

Tom

From: Tom [tomandgloria@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 8:35 PM
To: 'rknight@ci.valdez.ak.us'
Cc: 'edoom@ci.valdez.ak.us'
Subject: FW: Valdez Pipeline Workers Monument

Hi Ruth:

After talking with you I sent Joanne an e-mail and requested that she put her thoughts concerning the Pipeline Workers Monument down on paper and I would send them to You and City Manager Doom, and that maybe the City Beautification Committee could take consider them as we were still discussing how to finish it. I also told her about the new interpretive center near the dock and how it was planned to tie in to the monument. She was very excited about that. Anyway let me know what you wish to do and I will keep Joanne posted.

Sincerely:

Tom McAlister
e-mail tomandGloria@gci.net
835-4426

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 9:35 PM
To: tomandgloria@gci.net
Subject: Valdez Pipeline Workers Monument

Tom,

Hopefully this is what you were going for. If not, let me know. I'm so glad you were successful in helping to finally get the Pipeline Workers Monument moved to a location where we the public can see it and appreciate it. Thank you!!!

Joanne

Hello,

My name is Joanne (Seegelken) Munns and I became friends with Tom McAlister this summer while my husband and I were on a 94 day, 12,145 mile Alaskan adventure. While our trip was definitely to experience everything we could while in Alaska, I was also fortunate to have been allowed the unique opportunity to give a presentation I developed for the 40th Pipeline Anniversary celebration.

I personally never worked on the Pipeline, but my dad, Henry "Hank" Seegelken, did. He left Northern California on April 1, 1974 to begin work on the Haul Road construction as a Quality Assurance Engineer. Following completion of the Haul Road, he worked on the Pipeline construction as a Quality Control Engineer, first supervising QC of Section 4 based out of Old Man, then moving north to supervise QC of Section 5/6 based out of Galbraith. He ended up the Senior Quality Control Supervisor of the Pipeline from Fairbanks to

Prudhoe Bay, still based out of Galbraith. He moved back to Northern California in June, 1977 after "oil in". Because of his job duties, he flew and drove all over the northern section of Pipeline construction, working and staying in the various camps. As an avid photographer, he also took an extensive collection of Haul Road and Pipeline photos. It was from those photos, and another collection of Survey/Pipeline-related photos I was given from a gentleman, Jerry Cole (who came up in 1970 to begin work on the initial survey work), that I developed my presentation. Alyeska granted me (and my husband, Sandy) Security Clearance/Visitor Passes, and over the course of our summer visit I gave my presentation 11 times: at the Valdez Museum; Glennallen Response Base (GRB); Pump Station 9; Pump Station 5; Pump Station 4 and 3 (GMB); Pump Station 1; Toolik Research Station; Morris Thompson Visitor Center in Fairbanks; Alyeska Corporate Offices in Fairbanks (DIF); and Alyeska Corporate Offices in Anchorage (Centerpoint). It was an honor to be a tiny part of the 40th Pipeline Anniversary celebration.

A couple weeks ago, Tom sent an email that the Pipeline Workers Monument had been moved out of the Secure Area and to a new location where it could be seen again by the public. I was thrilled to hear that. While in Valdez, I so wanted to see the Monument but at that time, it was still "behind the fence". When Malcolm Alexander designed the Monument, he worked extremely hard to make sure every detail was accurate, down to the clothes worn. He interviewed people intimately familiar with the various aspects of the 5 occupations he depicted. One person interviewed was Dave Haugen, a Engineer friend of mine who came to Alaska in 1970, beginning work on the initial Survey program and staying all through Pipeline construction and beyond. The 5 people depicted on the Monument show occupations Alexander felt would suitably represent those who worked during Pipeline construction: a Surveyor gazing off to the distance; a woman Teamster; an Alaskan Native laborer; an Engineer; and a Welder. Many of the people viewing the Monument will learn that women came to comprise about 10% of the Pipeline workforce, a novelty in the 70's for such a huge, complicated project as the Pipeline. That the Pipeline celebrated its 40th anniversary this summer, is a testament to those workers depicted on the Monument. Having the Monument in a public location will so help to continue the Pipeline story. As visitors gaze at the Pipeline Workers Monument, wander Valdez, and visit the Museum, they will leave with a greater understanding, and hopefully respect, of what the over 70,000+ Pipeline workers accomplished in building the Pipeline in the most harsh of environments, to the most stringent of Government stipulations, and in an extremely compressed time frame.

Included in part of my presentation this summer, was a section where I shared Junior Leslie's speech at the original unveiling in 1980 of the Pipeline Workers Monument. I wanted so much to "give a voice" to all the workers who did whatever it took to complete the Pipeline. Junior's story at Thompson Pass seemed to represent so clearly the ability of the workers to overcome huge obstacles during the Pipeline construction, no matter what. That "can do" attitude was also portrayed in the Frank Moolin slogan, "We Didn't Know It Couldn't Be Done". I am hoping that Valdez might consider again, some kind of "unveiling" ceremony for the Monument. The Monument is Valdez's beautiful tribute to all those who worked on the Pipeline, and will be a wonderful way to help the newest visitors learn the Pipeline story and what an amazing accomplishment the Pipeline was. As a person passionate about the Pipeline and its history, I would love to be at a new "unveiling" of the Monument remembering those who worked on the Pipeline over 4 decades ago. I suspect the Monument will become a place where visitors will stop and reflect on the Pipeline, its history, and the people who built it. I also suspect many people will be reflecting upon people they know, or knew, personally who were a part of the Pipeline history.

Joanne (Seegelken) Munns