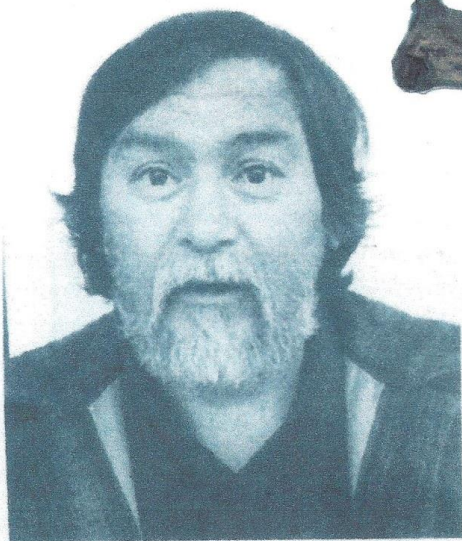


The world's only museum dedicated
to man's first tool

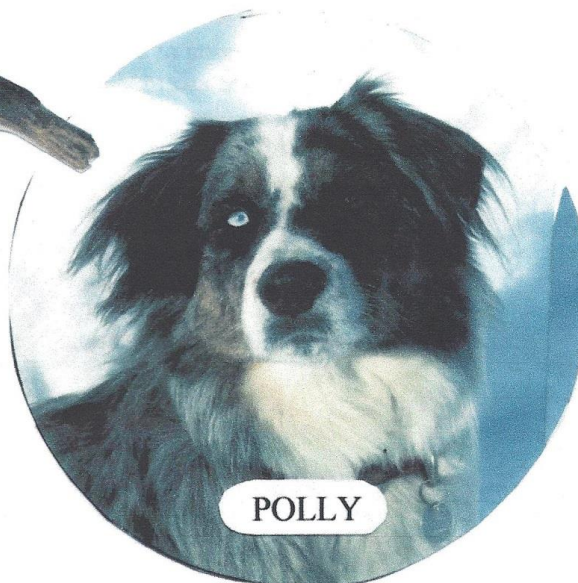
Hero Saves Dog, Museum Gets New Exhibit

We realize this is the 2008 newsletter, but this story missed the 2007 newsletter as it occurred the day after the museum closed for the season.

The 2007 season ended with a splash when museum director Dave Pahl accidentally sank his pickup truck while taking his boat out of the water for the winter. Family dog, Polly, was in the cab, and as the truck filled with water, she needed a hero - fast! Carol Pahl, now chest deep in water, attempted in vain to open the door. Her screams alerted Deano Sharclane, who dove in and swam to the roof, now the only part of the truck above water. When his efforts to break the passenger window with his fists failed, a man on the beach threw him a piece of driftwood, a HAMMER shaped piece of driftwood. Deano smashed the glass and pulled the Australian Shepherd to safety just as the truck disappeared into the ocean. As the truck was being winched out of the water, the waterlogged hammer surfaced also, laying on the roof of the truck. It was treated with a wood stabilizing treatment of PEG, and it is now on display at the museum.



Dean "Deano" Sharclane



POLLY

The Road to Accreditation

The Hammer Museum was proud to have participated in a pilot program sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The program, Standards for History Museums and History Organizations, is designed to assist small and medium-sized museums in meeting museum standards in six broad areas. These standards were borrowed from the American Association of Museums (AAM) and are the same criterion that organization uses in granting accreditation to museums. AAM accreditation is a significant distinction in the museum community and indicates that an institution meets the highest standards of professionalism and ethics. Of the nearly 18,000 museums in the United States, fewer than 800 are presently accredited by AAM.

As a participant in the AASLH pilot program, the Hammer Museum was one of 48 institutions nationwide that had the opportunity to select and complete three specific projects associated with one of the six areas of museum standards. Museum director Dave Pahl elected to focus on Audience Standards, which involves visitor research and services, community relations, and marketing. In accordance with these parameters, the Hammer Museum designed and implemented a visitor survey to collect feedback from its visitors, replaced the front steps leading to the building and added an additional handrail, and began systematically organizing and maintaining a media file of Hammer Museum press clippings.

In 2009, the Standards for History Museums and History Organizations program will become nationally available. The Hammer Museum staff were thrilled to assist with this undertaking and for the opportunities to improve the museum that it afforded us. We found that the AASLH model of concentration on specific, incremental goals was quite successful. Continuing to work towards accreditation will remain one of the Hammer Museum's highest priorities in the years to come.

Conservation Grant Awarded

In continuing its tradition of cooperation with the Alaska State Museums organization, the Hammer Museum was awarded a \$1,705 grant this summer for the purchase of conservation supplies. Dave Pahl plans to use the money to obtain much needed materials, including UV filters for the lights, acid-free document storage for the museum's growing archival collection, and display cases in which to house some of our more fragile and irreplaceable items.

The grant will enable us not only to serve as a better steward of the collection, but also offer improved access and viewing opportunities to the public. The Hammer Museum is profoundly grateful to the state association for its ongoing guidance and support, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative relationship.

How Did We Fare at the Fair?

For the second consecutive year, the Hammer Museum sponsored the high striker at the Southeast Alaska State Fair, from July 24-July 27. In exchange for two tickets, fair goers were given five chances to prove their strength and dexterity by trying to ring the bell. A new record was set this year, with 42 consecutive rings. The Museum provided each bell ringer with a pin. Museum volunteers at the attraction raised over \$600. All the proceeds were donated to the Fair so it can continue to offer this enjoyable event for Southeast Alaska visitors and residents.

Internship Program: Year 2

2008 marked the second year of the Hammer Museum's highly successful internship program. During the summer season, the museum hosted Matthew Thompson, a graduate student in the Museum Studies department at the University of Kansas. His duties included assisting with the AASLH pilot projects, planning and leading tours of the museum, conducting research, cataloging collection objects, updating reference material, documenting the museum's expanding archives, and writing this newsletter.

According to Matthew, "Working at the Hammer Museum this summer has exceeded even my highest expectations. It's humbling to consider how fragile and tenuous humanity's place in the universe is, so any institution whose mission is to preserve a fragment of our history is indeed a noble one. This is particularly true of the Hammer Museum, whose collection of seemingly mundane objects is an illuminating testament to the progress of our species.

"In a less abstract context, I've enjoyed being able to work on a wide variety of different projects and tasks, which is one of the many advantages associated with small museums, in my opinion. This is an exciting time to be involved with the Hammer Museum, as it has evolved tremendously in a mere seven years, thanks to the dedication and leadership of Dave and Carol Pahl. During my time here, I've had the opportunity to contribute to the early stages of the museum's quest for accreditation as well as take part in the general activities associated with a young museum. The enthusiasm of our visitors and the donations to the collection that we received this summer speak well to a very promising future for the Hammer Museum."

"I am personally grateful to Dave and Carol for the kindness and hospitality they have shown me, as well as their willingness to consider my ideas and suggestions. This is one of the most splendid regions of the planet, and they ensured I had sufficient leisure time to partake in outdoor recreational activities and trips to neighboring towns. I also took much delight in local events like the Southeast Alaska State Fair and the Haines youth theater conservatory's performance of *Alice in Wonderland*."

"I would also like to thank the Marks Family Foundation for their generous donation that has helped finance the intern program."

Significant Donations in 2008

This season saw several important additions to the Hammer Museum's Collection. The first item, an ancient Egyptian hammer made of dolerite, was donated by Dr. Ken Ostrand, the archaeologist who discovered the artifact. Dr. Ostrand found the hammer near the Mycerinus pyramid at Giza, which was constructed in 2500 B.C. The laborers used dolerite for such construction projects due to its hardness, dolerite was used for shaping granite building blocks. At 4500 years old, the dolerite hammer is the oldest object in the museum collection.

We were also very excited to meet Bob and Yvonne Keathley, of Bernie, Missouri, who came to the Hammer Museum in July. The Keathley family ran the IXL handle making company for five generations. They had handle mills in six states and Canada, and at one time produced 80% of the worlds' hickory handles. Bob brought with him numerous items, including catalogs, sample handles, typesetting plates used in advertising, blueprints, and documents. Although Ames True Temper purchased IXL in 1997, Mr. Keathley graciously decided to donate the historical items to the Hammer Museum. In addition to the tangible objects, Mr. Keathley was a wealth of information himself, spending over two hours at the museum sharing his knowledge with Dave. We are extremely appreciative of Dr. Ostrand and Mr. Keathley for their generous contributions, and we are also honored that they chose to entrust such important items to the Hammer Museum. We look forward to sharing both of these donations with our visitors and using them to help fulfill the museum's educational mission.

**The Hammer Museum
P.O. Box 702
Haines, Alaska 99827**
