

More on medical problems. Son Bob has a financial interest in Reeve Aleutian Airlines...only one who has financial interest besides the Reeve family.

Married? Go back farther...parents strong Lutherans but St. Matthews too far away...from the home. Her father did not see eye to eye with the Methodist minister. The Presbyterian Church was closer. She and her younger brother joined the Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks on Jan. 9, 1915. She is now the senior member of the Fairbanks Presbyterian Church. Church there then is now at Alaskaland. After teaching the Bergmans at 18 Mile they were starting schools at Woodchopper (near Manley) and another place near Tofty...Hostlers were at Woodchopper. Went there for six weeks at Woodchopper and then up to Gold Basin to teach. It was there that she met Sig Fed Hanson, the man she was to marry. Went back to Fairbanks. Mrs. E.B. Collins, the first Mrs. Collins, was school teacher. They were living at Fox...Mrs. Collins got job in Fairbanks. Amante took the job for year and a half. Walked from Fairbanks to Fox many times.

Recalls the flight of Army fliers to Nome in 1920. The first landing field was the ball park where the F.E. power plant is now. It was a cow pasture. Chased the cows to the far end and had their ball games.

Amante had a chance to go to Napamute on the Kuskokwim to teach. The school there was just opening up. Had applied through Lester Henderson for Nome or Teller schools but didnt get them. Henderson assigned her to Napamute. Traveled to Nenana on train, ferry to Tanna, another boat to Holy Cross where she hired some Natives to take her across the portage to the Kuskokwim River. Got a small sternwheeler to Napamute (very small). She was just barely 20 years old that August. Not old enough to vote. Only white woman there. Saw another white woman once that winter. Hopes to write a book "The Adventures and Misadventures of Amante". Had been corresponding with Mr. Hanson that winter and decided to get married. Married 7 November 1921 in this very house. Biggest mistake I ever made in my life, she says. His name was Sig Fred Hanson. Stayed married until children were through school.

Amante's children: Bob born 27 Aug. 1922; Stanley born 4 July 1924; and Donald born 16 May 1927.

In the spring of 1927 Amante flew from Manley Hot Springs in an open cockpit plane. Was desperately ill with flu and was seven months pregnant (she was living in Tofty and got to Manley on a bobsled). Dr. Romig attended her.

At this writing (and recording) Bob has six children; Stanley has one son; Donald is a school teacher in Anchorage with two little boys.

Amante is a member of the Pioneer Women of Alaska. She joined it Feb. 16 of Feb. 19, 1916....correction on that.... Pioneer Women organized Feb. 16 of Feb. 19, 1916. Organized as an Igloo for women. She joined it in 1925. In order to belong one had to come to Alaska or the Yukon watershed (could not be born here) with clothes on. To begin with, one had to be a 15 year resident. That was changed with Jan. 1, 1908 as date one had to come to the north in order to belong. Amante has been president. Says Mrs. Rust wants the group to disband but the few remaining members object.

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Opens with more talk about cancer and then on to the graduating class (high school). Only surviving members of that class are Wilma Carlson who moved Outside years ago and Amante. The valiant victorian (sp?) of the class died the next year of TB. Martin Knuppe's son died couple years later of TB also. Alton Nordale was killed in an airplane crash.

Pioneer Women of Alaska = Organized Feb. 19, 1916 with the minimum age at 18. Had to have come to the Yukon River watershed with "clothes on". She joined it in 1925. Had a secret ballot in the Pioneer Hall. Large turnout. Changed the entrance requirements to arrival prior to Jan. 1, 1908. Ballot was almost unanimous on that date change. Anyone who already was a member was allowed to stay in the group. That's how Mrs. Rust got to stay on because she arrived in the summer of 1908....not prior to Jan. 1, 1908.

Members of the group in Fairbanks now are Amante Hanson, Clara Rust, Mrs. Adriana Coyle, Dorothy Loftus, Louise Karstens, Agnes Thomas, Minnie Brewis. Helen Carlisle in Georgia is a member. Fannie Joyce, Charlotte Kuben (her husband was Ralph and was druggist ...McIntosy and Kuben drugstore at First and Cushman), Mrs. Margaret Murie of Moose, Wyo. Also Mrs. Myldred Nerland of Fairbanks. Eva McGown (who died Feb. 22 in Nordale fire, 1972) was an honorary member. Henrietta DeWree, in California and Nettie Almquist. Luch Bailey also in Calif. Mary Foran the former Mary Miller of Seattle member also. Miss Albina Miller member as is Daphne Moody. Amante does not know if Daphne is still living. Her mother was Bertha Moody who had the store at Ester for many years. Alaska Linck's first husband was a son of Bertha Moody. He died many years ago and Alaska and Jack Linck have been married since 1941.

Amante was a charter member of Auxiliary No. 8, Pioneers of Alaska, but she dropped out. That group organized 1947 or 1948 as an Auxiliary to Pioneers of Alaska and is different organization entirely from Pioneer Women of Alaska. Her reason for dropping out: ritual too much like the Pioneer Women's also the very short residency requirements.

Talks about Mrs. Coyle who had only one daughter who had a daughter who died in childbirth.

Amante joined the Rebeccahs Oct. 18. 1921. Received her 50 year jewel. Finishing 52 years now. Two years later she joined the Eastern Star. Amaranth...charter member of that...also has life membership in that group. Belongs to Pioneer Women of Alaska. Also the Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks. Joined that church Jan. 9, 1915.

Another long time member of the church is Mrs. Muriel Johnson.

Amante talks about her divorce in 1948. Had worked before her divorce. She was living in Fairbanks and claims that her husband refused to send her money so she was forced to work. Went to work first as an assistant cook and shortly after became cook at the federal jail. Served there until statehood and it became a state jail. Later she became a matron. Retired after 15 years with the Department of Justice.

She looks at 1917 school year gook from Fairbanks High School. Our class: Sigrid Richardson, valvitorian; Amante Tonseth; Wilma Carlson; Alton Nordale; Audrey Rose; Ruty Carey; Lyman Knuppe (juniors in 1917).

Graduated in 1918: Amante Tonseth, Wilma Carlson, Alton Nordale, Sigrid Richardson, Georgia Johnson, Lyman Knuppe and George Bentley.