

SCREE ✓

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JANUARY 1972

VOL. 15, NO. 1

JANUARY MEETING...Thursday, January 20...8:00 p.m...Central Junior High Multipurpose Room...PROGRAM: Mini slide show...Bill Barnes on Cathedral Spires...Business meeting...Refreshment Break...Regular Slide Show--please see p. 8 for more information.

BOARD MEETING...Monday, February 7, 1972...7:30 p.m...at Marie Lundstrom's...1601 F Street.

MCA CALENDAR

January 15-16 (Sat.-Sun.) WINTER CAMPING SCHOOL. Held with Nordic Ski Club. Basics in cold weather survival including shelter and warmth. Leader: Bill Barnes (344-6042).

January 16 (Sun.) HARP MOUNTAIN, 5001'...located east of the South Fork of Eagle River. No special equipment needed; pleasant ski-run on descent. Meet at Valu-Mart parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Larry Swanson (279-3804).

January 18 (Tues.) Mandatory theory session of the Inter Glacier School---Pat Freeny's...1346 Patterson...7:30 p.m.

January 22-23 (Sat.-Sun.) INTER GLACIER SCHOOL---Matanuska Glacier. Must attend theory session on Jan. 18! Leader: Bill Barnes (344-6042).

January 29-30 (Sat.-Sun.) KICKSTEP MOUNTAIN, 4660'...Prominent peak in the Turnagain Pass area near the head of Tincan Creek. Pleasant four mile approach on skis (no skins needed) Saturday with spectacular run out Sunday after the climb. Full winter overnight equipment required! Roped climb on enjoyable N ridge. Full moon. Meet at Valu-Mart parking lot at 6:00 a.m. Leader: Nick Parker (277-2030).

February 13 (Sun.) VISTA PEAK, 5070'...Prominent peak on the ridgeline behind Mt. Magnificent above the town of Eagle River. $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of cross-country skiing followed by ascent of steep snow slope to the summit. Views of Anchorage area and interior Chugach, weather permitting. An invigorating outing for skiers, hikers and climbers. Meet at Valu-Mart parking lot at 7 a.m. Leader: Tom Meacham (277-2199).

March 19 (Sun.) BYRON PEAK, 4650'...Revival of annual MCA climb...by the central north ridge, one of the finest one-day seasonal climbs in the Anchorage vicinity. Depart Portage Lodge for Byron Glacier, ascend ramp through first icefall, and climb central north ridge to summit. Rope leaders required for every three climbers. Good physical condition assumed. Skis only. Leader: Bob Spurr (344-6067).

SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT HIKE & CLIMBS: Call Bob Spurr (344-6067) for names of people who may wish to accompany you on your spur-of-the-moment type outing and/or to find out about hikes and outings other people have planned (after SCREE publication deadline) which you may join.

TOURS AND ADDITIONAL CLIMBS to be scheduled each month. Watch SCREE.

PRESIDENT'S PEN

MCA has a fine system of cabins available for use in the Chugach Mountains. I am referring most specifically to the Eklutna to Girdwood chain of cabins. These cabins can be reached by any capable skier or snowshoer with only basic mountaineering experience.

In the past year or so, as in every year, the elements have taken their toll on our investment of money and time in these cabins. Last year's Huts and Cabins Chairman, Leo Hannan, was able to ascertain what repairs are needed, and this year the work must be done. This is the Club's first order of business for the coming climbing season.

The Huts and Cabins Committee is currently without a Chairman. I am appealing to the general membership, especially you members who know the cabin system, for help in heading this Committee. The job will entail gathering a workcrew for early repair of the cabins.

You have taken from the cabins and the surrounding glaciers a measure of enjoyment. Is it not only fair that you return a favor to the cabins and the mountains? Call me now, and we'll get the system shipshape again this summer.

Minutes from the MCA meeting of December 15, 1971. The president, Wendell Oderkirk, extended a greeting to all members, guests and visitors inviting anyone who had not signed our guest book to do so.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. The treasury report by Pat Freeny showed expenses for the month at \$20.00 with \$2.00 for refreshments. The balance with added dues stands at \$328.77. The Brooks Range Fund remains stationary at \$190.00.

It was noted our next meeting will be held at the regular time and place. The Conservation Committee had no official report yet by Tom Leachman. He did wish us to be aware of the Unimak Hearing set for this come Friday night and that written comments on the wilderness areas will be open until December 18th.

The past chairman of this committee, Barbara Linkley, mentioned the possibility of a conservation center to be located in Anchorage. She also had extra brochures available on the Unimak plan for those interested.

It was mentioned that mountaineer equipment may be checked out by any MCA member from Joanne Herrick. Barry Kircher, Program Chairman, reported that aerial slides of the Cathedral Spires area would be shown at the January meeting with the main program featuring Anarticia.

It was reported that our Trip Chairman, Bob Spurr, has a trip scheduled for Saturday, January 8th, at 4:30 a.m. sharp. The destination will be East Twin Peak. A sign-up sheet is available. There will be later climbs to Kickstep and Byron Peaks.

This weekend will be the annual sleep-out on Flat Top. All participants were reminded to bring a log and warm gear. Bill Barnes reported he has two winter schools set up. The first one is a winter camp-out and survival and is set for January 15th and 16th. The following week-end will be the Inter Glacier School. On Tuesday, January 11th there will be an equipment check-out at Pat Freeny's before the first school. The second outing on Glacier training will be open only to MCA members.

It was also noted that the SCRM is now in it's final work on the binding after an exchange of letters and a final go-ahead in spite of the added cost of \$7.00 more per volume.

Our newly married members, George and Betty (Ivanoff) Renard were introduced and congratulated.

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The meeting was adjourned for holiday refreshments and Betty Menard's slides of her summer climb of Mt. McKinley.

...Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Gorham, Secretary

NCA PROFILE: Secretary Kathy Gorham

Born in the ole mining town of Deadwood, South Dakota, where Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickock once spent their time...Later moved to several other towns in the Black Hills of South Dakota and finally settled in Spearfish, which was a very good place to grow up in--lots of hills to climb and many discoveries to make...Completed high school and attended Black Hills Teachers College, both in Spearfish...Majored in business...Later took several medical assistant courses, which have put her in several Doctors clinics in a field which she finds very fascinating...Employed for Dr. Geo. B. von Richman, Thomas Meister and M. G. Edwards, local orthopedists...Moved to Alaska in 1967 after living for three wonderful years in Oregon and getting to know the Cascades...Had always wondered about Alaska and the potential up here for getting away from it all...Loves Alaska and especially cross-country skiing...Married to husband, John, for seventeen years and has four children--Janet, 16 (graduates this year); Greg, 15 (who loves football and ice hockey); Danny, 13 (who has built his own dog sled); and Timmy, 12 (who enjoys everything and everybody)...Has been climbing and hiking most of her life but has found newly acquired skills from NCA--rappelling and ice and glacier travel with crampons--very exciting...has been on the summit of Mt. Whitney several times and many other peaks in the Chugach Range...hole family enjoys cross-country skiing, long back packing trips by ski travel or "shanks ponies" and just getting out in the great outdoors as much as possible...believes strongly in conservation and preservation of the wilderness areas--it was so sad in California where they lived for twelve years to watch so much of it slide under the various developments there--once gone--never regained!!!

Geographic Names

Barry Kircher, Chairman of the Geographic Names Committee, received the following information in a letter from the Local Affairs Agency of the Office of the Governor:

At its recent Board Meeting, the Alaska State Geographic Board considered five name proposals submitted by the late Grace Hoeman March 2, 1971.

Those approved are as follows:

Mt. Monarch--this name proposal was approved with the provision that Mt. be spelled out (Mount). The Board feels this name is appropriate for the feature involved.

Lava Mountain--this name proposal was approved on the basis that the Board feels this name is very descriptive of the feature for which the name is proposed.

The following name proposals were disapproved:

Pt. Parine--this name proposal was disapproved on the basis that the person for which this name is proposed did not make a significant contribution to Alaska nor is the feature significant enough to be so named.

Troublesome Peak--this name proposal was disapproved on the basis that it is not a part of the name descriptive system that Troublesome Creek is and it is not significantly connected with Troublesome Creek.

Hunter Creek--this name proposal was disapproved on the basis that there is already a Hunter Creek in this vicinity and there would be a duplication of names which is contrary to the Board's Guidelines.

Conservation Commentary

The MCA Conservation Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. January 25th at Tom's home (702 East 18th Ave.). Purpose of the meeting is to generate MCA's conservation efforts and objectives for the near future. All past, present, and prospective committee members are urged to attend. Bring yourselves and your ideas!

Reminder I: Written statements concerning the Unimak Island wilderness proposal must be submitted by January 17, 1972. The address is U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, 6917 Seward Highway, Anchorage, Alaska 99504.

Reminder II: Written comments concerning the proposal for ANATS, Anchorage's own Los Angeles freeway system, must be submitted before January 20, 1972. The address is ANATS Study Office, Room 110, 523 E. 8th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Chugach State Park: Written permits are now required for all back-country camps in Chugach State Park. This permit authorizes the building of a campfire. Though these regulations are now in effect, they are at the same time being re-written, and it is not yet clear if all fires (including Primus stoves) are to be included, or merely open campfires.

During periods of high fire danger this procedure is obviously necessary. During the rest of the year these "permits" will operate more as use-indicators, telling the Park managers which back-country areas are most popular with hikers, climbers, and other users. MCA members should make every effort to comply with these regulations, and to urge others to support them. If we are to demand that other Park users be regulated, we must be willing to submit to reasonable regulations ourselves. It seems apparent that only through recreation-use management based on facts will the Park be a self-perpetuating public asset. The new permit system should be a step toward that goal.

Neil Johansen, Chugach State Park Superintendent, will discuss the permit procedures at the January MCA meeting. The address for a permit is Superintendent, Chugach State Park, State Division of Parks, 523 E. 4th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Wilderness Note: As some may know, the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska is not compelled by the Wilderness Act of 1964 to study any areas for possible wilderness status. Why? Because when the Act was passed the USFS had no designated Primitive Areas in the Chugach and Tongass Forests (and still doesn't); these are the only areas the Wilderness Act requires the Forest Service to study for Wilderness status.

A recently-introduced Congressional bill, S. 1734 sponsored by Lee Metcalf in the Senate (also known as H.R. 7383 sponsored by John Dingell in the House), might change this situation. It would require Primitive Area status for all undeveloped National Forest lands which fit Wilderness Act definitions, not merely the previously-designated Primitive Areas. If this bill passes in its present form (and if Alaska's forests aren't exempted out), most of the Chugach and Tongass Forests would be guaranteed at least a cursory examination for Wilderness Areas, something the Forest Service has not been inclined to consider up until now. A lot of "anti" pressure is sure to be raised by this one. Don't confuse Metcalf's "Forest Lands and Restoration Act" with Senator Hatfield's "American Forestry Act" (S. 350), an industry-administration bill with none of the features its ancestry might suggest. For more information, see the Sierra Club Bulletin, December, 1971.

...Tom

ANNUAL MCA FLAT-TOP MIDWINTER SLEEP-IN ATTEMPT

Dec. 18-19, 1971

Leader: Tom

Participants: Tom

This year's Flat-Top Sleep-in, commemorating the shortest of our short winter day began on a disconcerting note, and things went steadily downhill from there. Only two parties signed up to go, and they both cancelled before trip day (a brilliant stroke of foresight on their part, by the way!). The night before trip day we got that horrendous ice storm, and the Chugach Range looked windwept and glazed the next morning.

But no matter!! The Sleep-in is a grand MCA tradition, passed on from one generation

people attend on an informal basis, coming in large family groups, firewood is lugged to the top for a roaring bonfire, etc., etc. So, assured that at least one other participant, Wendell Oderkirk, would definitely be there, I set out.

Like I said, things went downhill the farther uphill I went. At the Glen Alps staging area I backed the truck over my Kelty, crushing my precious bottle of hot buttered rum. I watched it drain into the snow, then shouldered the pack and trudged up the road. I was immediately imperiled by some character driving his VW up and down the one-lane Glen Alps road at full racing speed, back and forth. Ever try to jump on top of a 3-foot road berm with pack and snowshoes? Ever try it more than once?

Fresh tracks high up on Flat-Top led me to believe that some MC'ers were already on top, so I pushed on in the gathering dusk, into the teeth of a Chugach gale. I reached the summit at 4:30 p.m. and found no one, but the now full-scale sleet storm persuaded me to pitch the tent at once. But pitching it proved impossible in the 60-70 mile winds, so I decided to retreat to the comforts of home. But my glasses were so iced that I nearly descended the Campbell Creek side of the mountain, which wouldn't be much fun in the dark.

The net result of my tale of woe was a 14-hour bivouac inside my unpitched tent, which soon drifted over, inside and out, with wind-driven snow. A giant Vibro-Massage which tugged unceasingly at my inert form, passing only long enough for the Great Vibro-Massager Above to put in another quarter. And the candy bars which were to be my sole sustenance had been left at home....somehow the glowing descriptions of MCA's mid-winter revel seemed to be a page out of pagan mythology. Where was the hot wine? And the dancing girls?? The jolly camaraderie?

Upon my descent to the lowlands the next day, I learned that Wendell, his daughter Charmayne, and Mary Gorseman had set out at 9 p.m. Saturday night to join me, but had encountered "technical difficulties" halfway up the mountain which forced them to return to Anchorage. A recent bout with the flu, coupled with the impossibility of pitching a McKinley tent on that wind-scoured ridge, forced the retreat, but not before Wendell had nearly reached Flat-Top's summit plateau under miserable conditions, a valiant attempt.

But the annual mid-winter sleep-in was held, after a fashion, and the torch has been passed, etc.

---Tom Meacham---

TROUT LAKE TOUR (M1. 29.3)

Dec. 18 & 19

Kathy Selken

"We did Trout Lake!" We being: John & Peggy Baxandall, Phil & Jean Fikkan, Leo & Ellen Hannan, Mike Hunt, Perley, Carol & son Carl Jones, Dolly LeFever, Clay Munnally, John & Jim Rogers, Rick Specht, Tobben Spurkland and Bill Stivers.

This tour was Nordic Ski Club instigated. The 50-mph-type drive put us at the beginning of the old trail near 9:30 a.m. Here we learned the new trail was finished--the new trail begins from the highway. In numbers there is strength and we used ours several times to push vehicles out of ditches, etc.

It was a beautiful day--neither gloves nor jackets required. Faithfully and diligently, green then blue wax was applied--approximately ten minutes later purple was applied. The trail was a gradual climb most of the time. It had many curves and fantastic scenery--views of the sunlight reflecting in different colors off the mountains and trees. Then, too, it was peaceful except for snowmobilers--during lunch and a rest stop .7 mile from the Forest Service Cabin, detailed plans of disposal of snowmobilers were made. However, the only overt action taken was to move their own empty fuel can into the trail.

The creeks--Juneau, Slaughter, Shaft and Falls--were running and sounded good. Only catastrophe was a canteen was lost in the creek near the cabin. Everyone pitched in at the cabin. Tobben tried out his new sleeping bag outdoors for a short time only. John & Jim Rogers, Bill Stivers and Mike Hunt survived outdoors overnight in two tents.

Rick Specht and I rested an hour and skied out on Saturday. The wind had come up and was now blowing in our faces. Seven gorgeous miles in and about six and one half gorgeous ones out. The last half mile was made carrying the skis. It was dark in the

trees despite a large flashlight and the ice on the curves on cliffs convinced us we were intelligent enough to walk a piece. We arrived back in Anchorage at 8:30 p.m., very weary physically but still in time to go each of our ways to parties that evening.

ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER IS NOW OPEN!! They have a TEMPORARY OFFICE AT 805 W 5th. No phone yet. They are currently negotiating for a larger and more permanent office for the future. The Director is Jim Kross who is already very busy with environmental problems.

---from Alaska Conservation Society January Newsletter---

Background on the Environmental Center:

Presently on the threshold of major economic development, Alaska is our final opportunity as Americans to "civilize" a great region without seriously disrupting its ecological balance and without falling victim to the technological Leviathan in the process.

This is not to suggest that Alaska is presently free of environmental problems. We have been experiencing the full range of incipient pollution and environmental degradation in the usual incremental pattern, especially in our urban areas, but also in our rural communities and our coastal waters. The problem areas are readily identifiable. They stem, as elsewhere, from an original lack of understanding and a continuing lack of foresight and planning. As elsewhere, too, despite efforts at environmental organization, the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of our pollution control and environmental protection is traceable in the first instance to the failure of leadership, public and corporate, but especially in government of all levels. It has fallen, then, on private persons and groups to provide environmental leadership in Alaska—a challenge which simply must be met.

In Alaska where the environmental situation has not yet approached the ecological crisis-state, but where a development-psychosis—affecting all sectors of society, and intensified by the recent petroleum discoveries—rivals that of the gold-fever of old, the basic task is to "keep it from happening here." The challenge to environmental leadership is thus correspondingly greater in Alaska than elsewhere in the nation: how to move the citizenry (and officialdom) in the absence of visible, felt crisis?

The basic human problem here is one of attitudes. If we can influence attitudes, the rest will follow (should follow). To deal with this situation we must begin by organizing more effectively the available and willing individual talents and try to employ them to counter the development-psychosis—to help turn the public and official minds around, away from a fixation on growth and development in the old-style—and to fill the vacuum of leadership in regard to our environmental condition, present and future.

The Center: Functions and Objectives

We propose, then, the establishment of an Environmental Center for Alaska, located in Anchorage, and the responsibilities of which might include the following functions (as resources allow):

- (1) Channelling and coordination of the talents and energies of the many dedicated part-time volunteer conservationists, outdoor recreationists, open-space and wilderness enthusiasts, and other environmentally concerned citizens, the present concerns and efforts of whom are significantly dissipated or compromised through lack of such direction and coordination... Perhaps a "talent-roster" organized into environmental specialties could be established... Existing organizational structures and programs would not be encroached upon...
- (2) The coordination would, of course, also be extended to the organized conservation and other environmentally-related groups in their organizational capacities, and for whom, as well as for individuals generally, the Environmental Center would serve as a "clearinghouse"; also to issue "environmental advisories", alert notices, notices of public hearings, etc., to insure coordinated, effective action on

and problem areas...Also, a state-wide network of correspondents could perhaps be organized to provide information input as well as an organizing nucleus, to work especially with the native communities...

(3) Publication of newsletter or bi-weekly schedule, initially---eventually to be a weekly...and special bulletins and occasional papers as may be useful or necessary...with widespread distribution throughout the state to the media, to groups, individuals, and public agencies...Media stories and radio-TV "spots" would be prepared and distributed...Center personnel would be available for appearances on new shows, panel discussions, school presentations, etc....A Speakers Bureau could perhaps be organized...

(4) Research into problem areas and environmental issues, investigation and study of proposed projects affecting the environment, results to be made publicly available...Research also into how problems in other states and localities and other countries (circumpolar especially) are being dealt with by private and governmental entities...

(5) Involved here also is the monitoring of activities and projects of local, state and federal agencies as well as those of private corporations, in cooperation with personnel of those agencies and corporations...to this end, regularized liaison with those personnel would be established...

(6) Liaison would also be established and maintained with professional societies, organized labor, churches, chambers of Commerce, youth groups, and other civic organizations...

(7) The Center would work with the university community and public school systems to help develop programs of environmental education to deal with the basic problem where it begins.

(In all this, it is understood that direct attempts to influence legislation, etc., as a substantial part of the Center's efforts, must be avoided.)

to be continued

HAT-SCHER-DAID-HAT-BACK-THEN-DEPT.

10 years ago...January, 1962

A snowshoe training class was conducted by Joe Pichler...Only one trouble--only one "student" showed up. Student Dr. Tom Klester, Rod Wilson, Joe Pichler, Jim Messick and John Dillman snowshoed from near the foot of Clark's Road off Rabbit Creek Road about 2 miles south of the east end of O'Malley Road, followed an old trail to the right of Clark's Road and made their way up on to the ridge behind the Clark's, came off the ridge to the south heading for the road which leads up into Rabbit Creek Valley

The editor requested a report on the Frigid Flight From Festivities--an overnight outing on December 23-25, 1961, made by John Dillman, Gregg Erickson and Ed Fisher. In February, 1962, Ed Fisher reported a two-hour late start due to festivities. At darkness they pitched a tent at the low point on the powerline road not far from Campbell Creek. Ed Fisher reported they learned: 1 - It doesn't take extremely expensive equipment to be reasonably comfortable at low temperatures. John slept in a down bag advertised to be comfortable down to only 0°F. (Temperature was -42°F the 23rd and -40°F the morning of the 24th.) 2 - Insulation between the sleeping bag and the air mattresses on which Gregg and Ed slept were wet from condensation of body moisture as it passed through their sleeping bags. John who had borrowed a 1/2 inch thick pad of plastic foam (ensolite) from Paul Crews and had placed it on top of his air mattress did not notice the cold at pressure points as did the others. 3 - The bottom of a valley is not the most desirable place to make camp as all the cold air funnels down the valley. 4 - The jokes and laughter of companions can erase the unpleasantness from any situation."

5 years ago...January, 1967

Midwinter night on Flattop group consisted of Gary Hansen, Hans Van der Laan, Frank Bueck, Dave DeVoe and Steffen Haage...left Hans' at 9:00 P.M...one hour of warming up

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consisted mainly of getting their Scout out of a ditch...reached the peak at midnight left at 5 the next morning.

Vin Hoeman wrote on Pre-Honeymoon Bliss-tern...Grace Jansen, Dave Johnston, Mairie Kilcher and Vin set out to accomplish the first ascent of Truuli Peak, 6612'--highest point on the Kenai Peninsula...due to ice drifting with the tides and piling up on the narrow beach they attempted Peak 6532 instead...Summit attempt made on Christmas Day--had to bivouac due to whiteout and 10 to 20 below zero...chose a windtunnel, or vase-like depression and dug a snowcave in its side to huddle in for twelve hours sitting on snowshoes and rope, thinking of a tent no more than a mile away full of sleeping bags and food...in the morning the weather allowed them only time to locate their half-buried tent before pinning them down for another two days and two nights.

BITS AND PIECES

CONGRATULATIONS to Bob & Anne Smith--It's a boy--future mountaineer we're sure! Born December 24, 1971--David Merrill Smith.

Bill Barnes and Wendell Oderkirk report frozen waterfall climbing along the Seward Highway to be in full swing. They have done some 30-ft. waterfalls. They recommend careful inspection of ice thickness and climbing only in those areas a good distance from the Highway to avoid potential accident situations. Ice screws and "wart hogs" work fine.

Nancy Sinnerman and Helen Hienhuser have the galley proofs back for 55 HIKES. They report they have been promised publication by April 1st.

FOR SALE: Lova Hiebler Triplex boots with liners. Size 8 1/2. Will sell for \$75. Excellent condition. Joanne Herrick (272-5243) handling sale.

Nordic Ski Club announces "a new set of lessons for beginners (and if enough interest for intermediates) will start on Jan. 17th. Lessons will be held only during the evenings". Cost \$5 and Nordic Ski Club membership. Instructor: Tobben Spurkland (272-3332).

SCREE is your publication...your suggestions, comments, and constructive criticisms are always welcome. Kathy Selken (277-8269).

***Please see p. 10 for membership list. We suggest that you cut it out and attach it to your present list.**

JANUARY 20 MEETING: PROGRAM - Barbara Winkley will show slides on hiking from Crow Pass to Eagle River. Also, Randy Renner will show his ski trip from Eklutna to Crow Pass.

SCREE

Monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (affiliated with the Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation). Please send material for the February SCREE to Kathy Selken, 3808 Indiana Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99503 by Friday, February 4, 1972.

EDITOR.....	Kathy Selken	ADRS (Send to MCA, Box 2032, Anchorage, 99510)
TYPIST.....	Doris Curtis	FAMILY.....\$7.50
MAILING STAFF....	Carol DeVoe	SENIOR.....\$5.00
	Sharon DeVoe	JUNIOR.....\$2.50 (under 18)
	Joanne Herrick	OUT-OF-TOWN...\$2.50 (50 miles from Anchorage)
	Wanda Pease	
	Betty Newman	