

FELIX PEDRO MONUMENT RE-DEDICATION 1973

Speaker: Harry Elton (Elt) Buzby

Earl Beistline, master of ceremonies, introduces members of the Pioneer Women of Alaska.

Igloo No. 4 chartered Aug. 2, 1910. Only one member survives - Robert Bloom, 95, of Seattle.

Early pilots were honored at this July 22nd ceremony four years ago. Three years ago past presidents of Igloo No. 4 were honored. Two years ago: early day teamsters. Last year: early gold miners in Interior. This year recognition is given to early day farmers of the Interior Alaska.

Beistline introduces Charles Creamer, born in May 1896 in Weaverville Claif. Gives brief biography.

Recognizes Bob Buzby...born in Fairbanks in June, 1911 on a homestead of Harry and Louise Buzby...one of four boys...went outside to school. Returned in 1926 and farmed. He ran a dairy for five years. Homesteaded at 46 Mile Richardson. Interested in prospecting and guiding. Mushed dogs for years and learned to fly. Married Mildred Harkness in 1932. Joined Igloo in February, 1958. Operates a guiding service now.

Another: Charles J. McGrath. Born 11 May 1909 in Fairbanks. Farmed. Father was Charles "Alaska Potato King". His wife was Dorothy, a nurse. He later worked at the power plant at Ladd. Lives in the Claremont Hotel (Seattle) in the winter and Fairbanks in the summer..

Fred and Irene Braun...went to Anchorage in 1934 and she in 1935. Married in 1937 and lived there since. King and Queen Regents from Anchorage.

Grand officers of the Pioneers introduced: Vera Sidars, grand recorder; Robert L. Huffman, grand sergeant-at-arms; Bill Shaeffer, grand trustee; past grand president Adolph Stock. Grand chaplain Robert Hanson of Anchorage. Two members of the State Pioneers Home Advisory Board (not present) are Leslie Nerland and Alden Wilbur. Also introduces Mrs. Angela Geraghty, president of Auxiliary No. 8 and Queen Regent Lena Phipps and King Regent Jack Linck.

Beistline introduces others present (visitors) Dorothy Loftus, Coos Bay, Ore.; Minnie Monroe, Pioneer Home, Myrtle Adler, Redmon Wash; Don Adler, Redmon, Wash.; Frank Nash, Seattle; Beth Hickman, Clara Rust's sister; Mrs. Vuka Stepovich, California.

Elt Buzby was born in Fairbanks on one of the very first homesteads in Fairbanks. His father mined at Nome in 1899 and 1900. Then moved to Skagway in 1902. Moved to Fairbanks in 1905 and established the first fur farm in 1907. Elizabeth Washell married Buzby in November, 1940 and they have four children. School in the states about 6 years. Has prospected, traded fur. bought furs, fur farming, guiding. Retired in March 1973 after 13 years with the University of Alaska. Still active gardner and painter.

(more)

Elt, as a young boy, came through Pedro Creek and Goldstream Creek with vegetables. He was with his father and brother. Their goal was Chatanika. They sold out their vegetables before they got to the summit.

Elt begins to talk.....

It was 57 years ago in August that we made a trip through here with vegetables. Got my first caribou on that trip. Remembers the valley then...tents, minin, men and women, busy place. Remembers many flumes that took water to sluice boxes.

Mentions farmers: Charley Creamer, Charley McGrath. George Gasser, Beckleys. Then begins systematic review of early farmers.

"Like to give some highlights on some of the people that I've known" Fasser. Minner Gasser (his wife) identified wild flowers. Dr. Brinsmade for oats. Charley Creamer dairy. Paul and Stacia Rickert, M.D. Snodgrass; August and Jessie Bjermark; Charley and Jim McGrath; Lou Joy (family came in 1915 after many years in Skagway); Otto Hoppe, teacher of music and homesteaded in 1907; George Danana (flour mill); Paul Greimann (machinery that harvested the wheat); Tom Tonseth, Sr. homesteaded up the Chena River; Frank Courtney homesteaded at the mouth of the Chena (Little) Chena River; Frank Fletchard (sp?) fruit trees and fur farming.

Others: Jimmy Weese (now the east end of Wainwright runway); Weese raised berries; Hogeys raised roses; Russells' Three Star Hennisey Farm; Scotty Heldain; Barney Evan on Engineer Creek; Henry Berry; Boardman; Claus Johnson; Sicotti -raised foxes and garden; Lazelle family; Walter Prick and Harry Badger; McIntyres; Ballaine; Fred Johnston; McClusky 320 acres near Richardson Roadhouse; Fred Clinton; Jack Horn; O'Connors; McCauley greenhouse where Travelers Inn is now.

Characters: Dave Atwood; John the Bear Hunter; Jack and Bob Horn; Mike Meadow...made good whiskey from spuds; St. Louie; Tom White and his caribou corral; Jack Brown, best of the characters.

Margaret Brandt homestead and the Zinders flowers and Slater's famr