

### Tells of 25,000 Mile Trip Across U. S. To Alaskan Wilds

Following is a continuation of the round robin letters sent to friends by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Patton, on their 25,000 mile trailer trip to Alaska.

Fairbanks, Alaska  
Jan. 2, 1939

Dear Gang:

I don't know of a better way to start off the New Year, but to write up the "Saga of the Hounds." First I will bring our urban adventures up to date, before discussing the perils of rural life on the Trail.

Coming home from the movies the other night Sue and I had a little argument as to the state of the weather. Sue swore on a stack of bibles it was about 10 below and I maintained the prickles in my nose told me it was nearer 20. It was actually 21 below. Now can you imagine a daughter of the sunny south being wrong on the heat side? The poles on the background are radio antenna poles. These Alaska towns look like a forest, so many radios and good ones too, especially where there are no newspapers. People regularly tune in the news hour every day. One thing we notice is the frosted windows everywhere. At night it is unnecessary to pull down your shades, for even if any peeping Tom should be wandering about, he couldn't see in.

Christmas has come and gone and very quickly too. I got home from Nenana Christmas night and found we had been invited out to Christmas dinner. The next morning we had our trees. Before leaving I had rustled a tree over by the airport and built a stand for it. Sue had decorated it with strips of foil so much in use now and we had quite a pretty result. Our presents were rather slim as each member of the family received an I.O.U. for his main gift.

This letter is supposed to be about our four footed friends, who still are the mainstay of travel in Alaska over short distances, say up to 100 miles, and in the remoter sections. Little did I think several years ago when I was fooling with Ming and Victor's dogs hitched to a wagon in Highland Park that I would use my experience in hauling the U. S. mail over the winter trail in Alaska in the dead of winter. The cold up here is severe, but if you are dressed for it you don't notice it, and there lies the danger. Except on the Seward Peninsula, where wind is common, the air is clear, dry and cold and creeps thru your clothes, chilling you before you know it, if you are unwary.

The common footgear are umkluks. The bottoms may be of seal lion, moose or caribou hide, while the uppers coming up to your knees or over are of reindeer skin, with the hair outside. Two or three pairs of woolen socks and felt inner soles keep your feet nice and warm if you are moving. If merely riding you must wiggle your toes frequently.

Over heavy woolen clothing you wear a parka, made either of khaki drill or fur. For hiking or where any movement is present, the former is best as the fur parkas are too warm. The fur around the collars is generally wolverine or polar cub as these furs shed the frost from your breath the best. Your hands are covered with Siwash mitts, with a pair of woolen liners or mitts inside. I got a pair of rabbit skin liners and my hands were too warm, except on the two days we travelled in 25 below.

My face is covered with a helmet, mother knitted for me in the war. I mentioned this for fear some one might accuse me of a beard. They would be right but it doesn't show. I left here (from here on the letter will be "I" for Sue graciously but firmly decided to refuse my invitation to come along) on Dec. 9th on the freight for Nenana. Said freight was to leave at 9 a.m. but in the paper the night before appeared the notice that the time was changed to 4 a.m. I phoned for a taxi, set the alarm for 2:45. The taxi company forgot to note the change so I had to hike up town at 4 a.m. to get one. There were sev-

eral passengers at the station and we all enjoyed the scenery down to Nenana, it taking us 6 1/4 hours to go 59 miles.

Mike our guide of this summer, asked me whether I would rather ride his sled as a passenger or study the physiology of a team of my own, suggesting I would probably be warmer riding the kicks (the back of a sled) than straddling a load of mail sacks and dog feed. This may be due to the temperate climate of the immediate surrounding atmosphere, warmed by the peculiar vocabulary used in mushing dogs.

I chose the latter so Mike split his team giving me 5 dogs and keeping 10 for himself as he was using a trailer and carrying the dog feed, quite an item. We started out together but soon found that sugar had no intention of being left behind, so kept my sled so close to the trailer that her end of the tow line was constantly slack.

Our first nights stop was a relief cabin maintained along the winter trails by the Alaska road commission. Prominently on each appears the sign "This cabin is for the use of the travelling public. Be sure to leave plenty of firewood and shavings before leaving."

Our next days run brought us to a relief tent. There had been an old roadhouse there, but last year the roof of the cabin started to drop so Mike is building a new cabin. In the meantime we used a tent, set up for the winter and believe me the Yukon stove sure roasted us alive. We tied the dogs to trees and gave them hay to sleep on.

Knights roadhouse housed us the next day and there I met two old timers, Jim Burroughs about 75 and Henry Knight slightly younger, both of them, slender, vigorous and looking about 60. Jim seemed to have a reputation of being a good conversationalist, in fact he could talk the ears off a billy goat. At any rate he told an interesting experience he had had, which shows the "outlook on life in the north." A woman is safe, respected and helped anywhere in the "hills" if she isn't on the make.

Jim and Henry are "partners in everything." Means exactly what it says. Jim has several claims about 35 miles from the roadhouse which both work and share in the summer. Nearby their cabin was a young couple, also mining. The girl, about 28, happened to be about ready to increase Alaska's population. Her husband apparently was an irritable individual who kept her in a very nervous state. At any rate the attractive young miss began to feel sick and insisted on her husband going for a doctor. Jim was her choice for nurse while hubby hiked seven miles to the Signal Corp station to radio Dr. Carter in Fairbanks to hop a plane and come to the rescue. Dr. Carter arrived in time to officiate. A single room cabin was transformed across the middle on one side of which remained Henry Knight, the pilot and beloved hubby. The lady insisted on Jim helping the Doc.

A couple of days travel, about 20 miles a day, brought us to Diamond the end of the dog mail route where I delivered the sacks of mail I had carried. This was the only time Mike was worried about my lateness in getting in, although he knew pretty well what had happened. I stopped at a trapper to deliver a knife we had brought along and had to stay while he put on the coffee pot and got us something to eat. One is always welcome along the trail and it is considered rude if you don't stop long enough to warm up and have some coffee. When I got in they had decided to wait another 30 minutes before hitching fresh dogs and back tracking.

(To Be Continued)

### Moose Lodge to Initiate Large Class of Candidates

A large class of candidates will be initiated Monday evening, Jan. 22, at the regular meeting of the Highland Park lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose. Degree work will be put on by the Waukegan lodge. Members are urged to attend.

### Inklings from Neighboring Towns

L. A. Huebsch, Mundelein farmer, won the championship rating for early oats and spring wheat at the annual Farm and Home week sponsored by the University of Illinois college of agriculture at Urbana last week, it has been announced.

Once each year the Wilmette Civic league, of which Howard Miller, 1001 Greenleaf avenue, is president, and the Wilmette League of Women Voters, of which Mrs. Henry J. Brandt, 816 Forest avenue, is president, hold a joint dinner meeting at which some subject of major importance to all citizens is discussed. This year the event will take place at Shawnee Country Club, Wilmette, Friday evening, January 26. Dinner will be served at 6:30.

Joining in the occasion which was also the observance of the 10th anniversary of the club's receipt of its charter, were Immediate Past District Governor Dan Walker, of Evanston, and representatives from the Rotary clubs of Highland Park, Winnetka and Wilmette.

The past district governor presented each of the three honored members of the Gencoe club with a Rotary shield, properly inscribed, for their perfect attendance record.

The Gencoe club was sponsored by the Wilmette club, which sent a bouquet of flowers, and the Winnetka club sent a birthday cake.

Community Grocers of Lake Forest, a chain store company, recently purchased the Lake County State Bank building, 1610 Sheridan road, North Chicago, it was learned Friday.

A sum of \$34,000 was paid the Continental Illinois Bank and Trust company of Chicago which acted for the bondholders through G. R. Green and company, Waukegan, and M. C. Lackey and John Griffith and company, Lake Forest.

The price will net bondholders approximately 15 per cent, it is estimated.

Plans to remodel and refurnish the Clayton hotel, Waukegan, are underway today by the Waukegan-Clayton corporation, which has taken possession of the hotel on the order of Judge Ralph J. Dady.

The master's deed to the property was issued by Special Master in Chancery Ernest L. Gail to the corporation last month at the end of the redemption period on the foreclosure sale held August 28, 1938. Edward Hall, appointed receiver of the property since the sale, made his final report yesterday and was discharged. At the time of the sale there was a deficiency of \$137,405.64, mostly for bonds.

During the redemption period ended Nov. 29, 1939, the receiver paid over to the Chicago Title & Trust

company, as trustee, \$6,500, to apply on the deficiency.

Vera Brittain, noted British writer who was to speak at Lake Forest college on Jan. 18, is still in England, it was learned Thursday.

With shipping traffic severely hampered by the war, Miss Brittain had hoped to fly to America in the Clipper in time to fulfill her speaking engagements, but the air service has been slowed down by bad weather and congested bookings. Consequently, the speaker has had to change her plans, and will now come by boat.

The change in plans will make it impossible for Miss Brittain to follow her previously scheduled tour, but she will appear in Lake Forest four days later, on Monday night, Jan. 22. The third speaker in the Lake Forest college lecture

series, Vera Brittain, will talk on "Autobiography and Its Place in Literature."

### Dr. Arthur Compton Famous Scientist to Speak in Winnetka

Dr. Arthur Compton, the famous scientist will speak next Sunday evening, Jan. 21, before the New Trier Sunday Evening club at New Trier high school on "Science, Religion and a stable society." Dr. Arthur Compton it will be recalled is one of three American physicists who have been awarded the Nobel prize. He has been referred to as the leading representative of the new era in physics. He has long been a member of the University of Chicago faculty.

He was born in 1892 at Wooster, Ohio. He has had many great honors conferred on him throughout the world.

The season of the New Trier Sunday Evening club is drawing to a close. On Sunday, Jan. 28, Carl Van Doren, author of the latest book on Benjamin Franklin will be the speaker.

The closing address will be given by Captain John D. Craig, author of "Adventure Is My Business."

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## STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK of HIGHLAND PARK

At the Close of Business December 30, 1939

(Condensed)

### RESOURCES

Cash and Due from Banks .....\$1,107,269.12  
United States Government Obligations 1,409,374.07  
Commercial Paper ..... 90,000.00

Loans on Collateral Security .....\$ 318,421.56  
Loans on Real Estate 88,160.32  
Insured Mortgage Loans 708,710.45  
Other Loans ..... 162,714.69

Stock in Federal Reserve Bank .....\$1,278,007.02  
Banking House and Fixtures ..... 12,000.00  
Other Bonds ..... 86,750.98  
Real Estate Sold on Contract ..... 916,812.76  
Other Real Estate ..... 5,395.52  
Other Resources ..... 34,383.27  
15,962.31

\$2,606,643.19

\$4,955,955.05

### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock — Common .....\$ 200,000.00  
Preferred ..... 60,000.00  
Surplus ..... 140,000.00  
Undivided Profits ..... 60,363.86

\$ 460,363.86

Reserves ..... 104,556.26

Time Deposits .....\$1,973,247.52  
Demand Deposits ..... 2,417,787.41  
\$4,891,034.93  
\$4,955,955.05

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