

KUEUIT

"The Northern Lights"



DECEMBER
1930

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Volume VI

Number LV

The Kueuit is published during the school year by the students of Jesse Lee Junior High School at Jesse Lee Home, Seward, Alaska.

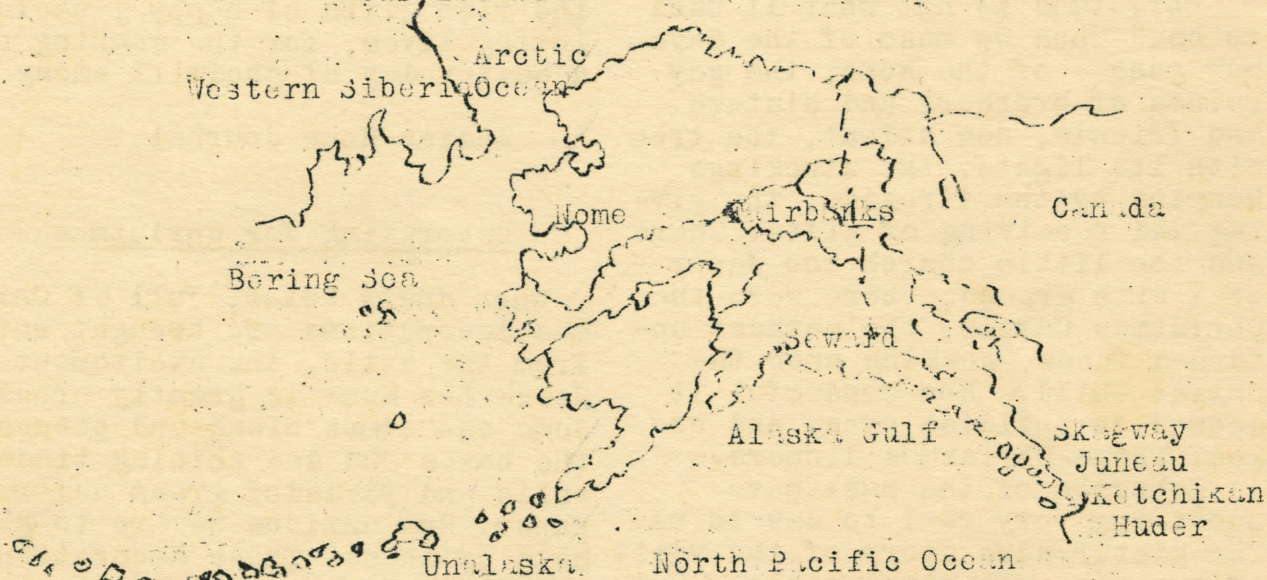
Jesse Lee Home is a mission maintained by the Womans Home Missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. C. T. Hatten is the superintendent. The bureau secretary is Mrs. J. J. Oeder of Portland Oregon.

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Sketch of Alaska

showing
our location



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EDITORIAL

Having read the editorials in all available magazines, the class in news writing chose the following article as the one they liked best.

Christmas Memories

" Christmas is not what it used to be " Thus we muse of the days now gone - of the home, the gay voices of brothers and sisters and friends, now silent, the tree with its lights, the stockings hanging by the fireside, the giving and receiving of gifts. There was the little church too decorated with greens, there were the Christmas Carols, the earnest upturned faces, seeking anew the Christ Child. How wonderful it seemed to childish eyes. And how good those Christmas dinners.

Memories of the past have something very real to say to us. The picturesque story of the visit of the wise men gives a clue. Out of their past stores of knowledge they discovered the star and were led to the feet of the new born King with their richest treasures.

The parable is plain. The past is dangerous only if we live for it alone. Our past is but a foundation stone upon which to build new truth. It should make us ready to see more clearly the star leading to the returned Christ.

And our past may become our opportunity as it was to the Magi of old. Out of those days that

are gone, we have gained the Christmas spirit of love and self giving which came to earth in a new way so long ago when Christ was born in Bethlehem.

This Christmas, in this year of grace, will be the best of all if we are able to lay at His feet the rich gifts of happy, useful, loving lives, for the dawning of a better day of goodwill among men."

Ladies Home Journal

Decorating for Christmas

When dusty boxes, full of Christmas decorations are brought out from the attic, the excitement at Jesse Lee Home is greatly aroused. Some one comes along and peepes in the boxes and see shining tinsel, bells and yards of green and red paper. How anxious we are to get hold of these. These decorations are divided for each room to be fixed up. There are the different dormitories, the childrens dining room, the halls, teachers rooms, Mr. and Mrs. Hatten's rooms and the chapel. While the rooms are being decorated the boys are out looking for trees to suit the rooms. In the evening the truck comes home loaded with beautiful evergreen trees.

Upon entering the house, one hears hammering from all directions and the fragrance of the trees is rich.

After the last touches are made in the whole house, those who have

worked so faithfully feel that it has been worth while and their time put into the work has not been in vain. And we all go about singing snatches of Christmas Carols and calling "Merry Christmas" to each other.

H. James Walker

News Items

Benny Benson a Star

In a series of three games played in Seward between the Seward and Anchorage high school teams, Benny Benson, Jesse Lee boy and familiar to Kucuit readers as Alaska's flag maker, was considered the outstanding player for the Seward Hi team. The Seward Daily Gateway in reporting the games has the following to say. "Again the superior playing and basket shooting of Benny Benson won for him the applause of the multitude; it is evident the lad thinks a fraction of a second faster than others as he was all over the lot, unexpectedly little birdies sat on his shoulders at various moments for he got into some terrible mixups; but he always emerged head artrin' and tail up". "For Seward, Benny Benson sparkled like one of his stars in his original Alaska flag design. The first long accurate field shot of Ben's brought a burst of thunderous applause from the good size crowd and again when he sunk one in from offside with one hand. His field kept Anchorage from making a much larger score. He made seven of Seward's 10, two field goals and three from the foul line.

Mechanics Class Busy

The Mechanics class with Mr. A. S. Anderson as teacher have finished the job of moving the Kohler from the garage to the back basement and have it all set up in the engine room of the hydraulic plant. It is all ready for action in case the hydraulic plant should go out of commission.

Visitors for Christmas

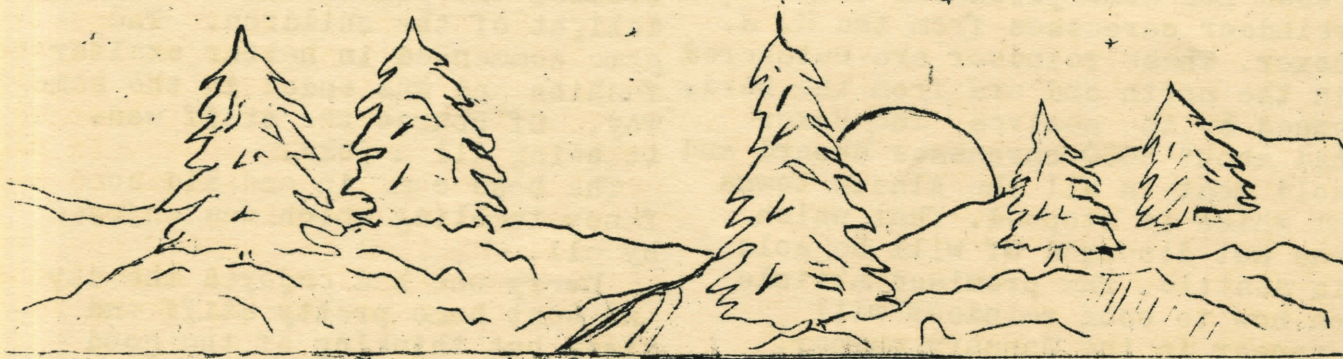
The steamer Starr arrived in Seward Dec. 3 and brought to Jesse Lee Home Mrs. Nellie Carlson and her four children from Sanak Island, also Mrs. Annie Hatch and her two children from Seldovia. Both Nellie and Annie were formerly Jesse Lee Home girls.

Christmas Cheer for the Islands

The Jesse Lee boys again shipped a truckload of Christmas trees to the Westward when the S. S. Starr left the port of Seward on Dec. 6 for Unalaska.

Basket Ball

Dec. 6, the grade and high school basket ball girls played a game. The forwards on the grade school team were Rose Anderson, Helen Wik and Mary Banks. The guards were Annie Smith, Katherine Little and Miss Neese. Those on the high school team are Eva Oloaswine, Francis Walker and Marie Carlson, forward. The guards were Annie Golley, Laura Forgramsen and Helen Kristensen. The first quarter it seemed as if the grade school was getting



the best of the high school team for the score was 8 to 0. The second quarter the score was 15 to 2 in favor of our grade school team. The high school team hadn't yet given up so at the end of the third quarter the score was 18 to 18. The high school team was very proud of themselves and when the game was over the score was 18 to 20 in favor of our girls high school team.

Boxer Continues Journey

The Boxer left Point Barrow Sept. 7th. It stopped at several places among which were Nome, St. Lawrence Island, Unalaska and Kodiak to load or unload reindeer etc. The Boxer arrived in Seward Nov. 30 bringing as visitors to the Jesse Lee Home, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Vincent bureau of Education teachers from Point Barrow and Caroline Kugriliik from Hot Springs. Also Elizabeth Burnhard who will remain at Jesse Lee Home until she has finished high school. Mr. Vincent gave an interesting talk to the children about his work at Point Barrow and of Dr. Newhall whom we all knew. Mr and Mrs. Vincent visited us a few days, then continued their journey on the Boxer to go to Seattle. Caroline Kugriliik will stay with us until the next mail boat arrives. Then she will go to Seldovia to live with her sister.

Reindeer Meat Purchased

Jesse Lee Home purchased two reindeer carcasses from the U. S. Boxer. These reindeer are butchered in the north and are from the herds owned by the natives. The Boxer had about 2000 carcasses aboard and sold meat in all the Alaska towns at which it stopped. That which was not disposed of will be sold in Seattle. The promised article on how to cook reindeer will appear in the January number.

Mrs. Meehan visits the Home

Mrs. Kathryn Meehan, a former teacher in Jesse Lee Home who now lives in Seldovia arrived on the Admiral Farragut in Seward for a visit at Jesse Lee. She will remain until after the holidays.

Thanksgiving at Jesse Lee

At Jesse Lee, Thanksgiving is a day the children look forward to with delight. They know it is a day in which to have a good time, a day of thanks. Truly it was so this year.

A program was given by the grammar school Nov. 26th. Everyone seemed to enjoy this entertainment and it was well given.

On Thursday at ten service was held in the chapel. Mrs. Riesner preached the sermon. The theme was "Thanks". The service was a good one and made us feel glad we had been here.

Three basket-ball games followed the service. The girls played the first game which was a stiff battle between the high school girls and the grade school girls. The score was ten to sixteen in favor of the grade school. The boys played the next game, the faculty with the high school. The high school lost but were good losers.

Dinner was all we had anticipated. Everything seemed so delicious and was eaten quite heartily.

In the evening the girls dressed for a good stiff basket ball game. To their surprise, the staff came in dressed in old fashioned clothes and paraded about to the delight of the children. The game commenced in halter skelter fashion and was ended in the same way. Of course the staff won, it being all a joke.

The boys came in and did some fancy tumbling which was enjoyed by all.

Every one had enjoyed the day and went home pretty stiff and tired but thinking of the good times.



Elizabeth Bernhard, newest pupil
at Jesse Lee

Elizabeth Bernhard arrived on Nov. 30th after more than a months journey on the U. S. M. S. Boxer from Teller, Alaska. She is happy to be here for she is eager for an education.

The following letter (quoted in part) was received at Jesse Lee Home early in June. It explains all about Elizabeth and why she is here.

Supt. Jesse Lee Home,
Seward, Alaska
Dear Friend

The writer has been interested for several years in a native girl in Teller, Alaska. For many years I had a brother-in-law, Calvin G. Brinker, in the drug business in Nome. During the flu epidemic about ten years or more ago a little girl was brought to the hospital in Nome with both legs frozen so they had to amputate one leg below the knee and one right above the knee. It seemed the parents of the girls were prostrated with the flu and the little girl had removed the leg wrappings from her own legs and placed them on a younger child, thus sacrificing her own legs. We became interested in her then and ever since we have kept in touch with her. She has developed into a bright ambitious young girl.

We have encouraged her to secure all the schooling she can and prepare herself to earn her living that way. She has been considered the brightest pupil in the school at Teller and now she has finished the grade school course with fine marks and we are trying to secure her a high school training, which she herself is also very anxious to receive.

I have been in communication with Mrs. Baldwin in Nome. We know Mrs. Baldwin, having entertained her during a missionary convention in this city. I had thought perhaps I could have the girl educated in the high school in Nome with Mrs. Baldwin giving her some oversight. Mrs. Baldwin recommends your school in Seward because of the religious environment which would surround the girl and the ideals she would absorb under your training.

We have provided the girl with first class artificial limbs and she is able to get around without help so she would not be burdensome in that way. She is an attractive girl and her writing shows her to be above the ordinary eight grade pupil. She hopes some day to be able to write for publication.

We are Methodists and for a long time my wife has helped sew for the Jesse Lee Home. We are members of Emory M. E. Church here in Pittsburgh. We would naturally prefer that training in this case be under the influence of our denominational school. Her father is satisfied for her to attend your school. He is not able to finance her higher schooling. We will attend to that here. Whatever expense there may be, we will see it is paid.

Will you kindly let me know if it is possible for her to come to your home and secure a high school course? Also when should she come and what expense will be involved? How long will it take?

Any information you can give me will be appreciated.

The girl's name is Elizabeth Bernhard and her address is Teller, Alaska. It might facilitate matters if you should correspond with her also. It would give you a good idea of what kind of girl she is and you could send her direct instructions if necessary. I have also written to Mrs. Oeder in Portland.

Respectfully
Edward C. Griggs

Mr. Hatten wrote to Mr. Griggs and Elizabeth. After much writing and wiring, the necessary arrangements were made with Captain Whitlam of the Boxer. That she had a stormy and trying trip is evident from the following article which is just as Elizabeth wrote it.

My trip

We arrived here on the last day of November from Teller. We had left there aboard the U. S. S. Boxer, Capt. Whitlam in charge, on the 26th of October.

There were nine passengers and fifteen members of the crew. Altogether amounting to 23 persons. There were four of us for Seward and five passengers for the states. Two of the passengers who are going to Seattle are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, former teachers at Barrow for the past three years.

In the evenings when we weren't sea sick or when the ship was laying in bay for shelter, we would get together and play games or Mr. Vincent would get his guitar and the engineer his unelele and Mrs. Vincent, Caroline and I would sing. We sure enjoyed the trip when we were not sea sick.

We had a tough trip most all the way. Even Capt. Whitlam said he had never before encountered such storms on those waters. They encountered bad weather all the way from Barrow. We thought somebody was the jinx aboard because ever since we took the skeletons aboard we had unfavorable weather.

The first place we stopped after we left Teller was Cape Prince of Wales, where the Boxer took on over 200 slaughtered reindeer for sale at different places on the way out. We left Wales for St. Lawrence Island as we had some cargo and the school teachers to discharge at Gambell. We stayed around that island for ten days during which time it was so stormy they couldn't unload. On the fifth day, they discharged some of the stuff in spite of the bad surf on the beach, then we went on to St. Paul Island enroute to Unalaska. We spent Halloween at Boxer Bay, St. Lawrence Is. where the ship was laying for shelter.

We were on the way to St. Paul for three days and on the fourth day out we went into a small bay on the island for shelter as it was too stormy to go on. On the 2nd day out from Gambell it was blowing a 60

mile gale and the Captain decided to turn back so we went back part ways, then the wind changed so we headed again for St. Paul, arriving there the 11th of November. We hung around the island for a day waiting for the storm to let up. The weather cleared up the next day so we set our course for Unalaska. On the 13th the weather became so unfavorable with the southeast wind blowing a gale that we turned our course towards Bristol Bay. The sea was so rough that we hardly made any headway. The bow of the ship would bump right into a huge wave and the water would come over the deck with a loud splash. One of those huge waves (higher than the pilot cabin) came over and almost broke the fore'sle cabin loose. Sometimes water would come down the companion way and into the engine room. It was getting so bad they had to hang oil sacks over the sides of the deck to calm the sea. The waves didn't wash over the deck so much and were not so large. But still we were roughing it that night.

The next day the captain set our course once more for Unalaska, as the weather calmed down a little and on the 15th at 9:30 A. M. we made fast to Unalaska dock. There was a crowd at the wharf greeting their friends on the Boxer. We layed off at this place for three days during which time we had our long wanted rest and decent square meals as we couldn't sleep comfortably and eat with the ship rolling like a cork and besides we were all pretty sick.

We left Unalaska on the 18th early in the morning for our next stop which was Akutan, a whaling station. Here we stopped five hours then went on to Kings Cove.

Arrived at King's Cove two days after we left Akutan. It was stormy going between these two places. Left King's Cove the same day we arrived for Kodiak. The night of the second day out we got into another storm. The wind was blowing from ahead and sometimes we didn't make more than two miles an hour. So Captain got disgusted and set our course towards land to try and find a bay for shelter. It was so dark we couldn't tell land from sea. We headed out for sea and went about three miles and the chief engineer saved the day for us.

He was looking out into the darkness and said he saw something like land ahead of us. And sure enough it was. If we had gone ahead fifteen minutes more the boxer would have been high and dry on the land.

We arrived at Kodiak on the twenty-fourth. On our way there we passed Mt. Shishaldon, a volcanic mountain which is over 9300 ft. high. We passed about eighty miles off and could see it smoking.

The scenery going into Kodiak was very pretty. We passed through such narrow places it seemed like we could easily throw a stone on either side. The trees covering the mountain sides were so pretty too. I think Kodiak was the prettiest place we called at on our way here.

It started to storm after we left Kodiak, so we had to lay in Marmot Bay till the twenty-eighth when we left for Seward, arriving there two days later.

We spent Thanksgiving day at Marmot Bay. We didn't have Turkey but we had a very good dinner and were thankful to be safe in the little bay rather than to be tossing about in a storm somewhere at sea. With everything in ship-shape, we were glad to arrive in Seward.

Elisabeth Bernhard

My First Christmas in the Home

My sister and I came to the Jesse Lee Home three days before Christmas. I was eight years old and Mary was eleven. Everyone seemed to be so happy and hurrying about doing this and that because Christmas was just a few days off.

Of course I felt as excited as the rest because I had celebrated Christmas when I was home and I knew what good times we used to have.

I remember distinctly of seeing the teachers use one end of the sewing table for marking the Christmas bags. After the bags were marked, they were taken up to the old dry room to be filled.

On Christmas Eve a big program was held in the chapel and to my surprise I was to sing a song all by myself. One of the teachers said I had a good voice so she taught me a song and Lydia (one of our older girls) was to play the piano while I sang.

I wasn't the least bit frightened to sing alone. I guess because everybody was strange to me.

When the program was over the presents were distributed and everyone went home. The girls were sent straight to bed because the next day was a big day for us. When the chapel was cleared, the teachers fixed the chairs into one large circle. There were sixty children in the home. The bags were brought down from the dry room and arranged alphabetically so we could find them easily in the morning.

Christmas morning came at last. Everyone was out of bed by the first sound of the bell and Santa Claus came into our Dormitory jingling his bells and shouting "Merry Christmas, Everybody".

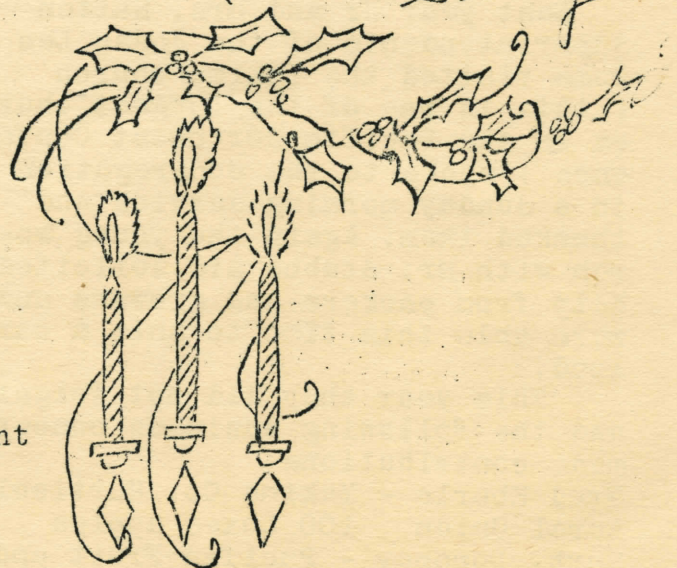
When everybody was dressed and ready, both the girls and boys formed a line in the kitchen and marched into the chapel. Each one found their own bag and opened it to see all the nice things they got. There was sure voices of excitement and blowing of whistles, horns, drums beating dolls drying and everything imaginable going on before breakfast.

After enjoying our things for a while we went into the dining room to eat our breakfast.

After breakfast, the older girls had their things spread out on tables and couches and the little girls had their toys all in the sewing room so we could see all the pretty things.

The whole day was filled with joy and gladness. My first Christmas in the home will always be a pleasant memory to me.

Annie Golley



THANKS

" An apple a day keeps the doctor away " . If this be true, Jesse Lee Home is assured of good health for the next few months, for on Saturday the S. S. Victoria unloaded on the Seward dock 652 boxes of apples for that institution. There was also in the car which was shipped from Yakima, Wash. 56 sacks of onions, five boxes of toys and supplies and a bundle of trees.

Three years ago, three young women, members of a Bible Class for business and professional women of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Yakima, while tourists in Alaska were much impressed by the work being done at Jesse Lee Home. Miss Rose Kochendorfer, a teacher in the Yakima High School and president of the class said " Every year at Christmas time our class helps some institution. What could we do for you? " Knowing that Yakima was one of the garden spots of the world and that apples were plentiful, Mrs Hatten answered " Send us some apples " .

These girls went home with this idea, interested other members of their class and the first year with the help of Mr. F. F. Stubbs a layman of the Methodist church and president of the Stubbs Fruit and Storage Co., packed and shipped to Jesse Lee Home fifty boxes of apples.

Last year Mr and Mrs. Hatten Superintendents of the Jesse Lee Home visited the Yakima church (this is one of the largest churches in the Pacific Northwest Conference) spoke to the congregation in a Sunday morning service and thanked them. Again the young women with Mr. Stubbs aid solicited help from packers and growers and were able this time to ship a carload.

This year they did not forget and the following business concerns made contributions

Fred Eberle - Yakima Co. Horticultural Union, 100 boxes apples
Herb. Donahay - Pacific Fruit and Produce Co. 56 sacks onions

E. S. Prentice, Prentice Pkg. Co.
C. M. Holtzinger - Holtzinger Fruit Co.

Ben Perham - Perham Fruit Co.
M. R. Stone - Sellars and Stone
F. A. Miller, Mgr. - American Fruit Co.

E. E. Samson - Samson and Co.
A. L. Ostrander - Ostrander Fruit Company

H. M. Gilbert- Richer Gilbert Co.
J. W. Herbert - Yakima Fruit Growers Association

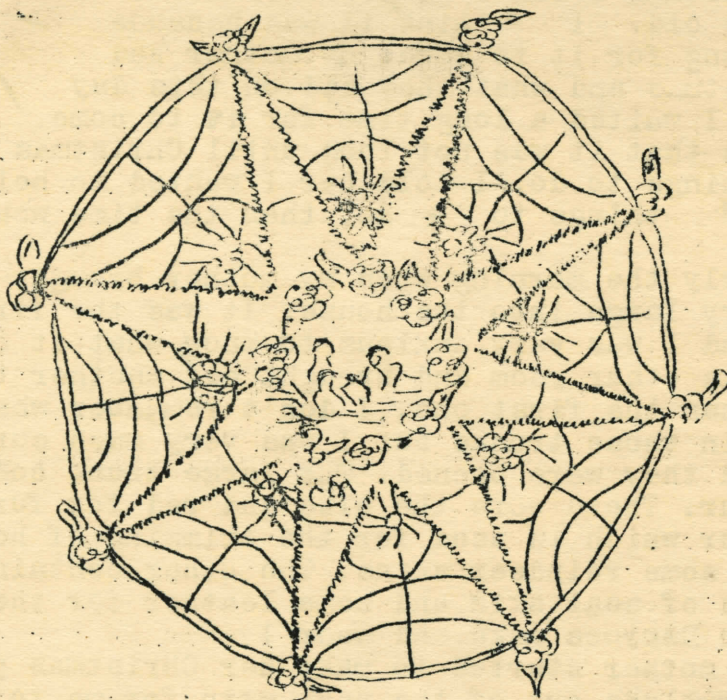
F. F. Stubbs, Stubbs Fruit and Storage Co. Packed and shipped the whole car load.

It was through the combined efforts of these packers and growers led by Mr. Stubbs that the Northern Pacific Railroad transported the car free of charge from Yakima to Seattle.

On the same boat there was also a shipment of sixteen sacks of vegetables (squash, carrots and cabbages), two boxes of apples, one large box of canned fruit and a box of clothing from Opportunity, Washington. Miss Olive Beedle of the Jesse Lee Home staff is a member of the Opportunity Church and Mr. Hatten was at one time their pastor.

Happiness is everywhere at the Home. The children are happy because they like good things to eat and they appreciate friendship. The staff are happy because they add to the above the knowledge of how the little black line on the weight chart goes up and up and up as long as the fresh fruit and vegetables last.

If one may be pardoned for editorializing a news article, we might add. This is a demonstration of practical Christianity and prove more than words that the spirit which brought the great Gift to the world on that first Christmas morning so long ago, is still in the world and in the hearts of men.



Russian Christmas

The first permanent settlement of the Russians in Alaska was at Three Saints Bay on Kodiak Island about one hundred and forty seven years ago. The new generation of Russians are very much mixed with the old Aleut stock and are located on the Aleutian Islands and in south eastern Alaska. The Russians in Alaska believe in the Greek Catholic faith. Their church is generally the most beautiful building in their villages. Although most of the Russians are poor, they take very much pride in beautifying their church. The inside of the church is indescribable in its beauty with its many candles and the artistic carvings which they themselves make. The church is always lit up and by no other light than candles which throw a dim glow over the beautiful icons and carvings. The Russians make much of Christmas and Easter celebrations.

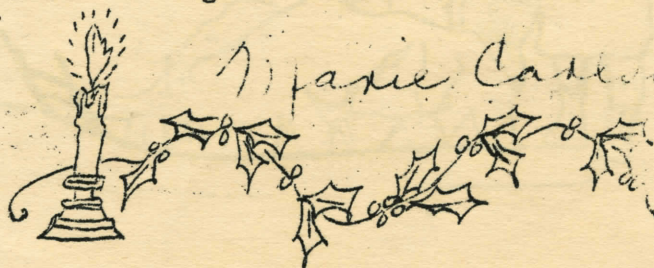
It is the custom of the Russians in Alaska to celebrate Christmas January seventh. On Christmas eve at midnight they have a church service. Then in the morning at eight o'clock. The priest preaches to them in the Russian tongue and they have an interpreter to interpret to the Aleuts.

After the service they go caroling and with them they take a beautiful large star which they turn round and round while they sing. This star is fashioned of glass or of paper. In the middle of the star they have a picture of the Holy Family and this they have lighted with electric lights. The Russians and Aleuts have good voices and the music rings out in the air.

With them they also carry a large bag for people to put food into.

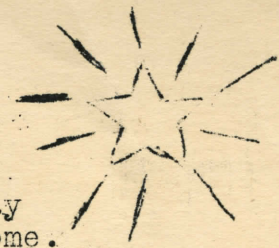
This they do once every evening during the three day celebration. The three days are considered holy and during that time they are not allowed to dance or do anything that is considered worldly.

To be with the Russians and Aleuts when they celebrate Russian Christmas would be very interesting and amusing.



The first Christmas I can remember

The * first Christmas I can remember was when I was about six years old. I * think it was because I had to wait so long for it to come. My mother had told me about Christmas and what they did on this day and it seemed that I waited a long time for it to come. She explained to me that it was not long until Christmas day arrived and she had many things to do. I told her I wanted to help her if she had so many * things to * do, then the time would pass faster.



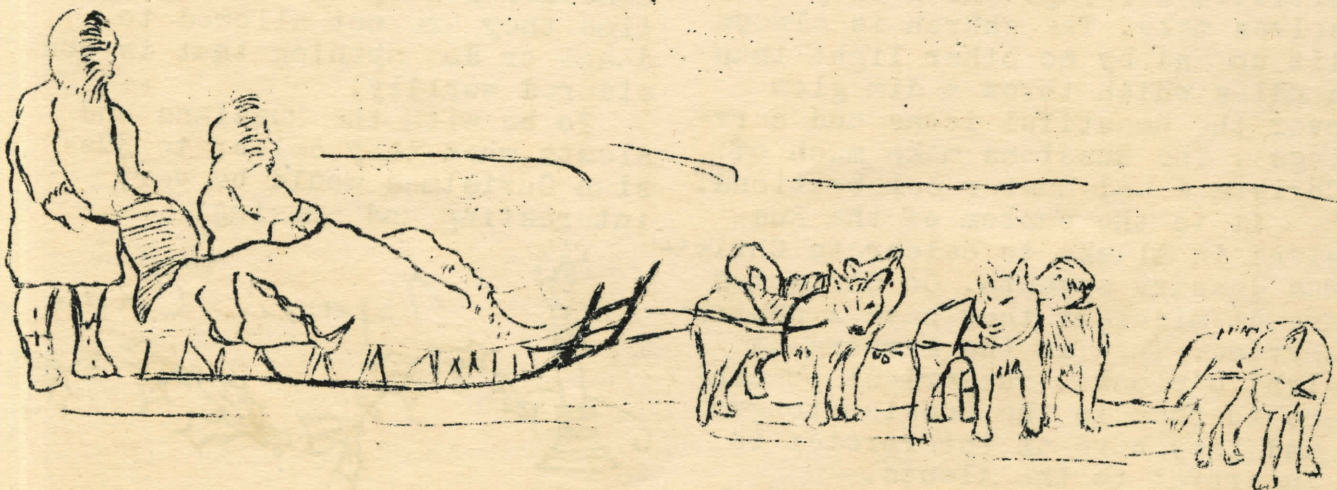
I remember clearly the morning when my mother brought an old trunk which was very large into the house. It was the first time I had ever seen it and I was very anxious to know what it contained. Mother went into the other room and brought out another trunk which was much smaller than the first one. I don't remember what it was I expected to see in those trunks but I was very much surprised at what I did see when they were opened. The large trunk contained ever so many kinds of fur. There were the blue and red fox furs and plenty of the wolverine fur which is used for the trimming of hoods for the Eskimo parkas and some reindeer skins. The other contained the different varieties of seal skin and some leather for the soles of mukluks (shoes the Eskimos make and wear)

That morning my mother started to make her Christmas presents. She cut out a pair of mukluks out of the seal skin for me to make for my cousin who was only three years old. My cousin was to wear this pair when he played around, so mother cut them long enough to reach the knees. Mother was very busy making things of which I do not remember now. I sat by her side sewing hour after hour. I remember after I had finished one pair of mukluks I made another pair which were much fancier and made of reindeer skin. This pair was for my cousin's Sunday best and I took much pains in doing them. I was too small then to sew on the soles so mother did that part for me, because the soles have to be sewed on so they won't leak.

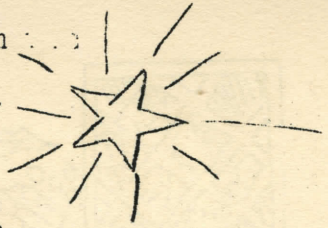
Finally Christmas day arrived. To my great surprise I found a beautiful doll with long curls, lying by my side when I awakened in the morning. My mother put a new dress on me and a pair of red shoes with white buttons. I was very proud and happy.

I do not remember what I did in the morning, but after dinner our family got ready to attend the celebration of Christmas which the Eskimos give. This was to be given in a big one roomed house owned by the Eskimos, which they used for their dance hall.

Father hitched up the dog team to a light sled and we were off to town about two miles from our home.



* Before we went into the room where the program was to be given we brought our gifts into a place which was crowded with many presents. After waiting for some time the program began. I remember seeing a row of men enter the room dancing. Every one had a mask on. Some were faces of polar bears with the big teeth showing, * Others were painted up very ugly, * them * some had * the fox faces and many different kinds of which I can not remember any longer. They were dressed with polar bear skins and gloves long enough to cover their arms. On the long cuffs of the gloves were beads hanging down and the big claws of some animals. As these men came dancing in, the beads and claws made an awful noise, especially when they swung their arms in the air.



Then I remember seeing some women in the middle of the floor, sitting on long benches. The audience began to sing and it seemed that everyone was singing in the room. As they sang, these women on the benches, facing the same direction, began to pantomime. This sometimes lasted for half an hour.

The last thing on the program was giving out the presents. The men dressed up with masks on were the ones who gave out the presents. As they gave each one his present, they had something to say to everythi and told them who the presents came from. What I liked most of all besides my doll was a beautiful, warm parka, given to me by my cousin and his parents. I was very proud of this because it was made of reindeer skin with a big wolverine fur around the hood. It was lined inside with squirrel skin which made it very comfortable and warm.

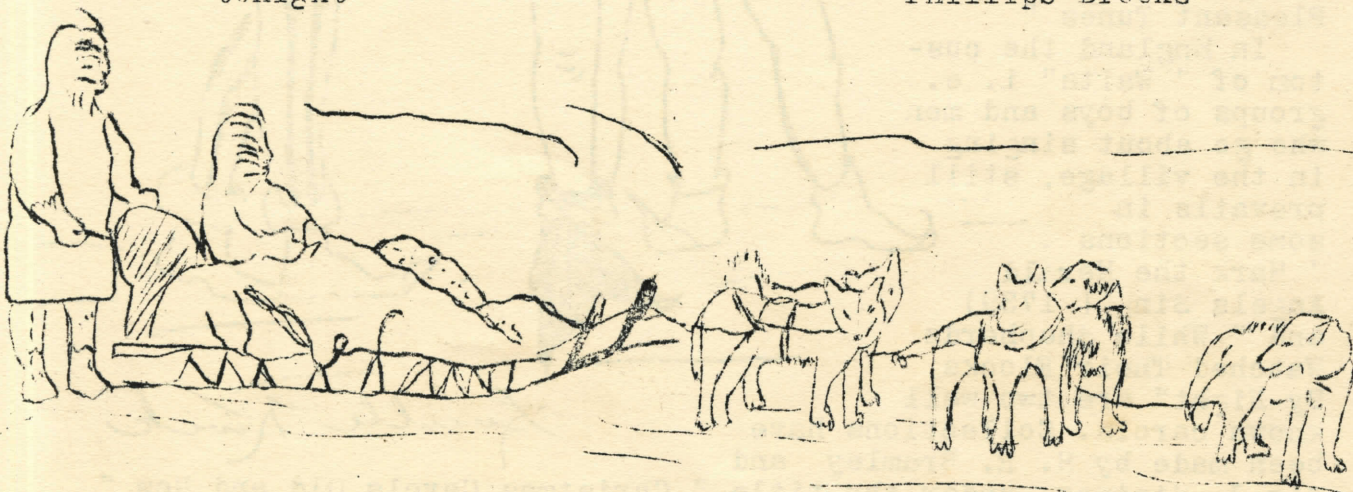
The memory of this Christmas is very precious to me for it is the only Christmas I remember of having with my parents. The next year the terrible flu came which left me an orphan.

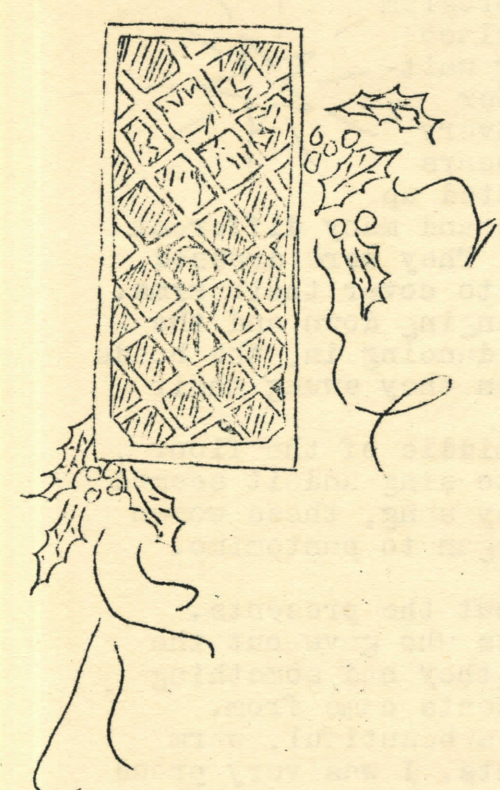
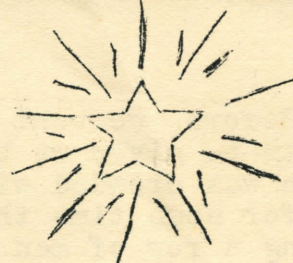
Frances Walker

"Everywhere, everywhere Christmas
tonight
Christmas in lands of the firtree
and pine
Christmas in lands of the palmtree
and vine
Christmas where snow-peaks stand
solemn and white
Christmas where corn-fields lie
sunny and bright
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas
tonight

Then let every heart keep its
Christmas within
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's
hatred for sin
Christ's care for the weakest,
Christ's courage for right
Christ's dread for the darkness
Christ's love for the light
Everywhere, everywhere, Christ-
mas tonight. "

Phillips Brooks





Christmas Carols

" Carol is a song of praise sung at Christmas or Easter. It originally meant a song accompanied with dancing in which sense it is frequently used by the old poets. It appears to have been danced by many performers , by taking hands, forming a ring and singing as they went round. It has been said that the oldest carol was sung by the heavenly host when the birth of the Saviour was announced to the shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem. It is probable that the practice of singing carols at Christmas-tide arose in imitation of this, as the majority of the carols declared the the good tidings of great joy, and the title of Noels, nowells or novelles applied to carols, would seem

to bear our this idea.

Carol singing is of great antiquity among Christian communities as the carol by Aurelius Prudentius will show. The Middle Ages were especially familiar with these songs. The first authorization for a collection of such carols to be made was issued to Thomas Tysdale (1562) For a while they disappeared under the Puritan regime, but with the Restoration a new book appeared called " The New Carols for the Merry Time of Christmas to Sundry Pleasant Tunes "

In England the custom of " Waits" i. e. groups of boys and men who go about singing in the village, still prevails in some sections .

' Hark the Herald Angels Sing (1739) and " While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night" are two well known carols. Collections have been made by H. R. Bramley and Sir J. Stainer under the title " Christmas Carols, Old and New " (London 1874) and by Martha E. Rickert " Ancient Christmas Carols , (1400 - 1700) (New York 1910) "

This is the explanation found in the Encyclopedia Americana "

Every year on Christmas day, the Jesse Lee children sing the old Christmas carols from house to house.



Lucille Kwik

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