

# ALASKA PIONEER PATHFINDER

Jerry Krier  
Grand President

October 2012

Volume 18 Issue # 1

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## 96TH GRAND IGLOO CONVENTION

Over 200 hardy Pioneers endured the elements to attend the 96th Grand Igloo Convention on the Kenai Peninsula. The wind and the rain buffeted the drivers and the fliers as they made their way south. Maybe Mother Nature was preparing us for the next Convention in Juneau and Kodiak in 2014.

Everyone was warmly greeted by members of the host Igloos as they arrived for Registration at the Soldotna Sports Center. The inclement weather was soon forgotten as old and new friends greeted one another.

Fortunately the hosts did not have to use the Ice Arena, which is very cool, for their meetings and were able to hold all their events in one large meeting room. The room was decorated with fish nets, cork lines and twinkling lights to create a great venue for all the events and the transition from meeting room to the luncheons, the Grand Ball and the banquet went very smoothly.

Thursday the Convention was officially opened by Dave Carey, President of Kenai Men's Igloo #33. After presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and the Alaska Flag Song, the Pioneers were welcomed by Pat Porter, the Mayor of Kenai, who brought a ray of sunshine (a large balloon of the sun) and Mike Navarre, Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor.

A wonderful dance presentation by the Kenaitze Dancers entertained one and all before Grand President "Ozzie" Osborne was introduced to officially open the business session. Grand President Ozzie is a machinist and millwright by trade and has worked mostly in the oil fields since arriving in Alaska in 1968. He has six children, 22 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

All the Grand Officers, eight Past Presidents, and 215 delegates attended.

Grand Recorder, Linda Conley, reported that once again the membership of the Pioneers of Alaska has lost members with a net loss of 160 members for a total membership in 2012 of 5,026. Linda is a great resource for those seeking information on people who lived in Alaska in days gone by. She encouraged Igloos and individuals receiving requests for information to forward them to her.

The fourth time was a charm for the passage of the Constitutional Amendment giving women Pioneer members the opportunity to advance through the chairs of the Grand Igloo.

Past President, Al Clayton, Jr. once again inducted several new members into the Northern Chapter of the Order of the DairyAire and presented them with a custom-made T-Shirt attesting to their completion of the long and arduous trek to McCarthy to help clean out the McCarthy cemetery.

The dates for the next McCarthy Adventure are Thursday, July 11, 2013 through Sunday, July 14, 2013. This is the weekend before Golden Days in Fairbanks so it's the perfect opportunity to extend your travels and attend the fun events during Golden Days. There will be more information on both these events in later issues of the Pathfinder.

At the Ladies Luncheon the ladies were treated to a skit on Homesteading by "Blazo Annie and "Honey Pot." They told of homesteading on the Peninsula and some of the unique names that came out of that era. Many of them are familiar to many of us—

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Moose Meat John, Pappy Walker, and Alaska Nellie to name a few.

While the ladies were dining the men were given a tour of the brewery at Nikiski. Past President Al was kind enough to bring back a sample jug of "water" that was rumored to taste a lot like India Pale Ale.

Sue Ellyn Novak, President of the Alaska Veteran's Museum in Anchorage was the speaker at the Men's Luncheon on Friday. A tour of the Kenai Visitor's Center was offered to the ladies at this time

Thursday night was Skit Night preceded by a spaghetti dinner put on by Anchorage Women's Igloo #4 members. Shawneen Conover, as Chairman, and her crew did a terrific job with the food.

Skit night is so much fun and we have some creative and talented members in our Organization. Fairbanks led of the evening of laughs with a skit "When Radio Was" and a take-off of the Abbott and Costello routine starring George Lounsbury as Costello, Mike Chace as Abbott, Gene Hanson as the Landlord, and Barbara Doogan as the Gold Digger. Everyone was trying to explain gold mining and the terminology to Costello and of course it was not successful but it lead to lots of laughs.

Palmer conducted the 11th Circus Court with Bonnie Tozer as "The Judge," Bill Church as the Bailiff and a cast of "law breakers" from the Palmer Women's Igloo. There were some serious criminal acts committed by these defendants such as transferring money via computer from the Men's to the Women's Igloo; hi-jacking the "Meals on Wheels"; skinny-dipping at the Past President's favorite watering hole; spinning broddies on the ice rink when a hockey game was in session; and scandalizing the

neighborhood by wearing a see-through night gown while carrying a candle. Each received a sentence commensurate with their crime from "The Judge."

"Reality TV" was the subject of Nome's skit. The group was having a hard time choosing between the reality shows on TV, such as Deadliest Catch, Bering Sea Gold or Ice Road Truckers. When they finally settled on one to watch the TV wouldn't work. All agreed that maybe they should go to the beach, build a bonfire, cook a salmon and have some-mores. Now that is "reality."

Last, but not least, was "Clayton's DairyAire" with an extended cast of characters from various Igloos. A herd of bovines on the Iverson Farm (15 lovely ladies attired in cow outfits, each one uniquely personalized) is frolicking in the meadow unaware their ideal life is about to change. The mines have closed and the Iverson's were leaving the area. Unbeknownst to the contented herd the farm and the herd were going to be auctioned off by Auctioneer Bill Chace.

The bidders included the hippies, Jim Casement and Don Burt, who wanted to grow weed and call it Copper River Moo-la-la; Frank McGilvary, Dave Miller and Larry Knapman as religious Cult Members seeking a location for their church, and Roger Storrs and Pete Weimer as the Militia Men who wanted to set up a training camp.

All turned out well for the herd, but it got down to wire before the hero, "Cow Pie Al," swooped in in his painted cardboard airplane and saved the farm and the herd from "Hamburger Heaven."

Friday evening the Grand Ball kicked off with the Grand Parade, led by Connie Skogland and Norman Elliott, Anchorage King and Queen Regents; Bert and Betsy Sharp, Fairbanks King and Queen Regents; and

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George and Francine Strother, Palmer King and Queen Regents.

They were followed by grandly attired participants and, of course, Cow-Pie Al and the lovely herd.

The winners were:

Best Dressed Woman: Virginia Calloway, Juneau

Best Dressed Man: Pete Hanson, Kenai

Best Couple: Ken Pyze and Edythe Ekstedt, Palmer

Best Group: The McCarthy Herd, the recipient of the Gold Pan Award.

Shawneen presented the Gold Pan to Al Clayton, Jr. to hang in his office for the year.

Then it was down to the serious business of dancing the night away to Moose Don and The Nuggets. Judging from the crowd on the dance floor this was a great choice for a band.

The Grand Banquet brought to a close the 96th Convention. Guest Speaker was Kaylene Johnson who spoke about the people, the land and the development of the area along the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor.

The 2013 Grand Igloo Convention will be in Juneau September 18-22 with a convention theme of "True Blue and Gold." They will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Men's Igloo #6 and will honor Patsy The Dog.

Suzanne Haight, President of Women's Igloo #6, requests that women wear fancy hats for the luncheon.

New Grand Officer installed are as follows:

Jerry Krier, Grand President (Fairbanks)

Troxell Hebert, 1st Vice President (Delta Junction)

James D. Rhodes, 2nd Vice President (Ketchikan)

Fred Thorsteinson, Grand Historian (Juneau)  
Kenneth J. Pysz, Grand Chaplain, (Palmer)  
Vision Money, Grand Secretary (Homer)  
Dan Kassner, Grand Treasurer (Juneau)  
Linda E. Conley, Grand Recorder (Fairbanks & Nome)  
Lee Pederson, Grand Sergeant-at-Arms (Anchorage)  
James D. Casement, Grand Inner Guard (Cordova)  
Virginia Calloway, Grand 1-Year Trustee (Juneau)  
Pete Weimer, Grand 1-Year Trustee (Anchorage)  
Marie Walker, Grand 2-Year Trustee (Homer)  
Ben Esch, Grand 2-Year Trustee (Nome)  
Lois Stover, Grand 3-Year Trustee (Kodiak)  
Virgil Campbell, Grand 3-Year Trustee (Seward)  
(Joe Strunka, Fairbanks, elected not to go up the chairs so Pete Weimer was selected to fill the Grand 1-Year Trustee position.)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

One hundred seventy-two Pioneers reached the End of the Trail since the last convention and were honored at the Memorial Service held Thursday afternoon. As Marie Walker and Debbie Dauphinais read each name a candle was placed on the location of their Igloo by Father Tero of Seward. At the conclusion of the service everyone joined in to sing "On Eagle's Wings."

### Men's Igloo #1—Nome

Rudolf Billberg

John A. Knudsen

Jerry Landgrebe

Ellis Leaman

Leonard Sarja

John Slagle

Robert van Winkle

### Women's Igloo #1—Nome

Ruth Spicer Brechan

Edith Hoop Morgan

Mary Ann van Winkle

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## Women's Igloo #1 (Continued)

Aileen Tweet Topkok

Rosalyn F. Woods

## Men's Igloo #4—Fairbanks

Henry (Hank) Heuvel

Walter E. Eberhardt

Donald Lowell

Robert F. Meath

Albert McCoy

Duane Hesden Scougal

Robert Gray

William H. Howard

Hugh Connelly

Gary Nash

Warren Smith

## Women's Igloo #8—Fairbanks

Mary Gupton Adams

Joyce Delores Anderson

Evelynn Branson

Rita Dougherty

Sue Gregory

Bonnie Scott

Georgiana L. Tripp

Edna W. Wilder-Cryan

Eleanor L. Barrett

Mary Brennan

Grace L. Dillon

Catherine T. Fulton

Jacqueline Gilbertson

Jacqueline J. Goering

Evelyn Guzzardi

Esther Hackney

Grace Hoitt

Sylvia M. Jenkins

Shirley M. Johnston

Alice Oates

Jeanne Rydberg

Joan Robbins

Helen E. Snedden

Beverly Staskanis

## Women's Igloo #8 (Continued)

Edna F. Tomlinson

Carol S. Underhill

Mildred M. Wenger

Alma E. Widdis

Evelyn Gerdahl

## Men's Igloo #6—Juneau

Edmund N. Orbeck

Thomas H. Laurent

Romer Elmer Derr

James Henry Taylor

## Women's Igloo #6—Juneau

Barbara DeBoff

Barbara Hulk

Patricia Beadle

Jannett McIlroy

Eleanor Fitzgerald

Johanne Ask

Ethelda Bisom

Janna Swanson

Carol Austin

Mable Reddekopp

Agnes Haggrup

## Men's Igloo #7—Valdez

Ed Walker

Bill Lee

## Women's Igloo #2—Valdez

None

## Men's Igloo #9—Seward

Keith Lindsey

## Women's Igloo #9—Seward

Agnes Derkevorkian

Emely Dubeau

Wilma Sparks

Catheryn Zentmire

## Men's Igloo #15—Anchorage

Joseph J. Breyer

Joseph K. Hildreth

Robert B. Smith

Charlie P. Ricci

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## Men's Igloo #15—Anchorage (Continued)

Steven R. Hafling  
Quentin Norgaard  
Roy J. Zahrobsky  
Neal E. Osgood  
Edmond M. Jean  
Herbert L. Lush  
Clarence N. Brown  
Merlyn M. Runstad  
Frank M. Reed  
Thomas E. Carey  
Paul T. Dixon  
Maynard C. Falconer  
Glen D. Chambers  
Curtis O. Homme

## Women's Igloo #4—Anchorage

Onnolie O'Neill  
Merrilynn Stock  
Karen Walatka  
Meriam Woodward  
Maydell Jefford  
Mildred Mantle  
Mary McKenzie  
Mary Louise Smith  
Helen March  
Virginia Hyatt  
Betty Jane Stewart  
Eldiene Amer  
Mary L. Flahart-Peck  
Celena Miller  
Dorotha Muir  
Mary Louise Rasmuson  
Valerie Evans

## Men's Igloo #16—Ketchikan

George L. Beck  
Donald J. Haseltine, Jr.  
Henry C. Keene, Jr.  
Past Grand President Patrick W. Lloyd

## Women's Igloo #7—Ketchikan

Bessie Cominskey

## Women's Igloo #7 (Continued)

Patricia Charles  
Johanna Close  
Lillian Ference  
Patricia Hook  
Pearl Norstrom  
Mary Singer  
Mary Winscot  
Jean V. Backshas

## Men's Igloo #18—Kodiak

Dennis Knagin  
Tommy Frost  
Kenneth Damm  
Patrick McDewitt

## Women's Igloo #17—Kodiak

Ruth Spicer Brechan (Charter Member)  
Mary Gauroutte  
Helen Hall (Charter Member)

## Men's Igloo #19—Cordova

Harry Curran  
Harry Nicolet  
James Poor

## Women's Igloo #5—Cordova

None

## Men's Igloo #21—Wrangell

L. T. Campbell  
Paul Torgramsen  
John Ellis  
Al Taylor

## Women's Igloo #15—Wrangell

Imogene Petticrew

## Men's Igloo #22—Sitka

Albert Richter  
Leslie Sewell  
Women's Igloo #12—Sitka  
Joan Johnson  
Lois Olson  
Anna Pellett  
Shirley Winters  
Mardelle Westover

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## Men's Igloo #26—Petersburg

Don Luhr

## Women's Igloo #10—Petersburg

Alice Mary Longworth

## Men's Igloo #31—Palmer

Carl Gatto

Gary Smart

Delbert Alsop

Charles Fox

Norman Roy Goodman

Erling R. Nelson

## Women's Igloo #11—Palmer

Anna Short

Bonnie Bettini

Katherine Moor

Marion Parks

Clementine Witsoe

Natalie Vroman

Marion Lundvall

## Men's Igloo #32—Homer

John Schwartz

## Women's Igloo #14—Homer

Olive Kolar

Helene Morawitz

Helen McCrary March

Maxine Irene Barr

## Men's Igloo #33—Kenai

None

## Women's Igloo #16—Kenai

Doris Walker Porter

Anna May Miller

Georgeanna Ruth Eckert

## Men's Igloo #34—Haines

None

## Women's Igloo #18—Haines

None

## Men's Igloo #35—Delta Junction

Charles L. Anderson

James C Harris

## Women's Igloo #19—Delta Junction

Dorothy Probert

Shirley Smith

## INSTALLATION SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 6	Delta Junction
Monday, January 7	Fairbanks
Tuesday, January 8	Nome
Thursday, January 10	Valdez
Saturday, January 12	Anchorage
Sunday, January 13	Palmer
Tuesday, January 15	Kodiak
Friday, January 18	Homer
Saturday, January 19	Kenai
Sunday, January 20	Seward
Wednesday, January 23	Sitka
Thursday, January 24	Ketchikan
Friday, January 25	Wrangell
Saturday, January 26	Petersburg
Sunday, January 27	Juneau
Monday, January 28	Haines
Tuesday, January 29	Cordova

## A NUGGET

Little Larry attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs, rump, and chest.

After a few minutes, Larry asked, "Dad, why are you doing that?"

"Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy."

Larry, looking worried, said, "Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom."

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## THE HOUSE BEHIND THE HOUSE

(Author Unknown)

One of my fondest memories  
As I recall the days of yore  
Was the little house, behind the house  
With the crescent on the door.

'Twas a place to sit and ponder  
With your head all bowed down low;  
Knowing that you wouldn't be there,  
If you didn't have to go.

Ours was a multi-holer, three,  
With a size for every one.  
You left there feeling better,  
After your job was done.

You had to make those frequent trips  
In snow, rain, sleet, or fog-  
To that little house where you usually  
Found the Sears-Roebuck catalog.

Oft times in dead of winter,  
The seat was spread with snow.  
'Twas then with much reluctance,  
To that little house you'd go.

With a swish you'd clear that wooden seat,  
Bend low, with dreadful fear  
You'd shut your eyes and grit your teeth  
As you settled on your rear.

I recall the day Ol' Granddad,  
Who stayed with us one summer,  
Made a trip out to that little house,  
Which proved to be a bummer.

'Twas the same day that my Dad had  
Finished painting the kitchen green.  
He'd just cleaned up the mess he'd made  
With rags and gasoline.

Now Granddad had an urgent call,  
I never will forget!

This trip he made to the little house  
Stays in my memory yet.

He sat down on the wooden seat,  
With both feet on the floor.  
He filled his pipe and tapped it down  
And struck a match on the outhouse door.

He lit the pipe and sure enough,  
It soon began to glow.  
He slowly raised his rear a bit  
And tossed the flaming match below.

The blast that followed, I am told  
Was heard for miles around;  
And there was poor ol' Granddad  
Sprawled out there on the ground.

The smoldering pipe still in his mouth,  
His eyes were shut real tight;  
The celebrated three-holer  
Was blown clear out of sight.

We asked him what had happened,  
What he said I'll never forget.  
He said he thought it much have been  
The pinto beans he et!

Next day we had a new one  
Dad put it up with ease.  
But this one had a door sign  
That read: No Smoking, Please!

For those who never had to trot out in the cold...Just  
Give Thanks.

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Sign on the back of a septic pumping truck spotted in Anchorage: "This tank contains political promises."

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**Alaska Pioneer Pathfinder**

## **From the Editors:**

A big "Thank You" to the Kenai and Homer Igloos for their hard work in making the convention such a success. A fun time was had by all and the food was wonderful!

We want to thank the generous Pioneers who made contributions to the Pathfinder.

The Pathfinder is printed in January, April, July, and October. Subscriptions may be ordered by sending \$1.00 per issue. The subscription expiration dates are listed by your name on the label.

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