



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Klondike Gold Rush
National Historical Park

P.O. Box 517
2nd and Broadway
Skagway, Alaska 99840

907-983-2921 phone
907-983-9249 fax

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

News Release

Release date: **Immediate**

Contact(s): **Samantha Richert, Curator**

Phone number: **907-983-9222**

Date: **6/7/2012**

Release code: **03-2012**

Modern Medical Technology Used to Decode Historic Artifacts at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

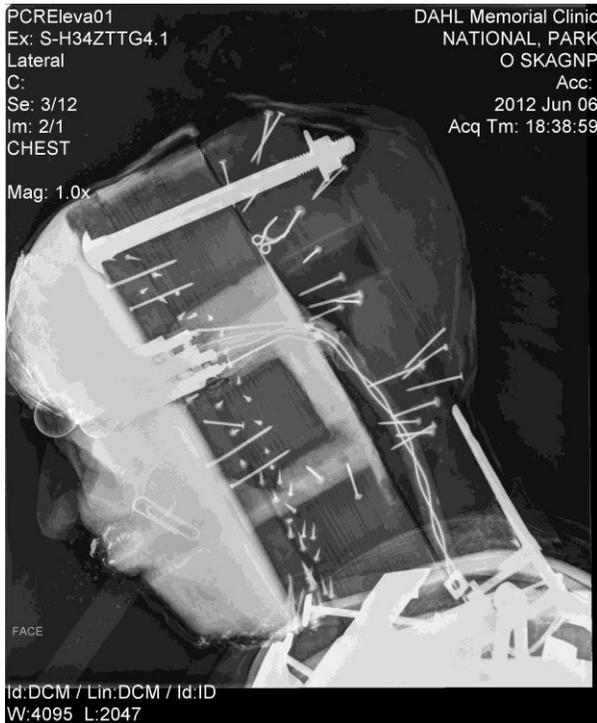
Skagway’s Dahl Memorial Clinic had an unusual patient in Dangerous Dan McGrew on June 6. The clinic assisted the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park museum team by X-raying the animatronic mannequin built by Martin Itjen for Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum in the 1930s. Although the museum team knew that the mannequin moved when it was installed in the museum, the exact mechanism of action was unclear. The images produced by the clinic’s medical assistants, Sarah Phillips and Melissa Horman, allowed the park’s artifact conservation interns a look inside the mannequin. “It looks like he’s a toe-tapper,” said intern Nicole Peters. The images showed that Dan’s foot moved and his eyes, made from small electric light bulbs, lit up.

Dangerous Dan is one of three mannequins that will go back on display in Jeff. Smiths Parlor Museum in time for the museum’s re-opening in 2016. Skagway entrepreneur and showman Martin Itjen installed a complex mechanical system to animate the mannequins when he started the museum in the 1930s. This summer, Klondike Gold Rush NHP’s two artifact conservation interns, Nicole Peters and Katie Bonanno, will clean, repair and stabilize Dangerous Dan and his sister mannequin, Lady Lou. The program is receiving technical support from conservators Scott and Ellen Carrlee of the Alaska State Museum.

The X-ray images were made possible by an in-kind donation by the Dahl Memorial Clinic. “The staff was very kind to help us with this. You could tell that Sarah and Melissa were committed to providing us with the best images possible even though Dan presented kind of a curveball,” said Curator Samantha Richert.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



X-ray image of Dangerous Dan's head. Image provided by Dahl Memorial Clinic, Skagway, Alaska.



Dangerous Dan with his support staff (L to R): Medical Assistant Sarah Phillips, Intern Nicole Peters, Intern Katie Bonanno, Medical Assistant Melissa Horman.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.