

# Kodiak Mirror

Reflecting the News of Alaska's Most Historic Island

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## Rat Population Increases In Kodiak

By Richard Pace  
City Sanitarian

It is becoming more evident in recent months that the rat population of Kodiak and its environs is on the increase. Some of this no doubt, is due to the cold weather and snow which force the rodents to seek warm shelter and food and thus become more evident. However, the fact remains that in spite of the efforts of City Officials the rat population is on the increase.

How can we, the public, help eliminate this problem? It is a proven biological fact that in spite of poisoning and trapping, rats will continue to multiply. The only effective means of eliminating the pest is to destroy its home and take away its food supply. Only after we have accomplished this can we hope to achieve lasting control of this obnoxious nuisance.

Rats in populated areas depend entirely on mankind for existence. They live in old lumber piles, refuse and stacks of debris which are allowed to accumulate, and in short, in any place where material is available for cover and nesting. They depend on man's discards

from the kitchen table for their food. Eliminate either or both of this part of a rat's environment and you have the first step of an effective control program in operation. Then trapping and poisoning techniques may be applied which will eliminate the rat once and for all.

Proper storage of home garbage is the home owners responsibility. Garbage cans must be kept covered at all times, and the garbage storage area must be kept clean and sanitary. Garbage can racks should be built to keep the cans from being blown around by the wind or tipped over by dogs. Various devices are on sale locally which will keep the lid on the can and ensure that the lid and the can do not become separated. Lumber should be stacked in neat piles and all refuse piles hauled away to the dump.

If there are no improvements in home garbage practices the rat population will continue to increase. If allowed to reach the population density present in 1955 it is quite possible we could have an outbreak of leptospirosis in the Kodiak area.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

There seems to be some confusion in the minds of a few taxpayers as to the city's new tax structure. I will try, in my humble way, to explain what has gone on and why.

First, it must be remembered that your councilmen, property owners and taxpayers all, are as much concerned about taxation as anyone else. Fair and equitable taxation concerns us all.

For twenty years now, or since the city was incorporated in 1940, many individuals have been hired as tax assessors, not always for their ability, but as someone to do the job. Many of these assessors had little or no knowledge of property values and therefore the value of the property was often guessed work and not just. Some taxpayers were paying more taxes than they should have, others not paying their share but deriving the same benefits as those who did.

This method of taxation was entirely wrong. The council decided to do something about it so hired a professional assessor from Anchorage to evaluate the various properties in Kodiak on a professional and honest basis. This man is of the highest integrity, having done similar work in Anchorage, Seward, and numerous other cities, earning himself a reputation as a fair and just appraiser.

Many things, not immediately apparent to some, must be taken into consideration in placing a

fair valuation on property. Some of them are: location of the property, access to roads, view, type of material, adjacent to sewer and water, closeness to transportation, etc.

An increase in the assessed valuation does not necessarily mean you will pay more taxes. The city operates on a budget. It takes just so much money to operate the City for one year, namely, fire protection, police protection, maintenance of streets and utilities, clerical help, etc.

Each year a budget is made up anticipating the amount of money needed for each department. The budget is carefully checked and rechecked to insure the utmost for each dollar that is spent.

In the past, property values have been assessed at twenty mills, (Legal limit is thirty mills). If the assessed valuation shows an increase, the millage assessed can be decreased and still supply enough funds to operate the city efficiently. It should be noted that a major portion of our city taxes go to the support of our schools; in 1959 of the 20 mill levy, 9.1 mills, or almost half was paid to the Kodiak Independent School District.

Rich man, poor man, beggar we will all be taxed on an equitable basis, paying our just taxes, no man, thief, it makes no difference, more, no less. This, I believe is the fair and equitable way of taxation in a democracy such as ours.

Sincerely,  
BILL WORTH

## City To Appeal

The City of Kodiak will file an appeal of the judgement handed

down by Judge J. L. McCarrey, District judge, which was entered January 25, in the case of the Russian Orthodox Church vs. City of Kodiak.

## Food Prices Down In 1959

The family food shopper in nine Alaska cities paid on the average 56 cents less for 40 items in December, 1959, than in December, 1958.

Cities showing the greatest declines were Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer, Petersburg, Juneau, Seward, Kodiak and Ketchikan. The announcement comes from the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, which makes regular price surveys.

For the quarter ending in December, 1959, a survey showed declines for most Alaska cities, except for seasonal increases in Kodiak, Fairbanks and Nome. Foods with the greatest September-December drop in Alaska cities were bacon, 6 cents; shortening, 4 cents; chicken, 3 cents; apples, 3 cents; canned peaches, 3 cents. Pork chops, salad dressing, fresh oranges, eggs, carrots, canned and frozen orange juice, flour and fruit cocktail all dropped 1 to 2 cents apiece. There were increases in tomatoes, 13 cents; lettuce, 6 cents; chuck roast, 3 cents; sugar, 2 cents; and butter, 1 cent.

Here are the price figures for the 40 item "market basket," with the order being Dec. 1959, Sept. 1959, Dec. 1958: Seattle, \$16.74, \$16.80, \$16.91; Ketchikan, \$19.44, \$19.53, \$19.57; Petersburg, \$20.42, \$20.82, \$20.98; Juneau, \$20.34, \$20.66, \$20.89; Kodiak, \$21.97, \$21.68, \$22.17; Seward, \$21.87, \$21.97, \$22.39; Anchorage, \$21.86, \$22.34, \$23.29; Palmer, \$22.10, \$22.10, \$22.29, 22.87; Fairbanks, \$24.68, \$24.63, \$25.64; Nome \$28.15, \$27.32, \$28.09

The forty items covered in the retail price survey are: flour, rolled oats, corn flakes, bread, round steak, chuck roast, ground beef, luncheon meat, pork chops, frying chicken, milk, ice cream, butter, evaporated milk, eggs, strawberries, frozen orange juice, apples, bananas, oranges, potatoes, onions, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, fruit cocktail, canned orange juice, peas, tomato soup, pork and beans, jello, baby food coffee, shortening, jello, baby food, coffee, shortening, a copy of the latest food price survey, write the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, Box B, College, or visit your local extension office.

## Cub Scouts Have Lively Evening

The Cub Scouts of Kodiak Pack 213 blasted off to a lively evening, complete with flying rocket ship last Friday, January 29, in the Highschool Gymnasium. Annual inspection was conducted by Mr. Erwin Wheeler with Mr. Allan Byrd, Ned Farber, Dr. Robert Parker, Cubmaster Richard Lochmiller and Scoutmaster Lowell Jones assisting.

Bobcat awards were presented to Freddy Leonard and Robert Breckberg. The next event on the evening's program was the judging and awarding of first and second prizes for the two most original and best made space helmets by the Cubs.

Judges for the contest were Mr. O. Foreman, Ivor Schott and LaVerne Chase. First prize was awarded to Joe Hester and second prize went to Ralph Longmire. Cubs of Den 3 then presented a skit, "Voyage into Space", which ended in the surprising locale of Australia. A second skit was presented by the Cubs of Den 6. "Rocket to the Moon" was the title of this skit and employed the use of a rocket ship which actually "flew" the length of the stage with great clatterings and bumpings.

Cubmaster Lochmiller closed the

evening with an invitation to all Cubs and their parents to attend the annual Blue and Gold banquet to be held February 25th at the Highschool cafeteria.

## Bowling

### Emblem Club

	W	L
Mecca 49 Room	49½	22½
Orpheum Flickers	42	30
King Crabs	41	31
Kraft's Super Mkt.	40½	31½
Mecca Cab	38	34
Breakers S. Shots	38	34
City Mkt.	34	38
Knudsen's	31½	40½
Ship's Tavern	30	42
Chiniak Chicks	29½	42½
Naughton's	29	43
Breakers Liquor	29	43

Hi single game scratch V. Panchot 205; hi single game hdep V. Panchot 228, R. Andrews 228; hi series, scratch & hdep S. Ramaglia 531-612; hi team game scratch & hdep King Crabs 755-936; hi team series, scratch Mecca 49 Room 2186; hi team series, hdep Mecca Cab 2681.

### Mixed Doubles

	W	L
No-Chots	54	26
Rock-N-Bollers	49½	30½
Seagram 7s	44	36
Sinpetters	42	38
B. B. Shots	41	39
McLinn-Snyder	41	39
Huer-Andersen	40	40
Gutter Snipes	37	43
Dickow-Richardson	35	45
Unger-Veerman	34	46
Din-Heads	32	48
Sorum & Co.	30½	49½

Hi single game women, N. Nelson 180, A. Huer 180; men E. Lester 227; hi single game hdep women, A. Huer 219; men, Ole Johnson 231; hi series scratch & hdep women, N. Nelson 510-612; men, E. Lester 643-643; hi team gm, scratch Seagram 7s 689; hi team game hdep, McLinn-Snyder 820; hi team series, scratch Seagram 7s 1951; hi team series, hdep, McLinn-Snyder 2391.

### Commercial

	W	L
Mecca	57	31
B & B	52½	31½
Schlitz	54	34
Breakers	52	36
Kodiak Telephone	45	43
Town Club	42	46
Heidelberg	39	45
National Guard	38	46
Chase & Copsey	39	49
Sportland	37½	50½
Loran Station	32	52

### Elks League

Honest Johns	57	23
Penny Pinchers	49	27
Lecturing Knights	49	35
Roosters	45½	34½
Antlers	46	38
Paul Bunyons	43½	40½
Pin Toppers	43	41
Bilko Specials	38½	41½
Esquires	28	48
Fiddlers	30½	53½
Clubbers	27	53
Heav-A-Heads	17	39

Hi series scratch Lester 592; hi game scratch Bible 235; hi series w/hdep Dawson 666; hi game w/hdep Dawson 236.

### Basketball Action For This Week

Only two games were played this week.

PNA firmly entrenched themselves in second place with a 67-47 victory over the last place school independents. Leading PNA was Jerling with 29 points and Skinner with 25. High for the independents was Starbird with 16.

The second game of the evening found American Legion moving into third place by trouncing Krafts easily 71-35. Cloudy with 27 points led the Legionaires while Hartman was high for Krafts with 17.

### Action Next Week

Monday and Friday only will be devoted to town league basketball, with American Legion meeting with NAVCOMSTA on Monday at 6:30 while FASRON tangles with Supply at 8:15.

Friday night finds the first place Bears clashing with fourth place Krafts at 8:15 while the JV's meet the American Legion 2nd team at 6:30.

### Standing Town League

1. Kodiak Bears	7	2
2. PNA	7	4
3. Amer. Legion	6	4
4. Krafts	5	5
5. Supply	4	5
6. Fasron	3	3
7. NAVCOMSTA	2	2
8. H.S. Independents	1	11

Do you need money? Sell that unwanted item through the pages of the Kodiak Mirror.

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