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October 26

ss. Chilcotin

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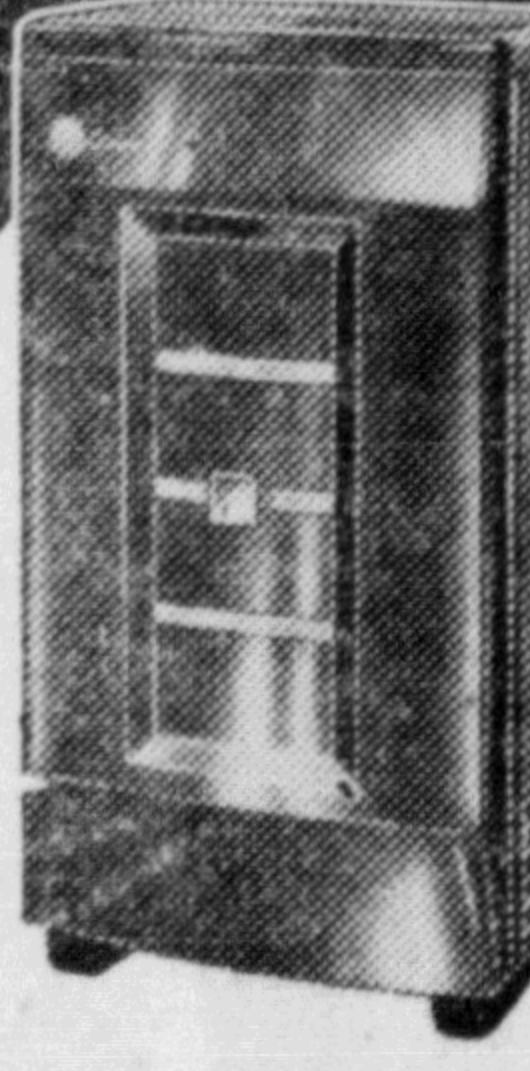
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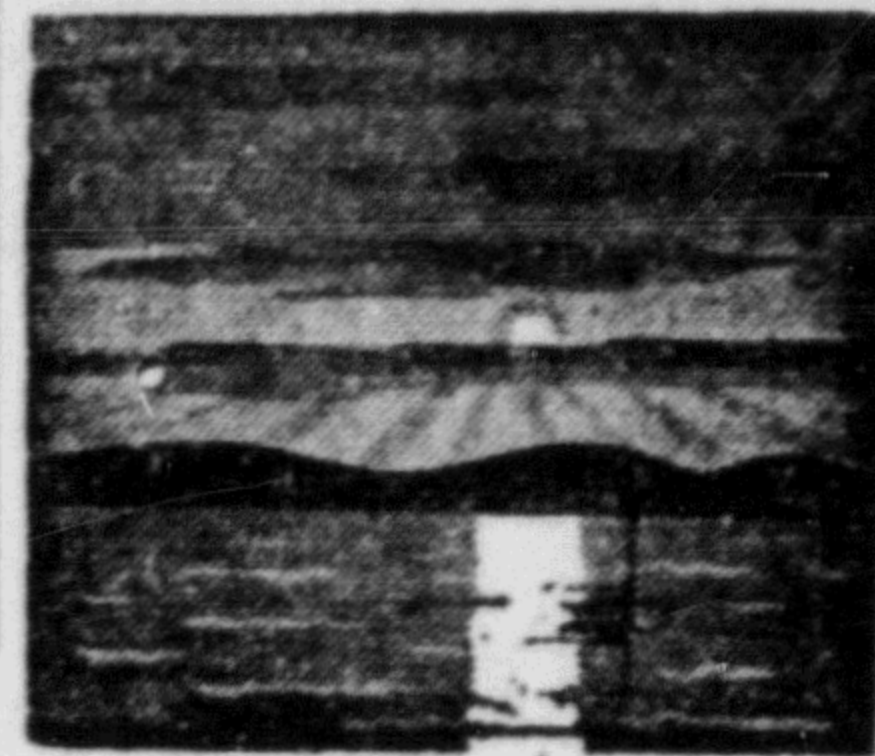
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**Alaskan Indians Learn Marine
Jobs at Sea**

An unusual type of vessel nosed its way into
Prince Rupert harbor yesterday to seek shelter from
storm-lashed seas and to lay on a storage of fresh
water. A United States government freighter, the
USS Mount Edgecumbe is a floating school and its
captain and crew of 22 are Indians—natives of
Alaska.

And this is only a small part
of the Alaska Interior Department
training scheme for the
natives. Capt. Benjamin See
explained that the Mount Edge-
cumbe, making her 55th round
trip from Seattle, sailed from a
school on the Baranoff Islands
where a perpetual 700 young
natives are in training.

The school is called Mount
Edgecumbe.
Five years ago, the U.S. Bu-
reau of Indian Affairs appropri-
ated funds for the Depart-
ment of the Interior to embark
on the "training at sea" scheme.

Today, 200 Alaskan natives
have spent their nine-week
training period on the former
U.S. Army freighter and two-
thirds of that number have gone
to sea.

"I hear from some of them
quite regularly, from all differ-
ent parts of the world," said
Capt. See.

"These training cruises are
very popular with the boys and
there's a standing waiting list
of around 100 young men from
16 to 18 years of age."

When their "at sea" training
period is over, which follows
after a considerable period of
training in marine diesel engi-
neering at the shore school, the
apprentices are given govern-
ment exams and emerge as
qualified seamen.

"We make sure they're going
to pass before they write. No
one has failed the exams yet,"
the clean-cut, brown-skinned
captain beamed.
"And the boys are sure of get-
ting a job when they have fin-
ished their training."

The same applies to the hun-
dreds of natives who go through
the large island school, 190 miles
north and west of Ketchikan.

"About the only thing they
don't teach there is radio, and
that's coming pretty soon, too."
Girls and young women, as well
as men, are taught at Mount
Edgecumbe, not only how to do
things with their hands, but the
American way of life.

"And that is the greatest thing
that has ever happened to us,"
declared the captain, who is
"proud to be an American."
This is the one way, he feels,
that has made them feel equal
to their white-skinned brothers.

For example, there is no doubt,
he says, that when a native girl
finishes her course in secretarial
work that she will find a good
job, if she is efficient. Many of
them are employed in Alaska as
well as in U.S. government de-
partments throughout the States
and by commercial firms.

This training is open to all
natives of Alaska and the Aleu-
tians and brings together the
northern Indian, the Eskimo and
the Aleut to work with other
Americans.

Some of the things students
learn at the school—which is
recognized as one of the best in
the States—are marine diesel
engineering, galley cooking,
shipbuilding and other carpentry,
electrical trades, and home
economics, bookkeeping and
stenography for the girls.

Many students are also sent
to American universities and
colleges, and a lot of those come
back to teach at Mount Edge-
cumbe. In fact, all teachers and
administration staff, but the

principal and the superintendent,
are Indians.

In recreation, Mount Edge-
cumbe students excel in basket-
ball, and this year hope to
have the opportunity to play
a Prince Rupert team, says
Capt. See. Last year, the Is-
land team won and lost a
game with each of Juneau's
and Ketchikan's senior all-star
teams.

Talking about radio, Capt. See
recalled a startling story. A 16-
year-old victim of infantile par-
alysis, hospitalized at the ortho-
pedic hospital there two years
ago, took a radio course by cor-
respondence. A transmitter sta-
tion was built for him which he
operated for the government
from his bedside, having obtain-
ed his certificate. Today he
operates the Sitka broadcasting
station.

The USS Mount Edgecumbe is
no stranger here. A former U.S.
Army freighter and troopship,
she plied the seas steadily from
Alaskan ports to the Aleutian
Islands during the Japanese en-
counter in the Second World
War.

For a time the 200-ton freight-
er, then named FS46, was sta-
tioned in Prince Rupert under
U.S. Army command.

The vessel is equipped with
staterooms to carry 10 passen-
gers, besides the crew. On her
trips from the Baranoff Islands
to Seattle she carries freight
cargoes for other government
services so that each voyage is
still a job to go, and not just a
pleasure cruise.

Capt. See has served the U.S.
government since 1938.

"I like it. I'm doing a job and
according to all reports I'm do-
ing it alright. I've got my ticket
—that's all they've asked of me.
They haven't asked me to
change the color of my skin."

Five others complete the per-
manent staff of the crew. They
are: Mate Jack Huff, Bot's'n
Jake Lestinekof, Cook Robert
Wolf, Chief Engineer Charles
Clark and Assistant Engineer
Robert Burns.

Mount Edgecumbe today is on
her way to Ketchikan, and then
home.

Union steamship Chilcotin,
Capt. James Hunter, arrived in
port Friday afternoon at 2
o'clock from Vancouver with
full cargo but a light passenger
list. The following disembarked
here: James Spence, P. Ryan,
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sampson,
Mr. and Mrs. A. McDowell, G.
E. Moore, Elizabeth Shaw, Mrs.
E. Spencer. The Chilcotin sailed
at 9 p.m. for south Queen
Charlotte Island points and will be
back here tomorrow afternoon
to sail south at 8 p.m.

After spending a few days
inspecting various local fishery
plants, A. W. Lantz of the engi-
neering division of the Fisheries
Research Board of Canada left
yesterday afternoon's plane
on his return to Vancouver.

Pleanty of today's wage-ear-
ners cannot but admit that back
in the melancholy thirties they
could not find a job for love,
money or threats—and some
lived in Prince Rupert. Many
were with families and how to
clothe and feed them was a



THIS UNFORTUNATE fire ended in the loss of Archie Cameron's
gillnetter last Monday and sent Roger Powell to hospital with
serious burns. The boat exploded when Powell entered the cabin
that night. Before firemen arrived, the burning vessel was cut
from its mooring among other vessels tied at Cow Bay floats.
Pat Wilson towed in the gillnetter back to the floats so firemen
could douse the flames.

problem that helped multiply
grey hairs. It is no overstate-
ment to say practically every-
body suffered from financial
disability. One had to exist. And
if there was one thing more
than another, in the practical
realization of this, it was fish
and the generosity of the hardy
men who brought the shiploads
in. For there were hundreds of
families who, if not dangerously
close to indigence, felt the ne-
cessity of making every possible
copper go uncommonly far. And
it was to these friends and
neighbors that an occasional
fresh halibut, salmon or cod
would be gladly received.

The first deep sea merchant
vessel ever built at Prince Rup-
ert was named the Canadian
Scottish. She was constructed
and launched at the dry dock
yards and gave good satisfaction
although her lifetime was brief.
The Canadian Scottish foundered
in a wild storm off the Scan-
dinavian coast.

acknowledged that dulse is prac-
tically unknown here. A taste
for it is easily acquired. The
weed is supposed to be good for
one. Dulse grows on sea-washed
rocks convenient to shore—long,
rubbery looking leafage, dark
brown, shiny and dripping. To
pack a bag or basket full takes
little time, while it's always just
as well to keep an eye out yon-
der and not be trapped by the
tide.

The next step is to scatter
what you have plucked from the
ocean over a field, with the
warmer sun, the better.
Treated this way, dulse becomes
just as dry as it had been wet.
It takes on, if not a curly shape,
certain twists and curves, vein-
ed here and there with the fine
whiteness of sea salt, and in-
cidentally ready for chewing.

Concerning the naming of
British Columbia ports, Alberni
has a lot of history behind it
which is more than some others
can say. This is a Spanish name.
It was bestowed in 1791 by Lieut.
Francisco Eliza after Don Pedro
Alberni, captain in command of
the soldiers who were sent by
the viceroy of Mexico in 1789
to re-occupy the British Colum-
bia coast, after Martinez had
returned to California.

STOLE SIX PRISONERS
QUEENSTOWN, South Africa
—Two white farmers and an
African laborer have been com-
mitted for trial on charges of
stealing six children. It was al-
leged they took the youngsters
without knowledge of the par-
ents and set them to work on
farms 1,000 miles away.

Research ships are back, after
long and diligent effort to dis-
cover what had become of the
tuna schools. And all they can
report is flat failure. The ves-
sels cruised for weeks between
the Queen Charlotte Islands and
the California-Oregon border.
In this area, there had been
millions of albamore tuna. Then
they vanished just as quickly as
they had come. Apparently,
there is nothing studied, gradu-
al or deliberate about tuna.

To call dulse seaweed may
possibly be incorrect. Anyway,
it's often done. Dulse is sold in
various parts of Canada, chiefly
along the coasts and, while
Prince Rupert is surely a mari-
time community, it must be

SPORTS

**Still Room For
Basketballers**

There is still room for more
basketball players, says Civic
Centre Sports Director Fred
Caldroni, who is specially inter-
ested in forming another junior
team.

"We'll get the sponsors if we
have the players," he says. There
may be junior boys, he feels, that
have not played before, or were
not picked for a team. All those
interested should contact Fred at
the Civic Centre soon as possible.

Meanwhile, basketball opens
tonight with the exhibition game
between High School Rainmak-
ers and Gordon & Anderson. The
game is free to spectators and is
played to determine the strength
of the new-Rainmakers' lineup.

On Tuesday, the new 300-
(CCC) team will face the Elks,
in a similar bout. The Elks team
is composed of last year's senior
players here, but most of the
men are new.

The sports director is a little
disappointed in the virility of
Prince Rupert men. A men's
gymnastic class was formed for
Tuesday nights at the Civic
Centre, but this week there was
only one in attendance.

"If we don't get any more than
one or two at these classes, it's
just going to fold up." But to
counter this, Fred has another
suggestion. Invitation is open to
all members to make appoint-
ments for any night on which a
group might want to play hand-
ball, volleyball, or even badmin-
ton in the small gym.

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