CHITINA EFFORTS A BIG SUCCESS

The cemetery at Chitina has a new lease on life thanks to a hardy group of Pioneers who gathered on June 27 to tackle the results of years of neglect.

Pioneers from Anchorage, Palmer, Fairbanks, Valdez, Cordova and even Nome braved the hungry mosquitoes which smelled fresh blood and attacked. The Pioneers not only had to fight the mosquitoes they had to attack the prickly rose bushes that were really tenacious.

The cemetery is located on a hill between the town and the Copper River. Four- and six-wheelers ferried Pioneers and their tools up the hill. Past Grand President, Al Clayton, Jr, had intentions of helping with his restored military jeep but on the second trip up the hill the jeep stalled and refused to go any further despite the valiant efforts of Al. Roger Storrs and his six-wheeler became the official public transportation for going up and down the hill. A very special thanks to him.

The cleanup of the Chitina Cemetery was led by the "Bone Lady," a name bestowed on Erika Miller by Past Grand President Al Clayton. Erika gives so much of her time to work on Alaska’s remote cemeteries.

It was a glorious sunny day and everyone got to work cutting down trees, cutting and hauling brush, straightening up fences around the plots, and doing whatever else needed to be done. Once some of the clearing was done and the view emerged it was beautiful.

A good start was made but there is lots more work to do.

Friday evening about 50 Pioneers and local residents gathered at a greenhouse next to Gilpatrick’s Hotel Chitina for a wonderful and delicious dinner. The employees had transformed the greenhouse into a banquet hall just for us. Baskets of flowers were hanging throughout the area which made it very festive.
Past Grand President, Al Clayton, Jr., acted as Emcee and introduced Bob Coates and Martin Finnesand who shared their experiences of growing up in Chitna. Art Koeninger spoke about the changes that have occurred in Chitna since the early eighties.

After the dinner Joan Skilbred, Fairbanks WI#8, gave a slide show of old Chitina photographs at the Hotel. Donna Krier, Fairbanks WI#8, had donated many of the photos featured in that slideshow. Local experts had never seen some of them before.

In honor of the hotel’s 100 anniversary, Joan presented the Gilpatricks with a printed version of the slide show as a gift from the Pioneers of Alaska. The hotel was the PofA and Arctic Brotherhood former meeting hall.

On Saturday, June 28, everyone was on their own to explore, dip net for fish or visit. That evening Pioneers gathered at the Campground next to the Copper River and enjoyed a salmon and spaghetti dinner that was cooked up by Al Clayton and Jim Casement.

Sunday good byes were in order as Pioneers headed home with maybe a new ache or pain but with the satisfaction of knowing they had started another worthwhile project was worth the pain.

**SNIDER PARK PICNIC**

Friday, June 6, the Pioneers started arriving in motorhomes for the annual Snider Park Stampede and Picnic on June 7th and 8th. An informal social hour and potluck was held that evening spearheaded by Norma Alderfer, Anchorage WI#4.

The grounds were beautiful thanks to Committee Chairman, Ken Pysz, his committee members and the volunteers from Anchorage and Palmer who gathered on May 10 to clean up the park for all of us.

Saturday was the Colony Days Parade in which Palmer Men’s Igloo #31 and Women’s Igloo #11 entered a beautiful float designed by member Jim Wilson who also donated the use of the truck and trailer for the float. The trailer was covered in white to replicate snow and featured an Igloo and polar bears. Riding on the float were King and Queen Regents, Ken Pysz and Pat Fleming, Palmer; Bob and Betty Huffman, Fairbanks; and David and Diane Barnett from Anchorage. Also featured on the float were Past Grand President Bill
Church and his wife, Ruby, and Past Grand President Don Dinkle and wife, Bonnie.

The stampede Saturday evening was another success. The food is always so good and the music was lively and really got the crowd dancing. Past Grand President Don Dinkle and wife Bonnie celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary that day.

Sunday dawned cloudy and not as warm as it could have been. There was the threat of rain which may have keep some people home since the turnout was a little lower this year. The rain didn't materialize thank goodness.

Approximately 180 Pioneers, their families and friends enjoyed lots of good food, good conversations and visiting during the afternoon. There were lots of great games for kids of all ages thanks to Michael Carey, Men's Igloo #15. As usual, though finding the quarters in the straw drew the most participants among the younger set and hopefully future Pioneers.

Grand Officers partaking of the fun were:

Troxell Hebert, Grand President
Ken Pysz, Grand Historian
Lee Pederson, Grand Chaplain
Jim Casement, Grand Sgt.-At-Arms
Debbie Dauphinais, Grand Treasurer
Virginia Calloway, Grand 3-Year Trustee

Past Grand Presidents attending were:

Ed Johnson and wife, Vila
Jim Herrick and wife Patty Lou
Bill Church and wife Ruby

Don Dinkle and wife Bonnie
Al Clayton, Jr.
Bob Hufman and wife Betty

Frank McGilvary and wife D.A. were there in spirit. Frank ended up in the Mat-Su Hospital for an emergency appendectomy. We're pretty sure he would rather have been at the picnic!

SEWARD FOURTH OF JULY

Not to be outdone, Seward Men’s Igloo No.9 and Women’s Igloo No 9 were featured prominently in the Seward Fourth of July Parade.

Riding on the float were Dawn Campbell, Seward King and Queen Regents, Keith and Dorothy Knighten and Anchorage King and Queen Regents, David and Diane Barnett and their Granddaughter Rylee, sporting a regal tiara. Grand 2-Yr. Trustee, Virgil Campbell, got his exercise by running beside the float dispensing candy to the crowd.
There was lots of exposure for the Pioneers in Seward as the normal population of 3,400 swells to 35,000-40,000 on the Fourth of July.

PAST GRAND PRESIDENT
ERNEST JOHN ANDERES
October 15, 1928-May 17, 2014

Ernest John Anderes, 85, died May 17, 2014 at Rancho Mirage, California from complications of Parkinson’s Disease.

He was born on October 15, 1928 in Ketchikan. He received his bachelor’s degree in business from Washington State University. He owned and operated Anderes Oil Inc. in Ketchikan for 50 years and was a director on the board of First Bank for 26 years.

Mr. Anderes resided in Ketchikan and Palm Desert, California. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and several clubs and lodges. Mr Anderes was Grand President of the Grand Igloo, Pioneers of Alaska, in 1980.

Mr. Anderes was preceded in death by his father, Ernest Anderes; mother, Lina Anderes; son, Gary Ernest Anderes; and grandson, Lucas Leo Lahmeyer.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Leilah Frances (Fairhurst) Anderes; Brother Calvin E. Anderes; sister, Lillian M. Greuter(Alfred); son David H. Anderes (Debra); daughter Debra L. Lahmeyer (Edward); six grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

A family celebration of life will occur at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to: Coachella Valley Alzheimer’s Association, 69730 Highway 111, Ste. 100, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.

FROM FAIRBANKS

Two members of Fairbanks Men’s Igloo No. 4 were presented Meritorious Service Awards from the UAF for outstanding service to the local community and state.

W. Glenn Hackney was recognized as a Fairbanks Food Bank Volunteer and Fairbanks Litter Clean Up Volunteer.

Bill Mendenhall was recognized for his service as UAF Engineering Professor (Surveying and Photogrammetry) and his work on the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation.

FAIRBANKS GOLDEN DAYS

Fairbanks Men’s Igloo # 4 and Women’s Igloo #8 celebrated the annual Golden Days celebration by hosting and annual Regents Tea on Friday, July 18 at the Civic Center.
In addition to the lovely cookies, fruits and cheeses, there was the annual fun skit directed by Bobbie Lounsbury.

The skit this year featured some of Fairbanks’ “Distinguished Citizens” from 1923-1943 portrayed by Fairbanks Igloo Members.

Wanda Huber as Eva McGowen, official hostess of Fairbanks for many years. Don Callahan as W.F. Thompson, pioneer newspaper editor.


Others in the skit but not pictured were: Bert and Betsy Sharp as President and Mrs. Warren Harding; Marilyn Nigro and Jim Plaquet as Charlie and Anna Creamer, pioneer Fairbanks dairy farmers; Susan Nugent as Blanche Cascaden, pioneer miner and one time president of Woman’s Auxiliary No. 8; Nick Nugent as Sam White pioneer aviator; Jacki Fritz and Roy Helms as Kitty Hensley and Capt. Smythe; and Cindy Helms as Marvel Crosson, pioneer aviator.

Joan Skilbred as famous bag lady, Hulda Ford, who was a wealthy entrepreneur but became odd.

JoAnne Oehring was honored for her dedication to the Fairbanks Pioneer Museum at Pioneer Park.

The Grand Marshal of the Parade was Pioneer Roy Helms. The weather was not ideal but Fairbanksans didn’t let that dampen their spirits.

Participating in the parade and looking regal in antique cars they were riding in were David and Diane Barnett, King and Queen Regents from Anchorage; Palmer King and Queen Regents Ken Pysz and Pat Fleming; and Grand President Troxell Hebert.

The Mug-Up at the Civic Center Saturday evening featured fine dining, dancing and very nice grand prizes.

Sunday was the annual rededication of
the Pedro Monument by the Pioneers of Alaska. Guest speaker was Betsy Sharp, WI#8 who spoke on the History of the Pedro Monument.

A NUGGET
HOW TO WASH A CAT

1. Put 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. The cat will self-agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a ‘power-wash’ and rinse’.
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the commode and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Sincerely,
The Dog

HAVE YOU FILLED OUT YOUR GENERATION HISTORY OF ALASKA FORM?

The Grand Igloo has asked each and every member of the Pioneers of Alaska to fill out this form and turn in two copies to their individual Igloo’s secretary.

In 1991, this project was started by Marcel Colp. In 1992 when her husband, Doug, was Grand President he chose the password “Generation” to promote the project. To date only 559 forms have been turned in out of almost 5,000 members.

To encourage people to fill out this very simple form a member of each Igloo has agreed to help their Igloo members obtain the form and answer any questions you may have. They are:

Nome – Ben Esch
Fairbanks – Ruth Knapman
Juneau – Dan Kassner or Virginia Alloway
Valdez – Dave Wells or Donna and Jim Gifford
Ketchikan – Mary Castle
Kodiak – Carmen Lunde
Cordova – Jim Casement
Wrangell – Marlene Clark
Sitka – Lois Perensovich
Petersburg – Catherine Harris
Palmer – Sharon Benson
Homer – Marie Walker
Kenai- Patty Lou Herrick
Delta Junction – Dick Sourada
Seward – Dawn and Virgil Campbell
Anchorage – Judy Weimer

Remember, every Pioneer member is a very important part of Alaska’s history. We need to preserve the historical genealogy of each member.

(Some information obtained from the Archives and Generations Committee Report presented at the 2013 Grand Igloo Convention in Juneau, Alaska)
A LONG TIME AGO
MEANEST MAN IN ALL YUKON
Yukon Sun, Dawson Yukon Territory, February 3, 1904

Appeared on the Scene on Sunday – Little Respect for the Sabbath—He Stole from the front of the Sun Office Our Trusty Thermometer—Reward Is Offered for His Detection.

The meanest waloper that ever came over the trail or down or up the Yukon is the petty larceny thief that on Sunday last walked away with the Sun’s thermometer, the same having been loaned to us by Reid & Co., the druggists, and which has been a source of comfort and protection to us since the cold of winter first struck us, as well as the guiding star of all the mushers that have passed over the bridge of the slough during the frosty period.

The thermometer was one of the best that ever worked for the Sun. It was an advertising anchor, containing a thermometer, the whole anchored to the building by spikes. The thief stole the anchor and all. Half the amount of labor expended upon the lifting of our thermometer would have secured at least $16 in cheechaco if expended in the manly task of sawing cordwood at the rate of $2 per cord, even, and as the weather time table weighed about 200 pounds, the task of carrying it to the thief’s cache must have been considerable.

Elsewhere in today’s issue is the reward offer from the owners of the thermometer. All the local thief catchers are advised that there is easy money in sight for an exhibition of their powers.

People who sport thermometers that cannot show a registered pedigree had better watch out.

$10 REWARD!

We will pay $10 reward for the arrest of the thief that on Sunday last stole from the front of the Sun office one of our thermometers.

(Previously appeared in “The Sluice Box” Fairbanks Women’s Igloo #8 newsletter.)
(From Joan Skilbred’s Collection)

2014 GRAND IGLOO CONVENTION

“Island Terrific in the North Pacific

Kodiak, Alaska
September 24-27, 2014

A NUGGET

There comes a time when a woman just has to trust her husband. For example:

The wife comes home late at night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom. From under the sheets she sees four legs instead of two. She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the sheet as hard as she can. Leaving the covered bodies groaning, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink. As she enters, she sees her husband there, reading a magazine.

“Hi, sweetheart,” he says. “Your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Did you say hello?”
From The Editors:

We hope everyone is having a great summer. For us the summer has been extremely busy but in a good way.

We want to thank all those who sent articles to us for publication in The Pathfinder.

If you wish to subscribe to The Pathfinder it is a very good value. The cost is $1.00/issue. That’s only $4.00 per year. To subscribe send your name, address, and subscription fee to:

Alaska Pioneer Pathfinder  
c/o Diane Pederson  
925 R Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 272-7188 or pathfinder @ak.net

We hope to see many of you at the Grand Igloo Convention in Kodiak. It should be lots of fun.