

Folks,

This is an extremely significant opportunity for our community. As some of you may know, a large number of key Sitka organizations are partnering on an effort to attain an SJ Building for a new repository for all historic artifacts and Tlingit regalia, plus a major new museum. This Russian anchor has the potential, if verified, to provide an artifact/display that has importance to the history that is Russian America, and the Empire's Mariner history. Just the story of Gerald & Mike Holstrom must be a tale.....

Where-ever it goes, it should be in a good viewing location, and the Sitka Historical Society will support the project any way we can. All info related to the find, location, history, etc., should be documented.

Bob Medinger
Director, Sitka Historical Society

----- Original Message -----

From: John Stein <johnstein@cityofsitka.com>
To: Joe Castro <castroj@cityofsitka.com>; Lynne McGowan <parks@cityofsitka.com>; Bob Medinger <bobmedinger@yahoo.com>; Peter Gorman <pcgorman@gmail.com>
Cc: ; Ray Majeski <ray@cityofsitka.com>
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 12:37:49 PM
Subject: Holstrom's Russian anchor

Fun Stuff

Mike Holstrom is the son of Gerald Holstrom. Gerald is a retired herring fisher who snagged his set on a Russian anchor on 4-15-1974 and lost his \$30,000 catch. Gerald recovered the anchor and took it on his boat the "Foremost" to his home in Mt. Vernon where it has leaned against the barn for the past thirty-four years. Gerald now suffers from a stroke and is home bound. He wants to give the anchor back to Sitka. Gerald collected "big things" and is donating a Bristol Bay Sail Boat to a museum. (note: Gerald's father built the Port Armstrong fish plant.)

Son Mike called this morning to say that he wants to return the Anchor to Sitka when he returns the middle of March. He now fishes the boat "Blue Pacific" for Alaska General Seafoods. He plans to leave Mt. Vernon March 10.

The Anchor is 7 1/2 feet tall and is Russian, not English as are the anchors at Totem Square .

Mike would like to donate the anchor and see it displayed in Sitka . He doesn't want to make a big event of the donation but would like his father to have the satisfaction of the artifact preserved and displayed. (under the bridge with the other one?)

Mike will contact the city as time comes near. He has contacted Thad Paulson, who ran a story in the Sentinel on the 1974 mishap.

I would like Public Works to facilitate moving the anchor from the "Blue Pacific" to the display site...wherever that may be. Please coordinate with the Historical Preservation Commission and Museum

Mike is at 360-202-5742 cell or 360-424-6340 home.

