

# Climbers Seek Evidence To Prove Pole, McKinley Claims by Cook

Anchorage, Alaska — (AP) — Four men somewhere on the icy slopes of towering Mt. McKinley may have with them information needed by a Buffalo, N.Y., woman to vindicate her dead father's honor.

An expedition that has been trying to scale Mt. McKinley's 29,250-foot peak, the highest in North America, is to descend the mountain some time this week. Eagerly awaiting the findings of the four mountain climbers is Mrs. Helene Cook Vetter, daughter of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, whose claims he was the first man to reach the North Pole and the first to climb Mt. McKinley have been hotly disputed.

Cook's claim he was first to scale the great peak in September, 1906, was officially recognized until Admiral Robert E. Peary attacked it. Mrs. Vetter said in Buffalo that Peary attacked her father because "he (Peary) returned from the North Pole to find my father had beaten him there."

Mrs. Vetter said her father and two Eskimos reached the North Pole on April 21, 1908—almost a year before Peary's officially recognized arrival date of April 7, 1909.

**Journey attacked**  
"Although Peary attempted to discredit every phase of my father's polar journey," Mrs. Vetter said, "he and his advisors made Mt. McKinley the focal point of their attack."  
"Peary knew that he could not

make his charge that my father lacked the North Pole journey stick because he was the only witness against him."  
Therefore, he turned to the old maxim—false in one, false in all—and set out to demonstrate that my father faked the Mt. McKinley climb.

Mrs. Vetter said "the Peary camp and Dolomite Browne and Herschel Parker, who had been members of Cook's party that attempted to climb the mountain, back to Alaska to bring back proof he falsified his claim. They returned with a photograph made about 20 miles from the peak and said it duplicated

Cook's picture that he said he took atop the mountain."  
The expedition now on Mt. McKinley, headed by mining engineer Walter L. Gonnason of Seattle, set out to follow Cook's route up the mountain. Photographs made at points along the way will be compared with those made by him.

Mrs. Vetter has no illusions that the terrain will be the same now as it was 50 years ago. Since then, it could have changed completely by the action of landslides and glacier movements. But she said she is willing to abide by the expedition's findings.

With Gonnason are Dr. Otto T. Troit, 45, a surgeon from Seattle; Dr. Paul Gersman, 31, a pediatrician of Puyallup, Wash.; and Bruce R. Gilbert, 25, a Yakima, Wash., fruit grower.

All the men are experienced mountain climbers.  
The Peary-Cook controversy was a result of Peary's refusal "to be the second man to reach the North Pole," Mrs. Vetter charged.

**Cook Pardoned**  
Before the foud had run its course, all five men who accompanied Cook part of the way

on the climb up the mountain signed statements that his story was false.  
Cook served as surgeon and anthropologist on Peary's first North Greenland expedition in 1891 and in 1901 was surgeon for the "Erik," expedition that went to Greenland to rescue Peary, who was stranded.

The Brooklyn physician led two American expeditions to Greenland, in 1893 and 1894, and in 1897-99 was surgeon for the Belgian antarctic expedition.

Years after it was generally assumed that Peary had proved Cook's claims faked, Cook went

into the oil development business in Texas. He was indicted on charges he exaggerated the prospects of his company and in November, 1923, was sentenced to 14 years and nine months in Leavenworth.

He was released in 1938 and on May 16, 1940, was granted a full pardon by President Roosevelt. He died a few months later, at the age of 75, at New Rochelle, N. Y.

His daughter, the wife of Elliott J. Vetter, a lumber company executive of Buffalo, N.Y., has spent most of her adult life trying to clear her father's name.

## GOP Said To Run Ike 'Even if He's Stuffed'

Washington — (AP) — Sen. William E. Jenner (R-Ind.) was quoted Sunday as saying the Republicans will run President Eisenhower for reelection "if they have to stuff him."

The remark was attributed to Jenner by Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.).

A reporter noted that Magnuson previously had quoted a Republican as saying, "They're going to run Ike if they have to stuff him." Asked who said it, Magnuson named Jenner. He said he thinks the Indiana Republican made the remark either on the Senate floor or in a newspaper interview.

## Canadian Swimmer Spans Lake Ontario

Toronto — (AP) — Johnny Jaremy, a husky 36-year-old Toronto steamfitter, today became the first man to swim across Lake Ontario.

Jaremy covered the 32-mile distance from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., to the Toronto Harbor entrance in 21 hours and 13 minutes, which was 17 minutes more than the only previous lake conqueror, Marilyn Bell of Toronto.

Miss Bell performed the epic feat Sept. 9, 1954.

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## Little Child Found After Night in Wilds

Boulder, Colo. — (AP) — Little Sandy Barcus, 2½, Superior, Colo., who spent 25 hours wandering in freezing weather through the rain swept Rockies near the Continental Divide was resting safe and unharmed in Boulder Community hospital today.

Scoutmaster Glen Powers and members of his Boulder Troop 77 found the girl Sunday afternoon. She slipped away Saturday night while on an outing with her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. William Barcus Jr., near Nederland, Colo.

Barefoot and cold only in a thin dress, the tot was shivering with cold when she was found at the edge of Middle Boulder creek. When questioned, she would only repeat "I'm looking for my mommy."

## US Nuclear Blasts Reported by Japan

Tokyo — (AP) — Japanese scientists said today the United States set off another nuclear explosion in the current test series in the Pacific proving grounds Sunday.

They said the 10th of the series was detonated early Sunday in the Eniwetok-Bikini test grounds, and the ninth early Saturday morning.

A spokesman for the government's Central Meteorological Observatory in Tokyo said ultra sensitive instruments at the observatory and in weather stations at Yonago, Kagoshima and other places recorded "unusual" atmospheric pressure shocks as a result of the explosions.

## Leading Oregon Churchman Dies

Portland — (AP) — One of Oregon's leading churchmen died here yesterday as a result of the heat wave that has blanketed the state for the past several days.

The Rev. John Dawson, senior presbyter of the Episcopal diocese of Oregon, died in a local hospital, the result, doctors said, of heat exhaustion.

The 87-year-old prelate was born in Ireland and came to the United States at an early age. He had been a resident of Multnomah county for the past 32 years.

He was ordained in 1891 and became a priest in 1892. He served as rector at St. George's in Roseburg for a time before becoming rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Portland, where he served many years.

## Two Children Perish In Idaho Barn Fire

Burley, Ida. — (AP) — Two Indian children burned to death near here last night in a barn fire far from their grandparents' farm.

Jerry Abrahamson, 6, and his sister, Barbara Jean, 4, were apparently playing in a nearby barn when the fire broke out. Firefighters battled the blaze for two hours, not knowing the children were inside the building.

Their bodies were found as the firemen searched through the ashes.

The Weather Bureau says the common practice of measuring the moisture contents of snow as 10 per cent of its depth is faulty. The bureau says the moisture content can be from three to 30 per cent of the snow's depth.

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