

## Adventures Defy Death and Hardships on Wrangell Isle

Many Expeditions Have Visited Island That Has Occupied So Much International Attention During Recent Years; Was Discovered in 1849.

SEATTLE (AP).—Wrangell Island, site in story of tragedy and of unfinished projects has attained the status of a Russian possession, to be explored and exploited, according to dispatches which the Soviet government has allowed to reach the western world.

The first white man to sight Wrangell Island, so far as record goes, was Captain Kellett of the British ship Herald, in 1849. He didn't land. He thought the island, which is 75 miles long and 25 miles wide and which lies 110 miles north of Siberia and 300 miles west of the latitude of Bering Strait, was part of an Arctic continent that has been proven non-existent.

A small island in that vicinity was named after his vessel. On Herald Island, the Stars and Stripes recently were hoisted by Captain Louis Land, master of the gasoline schooner Herman, after he had made a vain attempt to reach Wrangell Island.

**1823 Starting Point.** Interest in Wrangell Island apparently dates back to 1823 when natives reported such an island to Admiral Baron Ferdinand von (Vovch von Wrangell), a Russian governor of Alaska. Baron Wrangell tried vainly to reach the island.

From Kellett's time the island was called Kellett until Captain Thomas Long of the whaling bark Nio, out of New London, Conn., happened around there in August 1847. He also failed to land but clearly saw and delineated the shores, which for the most part of banked by masses of ice that came and go. He called it Wrangell Island, after the baron, whose cognomen is scattered around southeastern Alaska, and the name stuck.

The first recorded landing on the island was by a party from the United States revenue cutter Corwin, August 12, 1881. This party was searching for the Jeanette, an American vessel in which Admiral Melville had tried to reach the North Pole, and which was lost in the delta of the Lena river, Siberia, all of her complement but one officer perishing.

**Visited Island in 1882.** The next year a party from the Rodgers of the United States navy an expedition fitted out in San Francisco to hunt the Jeanette, spent 19 days on Wrangell Island. The Rodgers, trying to get back to the United States, burned in St. Lawrence Bay, on the eastern coast of Siberia. Her people were rescued by the cutter Corwin.

In 1913 Vilhjalmur Stefansson, heading an expedition for Canada to explore lands and waters of North America, went from Seattle via Nome into the Arctic ocean in the Karluk, a 250-ton schooner. The master of the Karluk was Captain Robert A. Bartlett, master of the steamer Roosevelt in which Robert A. Peary went north to reach the pole in 1909.

The Karluk was caught in the ice near Point Barrow, Alaska, and on September 29 Stefansson led a hunting party ashore over the frozen ocean. He never saw the Karluk again. She was carried westward in the ice. John Hadley, a British navigator, one of the crew, is among those who have told her story. When the ice began to squeeze and crack the vessel, the captain gave orders to abandon her. This was 60 miles north of Herald Island. The crew made camp on the ice. The next day, as Hadley describes it, the Karluk "suddenly straightened out on a level keel and slowly sank with the Union Jack flying."

**Camped on Ice.** Ten days later Captain Bartlett sent the first and second mates and two seamen to Wrangell Island to cache provisions taken from shipwreck camp. This party camped on the ice near the island, waiting for a piece of water to freeze over so they could go ashore. The ice carried them into eternity.

Meanwhile in shipwreck camp there arose disagreements which found a leading in Alister Forbes Mackay, a Scotch surgeon. February 5 a party led by Dr. Mackay left the camp to make their

own way to the island. They included an oceanographer, an anthropologist and a seaman. They drifted away on the ice never to be heard of again.

On March 12, Captain Bartlett succeeded in landing the rest of his party on Wrangell Island. Six days later he left over the ice for Siberia, accompanied only by an Eskimo. He landed, made his way to Nome, despite illness, and gave the word that sent several vessels on a relief race. The race was won by the King & Winge, a Seattle-built gasoline schooner. She found 12 survivors of the company of 25 that Stefansson left aboard the Karluk. Of those on the island one had committed suicide and two had died of hardship. The rescue was effected September 7, 1914.

Stefansson, bereft of his vessel, had turned his energies to proving that men could travel several hundred miles over the surface of the Arctic, living on the ice, and killing seals for food and fuel. He led his party to safety.

**Aerial Center.** Stefansson considered that Great Britain had a good claim on Wrangell Island, which he predicted would prove an invaluable position for aerial transportation. But the sinister associations of the island had led it to be dubbed "the death trap of the Arctic."

Another expedition, promoted by Stefansson, was led to the island in 1921 by Alan Crawford, young son of a Toronto professor. He took three men, Larry E. Knight, McMinville, Ore.; Frederick W. Maurer, New Philadelphia, O.; and Milton Galle, New Braunfels, Tex. Knight and Maurer had been members of the first Stefansson expedition. At Nome they engaged a seamstress, Ada Blackjack, an Eskimo. Such native seamstresses are indispensable in living amid ice, because they only are able to fashion from skins the clothing necessary to live, and to do it swiftly.

The next summer Captain Joe Bernard of Nome in the gasoline schooner Teddy Bear tried to reach Wrangell Island with provisions for the colony. Ice extended so far from the island that he did not come within sight of it.

**Another Party.** The following summer, 1923, Harold Nole, a young Scotchman, led a party to the island in the gasoline schooner Donaldson. He found that Crawford, Maurer and Galle had departed over the ice for Siberia in January and had gone the way of the other parties that disappeared. Knight had died of scurvy. Ada, the sole survivor, was killing what game she could and making clothing ready for a winter alone. Nole left on the island Judge Wells of Nome and 15 Eskimos, whom he had engaged for that purpose—the third Canadian colony on Wrangell Island.

Last summer efforts were made by American and Canadian vessels to reach Wrangell Island but the ice was the worst that old-time northerners had known, and all attempts failed. It was left for a Soviet army transport, the Krasny Otkritie (Red October) to make her way up the eastern coast of Siberia from Petropavlovsk thread Bering Strait, and pressing through the ice to reach the island, August 20, 1924. She hoisted the Russian flag.

Wells and the 15 Eskimos were taken to the Red October and recently landed at Vladivostok, 1,000 miles to the south, according to latest advices. The Russians confiscated a valuable store of furs which the British colony had gathered.

Russia had maintained a claim to Wrangell Island for a number of years, based on a landing asserted to have been made in 1911.

### Right of Way Closed.

EUGENE, Or.—The Kelly Sullivan company has completed its contract to clear the right of way of the Southern Pacific company's new road over the Cascades above Oakridge and the equipment in the several camps along the line has been brought in.

## Here's Picture of a Real Flood



Warfare in north China is being conducted under difficulty. The disastrous floods of last summer must still be reckoned with. This airplane view near Tientsin shows the region Wu Pei-fu's troops had to traverse in order to block off Chang Tso-lin from coming to Peking.

## Hollanders Rally to Side of Disarmament

THE HAGUE, Holland, (AP).—By defensive precautions were essential. He said that injuries by gas were not necessarily more horrible than those produced by red-hot shell splinters. How, he demanded, could the country be saved from being overrun by a bellicose unless it possessed the means of resisting encroachments.

The spokesman for the abolition of the army and navy met General Snyder, formerly commander in chief of the Dutch army, at a public debate before a packed audience in the largest assembly hall of the Dutch royal residence. Thousands of people belonging to all classes of society eagerly followed the arguments on both sides. A battery of sound amplifiers had been installed for the benefit of a multitude outside which had been crowded out.

Both speakers agreed that despite the Geneva conventions the menace of war had not been wholly lifted from the world, and they envisaged Holland's position in the eventuality of another great war in the light of the fact that the country had miraculously escaped from being dragged into the last world conflict. How could Holland's future safety be best insured, they asked.

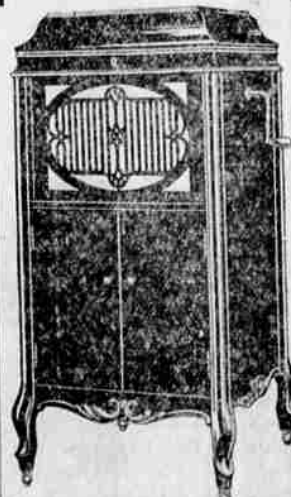
By total disarmament, the professor argued. Never by disarmament but only by adequate preparation to keep the enemy out declared the general.

Professor Van Embden made his audience shudder by recounting the horrors of gas warfare, citing reports by Brigadier General Amos Alfred Fries, chief of the American Chemical Warfare Service, Major General William Luther Short and General Tasker H. Bliss. "If the next war finds us an armed nation, we shall be utterly and pretentively lost," he declared.

General Snyder agreed that Holland coveted nothing, and that that the next war could never be an aggressive one as far as Holland was concerned. He pointed out that Holland was an agricultural, not an industrial country, and therefore ill equipped for the production of warlike material. As to gas warfare, his opinion was that it had come to stay, and time-

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### Reindeer Today Could Repay What Russia Got For Alaska

WASHINGTON, (AP).—General use of Alaskan reindeer venison in the United States as an article of diet soon will be possible, depending merely on the matter of transportation, the Bureau of Education predicted today in an annual report which said that Alaska's domestic herds now are worth \$1,500,000 more than this government paid Russia in 1867 for the entire

territory. The industry, which began in 1892 when the bureau imported the first of the animals from Siberia, has developed until the herd at present numbers some 350,000, about 235,000 of which belong to the natives who rely upon deer for

a livelihood, as well as for food and clothing. A problem confronting the bureau is to reorganize the industry on a cooperative basis so as to handle the increasing herds more efficiently and to market the meat more economically.



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## His Parents Didn't Want Him



Little three-year-old Jimmie Miller's father and mother couldn't be bothered with him. By the father, Walker Miller, took him down to the railroad yards in Collierville, Tenn., and put him in a box car. Railroad men found him there when the car reached Memphis.