



MEMO

Date: February 20, 2018

To: City of Valdez Council

From: Patricia Relay, Valdez Museum & Historical Archive

Re: Disposal of the F/V Perry remains

Dear Valdez City Council:

This memo is to inform you that the Valdez Museum & Historical Archive will no longer pay for the storage of the remains of the F/V Perry, currently being stored at the shop of Boatwright Rodney Walters. As you may know, in 2014 Walters had surveyed the boat, then on display in front of the museum, and declared it to be a public safety hazard. In May 2015, the boat was stripped, and the wheelhouse and top front portion of the deck was salvaged, and brought to Walters' shop for storage. The thinking at the time was that those remaining portions would be saved until a new museum facility was built that allowed for a marine exhibit that included the Perry wheelhouse.

We have recently been informed that the yearly storage fee for the wheelhouse and deck portion will be increased from a \$900 annual fee to \$1,200. While the boat remains a City asset, it is no longer a part of the Valdez Museum collection, having been deaccessioned in 2010 due to the museum's inability to care for it to museum standards. Thus, the VMHA has been paying for the storage of a non-collection item no longer within its purview for the past three years. As the City Council has instructed VMHA to find ways to save on operating costs, this appears to be a regular expenditure that could be easily eliminated.

In addition to the increase in storage rental fees, we have also been informed that the condition of the salvaged portions of the Perry continue to deteriorate. The wood is subject to dry rot throughout. While the wood of the Perry remains could be treated for approximately \$10,000, the condition will continue to deteriorate unless they are placed into a proper storage facility with climate control. Given that the construction of a new museum facility is several years away, we believe that the continued preservation and storage of a non-collection item is against VMHA's financial interests. Pertinent items of historical interest from the Perry, such as the steering wheel, rudder, communications radio, nautical maps, etc., have been salvaged from the boat and are being cared for within the museum's collections. These artifacts, plus supporting documentation such as photographs, should be enough to provide content for an adequate exhibition in a new museum facility.

To consult Mr. Walters regarding recommended procedures for disposal of the vessel's remains, please contact him at 831-7833

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Valdez Museum & Historical Archive, Inc.