

ALASKA TALES

By Our Special Correspondent
Ruth Jolley, Fairbanks, Alaska

According to our neighbors, it seems our cats are really justifying their existence. All life in Alaska migrates, even the lemmings and shrews. The first year we were up here there were thousands of lemmings, but then they moved out and last year there were very few rodents of any kinds. Then we heard wise cracks about our cats.

This year, however, the shrews moved in. They are tiny—smaller than house mice—and get into everything. Johnny, a neighbor, says they get into his clothing—all food left out of tin, and he even has to be careful where he steps. All the rest have the same trouble and traps seem to be useless. BUT—Jolleys never see the little pests, or even any signs of them, except when the cats bring their catches in to show off. One evening the kittens brought in thirty of them!

Now everybody wants to get kittens!

I am sending a picture of a plane which landed at Ladd Field. Up here the bush pilot seems a personal friend. You hear their names every day on Tundra Topics—carrying the mail run, picking up outlying persons and bringing them to town, dropping supplies, etc.

When the news of Williams' dilemma came over the radio the station sent an announcer to the field to cover the landing. It was really a tense moment. Those guys in the tower were personal friends of Alden Williams, and we all shared their prayers that he'd make it all right. I think that all Alaska held its breath as the plane touched the runway and was hidden in a cloud of snow. Then, with relief, the announcer said that it was as pretty a three-point landing as ever was made on wheels! Good pilots up here, eh?

It appears that a gust of wind had flipped the skis of Williams' plane upside down—one of the struts being too loose, which allowed them to turn completely over. In spite of this handicap and by using all the skill an experienced pilot knows, Williams brought the small Stinson Reliant plane safely to rest on the field. All the crash, fire and ambulance equipment at the field had been rushed to the field in case of emergency, but was not needed.

Mr. and Mrs. Gray Thompson of Toledo, Oregon, were home to spend the holidays visiting their parents Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bohnert. Gray is county agent for Lincoln county, and his wife is teaching domestic science in the Toledo High school.

Locals

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Knight and three children, David, Ruth and Stephen, spent the New Year's holidays with Mrs. Knight's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Yocom, arriving Friday and returning Monday to their home in Sherwood, Oregon. Their son Taylor Yocom and wife were home for the Christmas holidays but were unable to be here for the New Year. Taylor is employed at Tokeete Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Richards entertained Mrs. Richards' mother, Mrs. Carrie Hamrick, and her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. George Simpson, of Albany, to New Year's dinner. The Richards recently moved here from California and are living on the old stage road on the McCaskey place.

The three Misses Hanley, Mary, Martha and Claire, returned to their home Sunday afternoon, having been on an extended trip to various countries, which included Cuba, and Guatemala. Spending the last week after landing in New Orleans, visiting places of interest in southern United States.

Saturday night, January 7th, will be installation of officers for Nevada Chapter No. 93, O.E.S. The public is invited.

Mrs. C. T. Hamilton has been enjoying a visit from her brother, Fred Skelton of Boise, Idaho. He also visited his brother Joe Skelton, on Old Central Point highway.

Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Goldsberry, of Salem, formerly of Central Point, were valley visitors over the holidays. The Goldsberrys were enroute to California for an extended vacation.

Mrs. Fred Coffman of Old Stage Road, Willow Springs district, entertained the family to New Year's dinner. Those present were: her mother, Mrs. P. A. Tracy; her brother Edward Inmann, wife and two

daughters, Doris and Nancy; sister and husband Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Lisenbee and his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Larson; Mr. and Mrs. John Schump; and Mrs. Coffman's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. John Bohnert and two daughters Doreen and Marilyn.

The Dunn twins, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dunn, were home for the holidays with their parents from Oregon State College at Corvallis, returning to school Monday of this week.

Friday night will be the regular meeting night of the Central Point Grange. Preceding the meeting will be installation of the Juvenile Grange to be held at 7:30 p.m. sharp.

The 9th of January, State Grange officers will be here to conduct a Grange conference, for all granges in the county, starting at 1:45 p.m. There will be a supper served in the evening, followed with continuation of the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kiser of Ashland were callers at her parents' home Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Weidman on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Collins and family, Donald, Joyce and Arthur, had New Year's dinner at the T. A. Marine home. Mr. Collins is a nephew of Mrs. Marine.

An error was made in last week's issue of this paper which stated Mrs. Francis Spurlin was staying in Sams Valley. She is staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Frink, of west Beal Lane and the address is Central Point, Route No. 1, in case anyone wishes to write her. She is gaining in health and would be glad to see or hear from any of her friends.

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MUSINGS---

(Continued From Page One)

my shanty and then took the broken handle out of an axe and put in a new one, and in the afternoon chopped in the first windrow on the ridge."

We pass on to Jan. 13th—"Chopped all day, although I sometimes had a notion to quit for the trees being perfectly loaded with snow it rained down when I would strike a small tree until I was completely covered with it. Jan. 14—Chopped in the fifth windrow all day, the snow being still very bothersome as the trees are all loaded with it. Snowed a good share of the day. . . Jan. 23rd—Chopped thirty trees today—sixteen of them in the forenoon. Jan. 24th—Finished my ten acres of chopping by noon, all but seven big hemlock trees which were too big for one man to cut. In the afternoon I rested—all the work I done was to help Hiram cut down a large white ash stub on his R. R. Eighty for stovewood. Jan. 25th—Hiram and Me today cut the seven hemlock trees which I had left in my chopping. One of them lodged and did not fall until in the night. The largest stump was four feet and two inches across. After we had finished the big trees we cut stovewood for Sunday."

We have quoted this old diary at some length for the reason we wanted to show the kind of men who really MADE America. You didn't hear anything in those days of "Social Security," "Shorter Work Hours," "Paid Vacations" and all the rest of the New and Fair Deal do-gooders' notions. Those were the days when men WORKED for what they had or did without. Would to God we had more men like Pete Knapp in this country today.

We must tell you a little more about him. In later life he sold out in Michigan and came west. He settled near Kelso, Wash., where he went into the log hauling business and operating a lumber yard. The back pages of the old diary are filled with accounts of his operations. Somewhere about this time

he adopted a little girl who still lives. This girl happens to be a sister of our own fellowtownsman, Henry Kilburn, which accounts for him having the old book in his possession. Next week we will tell you a strange story of Sharpshooter Peter Knapp and a certain Confederate soldier. If it was good enough for Ripley to print we can be sure of its authenticity.

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