

PIONEER IGLOO NO. 4's 65th Anniversary

Bruce Thomas, president of Igloo No. 4, Pioneers of Alaska asked Adolph Stock to arrange a program to be presented at the Nov. 18, 1974 meeting of Pioneers...to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Igloo. Stock did just that. He acted as master of ceremonies at a joint meeting of the Igloo and Auxiliary No. 8 which was held after the meetings of the respective groups that evening. The joint meeting was held in the Big Stampede Room, Pioneer Hall at Alaskaland.

Bill Cashen reviewed some early history of the pioneer organizations...organizations that existed before the Pioneers of Alaska. He said he extracted the following information from an article written by Bob DeArmond, Alaska Sportsmand, 1961.

Sons of the Northwest, established in Sitka in 1887.

The Yukon Order of Pioneers, 40 Mile, 1894.

Order of Alaska Moose, Valdez (no relation to the Moose Lodge) established in 1899.

The Alaska Pioneers, organized in Kodiak, 1899.

The '87 Pioneers Association which formed in Juneau in 1908. One had to have been in the country prior to 1887 to belong to that one.

The Arctic Brotherhood, organized in 1899 aboard the City of Seattle vessel on its way back to Skagway. Eleven men organized that group. Eventually about 25 camps of the Arctic Brotherhood were organized. Camp No. 1 was in Skagway and was manned by ~~seven~~ ^{four} of the original 11 men. The other ~~seven~~ ^{four} men went on to the Klondike. In 1909 there were 25 camps. Fairbanks had Camp No. 10. "No boundary line here" was their motto.

Cashen referred to the magazine "Pathfinder" that the Pioneers of Alaska published from 1919 to 1926. It was edited by John W. Frame and published by the Grand Lodge. Editor's account follows:

"On Feb. 20, 1907 the Grand Igloo Pioneers of Alaska was organized in Nome. Men who came to the country prior to 1901 asked for admission to the Yukon Order of Pioneers but were refused because Y.O.O.P. required residence in the north before 1898. Joe Jordan's Saloon was the meeting place. The men met and set Jan. 1 1901 as admission date. Set another meeting. Two hundred men signed up and soon 500 men were members of the Igloo."

In JUNE, 1907 Igloo No. 2 was established in Candle. May 10, 1908 Igloo No. 3 organized in St. Michael. On Aug. 4, 1908 the first Grand Igloo convention was held in Nome.

Other Igloos formed:

Igloo No. 4, Fairbanks
 Igloo No. 5, Ruby
 Igloo No. 6, Juneau
 Igloo No. 7, Valdez
 Igloo No. 8, Wiseman
 Igloo No. 9, Seward
 Igloo No. 10, Iditarod
 Igloo No. 11, Ophir
 Igloo No. 12, Skagway

Igloo No. 13, Tanana
Igloo No. 14, Tokotna
Igloo No. 15, Anchorage
Igloo No. 16, Ketchikan
Igloo No. 17, Nenana

Cashen said as of 1919 there were four womens' auxiliaries that called themselves Pioneer Women of Alaska, Igloo No. 1 in Nome; Igloo No. 2 in Valdez; Igloo No. 3 at Fairbanks; Igloo No. 4 at Anchorage.

Elgibility - One had to come to Alaska prior to Jan. 1, 1901 and his interest must have been dominately identified with Alaska. None but white males eligible, but women - if they met the qualifications - could belong. No record of any women joining any mens' igloos, Cashen said.

Purpose of Pioneers of Alaska (this still according to the "Pathfinder"):

1. Unite old timers of Alaska
2. By permanent organization, preserve the names of early settlers on its rolls.
3. To collect and preserve the incidence of Alaska literature and history.
4. To promote the best interest of the Territory.

Igloo No. 4 On Monday, Nov. 22, 1909 Igloo No. 4 was organized. One hundred forty signed the original charter but more than 300 showed. President...first president...was LeRoy Tozier. Other officers:

First vice-president William McFee
Second vice-president, J.A. Schute
Treasurer, James Thornton
Secretary, John Dillon
Sergeant at arms, R.M. Brown
Chaplain, the Rev. Condant
Trustees, Harry Kribb,
David Petrie
A.J. Nordale

Brown was called "Waterfront Brown", the bill collector who went down to the river front collecting bills from people leaving town. Poetic Justice in his appointment, Cashen observed.

Qualifications for Igloo No. 4. In the Territory of Alaska prior to Jan. 1, 1899. These requirements were later changed. No details on when that change was made.

Mrs. Mary Stock completed the program by reading a poem written by the Rev. Bert Hall for the Pioneer convention held in Cordova in 1963. The poem was titled "Spirit of a Pioneer".

NOTE: Mrs. Stock is past pres. of Aux. No. 8. Mr. Stock is past pres. of Igloo No. 4 and is also past pres. of the Grand Igloo. Mr. Cashen is past pres. of Igloo No. 4 and past grand officer of Alaska grand lodge.