

Highlands OES Slates Election

New officers are scheduled to be elected tomorrow (Friday)

night by the Highlands Chapter 284, Order of Eastern Star.
Mrs. Tom Harbison is the present worthy matron, and her husband is worthy patron.
With the Nequassa Chapter 43, of Franklin, in charge, the installation of the Highlands officers is planned on the 23rd.

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Former Macon Teacher In Alaska Tells Of Conditions On Tiny Diomedes Island

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The graphic account below of conditions on a tiny, American-held island in the Bering Strait, was written from Wales, Alaska, most westerly point on the American continent, by a Macon County man, Mr. Corbin, formerly a teacher at Iotla, is now teaching in Alaska. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Furman Corbin, of Bryson City, formerly of Franklin. His wife is the former Miss Virginia Moses, of Ellijay.)

By WILFORD W. CORBIN

Living conditions on the American-held Little Diomedes Island, with a population of 200 Eskimos, is in a state of emergency. A fuel and food shortage has forced the people into primitive ways of heating and lighting their homes, and hunting for food. Seal oil is used for cooking, heating and lighting when it can be obtained.

Little Diomedes is located just three miles from Russian-held Big Diomedes in the Bering Strait. Thirty miles further west, across the ice-choked expanse, is East Cape in Russian Siberia.

Last October the annual supply ship to Little Diomedes was forced by the ice pack to go south before the supplies could be landed. Plans were made to fly the supplies to the island by bush plane as soon as a smooth ice cake moved close enough to the island for a plane to land.

On February 9 the school teacher radioed that a smooth ice cake had lodged near the island. On the 11th, a small bush plane stopped at Wales, the westernmost point on the American continent, for a few minutes, then turned its nose out and over the jagged icebergs in the Bering Strait toward Little Diomedes.

The pilot, Howard Mays, who had landed on the side of a mountain just three weeks before to rescue four crashed military personnel, was determined to try a landing at the isolated village. He circled the ice cake but decided that the wind was not strong enough to attempt landing with skis on the short strip. He headed back toward Nome as the Eskimos gazed with disappointed eyes as their hopes for needed supplies and mail from relatives and friends on the mainland vanished.

The Eskimos on Little Diomedes live in sod, stone, and frame houses. Contrary to many rumors, Eskimos do not live in ice houses. Ice houses have never been used in Eskimo-land except as a wind break temporarily, or while waiting out a storm.

Swaffords Come For Reunion At Parents' Home

For the first time in 10 years, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Swafford had all seven of their children with them last Sunday.

The family reunion was at the Swafford home, in the Bethel community.

The children are Frank Swafford, of Lompoc, Calif., Harold, of Greenville, S. C., Mrs. Monroe Nelson, of Hayesville, Mrs. Davis Martin, of Glenville, and Ray, Carl, and Mrs. Henry McCall, all of this county.

See "Gone With The Wind" at the Franklin Drive-in Theatre. Playing next week, Monday night through Friday night. Adv.

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Such was the case several years ago. Five Eskimos were hunting on the moving ice at Wales. Upon their return from hunting, they found that a northeast wind had moved the ice away from the shore ice, making it impossible to return to the village. They built ice houses to wait out the storm and seven days later walked ashore at King Island, 80 miles south.

The natives on Little Diomedes have relatives on Big Diomedes, just three miles away, whom they have not been allowed to see in the past ten years. The last American Eskimos to visit their cousins on Big Diomedes were held captive for three years by the Russians before they were allowed to return to their native island.

The principal occupation of the Diomedes is walrus hunting and ivory carving. In the summer, the finished ivory products are brought to the mainland to trade for the winter's food supply.

Travel across the icy Bering Strait in winter is practically impossible on foot because the ice is jagged and rough. The ice is always moving with the current. Sometimes the ice moves at a rate of ten miles an hour through the strait. Only one man is known to have crossed the treacherous strait on foot.

At present, military aid to supply the island is being sought. It is believed that only ice breakers

or helicopters can reach the island before June, when the ice moves north.

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Swafford's Sayin's

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First — I have not sold my store. A fellow wanted to buy, but we didn't trade. I hear, from several of my customers, that some of my competitors have been telling you and others that I had sold, and they want your account. If I ever do sell out — I will tell you myself.

Second — I want to tell you that I appreciate your trade. I have done all I can to please you, and will continue to do so, but I will not come to you and beg you to trade with me. If you want to buy from me — I appreciate it. If you want to get your groceries and feed from some other local groceryman — you have a perfect right to do so. If you want to export your cash at an imported store — you are free to do that. I am proud of our American freedom — aren't you? I am glad I live here where I can pop off steam when I get my fur fuzzed the wrong way.

Third — where is the best fishing hole you know of around here? I need to go fishing.

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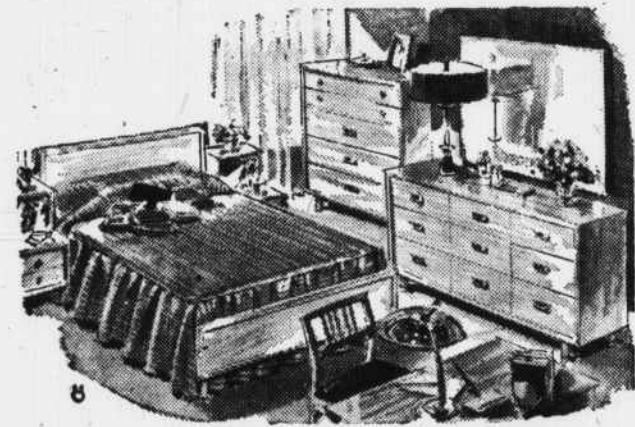
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