

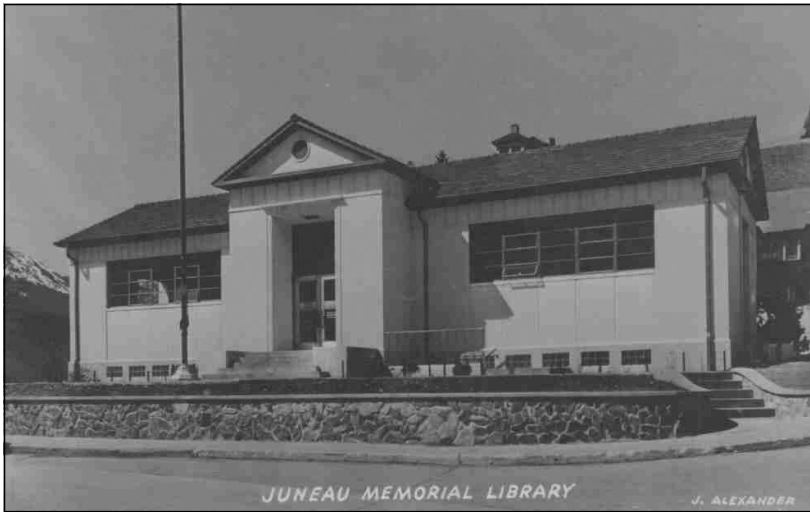
# August History on the Channel

Your Monthly News Flash from the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum

**The building now occupied by our museum began its life in August 1945.**

**Bob DeArmond writes:**

It was on August 28, 1945, at a regular meeting of the Juneau Rotary Club that the Rev. Herbert Hillerman, the club president, announced that a library building would head the club's projects in the post-war years. It would serve as a memorial and tribute to the veterans of the World Wars.



Three men, B.D. Stewart, the Territorial Commissioner of Mines; James C. Ryan, Territorial Commissioner of Education, and B. Frank Heintzleman, Regional Forester, were named a committee to oversee the project and they worked tirelessly during the next half dozen years to raise the funds and build the library.

The first task was to select and procure a site. The south half of Block 20, bounded by Main and Fourth Streets and Calhoun Avenue, was selected and negotiations began with the owners. A price of \$12,000 was set.... The Rotary Club contributed \$1,215. and the Juneau Women's Club put in \$1,333. The balance was borrowed from a bank on a note cosigned by ten Juneau residents.

The fund raising campaign began in 1947 and lasted for three years....It was a monumental effort, employing just about every type of fundraising activity imaginable - dances, bake sales, plays, musical events, candy sales, raffles with door-to-door ticket sales, special movies, and perhaps some that have been forgotten. The Alaska Native Sisterhood and Alaska Native Brotherhood exhibited tribal dances that had not been seen in Juneau for many a year, and the Filipino Community gave a special dance exhibition and costume exhibition.

In all, \$82,000 [\$1,100,000 in 2013 dollars] was raised locally. Then there was a grant-in-aid of \$70,000 from the Federal Public Works Administration. The architectural firm of Foss & Malcolm provided the plans and Triplett & Dalzelle got the building contract on a bid of \$124,000 [\$1,600,000].... The building was dedicated on November 11, 1951, and was opened for library service the next day.

—Excerpt from *Digital Bob*, on the JDCM website.

Authoritative local lore has it that the project funds were running low during the final stages. The problem was solved when the Police conducted an emergency fund-raising drive along South Franklin St., our "amusement district."

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