

Call Number: 02-00-62-10 PT. 1 SIDE A PT. 2

Pioneers of Alaska Convention Pt. 1 on October 13-16, 1960, in Seward, Alaska

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

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Notes: Original on 7 inch reel, copy on CD

Lester Gore is unanimously elected as Grand President of the Pioneers of the Alaska. Also appointed was brother Windstrom of Anchorage Igloo Number 15 to be Sergeant of Arms, Brother Robert D'armond is on the stand and is introduced as installing officer. Lester Gore is sworn in as the President of the Pioneers of Alaska. Brother Gore is congratulated. He is given the gavel as a token of appreciation. There will be the women's luncheon at the American Legion Club at 1 o'clock. Members of the family are advised....the women's luncheon is actually at 12 noon. Jan Jargenson is asked to assume the position of Second Vice President. Ed Sweeney from Juneau is asked to assume station as chaplain. The first committee is the prudential committee and it is recommended that they meet as soon as possible. Bill Spoltz of Anchorage is being nominated as the chairman of the committee. Members of Roof Lake Juneau, Pearl Lefavors of Cordova, Shelby Smith of Anchorage, Art Harret of Fairbanks. On the nominating committee [inaudible] of Anchorage will be the chairman. He will be assisted by Bill Cashen of Fairbanks, Hanks Birg of Juneau, George Johanovich of Fairbanks, Mary Ferry of Ketchikan, Stewardt Shay of Seward, and Grand [inaudible] of Cordova. On the resolutions committee is Oswald of Seward as the chairman, [inaudible] Fairbanks, Frank [Inaudible] of Anchorage, Richard [inaudible] of Cordova, [inaudible] of Juneau, and Bill [inaudible] and Ketchikan. He asks the people to pick up the lists when they dismiss so they know who is on their committee. Bill Legere of Juneau, Dick Wold of Fairbanks, and Marie Ferry of Ketchikan are members of a committee but it is not clear which committee. There is a request from the crowd but it is unclear. There is another announcement for a memorial service but the entire message is unclear. There is a recess until two o'clock.

The recording resumes at 15:30 and it is called the business section Saturday at 2 o'clock. The gavel is pounded and the delegates and officers are asked to take their seats. Lester Gore begins speaking and says he thanks the Pioneers for electing him into office. He says he wants to keep the session moving because when he gets talking he doesn't know when to quit. He says it is very difficult to find words for his appreciation of the office and he will perform to the best of his abilities. He says he will try to be fair, honest, consciences, and patient. He says he has a slight sense of humor so if he injects some words into a situation that's just how he naturally is. It might go over well it might now. Prince of Whale is discussed and he says he has been there. He discusses a sash that was given to him by his old Igloo and he does not remember the particular Alaska Native who gave him the sash but he knows the Native is an expert at doing that kind of work. He is thankful for those in the second division and the native friends in the area.

The first order of business for Lester Gore and the assembly is the roll call of the grand council. Grand President Lester Gore is present. Grand First vice President Carl Locksfeld is present. Grand Second Vice President James Jorgenson is present. Grand Chaplain Dick Sweeney is present. Grand Treasurer Walter Hiegel is absent. Grant Secretary Theo Mckenla is present. Grand Recorder Linda Schaeffer is present. Grand Historian Dr. Chase is absent. Acting Grand Historian George Parks is present. Grand Sargent of Arms Captain George Bernard is present. Grand Trustee Woodman is absent. One Year [inaudible] is present. Two Year Robert Corn is present. Two Year Axel Edmond is absent. Three Year Howard Stigler is absent. Three Year Max McGilbert is present. Past President Robert D'Armond is present. Otto Copper is present.

At 23:25 President Gore states that the next order of business is the reading of the records from the last meeting in Nome. A man says that each igloo probably has these records and he moves that the assembly suspend the reading of the records. The assembly votes and the motion is carried. The next order of business is the meeting of correspondence. A woman states that a letter is dated December 15th, 1959. She reads the letter which is a letter from a member of the Celestial Grand Lodge's children, Emily and Allan-Tony Collet. Another letter is read from Fairbanks, Alaska dated January 20th, 1960. The letter wishes to express their thanks to the grand officers of the igloo of Fairbanks for their support of the relatives of the late grand chairman Arthur Woodrow. James Jorgenson is also thanked for the splendid way in which the funeral of Arthur Woodrow was conducted. They feel that their sorrow for losing Arthur Woodrow is shared by many. William and Margaret Young, Dennis and [inaudible], and Stanley and Denise Auber [?]. There is another letter dated January 12th, 1960 from [inaudible] California from an old pioneer. The letter thanks for the proceedings of the Grand convention of the Alaska Pioneers. From the reports it was a grand convention. He regrets being physically unable to go to the convention. He writes that he was in Washington D.C. in 1954 seeking to express the needs of Fairbanks, Nome, and Teller. He says he has urged Charlie Jones, then secretary of Igloo One to introduce a resolution for full consideration for grand membership. Jones did make some kind of motion supported by Sir Edmond. Dwight Eisenhower, the Senate, and the House of Congress are all discussed in the letter. The letter is signed George R. Hershaw. The next letter is date September 29th, 1960. The letter is addressed to Lester Gore. The letter states that through other correspondence Lester Gore had been ill and not able to accept the full year as president. The letter states that the man is retiring shortly from his position as collector of customs for Alaska due to mandatory age requirements. He will be 70 on Septembers 26th and is submitting his resignation as treasurer with the hopes that somebody else is found. Travel expenses are discussed. He says that the organization has about \$10,000 in both checking and savings accounts. He believes that the Grand Igloo should pay their officers. He says he has performed the duties of Grand Treasurer without any form of compensation or expected compensation. The man suggests providing funds for traveling to conventions. The letter is signed by Grand Treasurer Walter Hiesel [?]. That is all of the correspondence.

President Gore mentions the letter from George Hershaw 34:35. Gore specifically addresses Hershaw's idea of having the state of Alaska called the "North Star State" and the resolution suggested. Gore asks if Nome every presented such a resolution. A man in the assembly says he does not remember Nome ever presenting any resolution. Gore says he is going to turn the letter over to the Nome delegation to

Charlie. Gore suggests that maybe finding somebody from Juneau to take over the Grand Treasury Job would be the best idea since that where the funds are located. Gore wants to advise the delegates that if they have any resolutions to present that they should present them to the resolution committee as early as possible. Any resolution must be presented 24 hours before it can be acted upon. Gore says he has been bothered by the transfer of properties for the Igloos that are no longer in existence. He says he has worked on it and he is prepared to create an amendment for the constitution and he wishes to represent it to the resolution committee as a proposal. The title would be "Advancements of Real and Personal Properties of Igloos and Axillaries..." In summary Gore believes all the property and assets of any igloo who is suspended, cancelled, or revoked, automatically becomes the property of the Grand Igloo Pioneer of Alaska for the uses and purposes for which the Grand Igloo shall determine. Gore says in Tanana five members remain. The members wish to join with Fairbanks and they had money in their treasury. Their remaining pot of money was combined with Fairbanks'. Gore says there is real estate of the Grand Igloo just sitting there. Gore discusses fixing up real estate that was falling apart so no one would get hurt. Gore asks if the report from the Prudential Committee is available. A man in the crowd says that there is a letter of correspondence from Brother Chase who has suggestions. Mrs. Schaeffer says the letter is in the hotel because she didn't bring it. The recording ends.