

Alaska Man Lives or Dies by Wits in Bush Country

By GORDON W. SCHULTZ
United Press International

Fairbanks, Alaska — (UPI) — When the wintry Arctic wind howls through the black, midnight sky over the Alaska bush country and the temperature skids far below zero, a man's life or death depends on his wits.

Alaska and the whole of the Arctic Circle can quickly freeze the life out of the hunter, bush pilot or airplane crewmember who may become lost or grounded.

But a chance for survival is the course offered to more than 700 military personnel and civilians each year at the Air Force Arctic Survival school at Eielson Air Force City.

Eielson's winter climate, with temperatures seldom rising above ten below zero and dipping frequently to minus 60, is considered ideal for Arctic survival training.

"We offer them a little life insurance," said Capt. Henry M. Gibson, Commander of the school. "In this case they are their own beneficiaries."

Gibson, a former paratrooper and Army infantry officer, runs the five-day courses at the school that include three days of classroom work and

two days of on-the-job training in survival in the field with only winter clothing, a parachute and survival pack.

Build Shelters

In a warm classroom commercial airline crews, federal employees and personnel from generals to privates in the four branches of military service learn the cold facts of building shelters, trapping small game, fire building and general Arctic health practices. Then comes two days of putting everything learned to the real test in frigid weather.

"Everything takes three and four times longer to do than it normally would," Kenneth Walser, an employee of the Federal Aviation Agency at Fairbanks and a recent graduate of the school, said.

Another field-weary graduate, Sgt. Kenneth Hul of the Alaska Command at Eielson, said that getting drinking water from melted snow and building a shelter in 40 below zero temperature were the most difficult things he experienced.

"That water is difficult to get," Hul said, "but the more you keep busy the better off you'll be."

Not long after the students hit the field in groups of six,

the crews spread out to chop and gather wood for fire and shelter building. Fingers warmed by the bonfires unfurl each pack and soon orange and white parachute panel lean-tos dot the tundra.

Before the early Arctic sunset, each student has finished his shelter and gathered enough firewood to last until the morning. He has also prepared a lunch of Ersatz coffee brewed from melted snow.

If he is lucky at snaring rabbits or other small creatures each student prepares a dinner of fresh meat. If not, it's self-prepared C-rations.

Nothing Wasted

No available resources are wasted in the Arctic when survival depends on it. Wire from parachutes is used to make snares or fish hooks or needles. The parachute itself becomes a shelter in the form of a "para-tepee" or a pair of moccasins or hundreds of other necessities. Paper from ration cans can be used to build a fire. The tin lids become fish lures.

Sleeping is a problem. Although the cold winter nights can be nearly 24 hours long, the men seldom sleep longer than seven hours. And then a scarf or covering kept over a

man's face to prevent frostbite has to be moved periodically as breath moisture freezes.

If the days are short, every minute of daylight is used to gather firewood or check food snares. And there are

emergency signals to be built so rescue aircraft can easily spot survivors.

Smsgt Keith Clemmons, a chief instructor at the school, is surprised at the number of people who come to the class without ever having slept

or built a camp fire. But they learn. Since the school was started 16 years ago at Nome,

Alaska, Clemmons said every student has survived. And that's not a modest commentary on the curriculum.



SURVIVAL SCHOOL — A member of the Eielson Air Force base cooks food over open U. S. Air Force's Arctic Survival School of fire. (UPI)

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4-H NEWS

Desert Pegasus
The meeting of the Desert Pegasus 4-H club was held recently at the Eagle Point Community building with 17 members present, two new ones, Sandy Robinson and Steve Modde. There were five visitors.

Alyce Krambeal gave a good report on her horse. Kathy McGuire gave a report on the proper care of a horse's feet.

Mr. Dunn talked on halter class.

Four members in the club are going to try out for the 4-H Follies. They are Cheryl Hansen, Jenny Olsen, Phyllis Trotter and Gina Krambeal.

Karyl Bishop and Sue Welshmeyer served refreshments. Gina Krambeal, Reporter.

Eagle Point Cookers
The second meeting of the Eagle Point Cookers 4-H club was called to order by the president, Susan Stewart. Mrs. Hayes told the club members what to study and what to bring to the next meeting.

The first year members are to bring ingredients for making sandwiches; second year members ingredients for making quick potato soup; fourth year members are to bring ingredients for making fruit salad; and fifth and sixth year members are to bring the ingredients for making cakes.

Alyce Krambeal introduced her guest, Tonya Marie Nelson. New members introduced by D'Ann Caittanch and George Kennedy, Michele Vannice and Malbert Hafer.

Leslie Krambeal, Reporter.

IT'S YOUR LAW

Editor's note: The following article is given as informational service by the Oregon State Bar. No person should apply or interpret any law without the aid of an attorney who is completely advised of the facts involved. Even a slight variance in facts may change the application of the law.

FINDERS KEEPERS?

"Finders keepers, losers weepers." Is this old rhyme true or false? Lawyers say it is not always strictly accurate under the law. It is sometimes rather difficult to define the rights of a finder in court.

There are some rather fine distinctions and exceptions to the "finders keepers" maxim that have plagued the courts — and finders — for generations. In the first place, the finder is not entitled to keep the property unless the original owner is not known and cannot be located. Neither may he keep it unless the object is truly "lost," and not merely "misplaced."

In general, property is legally "lost" when parted with involuntarily — through accident, neglect, forgetfulness or any other unintentional circumstance. Property is not lost in the legal sense when voluntarily left by the owner, intending to pick it up later, even though he fails to do so. Such property is "misplaced," Legally Lost

Thus, if one loses a watch

on the street by having the clasp break, not knowing where or when it was dropped, it is legally "lost." The same is true of a fountain pen falling through a hole in one's pocket unobserved. In such cases, the finder owns what he has found against all but the true owner.

On the other hand, a package left on the seat of a bus is "misplaced" rather than lost. In one southern state, a pocketbook left in a barbershop by a customer was held to have been "left," not "lost."

The proper custodian to hold them for the owners return would be the proprietor or other person in charge.

Remaining unclaimed, the property sometimes goes to this custodian, sometimes to the finder. The distinction here appears to be whether the place it is found is private or semi-private, or a place used by the general public.

UNGRATEFUL THIEF

San Diego, Calif. — (UPI) — William Quinn got his stolen car back after it had been missing a month; but the thief wasn't the least bit grateful about his free transportation. A two-page handwritten letter found in the auto informed the stockbroker that his car had an uncomfortable back seat, a defective radio and needed new sparkplugs and wheel alignment.



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