

**A TRUE ALASKAN STORY**

THANK YOU, MIKE  
By Ruth Powell Jolley

It was a beautiful day in mid-July. The sky was that marvelous incredible blue that only Alaskan skies can have, accented by the intense whiteness of a few seemingly stationary cumulus clouds, floating like giant fluffy popcorn kernels, near the northern horizon.

A light breeze ruffled through the tops of the slender white birch trees, causing their leaves to shimmer in the brilliant sunshine like changeable green silk. An occasional dragon fly darted on its erratic way hither and yon in the insatiable search for insects.

Bruce Ahlton planned to leave early that morning, driving into Fairbanks for supplies. It was his first trip to town in more than a month. Because so many errands had accumulated it would be necessary to remain over night in order to finish the essential shopping.

"Gosh, honey," he told his wife worriedly at breakfast, "I hate to leave you alone out here for so long. I wish you would come too."

"Don't be silly," Jeanne retorted with an impish grin, pouring herself more coffee. "I've a million and one things I'd rather be doing than making that long rough trip to town. And you'd better hurry with your breakfast and get going, dear, if you want to miss the eight o'clock traffic dust at the 26-mile airport."

"I'm finished now," Bruce drained his coffee cup and reached for his pipe. "Sure you haven't forgotten anything?"

"Of course I have, but not intentionally," Jeanne was scanning the list for a final checkup. "By the time you get halfway to town I'll remember something I wanted you to bring out awfully bad. It never fails, no matter how careful I am."

Waving goodbye to Bruce as the truck started down the driveway, Jeanne waited on the front porch for Mike, their old air-dale pal, to return from seeing Bruce off.

"Poor old Mike," she murmured as she watched him limp slowly up the steps.

"Wouldn't Bruce take his old dog with him? That's a shame. But hurry up and get inside before you let in all the mosquitoes in Alaska."

Mike had been her almost constant companion during his fifteen years of life, and Jeanne had acquired the habit of talking to him as to another person. When a friend once smiled as Bruce chided her about getting up at night to cover the old fellow with a blanket she answered with spirit:

"He's just like an elderly person of seventy-five or eighty. His blood is thin and he can't take the extreme cold of these winters without help. If the situation was reversed I know Mike would do as much for me. He's already done more than enough to pay for any little extra petting he gets in his old age. I don't care if you do laugh at me."

Now as the dog entered the house she grabbed the insect gun and

squirted fly spray about to drive off the mosquitos clinging to his fur. Mosquitos were the only feature of life in Alaska she disliked.

Sub-zero temperatures weren't nearly as bad as she had pictured them. The extreme dryness of the atmosphere when the thermometer dropped made the cold much less noticeable than the penetrating chill of the damp winters in the states. But the mosquitos were a torment.

Back on the ranch in Oregon she and Bruce had loved to sit outside on balmy summer evenings, or to loll around on the grass. If they had to swat three or four of the pesky biters they would complain of how bad the mosquitos were.

Here in Alaska it was different. To Jeanne they seemed a personal enemy. Each time she stepped outside she was met by angry swarms of the vicious insects striving to drive her back to the comfort and safety of the house. She moaned to Bruce that her skin was beginning to resemble antique leather from continual applications of repellent.

To Be Continued

**Five Years Ago**

Melvin Anhorn is in the hospital suffering from the effects of a rattlesnake bite. Mr. Anhorn was with the State Guard on maneuvers. He had gone out after kindlings when the snake bit him. They telephoned the next guard station and he was given first aid about this time he passed out. He is improving at this time.

Chief Petty Officer Russell Ross and his brother Louis (Toad) Ross of Seattle, are visiting their sister, Mrs. Margaret Bowman and other relatives, among them their cousin James Ross and family in Central Point.

Mrs. Floyd Hedgpath is leaving with her daughter-in-law and children, Mrs. Louis Hedgpath and Louis Jr. (Butch) and Edna Kay (Sissy) for Roseburg for a visit. Mrs. Hedgpath and children have been visiting in Central Point.

Mr. Glenn Morgan of Prospect was shopping in Central Point Tuesday.

Grace Hall from North Bend was here for a week's visit with her sister, Mrs. O. R. Gonderman and family. She may move to Central Point.

Mr. Marion Huitt and sister Mrs. John Powell left for Gold Beach where they will visit their parents Mr. and Mrs. Ed Huitt. Mrs. Powell's small sons Jackie and Bobby, and Mrs. Stephen Huitt and little daughter Karen, who have been visiting there, will return to Central Point with them Sunday.

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Mr. Lowry of Pocatella, Idaho, has moved to Central Point. He is acquainted with Mr. E. C. Faber's folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Lacey received a package from their son Sgt. Doyle Lacey. There was a hunting knife and a Panama hat for Mr. Lacey for Father's Day, and some napkins and handkerchiefs for his mother Mrs. Lacey.

Mrs. Emilio Gianie of Oakland, visited her husband's mother and sister, Mrs. Frank Zuccala and Elizabeth for several days recently.

**Ten Years Ago**

Delbert Ayers left for Lake of the Woods to be with the Boy-Scouts. He will have charge of the water front.

Leroy St. Arnold of Lakeview visited his parents for a couple of days. LeRoy has a wrecking yard at Lakeview.

Alva Muse of Glendale had the misfortune to dislocate both hips in his work at the mill and will be unable to work for a couple of weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Head were visitors at the Pearl Bonney home Sunday.

Mr. Earl Hanins and Taft Russell of San Bernardino arrived for a surprise visit with their cousin Mrs. Jac Tharp. They continued on to visit Mr. Russell's uncle at Glendale. Miss Mary Muse accompanied them. The returned Wednesday

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for a visit at the Tharp home. Miss Muse, who is a sister of Mrs. Tharp, will ride in the parade in Ashland on the 4th.

Mrs. Effie Castor and brother Floyd Edasli returned Sunday from a trip to Portland and Salem where they visited Mrs. Caster's son Bert and other relatives.

Relatives and a few friends met for a farewell picnic in Gold Hill in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lusk who are leaving for Eastern Oregon. Mrs. Lusk is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Musty. All of the family were present.

John Obenchain returned home from the John Day Ranch above Gold Ray dam. He said it was nice and cool there and he feels the heat here very much.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF RE-ADVERTISEMENT** of bids for the High School Building for School District No. 6C, Jackson County, Central Point, Oregon.

Sealed Bids will be received by Merle Obenchain, Clerk of School District No. 6C at the high school building, Central Point, Oregon, until July 21, 7:00 o'clock P.M., Standard Time, for the High School building for School District No. 6C, Jackson County, Central Point, Oregon, and will then and there be opened and publicly read aloud.

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Bids received after the time fixed for opening will not be considered. Plans, specifications and form of contract documents may be examined at the office of Freeman, Hayslip & Tuft, Assoc. Architects, 2040 S.W. Third Avenue, Portland, Oregon on or after July 10, 1950, upon deposit of \$25.00 which will be refunded upon the return of the plans and specifications within a reasonable time.

Attention is called to Bidders Pre-qualification, Section 98-103 to 98-105 inclusive, Oregon Compiled Laws Annotated, which must be filed with the Clerk 10 days before date for opening of bids and for which forms may be obtained at the office of the Architects.

No proposals will be considered unless accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond (with authorized surety company as surety) made payable to the Owner in an amount of not less than 5% of the amount of the bid. Surety

bond (or bonds) will be required in accordance with the terms of the contract documents.

The School District No. 6C, Jackson County, Oregon, reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.

No bidder may withdraw his bid after the hour set for the opening thereof or before award of the contract, unless said award is delayed for a period exceeding 30 days.

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