

End of the Trail

PAGE 51

an uprooted
s and sleeps
come again.
s a threat to
sense. His
id power are
few bears re
e no more a
bbly-kneed

forth among
w brush and
der in your
veins.
if at all. The
s the panting
he splashing
r rocks mark
rry intruder.

l civilization
ble. The two
l, inevitably,

chorage dis-
y wandering
ts and game
re bear back
ns where he
o a problem.
d around the
; photos and

to such hub-
an become a
: to be threat-
e to disperse
ld flee to his
to shoot the
; lot. And his
the Anchor-
ruary.

ears ago, the
timate bear
e of 50 years,
n covered by
reams, like
olluted with
ckets—bear
led into cul-

grizzly was a
s a quaint es-
o.

n Winkle in
ng up to find
Humans call
bears could
call it some-

VIRGO W. ANDERSON, 83, a fox farmer, commercial fisherman, homesteader and construction worker, died Jan. 15 in Homer. Born in Washington, he moved with his family to Seldovia in 1923. He worked as a fox farmer until the early 1930s, then began commercial fishing with his brother. In the off-season, the two men subdivided and developed a homestead in Homer. Anderson helped to build Homer's first roads and dock, and to install the city's first telephone system. A brother and sister survive.

HELEN STEWART BARRETT, 82, a pioneer Alaska nurse, died Dec. 23, 1991, in Soldotna. Born on Prince Edward Island in Canada, she graduated from nursing school and worked in New England hospitals. In 1940, when she moved to Fort Yukon to work as an Episcopalian missionary nurse, she met and married Donald Barrett. The couple traveled throughout Alaska during his work with the Alaska Commercial Co. From 1960-1970, Mrs. Barrett served as head nurse at Alaska Psychiatric Institute in Anchorage. She leaves a daughter.

LAWRENCE AKISAQPUK GRAY, 81, a lifelong Alaskan and reindeer herder, died Dec. 16 in Fairbanks. Born and raised in the village of Shungnak, he owned his own reindeer herd from the 1940s until 1970. Mrs. Barrett served as head nurse at Alaska Psychiatric Institute in Anchorage. She leaves a daughter.

JOSEPH ANTHONY GROSS, 73, a retired school administrator, died Dec. 31 in Anchorage. A native of North Dakota, he earned undergraduate and master's degrees in education and taught school in Montana. In 1950, he moved to Alaska and taught at Copper Center, Woody Island and Ft. Richardson, later working as a school administrator in Kenai, Kodiak and Anchorage. In summers, he counted fish and mapped streams for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is survived by three sons.

WOODROW "WOODY" JOHANSEN, 77, a college professor and engineer, died last year in Fairbanks. Born in Cordova, he graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with engineering degrees, then obtained a graduate degree from the University of Illinois. He taught civil engineering courses at the Fairbanks college campus, later becoming head of the civil engineering department. In 1951 he joined the Alaska Road Commission and worked on the Parks Highway, the Dalton Highway and several major bridges, retiring from state service in 1979. He leaves his wife, Carolyn.

NATIVE HEALER

AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH service in Fairbanks, followed by an Indian potlatch in the Yukon River village of Rampart, noted the Dec. 22 passing at the Fairbanks Pioneers' Home of Antoinette Mayo Roberts Woods, 97, a well-known midwife and healer.



Antoinette Woods

Elleen Roberts

"Auntie," as she was known to residents up and down the Yukon River, was the last surviving child of steamboat captain Al Mayo and his wife, Margaret. Born in 1894 in Nuklukyet (Old Station), Auntie dedicated her life from the early 1900s to providing health care to those living along the Yukon River in and around Rampart, her home for many years.

In 1924, Woods delivered her own baby. During the next 40 years, she delivered more than 100 children, never losing a baby or a mother. Auntie, who practiced Athabaskan healing ways learned from her mother, saved the lives of many villagers during the 1932 whooping cough and measles epidemics.

In 1966, she saved the life of a man burned in a cabin fire by spraying cold water on his wounds—a healing technique accepted only recently by modern medical science.

Auntie kept a daily medical journal that to this day is used by local people, as well as state and federal researchers, to verify historical events.

In 1986 the Rampart village corporation and the Tanana Chiefs Conference honored her with a humanitarian award.

A shareholder of Doyon Ltd. and her village corporation, Mrs. Woods is survived by five children.

JANICE "JAN" KOSLOSKY, 82, a businesswoman and former state legislator, died Dec. 12 in Palmer. Oklahoma-born, he graduated from high school in Anchorage and attended the University of Washington. He spent four terms as a state senator, became Palmer's first elected borough chairman and worked for 50 years in the mercantile business in Anchorage and Palmer. His wife, Isabelle, survives.

Beverly, he moved to Anchorage in the 1960s to run the municipal greenhouse. The couple started their own nursery in 1969. Leiser wrote two books on Alaska gardening and worked on many city beautification projects. He leaves his wife.

GEORGE BRINKWORTH MCNAB JR., 72, a lawyer and former state legislator, died Jan. 10 in Anchorage. An Army veteran, he practiced law in Fairbanks for many years and served in Alaska's territorial House of Representatives from 1955-1959 and in the state Senate from 1959-1963. Survivors include his wife, Suzanne.

MANN LEISER, 70, a pioneer Anchorage gardener, died Jan. 8 in Anchorage. Born in Washington, he came to Alaska in the 1950s and worked in a Palmer greenhouse. With his wife,

TESSIE SCROGGS, 63, a Homer stevedore and truck driver, died Jan. 4 in Homer. Born in Washington state, she moved to Homer with her mother in 1944. She worked in a cannery, drove a taxi, hauled water, waited on tables, clerked, became one of the city's first women stevedores and drove trucks for her husband, who ran a garbage pickup service and the town's water supply service. Four children survive.

ERNIE STOLEN, 79, an Interior athlete and boxing promoter, died Dec. 10 in California. Born in Washington state, he came to Fairbanks in 1935 and worked for mining companies. In 1936 he boxed a Golden Gloves champion to a draw and went on to amass a 26-2-2 fight record. In 1940 he quit the ring to promote fights around Alaska. He also sold life insurance and encyclopedias. In later years, he ran Seward's Mount Marathon race nine times, finished several marathons and won many national masters track and field events. His wife, Deloise, survives.

CHARLES E. "AL" STOUT, 81, a miner, trapper and heavy-duty mechanic, died Nov. 11 in Arizona. Born in Nebraska, he came North in 1928, living in the Yukon Territory and near Eagle, Alaska, and working as a miner near Fortymile, Sixtymile, Kobuk and Bear Creek. In 1968, he started his own mining operation in the Eagle district and built a home on the banks of the Yukon River. Survivors include his wife, Roberta.

PAUL G. SWANSON, 79, a surveyor, postmaster and longtime Chugiak homesteader, died Jan. 11 in Anchorage. Born in Iowa, he came to Alaska in 1940 and worked as a surveyor for the Post Engineers. Later he worked for the U.S. Postal Service, serving as Chugiak's postmaster for more than two decades. He also homesteaded in the Chugiak area. His wife, Margaret, survives.

RUTH LARSON WILLITS, 76, member of an early Anchorage family, died Jan. 11 in Anchorage. Born in Illinois, she first came to Alaska in 1936 through Alaska's Inside Passage, repeating the trip in 1940. She moved to Anchorage permanently in 1947 and worked as a bookkeeper for Anchorage Lumber Co. Members of her family, Anchorage residents since 1915, helped build Club 25, formerly a popular restaurant and now a local landmark. A daughter survives.

Notices in this column, because of space, are limited to names of those who have achieved pioneer status through many years in the North, or who have made significant contributions to the state.