

The Seward Gateway

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SEWARD, ALASKA, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1916.

With fine summer weather here again the old thought comes back of the many opportunities the people of Seward have for pleasant pastimes. Very few towns in this world are as beautifully situated. Resurrection Bay ought to be enough to tempt every man, woman and child out on it half the time. Seward, perhaps, needs nothing for pastime giving more than a boat house. The rod and gun club ought to be a really great aid in getting people together, and, what is better still, getting them out in the wood together. Tennis and baseball players and outing clubs should receive full support. Never mind worrying all the time.

It will be rather an irony of fate if Seward sometimes from now on has to depend on the Anchorage wireless to get news from outside. The wireless station is certainly about to be established at that place and we shall still have the same old "reliable" cable. Some day a miracle might occur and cause communication by that cable to be interrupted. Seward will then probably get its messages via the Sitka-Cordova-Anchorage route. What terrible crime has Seward been guilty of?

The news of the loss of Tom Campbell and John Larsen is very sad. Mr. Campbell was very well and favorably known here. Mr. Larsen was not so well known, but as they started from Seward the Gateway wishes to let their relatives know that Seward mourns the terrible occurrence.

Full and Vivid Story of The Barren Island Tragedy

(Continued From Page 1.)

Two dogs with them in the skiff, Tip and Top, one swam ashore, and when Hansen finally got ashore he attempted to warm himself by clinging to the dog. While these men were struggling for their lives and with so little success in the case of Larsen and Campbell, Mr. Mitchell aboard the boat, attached to a line to them so that he might pull them to the boat, but the barrel was carried to one side and they were unable to reach it. Mitchell then tried to start the engine but it balked, and the anchors were so securely fastened at the bottom that he was unable to lift them, but when he at last saw Hansen and the dog on the beach trying to get warm by running he tried another way of reaching him, and saving him from death by freezing. He enclosed some matches and a jack knife in some paper and after blowing a fog horn to attract Hansen's attention, threw it overboard, but Hansen was unable to follow this with his imperfect eyesight. At last Mitchell put some matches and sent it ashore. He directed Hansen to it by firing shots in the direction in which the Matches were drifting. Hansen was so blinded by the cold and frost that he could not discern the conveyor, and when Mitchell realized that his efforts to get matches to him were fruitless he once more attempted to start the engine, this time with more success; the anchors were severed from the

boat, and he headed for what seemed a beach without boulders, but soon found himself and boat on top of the rocks and the engine "dead." From here he was able to get matches to Hansen, and the nearly frozen man built a fire, and once more took a new grasp upon life. After getting some of the chill out of his system Hansen was able to get aboard the launch, and the two men thinking that the tide was still running out awaited the time when it would be easier for them to salvage supplies, but the tide was at ebb, and, too late, they discovered that they would not be able to get ashore without encountering further danger so started to place on the top of the pilot house, food stuffs that they thought they might be able to get ashore eventually. With the incoming tide, the wind increased, and the men who had taken refuge on the top of the pilot house with the grub could hear the waves crashing the structure beneath them. At eleven that night, eight or nine hours after the over turning of the skiff, they were able to wade ashore, and got another fire started, and the tedious process of drying out was started. Hansen's feet and hands both seemed frost bitten, but at the time little attention was given them, and with the break of day, they commenced to salve what ever drifted ashore.

On March fifteen, one of the tents came ashore, and a better shelter was arranged. By this time Hansen was so badly crippled by his frozen feet that he could not get about, and Mitchell beach combed for supplies throughout the day. The next day Larsen's body was washed ashore, and was placed above high water mark by Mitchell, at least so he thought.

On March 18th, the remains of Campbell came ashore and had been badly mutilated by the elements. Mitchell attempted to cover both bodies, but they were heavy men and with the added weight of water and their frozen clothing, he was unable to do very much toward placing them in a permanent resting place. Mr. Hansen was confined to his shelter so did not view either remains or know if their bodies were permanently buried under the sand. Mitchell thinks it likely that they are still there.

move about they rowed to the other side of the island, believing that they might be able to signal some passing ship, but after two weeks returned to the scant shelter of their former camping place. While on the east side of the island they tried to signal to a tug that passed, but were unable to attract its attention. The tug was towing a full rigged ship. This ship was sighted on April 28.

During this time they had but little to eat, the supplies that were gathered the first few days being saturated with water, and of very little use. A few cans of milk came ashore and also fruit and flour. The latter was used and to this meager supply they added the only food stuff that the Barren islands can boast of, mussels. Both men declare that the islands are rightly named and that they are now more barren than before their arrival there, as they wore out their finger nails scraping the mussels off the rocks. For eight miles along the beach the mussels have been gathered and devoured by these men in their starving condition.

On May 4th Mitchell tried to get away from the islands in order to bring help for Hansen, but the ferocity of the wind compelled him to return to shore, and in so doing the skiff was badly smashed. It was mended eventually with the aid of the few tools that had drifted ashore.

On the eighth of May they left the rocky cove in which they were wrecked fifty-eight days before. The trip to Dog Fish Bay from the Barren islands was made under favorable conditions. Both wind and tide with them, and six hours travel brought them to the almost deserted summer camp of the Natives at Dog Fish bay. There was one Native there, and he gladly gave them of what he had, and their hunger was lessened to some extent. Some salt salmon was found in one of the cabins, and relished by both men. Hansen's feet were still in such wretched condition, that he was unable to attempt the walk to Port Graham. Mr. Mitchell walked to the cannery at Port Graham, and a by-darkey was immediately dispatched with foodstuffs, and returned some time later bringing Hansen with them. Jack Tansy brought them to Seldovia, where the two men told their experiences to Mr. Cameron, the U. S. deputy marshal who has been recently stationed here.

Some may remember Tom Campbell as a member of Breck's survey party, when working out of Anchorage last year. He came from Bremerton, and has property there.

Larsen was at one time the owner of the Christiana Bar in Seattle, and was known in Tacoma.

for a number of years in southeastern Alaska.

Mr. Mitchell came to Alaska from California about a year ago. His original home was in Maine. During the entire trip a diary was kept by Mr. Mitchell, and the writer found it very interesting reading.

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