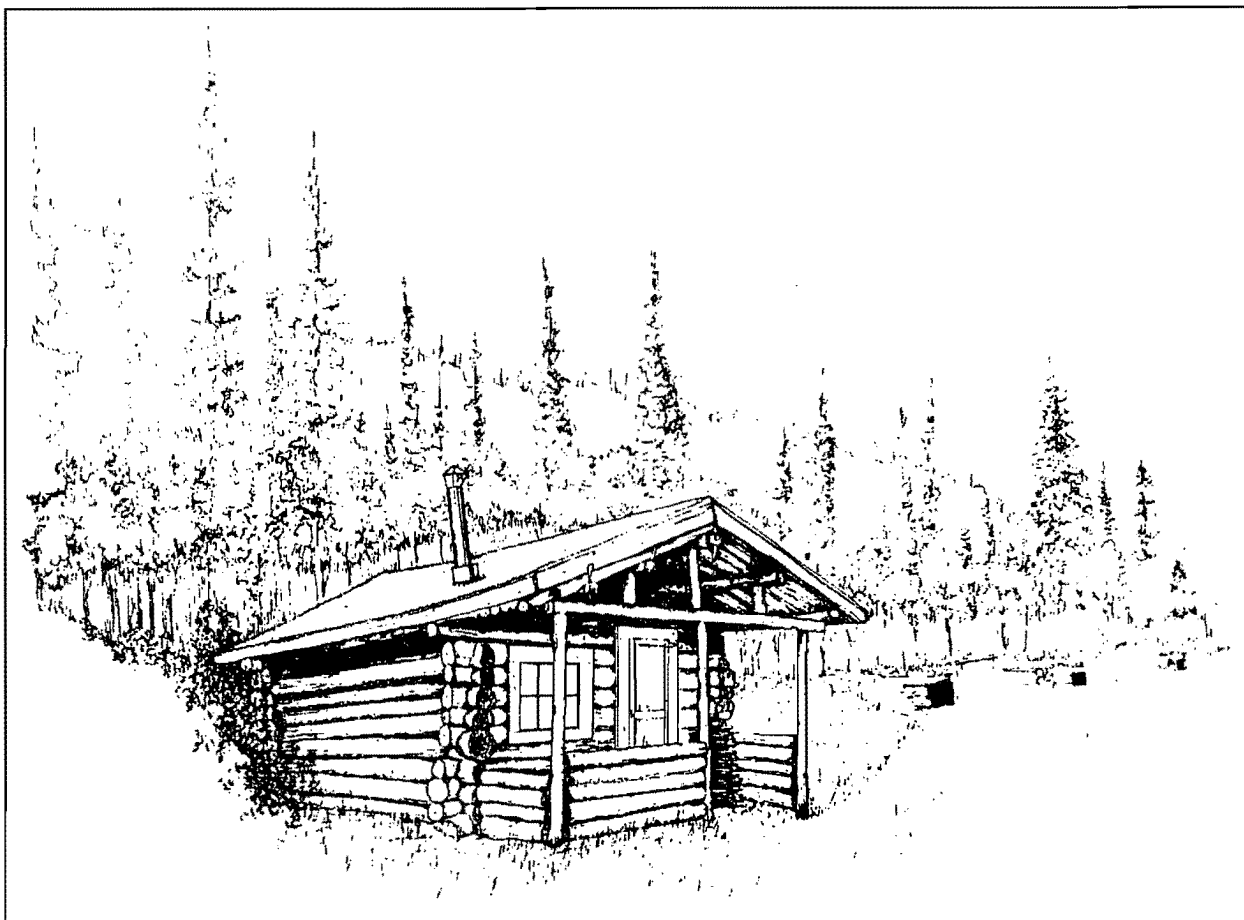




Historic Furnishings Report

PEARSON CABIN

DENALI
National Park and Preserve/Alaska

HISTORIC FURNISHINGS REPORT

PEARSON CABIN

Denali National Park and Preserve
McKinley Park, Alaska

by

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National Park Service
1995

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October 24, 1994

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	iv
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA	1
INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES AND OPERATING PLAN	1
PRIOR PLANNING DOCUMENTS	2
HISTORICAL DATA	3
ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC OCCUPANCY	3
Patrol Cabins in Mount McKinley National Park	3
Road Cabins of the Alaska Road Commission (the A.R.C.)	6
Construction and Alterations of the Upper Toklat Ranger Cabin (<i>Pearson Cabin</i>)	7
How the Upper Toklat Ranger Cabin Was Used	11
Grant H. Pearson	13
Furnishings in the Upper Toklat Ranger Cabin	15
Furnishings and Supplies in Other Cabins	19
FURNISHING PLAN	25
RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS and WORKING DRAWING	25
ILLUSTRATIONS	35
APPENDIX	58
BIBLIOGRAPHY	101

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Ranger Grant Pearson on patrol at McCleod Creek in 1927
2. Ranger patrol along Riley Creek
3. Upper Toklat cabin, August 1952
4. Upper Toklat ranger cabin complex, 1969
5. Upper Toklat cabin, ca.1976, with site interpreter Steve Carwile standing in the doorway
6. Floor plan, Upper Toklat cabin, 1952
7. Floor plan, Upper Toklat cabin, 1969
8. Floor plan, "Pearson Cabin," 1984.
9. Inside Upper Toklat cabin, southeast corner, 1969 photograph
10. Inside Upper Toklat cabin; southwest corner, 1969 photograph
11. Snowshoes used by Grant Pearson

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Created by the Mount McKinley National Park Act of 1917, enlarged in 1922 and 1932, greatly enlarged again in 1980 and renamed, today's Denali National Park and Preserve embraces over six million acres of spruce forest, tundra, and the towering peaks of the Alaska Range, with Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America, at its heart. Still penetrated by a single, mainly unpaved road which winds through the northern part of the park for some 90 miles from the park entrance to Wonder Lake, Denali preserves much of its wilderness flavor for the over 200,000 visitors who travel by bus out to Eielson Visitor Center and Wonder Lake. Although summer visitors have a better chance of seeing grizzlies and caribou along the way than of seeing elusive Mt. McKinley itself, weather conditions make fall, winter, and spring visitation difficult, at times even impossible.

While Nature at its grandest and rawest is Denali's main attraction, there is growing interest in the park's human history. Among the few readily visible relics of that history are the log structures at park headquarters and the five or six log cabins visitors may or may not notice as they ride or walk along the park road between headquarters and Wonder Lake. All of these structures date back to the early years of Mount McKinley National Park, when they were built to provide year-round shelter for park rangers and road crews. They are still in use today, in summer to house seasonal employees or wildlife researchers, in winter as shelters for rangers on dog sled patrols. At present, these early structures are on the National Register of Historic Places and the headquarters area has been designated a Historic District, but none is actively interpreted to the public as a historic site.

INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES AND OPERATING PLAN

The 1990 *Interpretive Prospectus* for Denali National Park and Preserve calls for creating an interpretive site at the Pearson Cabin, located near the park road a short distance west of the Toklat River and originally known as the Upper Toklat Relief Cabin. The intent is "to interpret the lifestyle of early Denali rangers" through the patrol cabin itself (with its restored furnishings, cache, and dog houses), a site bulletin, and a wayside exhibit.

To accomplish this purpose, summer visitors will be encouraged to visit the site on their way to or from the Eielson Visitor Center. After leaving the road they will walk up the short path to the cabin complex, view the cache and dog houses, and look inside the cabin which will be furnished to reflect its appearance before World War II when it was regularly used as a patrol cabin by Grant Pearson and other park rangers.

Owing to its small size, the cabin interior can be viewed only from the outside, either through the two windows or through the door which should be open only when there is an interpreter present to provide some measure of protection against theft or vandalism. Perishable (edible) furnishings, particularly textiles, leather, and paper articles, will have to be removed to storage during the off season to avoid damage from rodents and insects.

PRIOR PLANNING DOCUMENTS

IDLCS: 01073. Structure number 004. Management category B, should be preserved and maintained. Entered on the National Register on November 25, 1986.

Historic Structures Report, Part I, Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex, Building Number 4 and Supporting Structures...Mount McKinley National Park, prepared by A. Lewis Koue and Robert V. Simmonds. Western Service Center, National Park Service. 1970.

Historic Structure Report, Pearson Cabin, Toklat River, Denali National Park and Preserve, prepared by David Evans. Denver Service Center, National Park Service. 1984.

Interpretive Prospectus, Denali National Park and Preserve, prepared by Division of Interpretive Planning, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service. 1985. (See updated *Interpretive Prospectus*, 1990.)

General Management Plan, Land Protection Plan, Wilderness Suitability Review, Denali National Park and Preserve. Denver Service Center, National Park Service. 1986.

"Wayside Exhibit Plan, Denali National Park," prepared by Richard B. Hoffman. Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service. 1988.

Interpretive Prospectus, A Plan for the Interpretation of Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska, 1990, prepared by Division of Interpretive Planning, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service. 1990.

HISTORICAL DATA

ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC OCCUPANCY

Patrol Cabins in Mount McKinley National Park

In the early years of the park, winter trapping and poaching along the northern boundary were a serious problem, necessitating almost constant dog team and snowshoe patrolling by the three or four park rangers (see figure 2). Before 1938 they generally spent about four or five months (November-March) out on winter station duty, returning only occasionally to headquarters for mail and supplies. From about April to the latter part of November, the rangers lived in the bachelor rangers' quarters at headquarters, making shorter patrols into the park, working around headquarters, or taking their annual leave.

The shelters available to the first rangers were rather haphazard, including a few former trappers' log cabins, a few tent cabins equipped with stoves, and all too often nothing better than a "siwash camp," that is, camping out in the open. "It is not fair to the rangers to ask them to patrol in the cold weather and get wet in the overflows," pointed out Chief Ranger Nyberg in 1927, "and then have to spend the night out in the open under a spruce tree. Especially as they travel alone it is too dangerous to ask any man to do."¹

There are twelve trappers at least along the east boundary and seven white trappers and several natives trapping along the northern boundary between Healy and Toklat. There are five trappers between Toklat and Wonder Lake. There are at least four and probably more between Wonder Lake and the West end. Practically all of these trappers have dogs that are fed from caribou and sheep. With a ranger force of three and hardly any cabins along the boundary it is practically impossible to properly patrol this section. With present conditions the rangers are forced to make a hurried trip through, spending the nights beneath spruce trees. Along the 150 miles of boundary which is about two hundred miles the way we would have to travel, there are only four cabins. In cold or stormy weather it is too risky a proposition to send the rangers over this hard stretch with no cabins to stop in. The trappers are well acquainted with these conditions and make use of the knowledge.²

The park's first superintendent, Harry Karstens, knew as well as his chief ranger how bad conditions were for rangers on winter patrol and had already taken steps to better the situation. In February of 1926, he and Nyberg erected at Stony Creek "a small patrol cabin 10 x 12 feet in size...of typical Alaskan construction, having a pole roof, with moss and earth on top of the poles." On returning to headquarters,

¹ Chief Ranger Fritz Nyberg, quoted in National Park Service, *A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region, Alaska* by William E. Brown, (Santa Fe: NPS, 1991), p. 152.

² Ibid.

Karstens told his rangers they would have to build more of the same during the ensuing summer³.

The next patrol cabin to be built was on the McKinley Fork in the western section of the park. The Kantishna (at first called McKinley Bar) ranger cabin was built in August 1926 by one of Karstens' newest rangers, Grant H. Pearson, who later described its construction in some detail to give the readers of his autobiography a better idea of how it was done:

First you clear away the moss down to firm dirt, and level it off. The actual start of your cabin resembles a pen: Two logs are placed on the ground at the width you want (ten feet for me), exactly parallel to each other and notched at each end on the upper side. Two more logs are placed crossways in the notches, and they too get a notch on the end of the upper side. You just keep on doing this until your walls are high enough so you won't bump your head on the roof. Pack moss firmly into the chinks between the logs to make your home air-tight.

If you want a door, or windows, you do not, as in ordinary house construction, cut your timbers first to allow for the openings. When your log cabin walls are lintel height (about two logs below the eaves) you put wedges between the logs along the lines where the jambs will come, then simply saw out the holes.

The best Alaska cabins have a double roof, and that was the kind I was going to have. I piled moss on split spruce poles slanting down from the ridge pole, then put on four inches of topsoil. After that I whipsawed logs into boards and gave the entire top an overlapping board cover that would shed a cloudburst. Once warmed up, this kind of roof is not only watertight, it retains the cabin's warmth for many hours after the stove has gone out.

All this took me a total of sixteen days. I planned to finish off the cabin by whipsawing more lumber for a floor, bunks, shelves and furniture [but had to wait till he got back from delivering the miners' mail].⁴

Both Stony Creek and Kantishna ranger cabins were located out near the western end of the north boundary, where the park was vulnerable to poachers and trappers living just outside in the Kantishna mining district. During these early years, other patrol cabins were constructed along the northern and eastern boundaries at Ewe Creek (1924), Windy Creek (1924, 1931), Savage River (1925), McCleod Creek (1927/28), East Fork (1930), Toklat River and Moody Creek (1931), and Moose Creek

³ Grant H. Pearson, "The Seventy Mile Kid" (Los Altos, CA: the author, 1957), p. 10.

⁴ Grant H. Pearson, *My Life of High Adventure* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1962), p. 47.

(1935), places where poachers had relatively easy access to the forbidden hunting grounds.⁵

The slow construction of the 89-mile road into the heart of the park, carried out by the Alaska Road Commission between 1923 and 1938, prompted the building of several ranger cabins on or near the proposed route, mainly to facilitate movement of supplies into the park for distribution to patrol cabins and to provide convenient overnight stops about 20 miles apart for rangers and their dog teams heading into the interior.

It is especially important that there be enough cabins along the main trail through the park [the superintendent informed his Washington superiors] to enable the rangers to reach one in one days travel. The regular winter freighting [of supplies] is often delayed by weather that is unfit for even the dogs to spend the night in the open.⁶

Accordingly relief cabins, as they were sometimes called, were constructed at the main river crossings beyond the Savage and Sanctuary Rivers, where Alaska Road Commission cabins were available for winter use after 1924. At Igloo Creek they merely remodeled a cabin originally built by "California mountain men"; the roof they had put on it was so steep that the moss and dirt slid off with the snow. Rangers Nyberg and Pearson turned it into "a cabin the National Park Service doesn't have to be ashamed of" in the following manner:

We took the roof-poles off, cut the gable ends lower and put the poles back on a gentler slant, covering them with a fresh supply of moss and dirt. We chinked the walls with moss and carried coarse sand up from the creek bed to make a smooth cabin floor. We were by then so pleased with our handiwork that we built two double bunks, a table, several shelves and a cupboard.⁷

Twenty miles farther along, just past the Toklat River crossing, a cabin was constructed in 1927 by Ranger Pearson. Known originally as the Upper Toklat cabin, today as the "Pearson Cabin," it is discussed at greater length in the following section of this report.

The next shelter cabin, 16 miles to the west, was at the foot of Copper Mountain (known since 1931 as Mt. Eielson), almost 20 miles from the nearest source of timber. "Freighting the logs and poles for this cabin will take three men nearly a month," Superintendent Karstens noted in 1928; even firewood had to be hauled by dog team.

⁵ Dates of construction drawn from National Park Service, "A History of Mount McKinley National Park" by Grant H. Pearson, (Washington, DC: NPS, 1953), pp. 42-43; and from copies of the superintendent's monthly reports, 1926-1931, Denali National Park and Preserve library.

⁶ Superintendent Karstens' February 1929 monthly report to the Director of the National Park Service.

⁷ Pearson, *My Life of High Adventure*, p. 44. This cabin stands on the bank of Igloo Creek, out of sight from the road, at the end of a rather rough approach road, accessible to visitors only on foot.

However, Copper Mountain cabin was an important link in the chain of supply to the western patrol cabins at Stony Creek, McCleod Creek (figure 1), Moose Creek, and Kantishna.⁸

By 1935 the number of ranger cabins in Mount McKinley National Park had peaked at 15. Some of them are still used for their original purpose, to shelter park rangers patrolling the park in all seasons and weathers; a few have fallen into disuse and ruin; those along the park road are occupied in summer by seasonal employees or researchers.

Road Cabins of the Alaska Road Commission (the A.R.C.)

Besides the cabins constructed by the National Park Service for its exclusive use, the Alaska Road Commission built a number of log cabins along the road as it extended into the park between 1923 and 1938. Chief among these, and still extant, are the "A.R.C. road cabins" at the Upper Savage River, Sanctuary River and Upper Toklat River crossings. As already mentioned, these cabins were used by the road crews in the summer, but off-season were used fairly regularly for overnight stops by park rangers starting out into the park with supplies for winter use or on their way to distant winter stations.

The A.R.C. road cabins were larger (about 14 ft. x 16 ft.) than the ranger patrol and relief cabins (about 10 ft. x 12 ft.) and their mode of construction was somewhat more sophisticated, since they were built by professional crews. Both the Savage River and Sanctuary River road cabins, built in 1924 and 1926 respectively, were built of logs peeled and hewed flat on three sides, chinked with oakum; the roofs were of roofing paper over seven inch shiplap supported by pole rafters.⁹ The furnishings, too, were a bit less crude than those in the early ranger cabins. In 1926, Rangers Grant Pearson and Al Winn peeked inside the Sanctuary road cabin, then only four months old, and admired its "big iron range, plenty of cooking utensils, dishes, two spring cots and mattresses, and...wall-to-wall plank floor." "I turned around," recalled Pearson many years later, "and said: 'Welcome to the Waldorf'; Winn replied: 'This luxury is going to spoil us. Good thing we're only here for one night.'"¹⁰

The A.R.C. road cabin at Upper Savage River was atypical in that it was actually two log cabins joined by a covered walkway. It was used as a cookhouse for the road construction and maintenance crews who camped in tents nearby. Built in 1924 on

⁸ Superintendent's monthly report for February and June 1928, February 1929.

⁹ See Exhibit Specialist David Evans, Alaska Regional Office, typed manuscript, "Savage," in Denali National Park files.

¹⁰ Pearson, *My Life of High Adventure*, p. 35.

the south side of the park road, it was turned over to the National Park Service after the road was completed. In 1940 the park separated the two cabins, moved them to a less exposed site on the north side of the road, and two years later reassembled one of the cabins, spiking the logs together; the second cabin was still on its moving skids in 1950 and eventually was torn down and used for firewood. The surviving cabin is currently used as summer quarters for a park employee and in winter is used occasionally by dog team patrols. The exterior of the cabin is relatively unchanged, except for a cedar shake roof added to the original roof in 1979; most of the interior fittings and furnishings appear to be of recent construction.¹¹

Construction and Alterations of the Upper Toklat Ranger Cabin (Pearson Cabin)

The cabin chosen for interpretation of the lifestyle of the early park rangers of Mount McKinley National Park sits on the side of a hill a short distance west of the Toklat River bridge, about 100 feet up a path from the park road. Little changed in outward appearance, along with its eight restored duplex dog houses, cache, and privy, this small cabin is typical--and the most accessible--of the ranger-constructed log cabins used by the men who protected the wildlife in the park's formative years (figs. 3-5).¹²

This cabin dates from 1927. The story of its construction was told in 1969 by Grant H. Pearson, former park ranger and park superintendent, who helped build it near the start of his 30-year career in the National Park Service:

It was during the first part of March 1927 that I returned to Park Headquarters from a dog team patrol trip from the Kantishna District and I discussed with Sup't Karstens the deplorable conditions of the tents we used as overnight stops at the various places. I can recall this conversation as it is a far cry from the way the NPS plans and builds ranger patrol cabins today. I said to Harry Karstens "We need a patrol cabin at various places through the Park, but a cabin at Toklat River should be built now." Harry answered, "You are not crippled, are you? You know what is needed and you know how to build log cabins. Go ahead and build it."

This site on the slope of a hill at Toklat River was picked for two reasons -- material to build the cabin was growing on the hillside and it was a well sheltered spot -- the only one for miles around. Fritz Nyberg, the Chief Ranger, picked the location.

A few days after my talk with Karstens, I made another dog team trip out in the park and I met another ranger, Lee Swisher, and we cut the logs and dragged them to the location by hand as the hillside was too steep to work dogs on.

¹¹ David Evans, "Savage" and "Upper Savage," Denali National Park files on individual cabins; author's personal observations, July 23, 1992.

¹² The duplex dog house closest to the cabin was restored in 1976 by Seasonal Park Ranger--Naturalist Steve Carwile; the others remain unrestored.

In two days we had the logs cut and at the location. Considerable leveling of the ground had to be done and as the ground was still frozen we returned to Park Headquarters.

In June, Lee and I hiked (the park road was only completed to Sanctuary River, a distance of 22 miles) out to Toklat River, a distance of 54 miles. We were carrying heavy packs loaded with necessary supplies. We started to remove the surface soil but we encountered frozen ground, so we continued on to Stony Creek and built a cache, then on to the Kantishna cabin and we built an addition to the cabin that I had built the fall before.

The latter part of July we returned to the Toklat River and the ground was thawed and we built that cabin and seven dog houses. The next year (1928) Fritz Nyberg and I returned to Toklat River and built the remainder of the dog houses, whipsawed enough lumber for the floor, door, table, window frames, and we put lumber on top of the moss and dirt roof to make it waterproof.

The inside of the cabin was different then than it now is. We built a double decker bunk out of small spruce poles which we slept on. We cut wild red top hay and put this on top of the poles. Several years later the pole bunks were replaced with springs and mattresses which are still in the cabin.

The roof jack for the stove pipe was the same as it now is -- a five gallon oil can with a hole cut in it for the stove pipe to pass through.

The original stove (since replaced) was a flat top tin Yukon stove and we had a stove pipe oven to bake in. I believe that I know where I can find a stove pipe oven and if so, I'll leave it at Park headquarters.

The table we built and the cupboards were made out of oil can boxes.

The only actual money we spent on this cabin was for the windows, door hinges, and a few nails. Karstens said we could spend \$15.00 for needed materials and we had some money left over. This did not include our wages.¹³

Chief Ranger Fritz Nyberg not only picked the site for this cabin; he also helped cut and haul the logs for its construction. As he reported to Superintendent Karstens in May, 1927, just getting to the site was a struggle in those days before the park road had bridged the Toklat:

Ranger Swisher, Pearson and I left for Toklat River in early morning. Going over Thoroughfare [Pass] and down into Toklat, we got in snowslush up to our necks. Dogs

¹³ Letter from Grant H. Pearson to A. Lewis Koue, July 31, 1969, quoted in National Park Service, *Historic Structures Report, Part I: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex...Mount McKinley National Park* (San Francisco: Western Service Center, NPS, 1970), cited hereafter as NPS, HSR, Part I.

could neither walk or swim--we had to pull them across. Got in early, changed clothes, spent the balance of the day cutting logs for cabin.¹⁴

Although the cabin was essentially finished by August 1927, Superintendent Karstens commented on its "more or less crude construction" and noted that, on this and other new cabins, iron roofs were needed to waterproof the roofs made "of poles with dirt and moss thrown over them."¹⁵ The following summer proved him right:

....these cabins were damp and coated on the inside with mold. One ranger returned to his cabin after a heavy rainstorm to find eight inches of water in one of his rubber packs which proved not only that his packs were waterproof but that the cabin must have been leaking in that particular spot."¹⁶

In February 1930, Ranger Ben Cleary covered the Toklat shelter cabin's roof with "overlapping strips" of lumber. Not until 1951 was this replaced with "new lumber and roofing paper."¹⁷ The 1970 recommendations for restoring the cabin to its original condition, ca.1928, included: "rehabilitate roof with the later addition of the roll roofing"; the present green roofing paper dates from 1986.¹⁸

The only other structure in the complex appears to have been "a small storehouse of corrugated iron, dimensions 10' x 12'" constructed at "Toklat River station" in 1935 by Rangers Pearson and Rumohr.

This building will be used for the purpose of storing winter supplies. The supplies will be hauled there this fall before the highway becomes closed to traffic. Later in the season the supplies will be transferred to outlying ranger stations by dog team.¹⁹

This structure no longer exists.

Aside from "repairs...to the floor and other parts of the cabin" in 1951, there is no record of repairs or alterations to the cabin or the outlying structures (dog houses, cache, and privy) before the "Historic Structures Report" of 1970 recommended the following to restore the cabin complex to its appearance ca.1928:

¹⁴ Quoted in NPS, *A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region*, p. 151.

¹⁵ Superintendent's Monthly Report for September 1927.

¹⁶ Superintendent's Monthly Report for February 1929.

¹⁷ Ibid. See also Superintendent's Monthly Report for August 1951.

¹⁸ NPS, *HSR, Part I: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex*; see David Evans, "Pearson Cabin," typed notes in individual building file, Denali National Park.

¹⁹ Superintendent's Monthly Report for October 1935.

Cabin restoration will consist of the following items: Rehabilitate roof with the later addition of the roll roofing; rehabilitate the plank floor with log sleepers; replace foundation logs and any other unsound logs; repair windows, doors and hardware; and renew chinking.

Cache rehabilitation will consist of the following items: concrete footings with metal strap tiedowns for the support logs; replacement of sapling cross bracing; replacement of the roof; and rechinking.

The dog kennels will be rebuilt with existing sound members augmented with new similar logs. The roofs will be replaced and the fences reconstructed. [Pencilled note in margin: "didn't happen"]

The privy will be stabilized.

Some regrading along with brush and tree removal will be required to return the site to its original state in 1928.²⁰

In 1971, Ford Reeves and the Polychrome trail crew replaced the cabin's lower rounds of logs, replaced the legs of the cache, and retinned the cache roof, and about the same time Steve Carwile, seasonal interpreter stationed at the site, reconstructed a duplex dog house on the north side of the cabin.²¹

In 1985, David Evans, Exhibit Specialist in the Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service, made the following notes on the condition of the cabin and recommendations for its rehabilitation:

This cabin is in poor shape. Sill logs are rotten and the cabin is settling unevenly causing the walls and floor to be several inches out of plumb. Portions of the roof are also rotten.

Management ranks the Pearson Cabin eighth in importance among road side cabins. Because of the cabin's historic association with Grant Pearson and its seasonal use as quarters, major rehabilitation, at an estimated cost of \$17 to 20,000, is recommended. Immediate and periodic maintenance, at a cost of less than \$1,000 per year will be necessary to keep this cabin suitable for quarters.²²

The following year the Pearson Cabin underwent major rehabilitation, including a new pressure-treated log foundation, new floor and roof, replacement of some roof poles, and construction of new bunks.²³

²⁰ NPS, *HSR, Part I: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex*.

²¹ Steve Carwile, informal interview with the author, Denali National Park, July 22, 1992.

²² David Evans, "Pearson Cabin," file on individual cabins, Denali National Park.

²³ Information from Exhibit Specialist David Evans, Alaska Regional Office, August 1993.

How the Upper Toklat Ranger Cabin Was Used

From the first, the cabin at the upper Toklat crossing was used primarily as an overnight shelter for rangers freighting supplies into the park interior or travelling back and forth between winter stations and headquarters. The earliest reference to its use illustrates its importance in bad weather:

The new cabin at Toklat and the dog-houses made this stretch of freighting much less disagreeable than heretofore....This month Ranger Pearson was caught in a blizzard in the Copper Mountain basin with the nearest cabin or shelter of any kind 17 miles away. There was no timber in the basin for wood to make a fire and he had to double back 17 miles to the Toklat cabin, arriving late at night.²⁴

A similar emergency in 1933 must have made Grant Pearson even more grateful for the shelter he had built on the upper Toklat River:

Due to the heavy snowstorm on the 14th Rangers Pearson and Anderson experienced considerable trouble in the outlying districts....All trails were completely obliterated. Ranger Pearson left the upper Toklat ranger cabin en route to the lower Toklat, and broke through an over-flow on the Toklat River. He traveled without "mukluks" (boots made by the Eskimos of walrus skin and are waterproof), and in no time he was wet above his knees. This is the one danger that all Alaskans dread on the trail in the winter-that of becoming wet with a possibility of freezing before they reach a cabin. However, Ranger Pearson was lucky in having only a few miles to return to his cabin. He released the dogs from the sled and raced madly for the cabin, leaving the sled and load in the over-flow to be recovered later. The dogs followed him to shelter. The thermometer registered twenty four below zero that day.²⁵

Normally, use of the Upper Toklat cabin was more routine. In 1934, for instance, Superintendent Harry Liek spent the night of September 2 at Toklat before walking over to Sunset Glacier and he spent two nights there again in October while repairing the telephone line.²⁶ In September 1935, Pearson "traveled out to Toklat with a truck of my supplies for the winter," the next day heading down river with a "four-horse load" of those supplies to deposit at the Lower Toklat ranger's cabin, his winter station.²⁷

The cabin on the upper Toklat saw more constant winter use by the ranger patrolling the Toklat district before 1931, when construction of a ranger cabin 25 miles down the Toklat River shifted the focus of winter activity to the new site. As Ranger

²⁴ Chief Ranger Nyberg, quoted in NPS, *A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region*, p. 152.

²⁵ Superintendent's Monthly Report for December 1933.

²⁶ Superintendent's Monthly Reports for September and October 1934.

²⁷ Pearson, field notebook, 1935-1937: September 23, 1935.

Pearson's field notebooks for the period 1935-1937 make clear, the ranger cabin on the lower Toklat River, close to the park's north boundary, was the "patrol cabin," where Pearson settled in for the winter and from which he made his patrols along the boundary and up the nearby rivers and creeks. The cabin on the upper Toklat had become a "relief cabin," used on an occasional basis, no longer as a true winter station. In a typical instance, Pearson left headquarters by dog sled on November 11, 1935, reached the Toklat River at mile 54 on the 14th, rested the dogs there for a day, and traveled down to the Lower Toklat station on the 16th.²⁸ During that winter (November 1935-March 1936) Pearson made the 25-mile trip up to the road twice and both times stayed overnight in the A.R.C. road cabin, probably because it was more comfortable.²⁹ In December 1936 Pearson stayed four nights at the Toklat A.R.C. road cabin on the way to Lower Toklat; not until February 27, 1937, did he spend a night at the upper Toklat again, whether in the ranger cabin or the road cabin his notebook does not reveal.³⁰

For the period after 1931, therefore, it seems that the ranger-built cabin on the upper Toklat saw relatively little use except as a freight storage and distribution point for the central district of the park. This makes it uncertain whether the following dramatic incident ended happily in the life-giving warmth of the Upper Toklat ranger cabin or the nearby A.R.C. road cabin:

In February 1940, Tige, a park sled dog, was awarded the Dog World International Diploma of Honor for saving the life of Park Ranger John C. Rumohr. Rumohr and his dog team and sled had broken through the ice on Toklat River into six feet of water. The temperature was below zero. Tige excited the rest of the dog team and they were able to pull the sled to firm ice.³¹

Be that as it may, the little ranger's cabin by the road beyond the Toklat River bridge has continued in use, primarily in recent years as summer quarters for park personnel or employees of the Alaska Natural History Association who operate the cooperating association bookstore at the Eielson Visitor Center. Though seldom used in the winter, it is still available for temporary shelter in emergencies.

²⁸ Pearson, field notebook, 1935-1937: November 11-16, 1935.

²⁹ Pearson, field notebook, 1935-1937: January 24 and February 16, 1936.

³⁰ Pearson, field notebook, 1935-1937: December 13, 1936 to February 28, 1937. After 1932, when the Alaska Road Commission's cabin at the upper crossing of the Toklat River was built, it is probable that the larger, newer cabin would have been used by park rangers, whenever possible, in preference to the Pearson cabin.

³¹ NPS, *A History of Mount McKinley National Park*, pp. 56-57.

During the summer of 1976 the Pearson Cabin, as it had come to be known, was the site of live-in, costumed interpretation of early ranger life presented by park employees Steve Carwile and Frank Buono (figure 5).³²

Grant H. Pearson

The name "Pearson Cabin" appears to have been applied to this building only in recent years. The 1970 *Historic Structures Report* identifies it as the Toklat Patrol Cabin (Building 4), while the 1984 drawings for an updated historic structure report label it "Pearson Cabin." The latter name appears also in the 1990 "Interpretive Prospectus" and is the name generally current in the park today.

The reason for the name change, according to Steve Carwile, appears to have been a simple desire to honor the memory of Grant H. Pearson, who built the cabin in 1927 (albeit with help from Ranger Lee Swisher and Chief Ranger Fritz Nyberg) and capped a long National Park Service career by serving as Superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park from 1949 to 1956.³³

Born in Minnesota in 1900, Pearson spent his later boyhood in northern Michigan where he supported himself from the age of 13 by working in logging camps and as deckhand on a Great Lakes ore boat. In 1925 he went to Alaska, worked briefly as a miner and road worker, and joined the National Park Service as a temporary ranger at Mount McKinley in February 1926. He won a permanent appointment in June 1926 and stayed with the Park Service (except for a six-month break to learn to fly in 1928-29) for 30 years.³⁴

During his 13 years (1926-1939) as a park ranger at Mount McKinley, Pearson helped construct many of the park's patrol cabins, enthusiastically joined in the effort to rid the park of predatory wolves, and, by his own testimony, logged over 20,000 miles by dog sled, snowshoes, and on foot. Official records show that in one year alone (July 1, 1927-June 30, 1928) he traveled 3,307 miles, including 2,459 by dog sled.³⁵ His most spectacular accomplishment during these years was his ascent of Mount McKinley in 1932, with Alfred D. Lindley, Erling Strom, and Park Superintendent Harry J. Liek, the first party to climb both the north and south peaks and the last successful ascent until after World War II.

³² Steve Carwile, informal interview by the author, Denali National Park, July 22, 1992.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ See figure 1. Information on Pearson's life is derived mainly from his autobiography, *My Life of High Adventure*, published in 1962, and from several career resumes in the Pearson file, Denali National Park.

³⁵ Superintendent's Monthly Report for June 1928.

Although an eye problem prevented Pearson from gaining a pilot's license, he remained much interested in aviation, took some of the earliest aerial photographs of the Alaska Range, and pointed out as early as 1933 that aerial patrols of the park would provide the most accurate census of its wild game populations.³⁶

During four successive winters (1933/34, 1934/35, 1935/36, and 1936/37), Pearson was assigned to winter patrol duty in the Toklat or central district of Mount McKinley National Park, with his winter quarters in the Lower Toklat rangers' cabin. His field notebooks for the years 1935-1937 and 1937-1939 provide an intimate, if somewhat laconic, view of ranger life in the pioneer days of the park.³⁷

In September 1938, Pearson married Mrs. Margaret Wolfe of Suquamish and Seattle, Washington, and brought her to live at Mount McKinley park headquarters. A short time later, Superintendent Liek, also a newlywed, announced that the rangers thereafter would live at headquarters year-round, making three-week winter patrols on a staggered schedule so that "no one will be stuck out in the park for four months at a stretch." Pearson's reaction was predictably favorable:

Maybe without meaning to, he had solved one of the biggest problems of my newly-wedded life. I had been dreading the day I'd have to kiss Margaret goodbye for two, three or four months and head out on snowshoes for bachelor quarters in a one-room cabin on the Toklat, the McKinley, or some frozen creek. Somehow those cabins didn't look so friendly any more. My few preliminary patrols out in the park had shown me the difference between walking into a dank, lonesome cabin--often with the inside log walls white with frost--and coming home to the warm, welcoming companionship of a wife....³⁸

A year later, anxious to broaden his experience by exposure to visitors instead of just wild animals, Pearson secured a transfer to Yosemite National Park. He worked there as a park ranger from May 1939 to June 1942. While there, he and Margaret adopted a daughter, Shirley.³⁹

Pearson returned to Mount McKinley National Park as Chief Ranger in June 1942. While Superintendent Frank Been was absent on military duty from February 1943 to July 1947, Pearson doubled as Acting Superintendent. It was during this period that Pearson earned the Army's Medal of Freedom for his leadership of a 40-man

³⁶ Superintendent's Monthly Report for September 1933.

³⁷ Pearson file, Denali National Park. See Appendix A for a transcript of Pearson's field notes for the winters of 1935/36 through 1938/39.

³⁸ Pearson, *My Life of High Adventure*, p. 174.

³⁹ Later Mrs. James Younger, of Oakland, California.

expedition into the Alaska Range in an unsuccessful attempt to recover the bodies of 19 airmen killed in the September 1944 crash of a military transport plane.

On Superintendent Been's return to park duty, Pearson was transferred to Sitka where he served from July 1947 to December 1948 as Custodian/Superintendent of Sitka National Monument and Glacier Bay National Monument.

He returned to Mount McKinley National Park once more in February 1949, this time as Superintendent, serving in that capacity and as Coordinating Superintendent of Katmai National Monument until his retirement on January 1, 1957.

After his retirement Pearson and daughter Shirley built a log cabin on a homestead Pearson had acquired just outside the north boundary of the park. He lived for a time with his wife in Los Altos, California, but returned with her to Alaska and had a second career, in politics, as the first Alaska State Representative for District 18 (1958-1964) and Alaska State Senator (1964-1966).

Always interested in writing, Pearson was the author of an autobiography, *My Life of High Adventure*; "A History of Mount McKinley National Park"; and several magazine articles, particularly "The Seventy Mile Kid," an account of Harry Karstens, first Superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park. Pearson also did some lecturing about Alaska and appeared on television in several real-life adventure programs.

Margaret Pearson died in 1966 and Grant Pearson on September 8, 1978. Grant Pearson's papers relating to his National Park Service career are preserved in the Denali National Park museum collection; those relating to his political career constitute the Grant H. Pearson Collection in the Alaska and Polar Regions Department, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Furnishings: Upper Toklat Ranger Cabin

After inspecting the ranger stations at Igloo Creek, Toklat River, McKinley Bar, and Stony Creek in August-September 1927, Superintendent Karstens reported to Washington his feeling that "each should have a set of double-deck iron bunks with mattresses, a table, two chairs and in some cases new cook stoves."⁴⁰

At the Toklat River cabin, just completed by Rangers Pearson and Swisher, Karstens found a double decker bunk made out of small spruce poles, over which was laid "wild red top hay" in lieu of a mattress. The other furnishings, also made by Pearson and Swisher, were a table made out of whip-sawed spruce lumber, cupboards made out

⁴⁰ Superintendent's Monthly Report for September 1927.

of oil can boxes, and a "flat top tin Yukon stove" with stove pipe oven. A five-gallon oil can with its bottom cut out served as a "roof jack" to shield the stove pipe as it passed through the flammable wood-and-moss roof.⁴¹

"Several years later, the pole bunks were replaced with springs and mattresses" which were still in the cabin in 1969, according to Pearson. By that time the original Yukon stove was gone, replaced with a wood-burning iron cook stove, black with white enamel doors, which dates from the 1930s or 1940s. That stove was apparently in place by early 1952, judging from a sketch plan drawn at that time (figure 6); the plan also shows a table on the north wall, in front of the window, and a bunk on the west wall with its foot end against the north wall.

The same arrangement of furnishings appears in a cabin floor plan accompanying the 1970 *Historic Structures Report*, with the addition of "cupboards" in the southwest corner and along the south wall (figure 7). These cupboards are visible in two 1969 interior photographs reproduced in the same report (figures 9-10). The one on the south wall was a crude counter with shelves above and below, probably made out of wood from boxes or crates. The floor-to-ceiling open cupboard in the southwest corner also appears to have been constructed of wooden boxes held together by long boards on each side. Both of these may well have dated from the original construction of the cabin. The double decker bunk on the west wall in figure 10 had springs and mattresses; the framework was of boards rather than spruce poles. This was the bunk Pearson said had been substituted "several years later" for the original spruce pole bunk. The stove in the 1969 photograph was in the same location, in the southeast corner with its back to the east window, as in the 1952 sketch.⁴²

In his report, under "Furnishings and Exhibition Data," Architect Koue made the following recommendations:

Inasmuch as it is proposed not to have the cabin open for visitation, the present furnishings or such as may be appropriate shall be reinstalled and remain for emergency use. These furnishings consist of a stove, simple cooking utensils and dishes, work and food counters, table, cupboard built up from boxes and a double bunk bed with springs and mattresses. Wool blankets for emergency use are left in the cabins slung over a rope suspended from the ridge pole to keep squirrels away from them. A supply of wood is stored under cover of the porch.

It is suggested that at such time as it may be desirable to keep the cabin open for interpretive purposes only, the furnishings could be changed to more nearly conform to the description contained in Mr. Pearson's letter....If Mr. Pearson can acquire a

⁴¹ Grant Pearson, 1969 letter to A. Lewis Koue, quoted in NPS, *HSR, Part I: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex*, pp. 8-9.

⁴² NPS, *HSR, Part I: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex*, pp. 13, 21, 22, and accompanying drawing 126/41002.

Yukon stove and stove pipe oven it should be retained in the museum for possible installation in the cabin at that time.⁴³

In 1975, as part of the renovation of the cabin, Frank Buono, of the park staff, built a new pole-supported double decker bunk, with the head end against the west wall and the foot end in front of the north window. This arrangement necessitated moving the table to the south wall. Probably at that time also a new triangular counter was built into the southwest corner and the old cupboard was moved to the center of the west wall. The stove remained as in 1952 and 1969.⁴⁴

In the 1985 restoration of the Pearson Cabin further changes were made in an effort to bring the interior of the cabin back to its original appearance as of about 1928. A rough inventory of the cabin in July 1992 reveals the following items of more or less permanent furnishings, not including items that seemed to be associated with the current summer resident:⁴⁵

Stove, wood-burning (same as in 1969), located in SW corner, at right angle to window, back against south wall; the stove measures 26" wide, 21" deep, 26" high, black with two white door panels; no maker's name; stove pipe goes straight up through roof.

Cupboard/cooking counter, against south wall; made from wooden crate; lower part open, used for storage; top serves as a counter; counter space to the right for setting cookware, etc.⁴⁶

Double-decker bunk (1975), along west wall with head against south wall; 79" long x 43" wide, with unpainted board framing supported by four peeled spruce poles; a ticking-covered mattress on lower bunk; upper bunk used as shelf for books and miscellaneous gear.

Open cupboard, in NW corner against west wall; about 30" wide, with at least four shelves, constructed (1971?) of milled wood, unpainted; used for clothes storage.

Table, under north window; constructed of milled wood, one drawer, unpainted top covered with brown vinyl or oilcloth, legs and skirt

⁴³ Ibid., p. 13. There is no record of Pearson's providing the park with a Yukon stove and stove pipe oven.

⁴⁴ Steve Carwile, interview with the author, July 22, 1992; see HABS, Survey AK 33, sheet 2, accompanying NPS, *HSR, Pearson Cabin, Toklat River, Denali National Park and Preserve* by David Evans (Denver Service Center: NPS, 1984).

⁴⁵ Photographic inventory by the author, July 20, 1992.

⁴⁶ A cast-iron, two-burner, gas hot plate dating from about 1930, was present in 1992, but was not there when Steve Carwile occupied the cabin between 1976-1979 and presumably is a recent addition.

painted gray; possibly 30 or 40 years old. The chair is a modern steel and vinyl office chair.

Hanging rack, above stove, made of sapling poles; used for storing coffee pot and other cook ware; towels hang on strings attached to this rack.

Pots and pans, including dish pan, hang from nails on south wall.

Wooden box on south wall serves as shelf for condiments, baking soda, etc.

Two logs in front of stove are used to set pots on, possibly also used as stools.

Wooden box, up-ended, by door; serves for storage and as another surface to set things on.

Whip saw, over door; probably contemporary with cabin-building period.

Hanging strip, a length of spruce pole cut half-round, flat side out, on north wall, next to door, with five nails for hanging clothes.

Mirror, wood-framed, hanging on north wall to left of window; towel on nail beside it.

Kerosene lamp, hanging from ridge pole.

Of all the above furnishings, the only one that has a clear historical association with the Toklat cabin is the stove, and even that almost certainly dates from the 1930s or later.⁴⁷

By October 1931 the telephone line from headquarters to Wonder Lake had been completed past Toklat River, where repairs had to be made at that time. Two years later the telephone at Toklat was used to call for emergency help for a prospector's ailing wife.⁴⁸ In all likelihood the telephone instrument was located outside the cabin.

There was a radio set at the Lower Toklat patrol cabin as early as 1934. This probably was the personal property of Ranger Pearson who, in Superintendent Liek's

⁴⁷ The Toklat cabin stove is very similar to one pictured in the Fall and Winter 1941/42 Sears, Roebuck catalog, p. 954.

⁴⁸ Superintendent's Monthly Report for October 1931 and August 1933.

words, "keeps in touch with the rest of the world by radio and is up to date on current events in this isolated section."⁴⁹ It is unlikely that he would have carried it with him on his occasional trips up to the cabin on the upper Toklat.

Furnishings and Supplies in Other Cabins

Since the interiors of the various patrol and relief cabins were generally similar, determined by the necessities for survival in an Alaskan winter, information relating to the furnishings in any of the cabins helps in drawing up a composite picture of what would have been in the Toklat cabin in the years just after World War II, when the tempo of change picked up dramatically at Mount McKinley National Park.

For the pre-war years, the evidence is scattered and incomplete. Although Superintendent Liek inspected and inventoried 12 of the cabins in 1935, the inventories do not appear to have survived.⁵⁰ There are no known interior photographs earlier than 1969. The few incidental references to furnishings in monthly reports and in Pearson's field notebooks and autobiography follow:

In the summer of 1925 ground squirrels at the lower Savage River patrol cabin "destroyed the bed mattress and quilts" and "knocked the pots and pans...all over the floor."⁵¹

In 1926, "2 small ranges" were purchased "for the rangers' cabins in the field."⁵²

During the winter of 1925/26, newly-appointed Ranger Pearson was shocked at the conditions in the old cabin at Ewe Creek:

Our disgust at the shambles made of our equipment was in no sense improved when we opened the door of the Ewe Creek cabin. Its lumpy dirt floor was speckled with small-animal droppings. Its tin stove was riddled with holes. Its pots and pans were red with rust. There were squirrel nests everywhere. This was to be my home for the next three days....

It took two hours to clean out the joint. The ranger stew (pemmican and dried potatoes) which we cooked on the cabin stove turned out okay, but the biscuits we baked in the stovepipe oven were burnt on the outside and doughy in the middle. That stove was by nature too hot or too cold.

⁴⁹ Superintendent's Monthly Report for February 1934.

⁵⁰ Superintendent's Monthly Report for February 1935.

⁵¹ Superintendent's Monthly Report for September 1925.

⁵² Superintendent's Monthly Report for June 1926.

Aside from its exceptionally ornery stove, this cabin was a typical sourdough habitation...about fourteen by eighteen feet, walls of spruce logs, roofed with poles and layers of moss and dirt, cabin sides between the logs stuffed with moss to keep wind, rain and snow from filtering in and heat from filtering out. Two bunks of the old bedstead type were built along the rear wall. We threw out the hay in them and treated ourselves to freshly-cut mattresses of springy dried redtop grass.⁵³

"New aluminum-ware" purchased in 1927 "for the kitchen in the superintendent's, clerk's and rangers' cabins" probably was only for use at headquarters, where the rangers were quartered during the summer.⁵⁴

About 1926-27 Pearson used kerosene to light a fire quickly at Kantishna; he also used epsom salts for a sprained ankle and had oil of cloves in his first-aid kit.⁵⁵

A supply of wood left inside the cabin was important to rangers coming in after a soaking in icy water. "I don't know when I've seen a more beautiful sight," Pearson recalled, "than that lovely pile of dry wood alongside the tin stove" at Ewe Creek.⁵⁶

In 1927, as previously noted, Superintendent Karstens felt that each cabin should be supplied with "a set of double-deck iron bunks with mattresses, a table, two chairs and...cook stoves." In Igloo River cabin, he noted, a table and shelves had been built as part of its remodeling. "Rough bunks and tables" were constructed for McCleod Creek cabin about the same time.⁵⁷

All the park rangers' personal effects were lost in a fire that burned down the rangers' quarters at headquarters in May 1934. "They each had about forty years' gathering," the superintendent reported, "and many things could never be replaced at any price."⁵⁸

⁵³ Pearson, *My Life of High Adventure*, p. 32. The reference to "a typical sourdough habitation" suggests that this cabin may have been built by a trapper or prospector before the park was established. The following winter, Pearson went back to Ewe Creek to lay a board floor and build "a few needful shelves" [Ibid., p. 40].

⁵⁴ Superintendent's Monthly Report for July 1927.

⁵⁵ Pearson, *My Life of High Adventure*, p. 66. An undated listing of "Future Jobs" in Pearson's 1943 notebook included "First Aid Kits for cabins."

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 68.

⁵⁷ Superintendent's Monthly Report for September 1927 and January 1928.

⁵⁸ Superintendent's Monthly Report for May 1934.

One of the rifles carried by the patrolling rangers was the "22 Colt's Woodman." Another, called "our big rifle" by Pearson, was also used when hunting wolves.⁵⁹

In May 1935 the wife of Ranger Houston, then living at the Lower Windy Creek cabin, scared off a grizzly by beating on her dishpan, but not before he "left tooth marks in the enamel platter."⁶⁰

Also in 1935 Pearson built a cupboard in the Sushana ranger cabin, possibly to the following specifications pencilled in the back of his field notebook:

Cupboard
Higth [sic] 6 ft 6 in
Width inside [illegible]
Bottom 2 ft deep
Higth [sic] lower part 3 ft
Space between lower [illegible]
3 shelves⁶¹

When Rangers Pearson and Rumohr were building a cache at Lower Toklat (no date), Rumohr fell and hurt his back. Saying "a pole bunk is no place for you," Pearson took him back to headquarters for treatment in the Fairbanks hospital.⁶²

During his ranger days, Pearson learned to freeze his loaves of bread by taking them hot from the oven into the sub-zero temperatures outdoors, then storing them in the cache in five-gallon tallow cans, five loaves to a can. He also froze beans outdoors and kept them in a flour sack in the cache. For a quick source of water, he cut blocks of ice and stored them on a platform just outside the cabin, to be thawed as needed.⁶³

Lists of tools, foods and other supplies placed in the upper and lower cabins on the Savage River in 1942 provide the most complete picture of movables and edibles in the early ranger cabins. While dating from four years after the rangers ceased to spend four months at a stretch at their winter stations, these lists probably give a fairly complete idea of what one would have found in a patrol or relief cabin, like the

⁵⁹ Pearson, field notebooks: ca. March 1935 and August 23, 1938. The serial number of Pearson's rifle was 106717.

⁶⁰ Superintendent's Monthly Report for May 1935.

⁶¹ Pearson, field notebook, 1935-37: December 20, 1935, and back of notebook.

⁶² Pearson, *My Life of High Adventure*, p. 123.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, pp. 62-63.

one at Upper Toklat, that was used mainly in emergencies or for overnight stays on the way to a more distant station.⁶⁴

Tools at Lower Savage

1 Pick	1 maddock [mattock]
1 saw (one man saw)	1 level
1 shovel	1 axe, good condition
1 Gas Lantern	1 lantern Kerosene
1 lamp Kerosene, no chimney	1 lamp Kerosene, complete
1 claw hammer	2 pair Pliers
2 Spring folding cots	2 3/4 size springs (bed)
2 Mattresses	1 old army Blanket
1 old Comforter	2 Brooms
Oct. 12. 1942 6 Blankets	Complete set of cooking utensils

Needed for Lower Savage Cabin

Folding chairs	4 lengths 6 in. Stove Pipe
1 T length	1 Elbow
Mantles for gasoline stove	Park Boundary signs
Blankets 6 taken down Oct. 12	

Supplies at Lower Savage Rangers Patrol Cabin

5 cans Bacon	10 lbs apricots
5 lbs oatmeal	10 lbs Prunes
1 lb soda	10 lbs Raisins
9 lbs dried Eggs	20 Barrs Soap (10 white...)
4 lbs cocoa	8 lbs coffee
14 lbs snowdrift lard	3 lbs Tea
9 cans Corned Beef Hash	8 cans Log Cabin Syrup....
2 cans 4 lbs Baking Powder	4 lbs Rice
2 lbs 4 cans Black Pepper	2 pkgs 4 lbs Salt
9 2 lbs cans Batter [or butter]	10 1 lb cans dried milk
3 5 lb bags sugar	4 10 lb bags flour
20 lbs Beans	9 pkgs Rye Crisp
Matches, 2 small cartons	8 1 lb pkgs Macaroni
2 gal. Kerosene	5 gal. gasoline for lamps
3 Bales dog Fish	50 lb can dog tallow
15 lbs dog rice ⁶⁵	

⁶⁴ These lists are in Pearson's 1942/43 field notebook under date of September 1942. At the time he was Acting Superintendent as well as Chief Ranger.

⁶⁵ Bill Nancarrow, former Ranger Naturalist at Mount McKinley National Park, has provided the author with the following recipe used by mushers to prepare food for their dogs: "Cut up 2-3 salmon, 2-3 lbs of rice; bring to a boil, add a handful of ground alfalfa and 2 lbs of tallow (pork fat); add cornmeal to thicken; put lid on and let steam. Tallow is a fat supplement used in winter to supply more calories for the dogs."

Supplies taken to Upper Savage Cabin

1 Double bit axe	1 pick
1 mattock	1 long handled shovel
4 lengths 6 in. Stove Pipe	
2 Spring cots	
2 Frying Pans (10- & 12-inch)	
4 Soup Bowls	4 Soup dishes
4 Cups	6 Plates 9 inch
1 Dish Pan	1 Bread Pan 8-12 inches
4 table spoons	4 table Forks
1 mixing Bowl	1 Hot cake Griddle
1 Coffee Pot	2 aluminum Cook Pots
1 Tea Kettle	1 Double boiler
1 Tea Pot	1 Broom
1 Cook Pot enamel (6 qt)	2 Mattresses
1 4 foot wood saw (one man)	
1 Gasoline lamp shade [complete?]	6 mantles
4 Tea Spoons	1 Funnel
4 table Knives	2 mixing spoons
1 can opener	1 Butcher Knife
2 mattresses	6 Blankets

The "Patrol Cabin Use Rules" posted in all cabins about 1949, when Pearson was superintendent, give a few more clues to the contents of the cabins:

Be careful with fire.

Leave a clean cabin.

Wash all dishes, silverware, and cooking utensils, and replace in cupboard, upside down to keep out dust.

Leave a good supply of kindling and wood. Also a full coal bucket at cabins that use coal. Leave near the stove the following items: candle, matches, and very fine kindling or a feather stick.

Replace all blankets, and mattresses in rodent proof boxes.

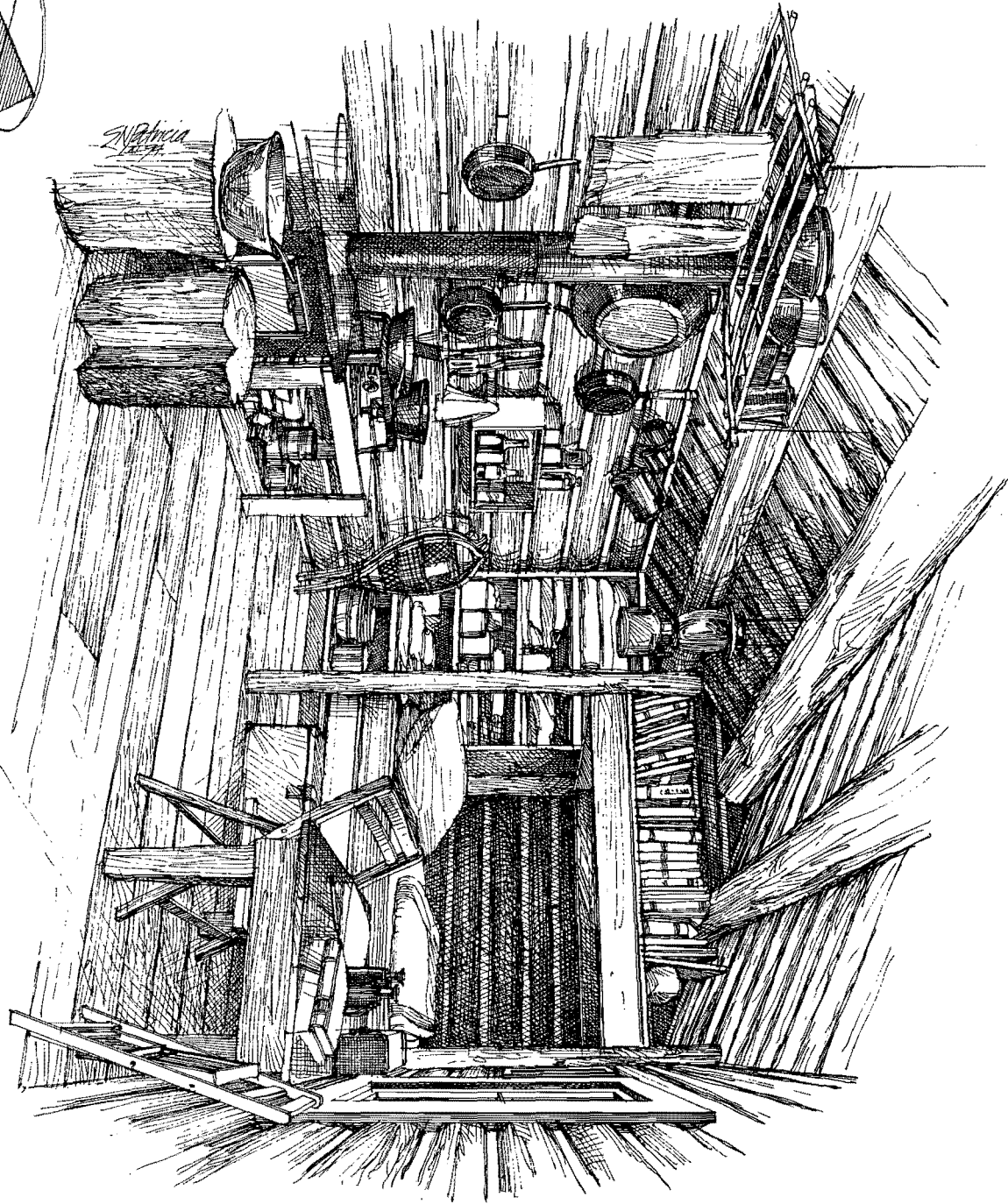
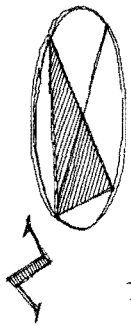
Replace all food in proper containers.

Replace all shutters.

Be sure fire is out before leaving, and empty ashes.

Empty all water pails, etc.

During summer lock and secure cabins.



FURNISHING PLAN

RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS and WORKING DRAWING

The Upper Toklat Ranger Cabin, popularly known as the Pearson Cabin, was built in 1927, along with a log cache, eight dog houses, and a privy. All were restored in 1970 and 1985, the structural restoration mainly involving replacement of rotting logs and floors in the cabin and cache, rethinking the cabin and cache, reconstruction of the dog houses, and rehabilitation of the privy. The whole cabin complex probably looks very much as it did in the 1930s, except for the cabin's green roofing paper added in 1951 and most recently in 1985.

The interior of the cabin has undergone some changes over the years, such as renewal of the plank floor and chinking (1970) and replacement of the original rough-hewn pole bunks, cupboard, and table and the tin Yukon stove and stovepipe oven. In its general appearance, however, if stripped of the current occupant's 1990s gear, the cabin interior does still have much visual integrity and should lend itself readily to refurnishing to the period when Pearson and the other pioneer park rangers of Mount McKinley National Park used it as a relief stop on their winter and summer patrols.

The cabin furnishings will reflect the period before World War II when Grant H. Pearson and the other park rangers at Mount McKinley National Park would spend the better part of four months (roughly December-March) out in the park patrolling for poachers. Since this was a relief cabin used only occasionally for brief one or two-night stopovers, it probably contained the bare minimum of furnishings and supplies and lacked most of those personal items that would have reflected the particular character of a patrol cabin's winter occupant.

Prior to acquiring any artifacts from other patrol cabins for display at the Pearson Cabin, a collection plan will be submitted by the park to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

If the cabin is to be treated as a static exhibit, it should be furnished as it would have appeared when not occupied but ready for use when needed. If it serves as a site for costumed interpretation, as it did in the summer of 1976, the cabin furnishings will include more of the personal items that reflect the individuality of the live-in interpreter, such as clothing, reading material, shaving gear, etc. In the following furnishing plan, the latter items will appear as optional additions to the basic

owing to its small size, approximately 8 1/2 feet by 11 1/2 feet, the cabin interior can be viewed by visitors only from the outside, either through the door, when it can be left open, or through the two closed windows. The drawing on the following page offers a schematic view of the refurnished cabin as seen through the open door to show the placement of objects on the floor and walls of the room.

RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS

Object and Location	Documentation	Recommendation
BUNK, DOUBLE-DECKER, 80" long, 44" wide, approximately 72" high (not touching ridge pole); uprights, side and end rails, and slats of whip-sawed, unfinished spruce boards (on west wall, with foot end against north wall)	Figure 10; Pearson to Koue, 1969 <i>Historic Structures Report</i> , p. 8, stating that the original spruce pole bunks were replaced "several years later" by the spring and mattress bunks still in the cabin in 1969.	Reproduce bunk partially shown in figure 10.
SPRING and MATTRESS, 2 sets	Figure 10; Pearson to Koue, 1969 <i>Historic Structures Report</i> , p. 8.	Acquire two "steel wire fabric springs" (<i>Sears, Roebuck & Co. Fall and Winter Catalog 1929/30</i>); use the existing ticking-covered mattress, which looks much like the mattress shown in the same Sears, Roebuck catalog; acquire a second mattress to match.
BLANKETS, 6, wool, gray (if the cabin is occupied, place three blankets on each bed, one folded at foot; if unoccupied, the blankets should be hung from a rope suspended from the ridge pole to keep squirrels away from them)	List of tools and other supplies at Lower Savage ranger cabin, 1942; 1969 <i>Historic Structures Report</i> , p. 13.	Acquire six reproduction blankets, grey; no pillows are recommended since they are absent from the 1942 supply lists for the Savage River cabins.
CUPBOARD, consisting of a stack of five wooden boxes set on their sides and held together by two vertical boards; the five compartments are open (on west wall between head of bunk and south wall)	Figure 10; Pearson to Koue, 1969 <i>Historic Structures Report</i> , p. 8: "the cupboards were made out of oil can boxes."	Reproduce cupboard in figure 10, using old boxes and boards.

WORK COUNTER and SHELVES, constructed out of scrap wood from boxes or crates; the counter about 32" high, 36" long, 14" deep, with a narrower shelf below; the shelf section about the same height and length, but the 3 shelves only about 4" deep and with about 10" between them (centered on south wall)	Figure 9.	Reproduce counter/shelf shown in figure 9, using scrap wood.
STOVE Two options are offered: Option 1 is to have a "flat top tin Yukon stove and stovepipe oven" like the one originally in the cabin; Option 2 is to retain the ca.1940 iron wood-burning stove with white enamel doors that has been in the cabin at least since 1952 and possibly earlier	Pearson to Koue, 1969 <i>Historic Structures Report</i>, p. 8; Form 10-768, Upper Toklat Patrol Cabin, sketch plan, March 1952; 1992 site visit; figure 9.	If a period Yukon stove and a period stovepipe oven are available, option 1 is preferred, as better conveying the simplicity of the early furnishings; if they are not available, retain the later stove which has at least a 40-year association with the cabin and is only slightly out of the target period of interpretation. The existing stovepipe will be retained.
RACK, constructed from peeled spruce sapling poles with attached strings for hanging wet clothes or towels (suspended by cords from the ceiling)	Existing rack probably installed during restoration/renovation in 1970 or 1985; no earlier documentation as sketch plan and 1969 photographs do not show this part of the cabin.	Retain rack as likely solution to storage and drying needs in the historic period.
WOODBBOX, an old wooden box filled with stove wood and kindling (to left of stove)	Pearson's "Patrol Cabin Use Rules" (ca.1949) called for leaving "a good supply of wood and kindling...near the stove." The manner of storage, in a woodbox, is undocumented except by analogy to common practice in contemporary houses.	Acquire an old wooden box or small crate; fill with suitable wood and kindling.
STANDS, 2, sections of large logs about 18 in. high, set in front of the stove and used to set pots on or, perhaps, as stools	No early documentation; existing log stands have been used in this cabin since the 1970s.	Retain existing log stands.

WOODEN BOX, used for storage and as a surface on which to set food vessels or cooking utensils (standing on end next to door)	No documentation, but a logical solution to the need for additional storage and counter space.	Retain old box now in use at this location.
WHIPSAW (mounted on nails above doorway)	Whipsaws were used by rangers to cut boards for floors, doors, window frames and furniture in cabins (Pearson to Koue, 1969 <i>Historic Structure Report</i> , p. 8); 1942 list of "Supplies taken to Upper Savage Cabin" included a "4 foot wood saw (one man)"; mounting over the door is a reasonable solution to the need for inside storage of a very long artifact.	Retain whipsaw, which appears to be of suitable age and condition, in present position over doorway.
HANGING STRIP, made from split spruce pole, with five nails serving in place of clothes hooks (attached to top log on north wall between door and window)	Existing feature from 1970 or 1985 restoration; no documentation other than the need for some means of hanging clothing.	Retain existing arrangement.
TABLE, approximately 40" long, 24" deep, constructed of milled wood, painted grey, with a single drawer, the top unpainted and covered with brown oilcloth or vinyl (under north window)	Pearson and Swisher built a table for the Toklat cabin in 1927 (Pearson to Koue, 1969 <i>Historic Structures Report</i> , p. 8); a table shown in the 1952 sketch plan (figure 6) and in the 1969 measured drawing (figure 7) was approximately the same size and in the same location as the table present in 1992. This table probably replaced the original, which must have been somewhat cruder.	In the absence of better evidence on the appearance of the 1927 table, retain the later table associated with this cabin for the past 40 years.
CHAIRS, 2, wooden folding (one at the table, the other folded and leaning against the wall near the table)	Field notebook, "Supplies Needed for Lower Savage Cabin," 1942: "folding chairs"; <i>Sears, Roebuck & Co. Fall and Winter Catalog</i> , 1929/30, p. 968.	Acquire period chairs if cabin is unoccupied, otherwise acquire reproductions.

SHAVING MIRROR (on wall to left of north window)	Photographs of park rangers on patrol in the park in the 1920s and 1930s suggest that they were clean-shaven even in winter, in <i>A History of Mount McKinley National Park</i>, pp. 31, 47; no mirrors are mentioned on Savage cabin lists suggesting that the rangers improvised to meet a need.	Acquire piece of old mirror glass, about 5" x 7", without frame; mount on wall with two nails above and two below.
COOKING UTENSILS (some hanging from nails on south wall right and left of stove, others stored on rack over stove and on shelves over counter on south wall)	Field notebook, "Supplies Taken to Upper Savage Cabin", 1942; <i>Sears, Roebuck & Co. Spring and Summer Catalog</i>, 1935, pp. 598-605.	Acquire period or reproduction utensils (similar to originals in the park museum collection or in other ranger cabins) as follows: coffee pot, enamel tea pot, enamel tea kettle, iron or enamel cook pot, 6 qt., enamel sauce pans, 2, aluminum double boiler, aluminum hot cake griddle, iron frying pans, 2, iron, 10- & 12-inch bread pan, tin or aluminum funnel, tin mixing bowl, earthenware mixing spoons, 2, wood butcher knife can opener
DISHES and EATING UTENSILS (on upper shelves of cupboard)	Field notebook, "Supplies Taken to Upper Savage Cabin," 1942; also "Patrol Cabin Use Rules," ca.1949: "Wash all dishes, silverware and cooking utensils, and replace in cupboard, upside down to keep out dust."	Acquire period or reproduction dishes and flatware (similar to originals in the park museum collection or in other ranger cabins) as follows: soup bowls, 4 soup dishes, 4 plates, 4, 9-inch cups, 4 table spoons, 4 table forks, 4 table knives, 4 tea spoons, 4

DISH PAN (hanging on nail on south wall behind stove pipe)	Field notebook, "Supplies Taken to Upper Savage Cabin", 1942; <i>Sears, Roebuck & Co. Fall and Winter Catalog</i> , 1929/30, pp. 908, 910.	Acquire period retinned steel or enamel dish pan.
TOOLS and TOOL BOX, steel (larger tools hanging on or leaning against wall in southwest corner, smaller ones in tool box under lower bunk)	Field notebook, "Tools at Lower Savage" and "Supplies Taken to Upper Savage Cabin," 1942.	Acquire period or reproduction tools (similar to originals in the park museum collection or in other ranger cabins) as follows: double-bit axe pick mattock shovel, long-handled saw, one-man, 4 ft. level claw hammer pliers, 2 broom metal tool box (Sears, Roebuck fall and winter catalog 1929/30, p. 1117).

FOOD CONTAINERS and COOKING SUPPLIES (on shelves over counter on south wall and in cupboard below)	Field notebook, "Supplies at Lower Savage Rangers Patrol Cabin," 1942.	Acquire reproduction cans and boxes, with reproduced labels for the name brand products and handwritten labels for the generic products: bacon, 2 cans <i>Quaker</i> oats, 2 boxes <i>Arm & Hammer</i> baking soda, 1 <i>Rumsey</i> baking powder, 1 can raisins, 1 box prunes, 1 box apricots, 1 box <i>Baker's</i> cocoa, 2 cans corned beef hash, 4 cans <i>Hills Bros.</i> coffee, 2 cans dried eggs, 2 cans <i>Tetley</i> tea, 1 can black pepper, 1 can <i>Log Cabin</i> syrup, 1 bottle rice, 1 large can batter, 1 can salt, 1 box <i>Borden</i> dried milk, 4 cans sugar, 1 large can flour, 1 large can beans, 1 large can <i>Rye Crisp</i>, 1 box macaroni, 1 large can matches, 1 small carton
KEROSENE LANTERN (hanging from center of ridge pole)	Field notebook, "Tools at Lower Savage," 1942; Lower Savage also had two kerosene lamps and a gas lantern, while Upper Savage had a gasoline lamp; the recommended ceiling location reflects current (1992) usage in the Pearson cabin, but the lantern could also have been used on the table and outdoors.	Acquire period kerosene lantern (Sears, Roebuck fall and winter catalog 1929/30, p. 1128).

Object and Location	Documentation	Recommendation
OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES The following items are to be included only if the cabin is attended by a costumed interpreter:		
HIGHTOP BOOTS, 1 pair, with rubber overs, lined "Arctic cloth" tops, and separate sheepskin "pacs", worn inside the boot for added warmth (on floor under lower bunk)	Photographs of rangers and others in <i>A History of Mount McKinley National Park</i> , pp. 29, 31, and <i>A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region</i> , after p. 198. Boots of this type are shown in the <i>Sears, Roebuck & Co. Catalog</i> for 1927 (1970 facsimile edition), p. 341.	Acquire period pair of boots or reproduction.
MUKLUKS, 1 pair	Bill Myers interview; Superintendent's Monthly Report for December 1933.	Acquire pair of period or reproduction mukluks (walrus skin boots).
CLOTHING, folded (on lower shelves of cupboard)	Common usage.	Acquire reproductions of: period work shirts, 2 riding breeches, 1 stockings, 2 pair sweaters, 2 underwear, 2 union suits See <i>Sears, Roebuck & Co. Fall and Winter Catalog</i> 1929/30, pp. 34, 431-33, 487.
OUTERWEAR (hanging from nails on north wall hanging strip)	Common usage.	Acquire reproductions of: 1930s-style slicker hooded lumber jacket lighter jacket heavy cardigan wool hat See <i>Sears, Roebuck & Co. Fall and Winter Catalog</i> 1929/30, pp. 411, 440-41, 474-75, 484-86, 493, 536.

WASHING and SHAVING GEAR (on corner of table near mirror; towel hanging from nail beside mirror)	Common usage.	Acquire period: straight razor strop shaving brush soap dish toothbrush hand towel modern bar of Lifebuoy soap <i>See Sears, Roebuck & Co. Fall and Winter Catalog 1929/30, pp. 546, 549, 671.</i>
FIELD GLASSES (on table by north window)	Rangers used these mainly to spot wildlife.	Acquire pair of period field glasses.
SNOWSHOES (under lower bunk or attached to ceiling)	Used regularly by rangers on patrol when not traveling with dog team; needed to be stored indoors; manner of storage not known.	Use Pearson snowshoes (figure 11) or similar period examples.
RADIO, battery-operated, on table	Pearson had a radio at his Lower Savage winter station as early as 1934 (Superintendent's Monthly Report for February 1934) and he had one with him at his Moose Creek station in the winter of 1937/38 (field notebook, March 31, 1938).	Acquire a table-model battery radio set dating from the early 1930s.
RIFLE, 22 Colt Woodman (mounted on the wall near the bunks)	Pearson, field notebooks, ca. March 1935 and August 23, 1938; the location is based on the assumption that the ranger would want to have it close at hand at night.	Acquire period 22 Colt Woodman rifle.
FIELD NOTEBOOK and PENCIL	Field notebooks used by Ranger Grant Pearson at Mount McKinley, 1935-37 and 1937-39 are in Denali National Park museum collection; most of the entries were made in pencil.	Acquire period pencil and reproduction of field notebook.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Ranger Grant Pearson on patrol at McLeod Creek in 1927, the same year he and Ranger Swisher built the similar cabin on the Upper Toklat River. From NPS, "History of Mount McKinley National Park."

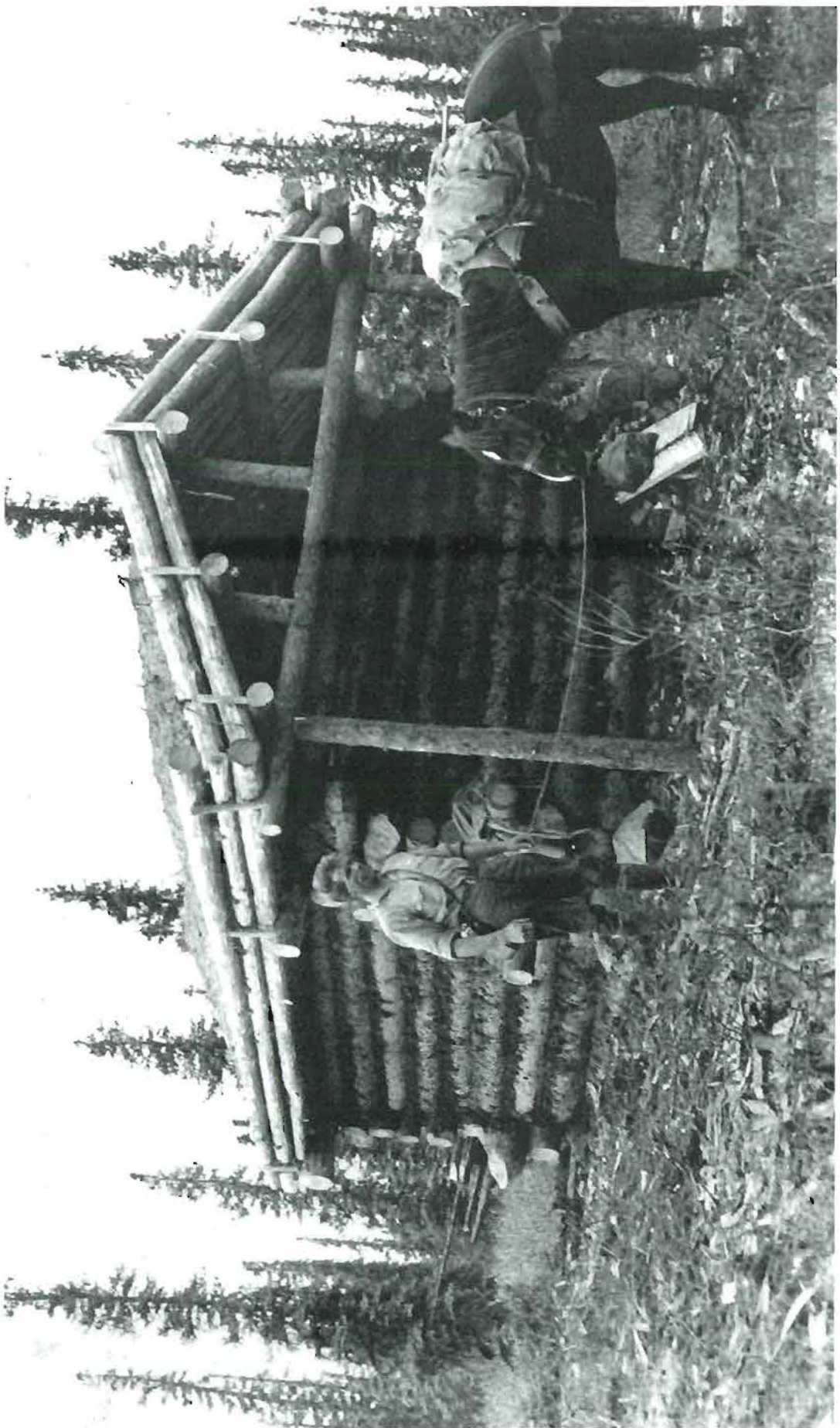


Figure 2. Ranger patrol along Riley Creek, 1924. From NPS, "History of McKinley National Park."



Figure 3. Upper Toklat Patrol Cabin, 1952. Upper Toklat Cabin file, Denali National Park.

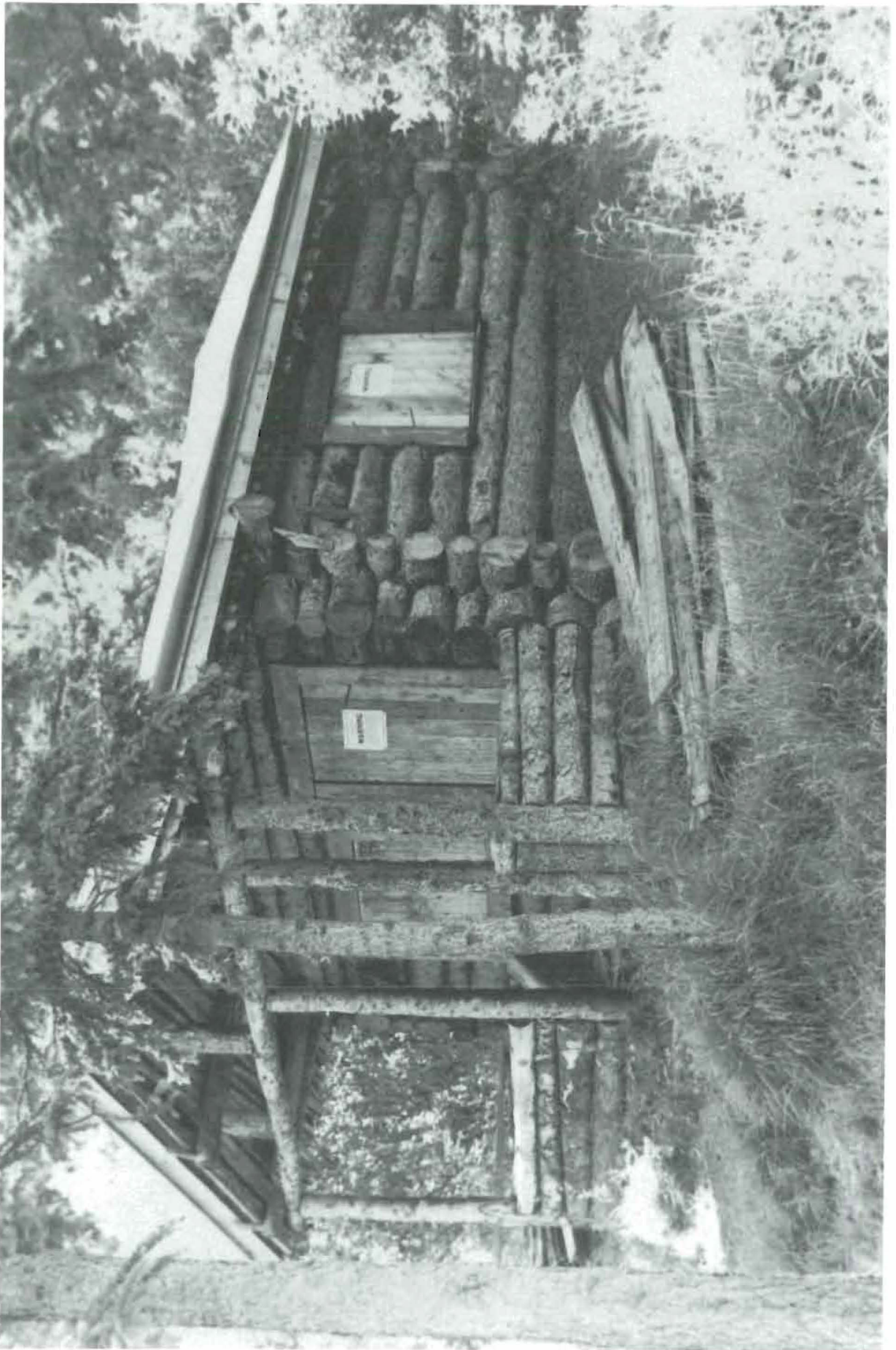


Figure 4. Upper Toklat ranger cabin complex, 1969, showing the cabin, cache, and one duplex dog house. From NPS, *Historic Structures Report, Part I: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex* (1970).



Figure 5. Seasonal Park Ranger--Naturalist Steve Carwile as "Ranger Pearson" standing in the doorway of the Pearson Cabin, 1976. From the Denali National Park collection.

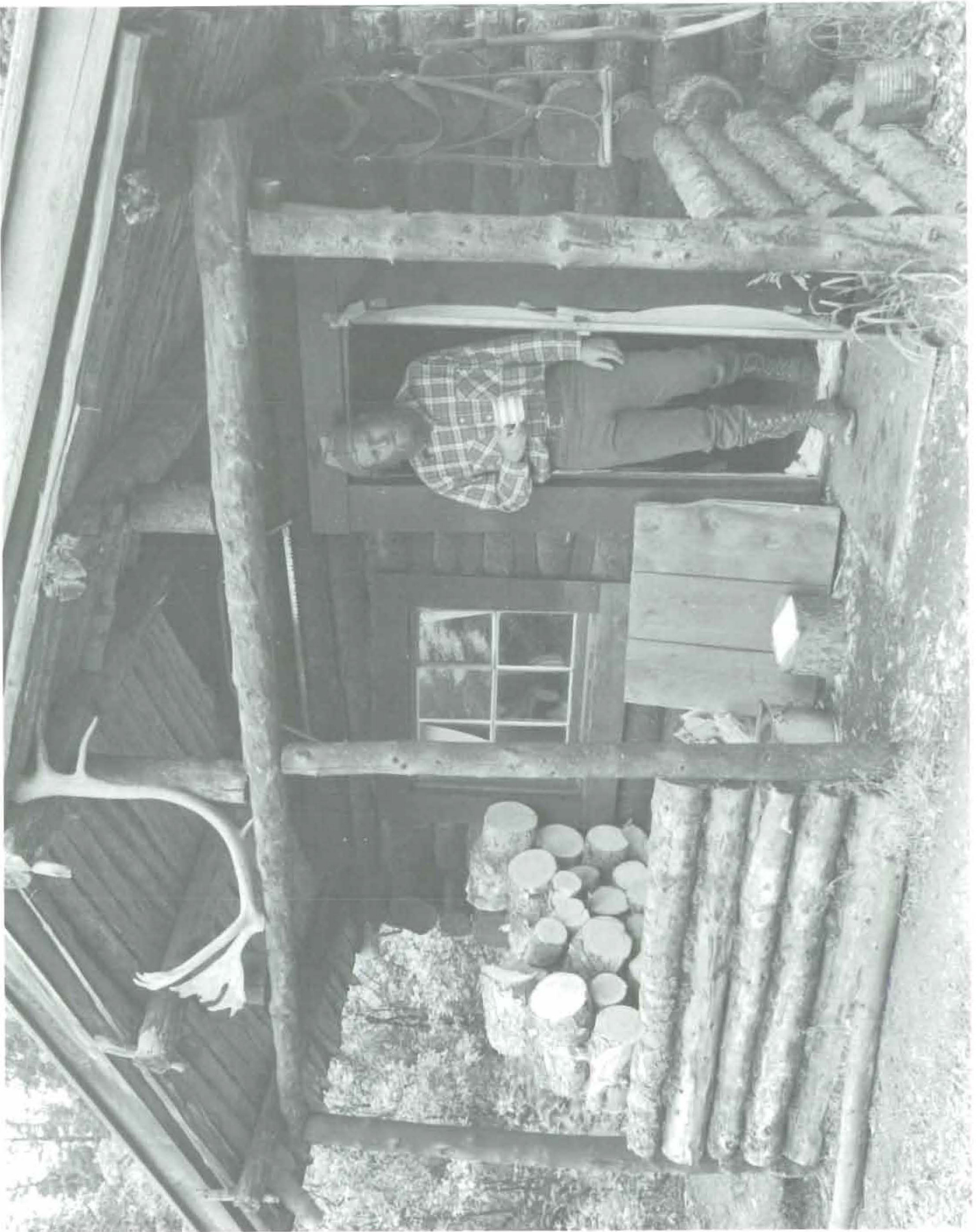


Figure 6. Floor Plan, Upper Toklat Cabin, 1952. From Form 10-768, individual cabin files, Denali National Park.

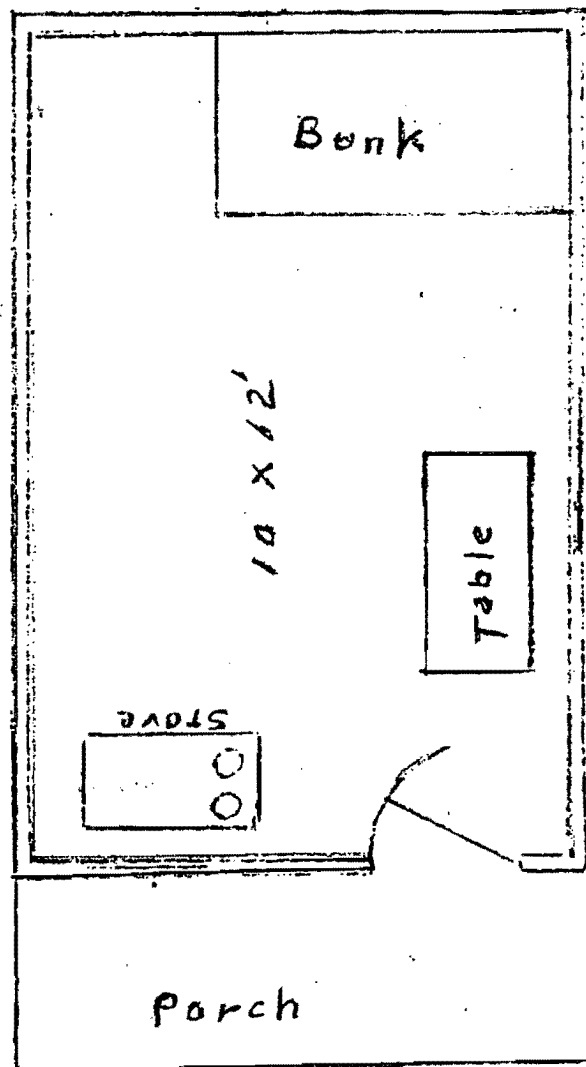
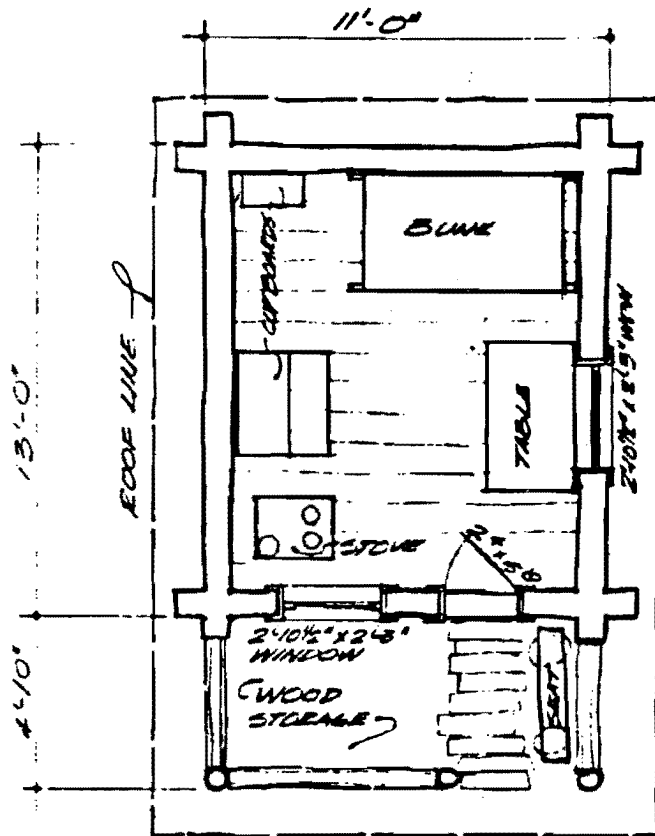


Figure 7. Floor Plan, Upper Toklat Cabin, 1969. From NPS, *Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex* (1970).



CABIN FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"

Figure 8. Floor Plan, Upper Toklat Cabin, 1984. From HABS Survey AK 33, Pearson Cabin.

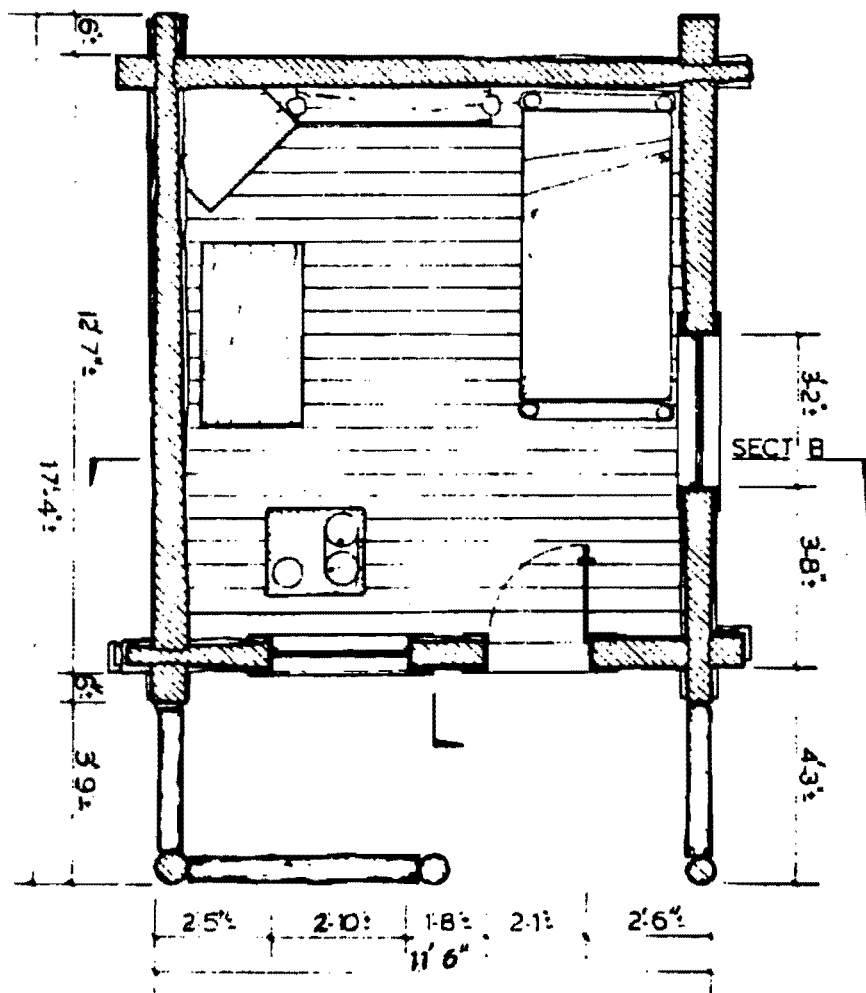


Figure 9. Inside Upper Toklat Cabin, southeast corner, 1969. From NPS, *Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex*, (1970).

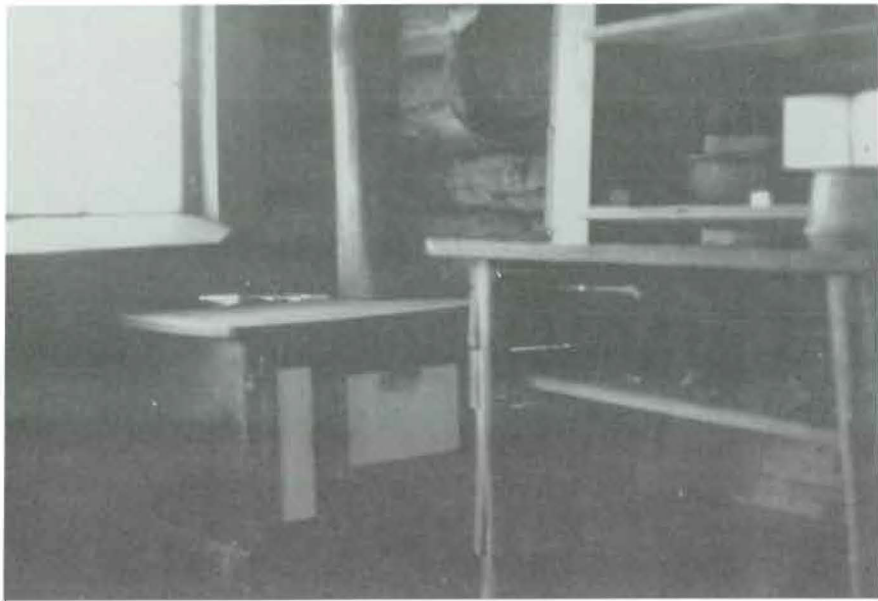
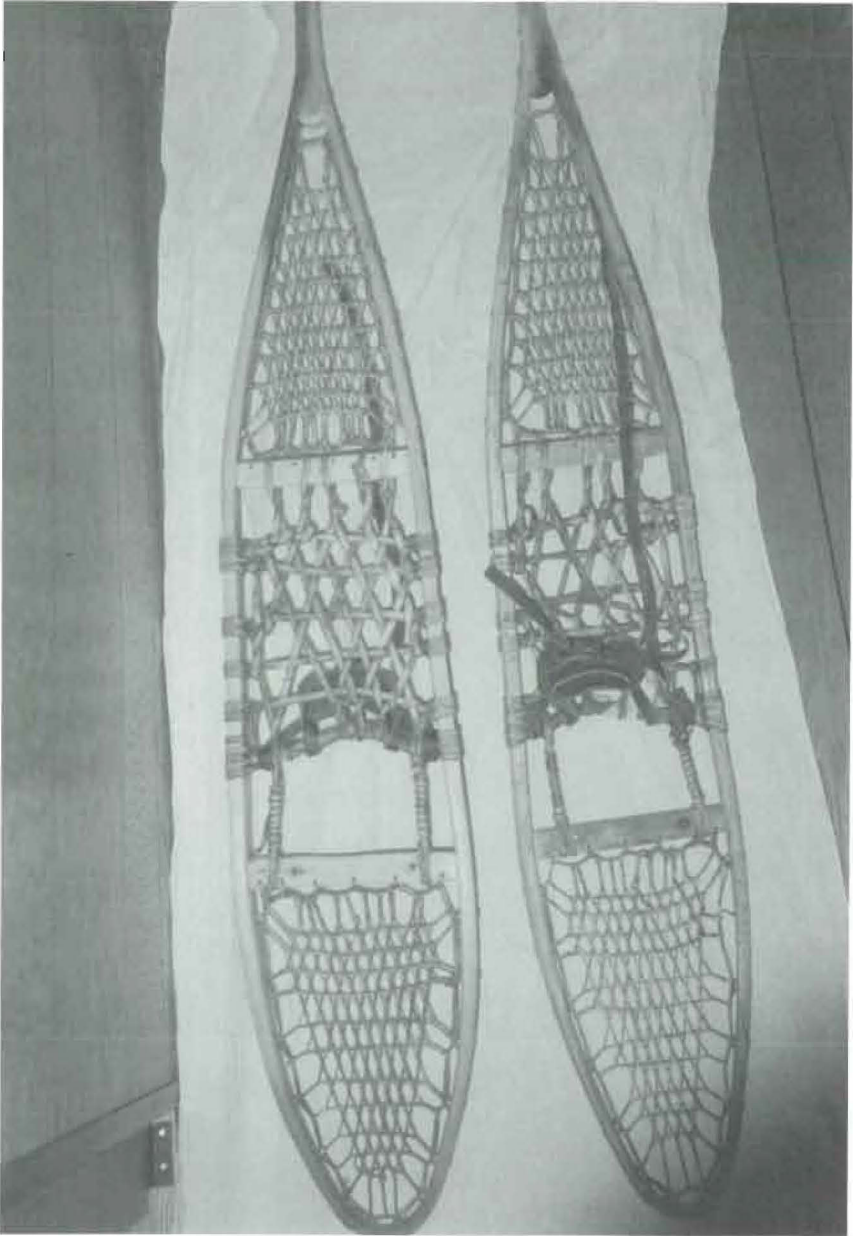


Figure 10. Inside Upper Toklat Cabin, southwest corner, 1969. From NPS, *Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Toklat Patrol Cabin Complex*, (1970).



Figure 11. Grant Pearson's snowshoes. From the Museum Collection, Denali National Park.



APPENDIX

RANGER GRANT PEARSON'S FIELD NOTES FOR THE YEARS 1935-1939

Transcribed by David H. Wallace, 1993, from machine copies of the original notebooks in the historical collection of Denali National Park.

Park Ranger Pearson left for his winter station in the Toklat or central district of Mount McKinley National Park on November 11, 1935, and returned to park headquarters on March 3, 1936. During his nearly four months on winter patrol duty he made his temporary home in the patrol cabin on the lower Toklat River, close to the north boundary. From there he made dog team or snowshoe patrols along the boundary east and west and up the rivers and creeks of his district--the Sushana, East Fork, Toklat, Stony, and Clearwater--occasionally as far as the cabins on the park road at the upper Toklat River crossing.

During the three following winters Pearson's routine was similar, although in the winter of 1937/38 his patrol assignment covered the western end of the park, with Moose Creek ranger cabin as his center of operations, while in 1938/39 he alternated between two-week patrols and a week or so at park headquarters and the eastern boundary stations. During the warmer months, Pearson and his fellow rangers carried out other duties in the field, such as hunting down wolves, repairing telephone and radio installations, and performing manual labor around park headquarters.

While working out in the park Pearson made daily entries in his government-issue field notebook, recording where and how far he traveled, what he saw, and what work he accomplished around the various cabins in his district. Interestingly, not once in these four years did Pearson record an encounter with poachers or trappers operating within the park. Although generally terse and impersonal, and conveying no hint of the almost unending night that surrounded him for months at a time, Pearson's notes still help one visualize the daily existence of a park ranger in the pioneer days of Mount McKinley National Park. For more vivid details of that life, the reader is encouraged to turn to Pearson's autobiography, *My Life of High Adventure*, written after his retirement.

In the following transcript of Pearson's field notes from March 1935 to March 1939, Pearson's spelling idiosyncracies have been preserved, but in the interest of clarity some liberties have been taken with his capitalization and punctuation.

Thurs. Mar. 21. 1935. Traveled out to Savage. 10 miles. 1 fox. Trail poor.

Fri. Mar. 22. Storming hard all day. Stayed at Savage.

Sat. Mar. 23. Storming hard all day. Stayed at Savage.

Sun. Mar. 24. Traveled over to Sanctuary. 10 miles.

Mon. Mar. 25. Travelled over to Savage and picked up a load of okum (9 cwt). 20 miles. Clear and cold. Lots of ptarmigan.

Tues. Mar. 26. Travelled to Headquarters [sic]. 1 moose. 20 miles.

Wed. Mar. 27. Travelled out to Sanctuary. 20 miles.

Thurs. Mar. 28. Travelled over to Igloo Creek. Made a trip from the cabin to mouth of Igloo and got a load of supplies. 6 sheep. 10 miles.

Fri. Mar. 29. Travelled over Sable Pass with a load of supplies and returned. 12 miles. 1 fox, cross.

Sat. Mar. 30. Travelled over to East Fork. Ranger Rumohr was at the cabin when I arrived.

Sun. Mar. 31. Cooked dog feed. Snow shoed down East Fork 2 miles and returned. 4 miles.

Mon. Apr. 1. Travelled down East Fork 10 miles and returned. 3 sheep, lots of wolf tracks. 20 miles.

Tues. April 2. Travelled down to East Fork Rangers cabin. 2 sheep, caribou signs below canyon. 20 miles.

Wed. April 3. Cooked dog feed and started to chink cabin with okum.

Thurs. April 4. Travelled over to Toklat Rangers cabin and returned. 11 miles. Got saw and a hook to pull moss with.

Fr. April 5. Worked chinking cabin.

Sat. April 6. Worked chinking cabin and cut poles for chinking.

Sun. April 7. Cooked dog feed and put pole chinking in the cabin. Lew left for headquarters.

Mon. April 8. Broke trail 6 miles towards Sushanna Creek and returned, storming hard. 12 miles.

Tues. April 9. Worked around cabin all day, storming hard. Cut wood.

Wed. April 10. Travelled over to Sushanna Creek. Started to chink cabin. 10 miles. Trail good.

Thurs. April 11. Worked chinking cabin.

Fri. April 12. Travelled over to East Fork Rangers cabin. 10 miles.

Sat. April 13. Baked bread and washed clothes. Cut some wood.

Sun. April 14. Cut poles to finish chinking cabin with.

Mon. April 15. Finished chinking the cabin.

Tues. April 16. Cut some green wood and hauled it out. Cleaned up cabin.

Wed. April 17. Travelled up to A.R.C. cabin on the road. 40 sheep. 20 miles. Trail not so good.

Thurs. April 18. Travelled over to Toklat. Sandy not feeling so good. 11 miles. 4 sheep. Trail good.

Fri. April 19. Travelled over to Moose Creek Rangers station. Ranger Rumohr and Commissioner [...undy] were at the cabin. 22 miles.

Sat. April 20. Rested at Moose Creek Rangers cabin. Cooked dog feed.

Sun. April 21. Made a round trip over to Mt Eielson with a load for John. Trail good. 24 miles.

Mon. April 22. Travelled over to Toklat. 1 fox, 5 sheep. Trail good. 28 miles.

Tues. April 23. Travelled over to Igloo creek. 16 sheep. Trail good. 22 miles.

Wed. April 24. Travelled to Headquarters. 32 miles.

After a summer working out of park headquarters, Pearson went out on winter patrol again in November 1935.

Nov. 11. Armistice day. Left Head Quaters [sic], traveled out to Savage River. 7 wolves came up to where the dogs were tied. John fired a shot and scared them away. 10 miles. Clear and cold. Trail good. 6 below.⁶⁶

Nov. 12. Traveled over to Sanctuary River. Lots of wolf tracks. Two sheep. 1 dead sheep. Trail good. 10 below [sic, for "miles"]. 34 below.

Nov. 13. Traveled over to Igloo Creek. 12 miles. Trail good. 22 below.

Nov. 14. Traveled over to Toklat River. Seen fresh bear track at East Fork. 1 fox, 35 sheep. 20 miles. Trail good. 14 below.

Nov. 15. Rested dogs. Walked down Toklat River a ways and picked out trail. 4 miles. 8 below.

Sat. Nov. 16. Traveled down to Toklat ranger's cabin. Bad over flow most of the way, had to leave the river about 4 miles above the cabin and take to the hill side. 25 miles. 8 sheep. Trail bad. 24 below.

Sun. Nov. 17. Rested and dried out my out-fit. 4 below getting warmer.

Mon. Nov. 18. Built shelves in the cellar and took out the bunks and set up a cot. Cloudy. 14 in. snow. 26 above.

⁶⁶ Pearson was accompanied on this leg of his journey by Ranger John Rumohr.

Tues. Nov. 19. Worked cleaning up around cabin. Chinooked during the night and snow almost all melted. 36 above this morning. 28 above this evening.

Wed. Nov. 20. Rained all day. Cooked dog feed and worked around cabin.⁶⁷ 40 above 8 A.M. 20 above at 9 P.M.

Thurs. Nov. 21. Worked cutting wood and starting to build dog houses. 6 above zero. snow allmost [sic] all gone.

Fri. Nov. 29. Patrolling along boundary east. 10 miles. Getting colder 2 above.

Sat. Nov. 23. Patrolling west up Clear Water. 12 miles. 1 moose, some rabbits. 24 below.

Sun. Nov. 24. Rested. 28 below.

Mon. Nov. 25. Patrolling [sic] over towards East Fork 8 miles and returned. 1 moose. 16 miles. 6 below.

Tues. Nov. 26. Made a round trip over to East Fork with a load of supplies. 22 miles.

Wed. Nov. 27. Cut wood and hauled it up with the dogs. 6 above.

Thurs. Nov. 28. Thanksgiving. Baked bread and got ready to leave for East Fork. 28 below.

Fri. Nov. 29. Travelled along boundary west. 7 miles and returned. 14 miles. 34 below.

Sat. Nov. 30. Peeled cashed [cache] posts and put tin around them. 20 below.

Sun. Dec. 1. Worked around the cabin. 30 below.

Mon. Dec. 2. Travelled over to East Fork. Started to lay tin on roof of cashe. 11 miles. 34 below.

Tues. Dec. 3. Finished laying tin on roof of cashe. 40 below.

Wed. Dec. 4. Travelled over to Sushanna Creek. 9 miles. 34 below. Leo arrived a 4:30 P.M.⁶⁸

Thurs. Dec. 5. Traveled back to Toklat Ranger cabin. 1 moose, 1 fox. 40 below. 20 miles.

Fri. Dec. 6. Cooked dog feed and worked around the cabin. 46 below.

⁶⁷ The "dog feed" consisted of a mixture of dried salmon, rice, and tallow.

⁶⁸ Leo Koppa or Koppo, probably a local trapper; see entries for Dec. 8 and 11, 1935; Feb. 5, 1936.

Sat. Dec. 7. Cooked dog feed. Patrolling along Toklat 10 miles. Heard J.P. [anounce?] for me to go down to Knight's Road House and get dogs.⁶⁹ 45 below.

Sun. Dec. 8. Washed clothes. Baked bread and cooked dog feed. Leo Koppa arrived at 2 P.M. for a visit with me. 26 below.

Mon. Dec. 9. Cut wood and hauled it with the dogs. 34 below.

Tues. Dec. 10. Broke trail down the Toklat River to the mouth of East Fork. 10 miles. 26 below.

Wed. Dec. 11. Cut wood and cooked dog feed. 44 below. Leo Koppa left for East Fork.

Thurs. Dec. 12. Cut wood and cooked dog feed. 48 below.

Fri. Dec. 13. Cut wood and cooked dog feed. 46 below.⁷⁰

Sat. Dec. 14. Patrolling up Clear Water 7 miles and returned. 1 moose. 14 miles. 30 below.

Sun. Dec. 15. Traveled down to Knight's Road House to get two pups from Jim Burroughs. 30 miles. 1 fox. 26 below.

Mon. Dec. 16. Travelled back to Toklat Rangers cabin. Lots of overflow. 30 miles. 6 above.

Tues. Dec. 17. Dried out my out fit. Cooked dog feed and cleaned up the cabin. 28 above.

Wed. Dec. 18. Cooked dog feed. Washed clothes and got my out fit ready to leave for Sushanna. Warm. 38 above.

Thurs. Dec. 19. Travelled over to Sushanna ranger's cabin. 1 wolf. 20 miles, trail soft. 36 above.

Fri. Dec. 20. Built cupboard and worked around cabin. The wolves were howling close by most of the day. The sick pup I got from Burroughs died. 18 above. 1 wolf.

Sat. Dec. 21. Traveled over to Toklat ranger's cabin. Trapper Carl Hult arrived from Little Moose Creek. 20 miles. 8 above.

Sun. Dec. 22. Baked bread, cooked dog feed. Carl Hult left for Knight's Road House. 2 below.

Mon. Dec. 23. Cut wood and hauled it out with the dogs. 6 below.

⁶⁹ Knight's Road House was located on the Kantishna-Nenana trail about 30 miles down the Toklat River from the Toklat ranger's cabin. J.P. was probably the Jim Burroughs from whom Pearson got two pups on Dec. 15.

⁷⁰ In his autobiography, Pearson mentions that when the temperature dropped below -40°F, the rangers did not take their dogs out on patrol; hence his two days around the cabin on Dec. 12-13.

Tues. Dec. 24. Patrolling up Clear Water and returned. 14 miles. 2 below.

Wed. Dec. 25. Cooked dog feed baked bread. 4 below.

Thurs. Dec. 26. Cooked dog feed and patrolled up Clear Water Creek 3 miles and returned. 6 miles. 3 above zero.

Fri. Dec. 27. Travelled up to Stony Ranger's cabin. A few ptarmigan. Trail fair. Zero. 20 miles.

Sat. Dec. 28. Traveled over to Moose Creek Ranger's Station. Ranger Rumohr had gone to Head Quarters. Traveled over Boundary Pass. 2 sheep. 2 above. 20 miles.

Sun. Dec. 29. Rested at Moose Creek. Ranger Rumohr arrived from Copper Mtn.⁷¹

Mon. Dec. 30. Traveled over the boundary near the Pass to Boundary Creek but failed to find a good route. 16 miles. 12 below.

Tues. Dec. 31. Traveled down to Quigley's to spend New Year's.⁷² 1 fox. 14 miles. 12 below.

Wed. Jan. 1 - 1936. Traveled back to Moose Creek ranger's cabin. Strong wind. 14 below. 14 miles.

Thurs. Jan. 2 - 1936. Strong wind. Stayed at Moose Creek. 12 below.

Fri. Jan. 3. Storming. Wind blowing hard. 16 below.

Sat. Jan. 4. Storming all day. 14 below.

Sun. Jan. 5. Traveled over to Stony ranger's cabin. 3 wolves. 20 miles. Trail poor. 28 below.

Mon. Jan. 6. Traveled down to Toklat ranger's cabin. 1 moose 2 wolves. Stopped [sic] at Little Moose Creek and got 3 dogs from Jim Burroughs. 20 miles. Trail poor. 24 below.

Tues. Jan. 7. Cut wood cooked dog feed. 24 below.

Wed. Jan. 8. Cut green wood for next winter as dry wood is getting scarce. 26 below.

Thurs. Jan. 9. Traveled along boundary 5 miles east and returned. 10 miles. 28 below.

⁷¹ Copper Mountain had been renamed Mount Eielson in 1931, but the old name apparently died hard with the park's old-timers.

⁷² Fanny and Joe Quigley had been mine operators in the Kantishna-Eureka Creek area since about 1904; their cabin was a popular place to visit, as Fanny was a notable gardener and cook. See several references and a 1931 photograph of the Quigleys and visitors in front of their cabin in NPS, *A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region*.

Fri. Jan. 10. Patrolling near ranger station six miles. 1 red fox. 8 below.

Sat. Jan. 11. Traveled over to East Fork. Cut some poles for tripods along boundary and hauled them out, also some fire wood. 11 miles.

Sun. Jan. 12. Traveled over to Sushanna Creek. Set up some tripods and cut 32 tripod poles after I arrived at the cabin. 9 miles.

Mon. Jan. 13. Worked along boundary line. 24 below. 12 miles.

Tues. Jan. 14. Traveled over to Toklat ranger's cabin. Set up six tripods. 34 below. 20 miles.

Wed. Jan. 15. Cooked dog feed and cut wood. 35 below.

Thurs. Jan. 16. Started to put tin on the roof of the cashe. 37 below.

Fri. Jan. 17. Worked laying tin on roof. Carl Hult arrived. 14 below.

Sat. Jan. 18. Finished laying tin on roof of cashe. Carl Hult left for Lower East Fork. 18 below.

Sun. Jan. 19. Put trailing things up in the cache. Carl Hult arrived. 18 below. 10 miles. [Note: Over this Pearson wrote "Patrolling up Clear Water."

Mon. Jan. 20. Cooked dog feed, cut some dry wood out in the woods. Carl Hult left for Knight's Road House. 6 above.

Tues. Jan. 21. Broke trail 5 miles up Toklat and returned. 1 fox. 10 miles. 14 above.

Wed. Jan. 22. Cut wood cooked dog feed and got ready to leave. Carl Hult arrived. Zero.

Thurs. Jan. 23. Traveled up to Stony ranger's cabin. 20 miles. Trail good. 30 above.

Fri. Jan. 24. Traveled over to Toklat A.R.C. cabin.⁷³ 2 Sheep. Ranger Rumohr was at the cabin when I arrived. 15 miles. Trail bad through Stony cabin [sic, for canyon].

Sat. Jan. 25. Traveled down to Toklat Rangers cabin. 25 miles - trail good. 3 sheep.

Sun. Jan. 26. Washed clothes, cooked dog feed. 34 above.

Mon. Jan. 27. Patrolling east towards East Fork 6 miles and returned. 12 miles. 2 moose. 38 above.

Tues. Jan. 28. Patrolling up Clear Water 10 miles and returned. 1 moose 1 red fox.

⁷³ This was the Alaska Road Commission's cabin on the park road, a short distance to the east of the Upper Toklat ranger cabin (Pearson Cabin). Park rangers seem to have used the A.R.C. cabin in winter in preference to the smaller and more primitive ranger-built cabin.

Wed. Jan. 29. Got my things ready to leave for Head Quaters.⁷⁴

Thurs. Jan. 30. Traveled over to Sushanna Creek ranger's cabin. 20 miles. 4 caribou 1 moose.

Fri. Jan. 31. Travelled to Head Quaters via Sand Creek and Teklanika Canyon. 2 sheep. Trail good. 40 miles.

Sat. Feb. 1. Repaired dog harness and fitted a bow on my sled.

Sun. Feb. 2. Travelled to Savage ranger's cabin. 18 sheep. 15 miles.

Mon. 3 & Tues. Feb. 4. 46 below. Stayed at Savage.

Wed. Feb. 5. Travelled over to Leo's cabin on Teklanika. Broke trail up on the bench and returned to Leo's cabin.⁷⁵ 12 miles. 15 below.

Thurs. Feb. 6. Travelled over to Sushanna ranger's cabin. 15 miles. 18 below.

Fri. Feb. 7. Travelled over to Toklat ranger's cabin. 20 miles. 18 below zero.

Sat. Feb. 8. Worked around cabin. 14 below.

Sun. Feb. 9. Baked bread and worked around the cabin. Carl Hult arrived. 36 below.

Mon. Feb. 10. Cut wood and patrolling up Clear Water Creek 4 miles and returned. 8 miles. 10 below zero.

Tues. Feb. 11. Patrolling up Clear Water and Stony Creek. 14 miles. Hauled up some wood. 1 above zero.

Wed. Feb. 12. Cut wood and snow shoed trail out to it. 8 above.

Thurs. Feb. 13. Broke trail 10 miles up Toklat and returned. Also hauled up some wood. 20 miles. 8 below.

Fri. 14. Broke trail 12 miles up Toklat and returned. Lew arrived from Toklat.⁷⁶ 14 miles. 12 below.

Sat. 15. Baked bread and got ready to leave.

Sun. 16. Travelled up to road cabin. 1 sheep. Trail fair. 25 miles.

Mon. 17. Travelled down to Toklat ranger's cabin. 25 miles. Trail good.

⁷⁴ According to Superintendent Liek's monthly report for February 1933, all the rangers had to come back to headquarters in February to "get off their income tax reports, also to pick up additional food supplies to last them for the rest of the winter."

⁷⁵ See footnote 3.

⁷⁶ Chief Ranger Lewis Corbley.

Tues. 18. Cut wood and cooked dog feed.

Wed. Feb. 19. Patrolling up Clear Water. 10 miles.

Thurs. Feb. 20. Baked bread and washed clothes. Snowing hard all day.

Fri. Feb. 21. Travelled over to East Fork. Snowing all day. Hard trail. 11 miles.

Sat. Feb. 22. Snowed hard all day. Travelled 1 mile on snow shoes and returned. 2 miles.

Sun. Feb. 23. Broke trail 5 miles towards Sushanna Creek and returned. 10 miles. Partly cloudy. 24 below.

Mon. Feb. 24. Broke trail 6 miles and returned to East Fork. 12 miles. 35 below.

Tues. Feb. 25. Travelled over to Sushanna Creek ranger's cabin. Snow shoed a trail two miles towards Teklanika and returned. 2 moose. 10 miles. 35 below.

Wed. Feb. 26. Broke trail 6 miles towards Teklanika River and returned. 12 miles, time 7 hours. 25 below.

Thurs. Feb. 27. Cooked dog feed and cut wood. 15 below.

Fri. Feb. 28. Broke trail 7 1/2 miles and returned--my old trail was drifted over so I could not tell where it was. 15 miles. 15 below.

Sat. Feb. 29. Broke trail 6 1/2 miles up to the summit between Sushanna and Teklanika. 13 miles. Lots of ptarmigan. 15 below.

Sun. Mar. 1. Travelled over to Leo's cabin on Teklanika River. Storming hard. 1 dead sheep, 5 wolves. 15 miles. Plenty tired.

Mon. Mar. 2. Travelled over to Savage ranger's cabin. 8 miles. 6 hours.

Tues. Mar. 3. Travelled to Park Head Quarters. Met Supt. Liek and Ranger Ogston at miles 5.⁷⁷ 14 sheep. 18 miles.

There are no entries for March 4-11, while Pearson presumably was at park headquarters or on leave. On March 12 he left headquarters with a survey party, he and Ranger John Rumohr serving as guides and freight handlers for the group. They were out in the western part of the park for almost two months, camping out most of the time, and returning to headquarters on May 9.

Thurs. Mar. 12. Left Head Quarters with the survey outfit. There is 8 of us. I have 13 dogs. John has 11 dogs. Travelled out to Sanctuary River. 20 miles. 6 hrs. 20 min.

Fri. Mar. 13. Travelled over to Igloo Creek. Trail fair. 12 miles. 4 hrs. 10 min.

⁷⁷ Harry J. Liek, Superintendent of Mount McKinley National Park from 1928 to 1939, and Ranger Ted Ogston.

Sat. Mar. 14. Travelled over to Toklat River. 14 sheep. 8 hours. 22 miles. Trail not so good. 8 hours.

Sun. Mar. 15. Rested at Toklat.

Mon. Mar. 16. Travelled over to Mt. Eielson. 2 fox. 18 miles. 6 hrs. 40 min.

Tues. Mar. 17. Travelled down to Kantishna ranger's cabin. Pilot H.A. Christensen landed with his plane on the river in front of the cabin. 20 miles. 7 hrs. 5 min.

Wed. Mar. 18. Storming. Stayed at cabin and cooked dog feed.

Thurs. Mar. 19. Ken and I went up to end of the road and returned. I flew over to Toklat with Cris and he picked up Lee. 6 miles.

Fri. March 20. Travelled down to the mouth of McKinley Canyon with a load of supplies for the survey party. Noticed a trapper's cabin one mile above the mouth of the canyon. Ken and Larry stayed at the cabin. 24 miles. Trail bad.

Sat. March 21. Travelled down to the park boundary on McKinley River. We are camped in middle of the canyon. The canyon is good condition for travelling with dog team. There is a cable stretched across the canyon for crossing in the summer. 15 miles. Storming, bad trail.

Sun. Mar. 22. Travelled up the river three miles and hauled down 1300 lbs of supplies. Then I broke a trail up on the bench towards McCloud [McCleod] Creek and hauled 550 lbs of supplies up there. McCloud Creek has good cabin timber. 10 miles. Storming.

Mon. Mar. 23. Made two round trips to the mouth of the canyon and made the trip up on the hill. I sent four of my dogs back with John. 16 1/2 miles.

Tues. Mar. 24. Travelled west 6 miles and returned. McCloud Creek is about 1 1/2 mile west from McKinley River canyon. 12 miles. Partly cloudy, windy.

Wed. Mar. 25. Moved camp 6 miles. We are now camped between McCloud Creek and Slippery Creek. There are many little hills along the boundary and many small lakes ranging from 1 to 15 acres. It looks like the ground would be soft in the summer. There is good timber in the bottom along McCloud Creek. After we moved camp I made another round trip to our old camp on McKinley River for the rest of our camp outfit. 18 miles. 15 below. No animal tracks was seen except two rabbit tracks.

Thurs. March 26. Made two round trips to the hill 3/4 mile this side of McKinley Creek with supplies 21 miles. Clear and cold.

Fri. Mar. 27. Made a round trip to our cache and got the last of our supplies. Then I snow shod a trail 1/4 mile past Slippery Creek. Seen moose, fox, rabbit and weasel tracks, also seen a flock of ptarmigan between camp and Slippery Creek. 15 1/2 miles.

Sat. Mar. 28. Broke trail over to the creek west of Slippery. Hauled 300 lbs of supplies as far as Slippery Creek. 9 miles. Saw a cabin on Slippery Creek about half

mile abreast of mile 17 1/2 or bearing west 10° n mile 17 on north side river in heavy timber. Old man Ellis cabin.

Sun. Mar. 27. Travelled over to Slippery Creek. Moved camp. Made another round trip. Weather warm, 43 above. 12 miles.

Mon. Mar. 30. Herb and I made two round trips to our old camp, then I went down to the boundary and put up boundary signs. 16 1/2 miles. Weather clear, cold nights, warm day.

Tues. Mar. 31. Moved camp to Birch Creek. After I unloaded at Birch Creek I made another round trip over to our old camp. The country around here is the same as the rest from McKinley River. Small spruce and tamarack [tamarack]. There is good cabin timber in the creek bottom and a few cotton wood and alders [alders] and birch. Seen lots of moose signs. 18 miles. Clear.

Wed. April 1. Made a round trip to our old camp site and relayed one load a mile from camp to the top of the hill. 14 miles. Clear.

Thurs. April 2. Made two round trips with supplies. Then I snow shoed down Birch Creek 1/4 mile. There is a trappers cabin and cache and five dog houses. The trail looked like it had not been used since about the first of March. The cabin is about 1/3 mile above the Park Boundary. 22 miles. Clear.

Fri. April 3. Had 325 lbs of supplies and followed the trapper's trail towards Foraker River. Noticed about 20 martin houses with traps sprung and left in the houses. The houses and tracks looked like they had been used the last winter. I travelled about seven miles towards Foraker and the timber is the same as the rest of the boundary. The country is rolling and many little lakes and pot holes. 14 miles.

Sat. April 4. Moved the cooked tent and travelled seven miles and returned to our old camp. Betts, Berlin, Nelson, Gill and Larry moved with the cook tent. There are wolverine signs along the trail so we did not want to leave any of our supplies along the trail. When we get every thing moved to the camp we will move our tent. Noticed martin tracks along the trail. 14 miles.

April 5. Made a round trip over to the other camp and hauled a load half way and returned. 21 miles. 26 below.

April 7. Travelled 7 1/2 miles west and picked out a camp site. Foraker River is 3 1/2 miles from here. There is a trapper's cabin and cache located about 3/4 mile above the boundary and on the west side of the river. The cabin looks like it had been built about 3 years. There was seven dog shelters. The Foraker River is about 1/2 mile from bank to bank and all covered with over flow ice. It probably carries more water than the McKinley River or Toklat. There is good cabin timber along the river. Some moose, wolverine and martin signs. 25 miles.

April 8. Moved camp 7 1/2 miles. After I unload my first load I returned to our old camp and got another load. 22 miles. Cloudy, some snow.

April 9. Made a round trip to our old camp and made a round trip half way. Seen fresh wolverine tracks. 22 1/2 miles. Partly cloudy, some snow.

April 10. Made a round trip over to the trapper's cabin and put up some signs and left a note. Brought back the rest of our supplies. 7 3/4 miles. 4 inches snow.

April 11. Broke trail over to Herron Creek. Seen fresh martin, weasel, wolverine, porcupine and moose tracks. Our tobacco is running short. 20 miles. 20 below zero.

April 12. Made two round trips half way with supplies. 20 miles. 21 below.

April 13. Moved camp 12 miles. We are camped near the north west corner of the park on Herron River. 12 miles. 5 below. The river is about 3 miles east from corner. The river is about 300 yds wide and seems to carry lots of water. Number 4 corner is 3 miles west from the river.

April 14. Made a round trip up to the cache and hauled down a load of supplies. Then I hauled a load a mile out to my new trail. The river is over flowing bad near camp. Travelled in the water about 400 yds. 15 miles. 20 above.

April 15. Travelled over to our old camp site and hauled over the last of our supplies. Got in the over flow near camp both going and coming. 24 miles. 16 above.

April 16. Hauled the rest of our supplies down to the river. Herron River is over flowing bad and it is hard to travel along the edge of the woods on account of the thick under brush. There is good cabin timber along the river. 15 miles. 20 above.

April 17. Broke trail 6 miles up stream and returned. I hauled up part of our outfit. There is another trapper's cabin and cache about 4 miles above the park boundary and on the west side of the river. The cabin and [sic] half filled with over flow ice and looked like it had been built about three years. The river has much over flow ice all along it. 12 miles. 36 above. Seen fox, wolverine and moose tracks.

April 18. Moved camp up river 7 miles. Then went back one mile and picked up yesterday's load. 9 miles. 36 above.

April 19. Doubled down the river 4 miles and hauled up the last load of supplies. Six caribou crossed the river near camp. Ken and Berlin seen two moose. 8 miles.

April 20. Broke trail 4 miles towards Tonzona River with 400 lbs of supplies and returned. Seen moose tracks. 8 miles, 19 above to 68 above.

April 21. Herb and I moved over to the Tonzona. The river has much over flow ice and there is ice all through the timber in the river bottom which is about 1/2 mile wide. 10 miles. Lots of caribou.

April 22. Made a round trip over to the other camp and hauled up a load of supplies. Lots of caribou, grouse, ptarmigan and moose. 12 miles. The snow is going fast. Herb got two.

April 23. Moved the supplies tent and outfit over to where Herb and I are camped. Then I returned to the cache and hauled up our last load of supplies. 18 miles.

April 24. Travelled six miles towards Mt. Russel and looked the country over. Lots of caribou, moose, wolverine, wolf and martin on this creek. 70% of timber over 10 inches on the stump is wrotten [sic]. 12 miles.

April 25. Lots of mosquitos. Made 5 dog packs. The line comes out on the river on the on the [sic] right side going downstream about 3 miles from where our camp is at.

April 26. Travelled over to the next river that heads in the park, the boundary crosses the river about 1/2 mile below timber line and at the last timber. There is a trapper's cabin 1/2 mile below the park boundary. Seen about 25 sheep and 35 caribou, 1 fox. I travelled out on the moraine of the glacier two miles and returned. I noticed four high mountains east of Mt. Russel that look like they were over 10,000 ft high. Going back to camp I seen 1 red fox, lots of ptarmigan. 25 miles.

April 27. Finished sewing dog packs and started to build a cache. Lenard Berlin killed four wolf packs just out side of the park boundary. The gang finished the park boundary. They stoped at mile 21.725. The last post is on the south side of the river at the foot of the mountain near the river.

April 28. Finished work on cache and built a pack board.

April 29. Cooked dog feed and got things ready to leave. I put the sled and harness and some other supplies on the cache.

April 30. Travelled over to the river that drains the glacier that comes out of Mt. Foraker. Larry got lost and located our camp at 6.30 P.M. 1 caribou, 1 porcupine. 10 miles. Hard travelling.

May 1. Travelled over to the Foraker River. We are travelling at timber line and a wonderful view of Mt. Foraker and the rest of the range is had. 10 miles. Hard travelling.

May 2. Travelled 20 miles along the range towards Copper Mt'n. Fair travelling.

May 3. Travelled 20 miles towards Copper Mt'n. We are travelling above timber line and the going is fair. Camp at timber line on Muddy Creek.

May 4. Travelled over to the mouth of the canyon on McKinley River. We are camped in the last cotton woods on McKinley River at the foot of Muldrow Glacier. The travelling was bad from Cache Creek to McKinley River. It took us 6 1/2 hrs from Cache Creek to the cotton woods on McKinley. 1 moose. 20 miles.

May 5. Travelled up to Copper Mt'n. Pilot Christensen circled us in the McKinley Canyon. Travelling up the river was fair. 10 miles.

May 6. Made another dog pack and rested.

May 7. Travelled over to Toklat Ranger's cabin. Herb's toboggan worked O.K. 16 miles.

May 9. Travelled in to Head Quaters.

After a two-month hiatus, spent either at headquarters or on leave, Pearson resumed field work on July 18, 1936.

Sat. [July] 18. Travelled out to 74 1/2 mile. Returned to 71 and travelled over to [Copper, crossed out] Mt. Eielson on foot. Lew packed our out fit over. Ted, Lew and I stayed at Mt. Eielson. Seen 200 caribou. Caught 20 grayling (small). Started to clean up cabin. Lots of mosquitoes. 3 miles on foot. Caught 20 grayling.

Sun. [July] 19. Worked cleaning up cabin in the morning. Caught 40 small grayling.

Mon. 20. Worked on cache. Caught 5 grayling. Showers.

Tues. 21. Worked on cache.

Wed. 22. Worked on cache. Liek and Lew left for Head Quaters.

Thurs. 23. Worked 1/2 day on cache. Rained 1/2 day.

Thurs. [Fri.] 24. Worked cleaning up about the grounds. Some rain.

After another two-month gap, Pearson resumed his field record in late September 1936.

Wed. Sept. 23. Lew and I travelled out to Toklat with a truck of my supplies for the winter.

Thurs. 24. Travelled down Toklat River with Lew and Ted and the team. We had a four horse load of my supplies. Near the old hunter's cabin on Toklat we seen fifteen wolves. One of them came up to within 75 feet of us. Three bear. 25 sheep. 25 miles. Weather perfect.

Fri. Sept. 25. Unpacked my [supplies] and stored them away, some in the cellar and some in the cache. Lew left for Upper Toklat.

Sat. 22. Worked cleaning up the grounds around the cabin in the morning.

Sun. 27. Ted and I took a walk along the boundary line. A plane flew up the river and returned and landed or circled around near the mouth of Crooked Creek.

Mon. 28. Cut poles for dog houses. Weather perfect.

Tues. 29. Peeled poles for dog houses. Weather perfect.

Wed. 30. Finished peeling the logs we cut for the dog houses.

Thurs. Oct. 1, 1936 Started leveling ground to build dog houses on.

Fri. Oct. 2. Patrolling 5 miles. Lew arrived.

Sat. Oct. 3. Worked pouring cement to set the dog cook pot on. Put dog feed up in the cache. Lew and Ted hauled out the poles.

Sun. Oct. 4. Cleaned up the cabin.

Mon. Oct. 5. Worked on dog houses. Started to snow at 2 P.M. Snow 1 inch. Cloudy.

Tues. Oct. 6. Worked around cabin. Snowed 2 inches. Cloudy.

Wed. Oct. 7. Worked on dog houses. Snowed 2 inches. Cloudy.

Thurs. Oct. 8. Worked on dog houses. Clear, getting colder.

Fri. Oct. 9. Worked on the dog houses. Snow went off.

Sat. Oct. 10. Worked around cabin.

Sun. 11. Earl Pilgrim arrived at 2 P.M.⁷⁸

Mon. 12. Cut wood and worked around the cabin. Pilgrim left.

Tues. 13. Worked on dog houses. Bill Taylor, Joe Mehling and Lee Swisher arrived with catipillar [sic] tractor and load of supplies [sic]--on 14 rained part of day.⁷⁹

Wed. 14. Worked on dog houses. Bill Taylor and the gang were working on the grade. Rained.

Thurs. 15. Worked on dog houses. Bill and gang are here yet.

Fri.. 16. Worked on dog houses half of the day, storming in the afternoon. Rained in the morning, snowed 2 inches in the evening. Lee Swisher returned and stayed with me for the night.⁸⁰

Sat. 17. Patrolling half day 10 miles. Lee Swisher returned headed for his trap line. Stormed.

Sun. 18. Baked bread.

Mon. 19. Worked on dog houses. Cold.

⁷⁸ In 1936 Earl Pilgrim, a mining engineer, had just taken over operation of the Stampede Mine in the Kantishna district just north of the park. Pilgrim eventually bought the mine from Bill Taylor and held on to it until 1978 (NPS, *A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region*, pp. 113, 207-209).

⁷⁹ Bill Taylor was the owner of the Stampede Mine, Joe Mehling was a prospector in the Kantishna district, and Lee Swisher was a former park ranger turned trapper in the same area.

⁸⁰ As a park ranger, Swisher had helped Pearson build the Upper Toklat ranger cabin in 1927.

Tues. 20. Worked on dog houses. Partly cloudy.

Wed. 21. Patrolling. An airplane flew over the cabin at about 10 A.M. Pollack Flying Service.

Thurs. 22. Rained all day. Worked around the cabin.

Fri. 23. Worked on dog houses. Bill Taylor and Joe Mehling arrived with the cat from Stampede Creek.

Sat. 24. Patrolling along the boundary east. Some ptarmigan and grouse. 10 miles. Bill and Joe left for Lignite.⁸¹

Sun. 25. Worked around cabin.

Mon. 26. Worked on dog houses. Started to snow at 4 P.M. 2 inches.

Tues. 27. Cut wood 1/2 day. Worked on dog houses 1/2 day. Snowed 1 inch.

Wed. 28. Snowed seven inches and wind was blowing all day.

Thurs. 29. Worked on dog houses.

Fri. 30. Worked on dog houses.

Sat. 31. Worked 1/2 on dog houses.

Nov. 1. 1936. Sunday. Worked around the cabin.

Mon. 2. Patrolling along Clear Water Creek. 14 miles. Started to rain at 5 P.M.

Tues. 3. Patrolling towards East Fork 12 miles.

Wed. 4. Cut wood.

Thurs. 5. Cut wood.

Fri. 6. Patrolling up Clear Water Creek. 10 miles.

Sat. 7. Worked 1/2 day cutting wood.

Sun. 8. Baked bread and built sled. Washed clothes.

Mon. 9. Cutting wood.

Tues. 10. Patrolling towards East Fork. 18 miles.

Wed. 11. Patrolling up Clearwater Creek 8 miles.

⁸¹ Lignite, on the Alaska Rail Road, was the eastern terminus of the miners' trail from the Stampede Mine.

Thurs. 12. Cut wood.

Fri. 13. Stormed hard all day.

Sat. 14. Patrolling 1/2 day 10 miles.

Sun. 15. Worked around cabin. Storming hard all day.

Mon. 16. Traveled over to East Fork. A wolverine had clawed his way in the cabin at the door. 11 miles. Hazy.

Tues. 17. Started for Sushanna creek. Got in the water up to my waist and returned to East Fork cabin. Cleaned up cabin and cut wood. 2 miles. A little snow.

Wed. 18. Travelled to Sushanna creek. I had travelled half way and the fog got so thick that I couldn't see fifty feet ahead. It was luck that I found my way to the ranger's cabin. I was on the trail four hours and decided if the fog didn't lift I would back track to East Fork. I was just ready to go back when the fog lifted enough so I could see the timber near Sushanna creek. took five hours instead of 2 1/2 hrs. 9 miles.

Thurs. 19. Chinked cabin.

Fri. 20. Chinked cabin 1/2 day and cut wood 1/2 day.

Sat. 21. Cut wood 1/2 day and worked blazing trail 1/2 day.

Sun. Nov. 22. Rested.

Pearson made no entries for the next three weeks. During that time he presumably returned to headquarters, exercised his dogs, and got his outfit ready for winter patrol duty in the Toklat district.

Thurs. Dec. 10. Traveled out to Igloo creek with my dogs and out-fit in the truck. 30 miles.

Fri. Dec. 11. Broke trail to the top of Sable Pass and returned to the Igloo Creek cabin. 9 miles. Partly cloudy, a little snow. 4 sheep. Trail fair.

Sat. Dec. 12. Travelled to East Fork. 2 sheep at Igloo Creek. Trail good. Sandy played out. 9 miles. Clear and cold.

Sun. Dec. 13. Travelled to Toklat road cabin. John [Rumohr] was at the cabin. 14 sheep. 11 miles trail good. Sandy played out. 2 fox. Clear and cold.

Mon. Dec. 14. Walked down the river 3 miles and picked out a trail. 6 miles. Clear and cold.

Tues. 15. Broke trail to the mouth of the canyon and returned. 10 miles. Left 150 lbs dog feed at the mouth of the canyon. [War buck's ?] has gone by. Cold.

Wed. 16. Rested at Toklat. Cold.

Thurs. 17. Travelled down to the Toklat Rangers cabin. Bill Taylor, Earl Pilgrim, Joe Mehling and two other men arrived one hour after I did. Cold.

Fri. Dec. 18. Cooked dog feed and worked around the cabin. Pilgrim, Taylor, Mehling and the boys left for Stampede Creek. Cold.

Sat. Dec. 19. Baked bread and worked around the cabin. Cold.

Sun. 20. Cooked dog feed and stayed around the cabin.

Mon. Dec. 21. Patrolling along boundary east 10 miles. Clear and cold.

Tues. Dec. 22. Patrolling 8 miles. Clear and cold.

Wed. Dec. 23. Worked around near the cabin.

Thurs. Dec. 24. Went up the river and broke out a new trail and returned to Rangers Station. 12 miles.

Fri. Dec. 25. Christmas. Pilgrim, Mehling and Smith passed through at noon bound for the rail road, they had the tractor and 12 tons of ore. 1 inch snow.

Sat. 26. Travelled up Toklat 5 miles and returned. Breaking Mike as a leader. He worked O.K. 10 miles. Clear and cold.

Sun. 27. Rested at the ranger's cabin.

Mon. 28. Storming hard all day. 12 inches of snow. Cooked dog feed. Worked around cabin.

Tues. 29. Broke trail 5 miles up Toklat and returned. 10 miles. Clear.

Wed. 30. Patrolling along boundary east 8 miles and returned. 16 miles. 3 inches snow. Windy.

Thurs. 31. Travelled up Toklat river 7 miles and returned. 1 fox. 14 miles.

Fri. Jan. 1 [1937]. New Years day, rested.

Sat. Jan. 2. Storming hard all day cut wood. Windy.

Sun. Jan. 3. Worked around cabin and cut wood. 4 inches snow.

Jan. 4. Traveled up Toklat five miles and returned. Hauled two load of wood. Partly cloudy.

Jan. 5. Patrolling towards East Fork 5 miles and returned. The wolves have been howling at nights. I have seen many tracks but can't get sight of them. Windy & warm. 10 miles.

Jan. 6. Patrolling towards East Fork. 8 miles and returned. 16 miles. Windy.

Thurs. 7. Travelled up Toklat 8 miles and returned. 16 miles. Windy.

Fri. 8. Patrolling 6 miles up Clearwater Creek and returned.

Sat. 9. Cut wood and washed the windows. Windy.

Sun. Jan. 10. Rained all day.

Mon. Jan. 11. Rained and snowed all day. 12 inches.

Tues. Jan. 12. Baked bread and shovelled snow. Earl Pilgrim arrived on foot.

Wed. Jan. 13. Snowed all day 12 inches of snow. Pilgrim left for Stampede.

Thurs. 14. Broke trail towards East Fork six miles and returned. 12 miles.

Fri. 15. Travelled over to Pilgrim's wannagan [wanagan] between East Fork and Sushanna Creek, 2 1/2 miles outside Park.⁸²

From 15th to 20th storm bound at the wannagan. Chinook.

Wed. 29th. Travelled over to Toklat ranger's cabin. Ernie and Frank came with me. Snow soft and raining. 12 miles.

Thurs. 21. Worked around cabin.

Fri. 22. Shovelled snow most of the day.

Sat. 23. Patrolling along Toklat and Clear Water Creek. 12 miles. Clear and cold.

Sun. 24. Pilgrim and Mahr arrived from Stampede Creek. Snowing hard.

Mon. 25. Patrolling up Clear Water Creek. 14 miles. Clear getting colder.

Tues. 26. Pilgrim arrived back with the tractors and continued on towards Stampede Creek. Patrolling along Clear Water and along boundary east. 14 miles. Clear.

Wed. 27. Patrolling up stream 10 miles and returned. 20 miles.

Thurs. 28. Travelled along boundary east 12 miles.

Fri. 29. Storming hard all day. Snowed 12 inches.

Sat. Jan. 30. Patrolling up Clear Water Creek. The cat's went in. 14 miles.

Sun. 31. Worked around the cabin.

Mon. Feb. 1. Went down stream and girdled a bunch of trees for wood next year.

⁸² Wanagan is a portable cabin on skids.

Tues. Feb. 2. Travelled east 7 miles and returned. Clear and cold. Lots of moose signs.

Wed. Feb. 3. Patrolling up Clear Water Creek 6 miles and returned.

Thurs. Feb. 4. Travelled towards East Fork 6 miles and returned. 1 moose. 12 miles. Clear and cold. Clouding up in the evening.

Fri. 5. Travelled up to Stampede Creek. 16 miles. The cat went to Stampede and returned.

Sat. 6. Patrolling up stream 6 miles and returned. The cat left for Lignite.

Sun. Feb. 7. Stormed hard all day.

Mon. Feb. 8. Cut wood near the mouth of Clear Water Creek. Airplane circled the cabin.

Tues. 9. Hauled wood with dogs. Cat went up to Stampede Creek 12:30 A.M. returned and left for the rail road at 7:30 P.M. 12 miles.

Wed. 10. Cut wood and cooked dog feed.

Fri. 12. Hauled wood. 12 miles.

Sat. 13. Lew arrived. Cat left at 7 P.M. Lignite.

Sun. 14. Broke trail ten miles up Clear Water Creek. Cold. 20 miles.

Mon. 15. Worked around cabin. Clear and cold.

Tues. 16. Travelled 16 miles up Clear Water. 2 moose. Trail good. 2 moose.

Wed. 17. Travelled to the relief cabin on Clear Water Creek. Cold. 20 miles.

Thurs. 18. Travelled to Eureka Creek. 20 miles. 100 caribou. Trail good.

Fri. 19. Rested.

Sat. 20. Travelled to Moose Creek relief cabin. 14 miles.

Sun. 21. Hauled a load of dog feed to Kantishna ranger's cabin. 26 miles. 1 moose.

22-23 At Moose Creek ranger's cabin.

24-25 Made a round trip to Eureka Creek.

Fri. 26. Travelled to Mt. Eielson cabin. 1 moose.

Sat. 27. Travelled to Toklat. 5 sheep. 16 miles.

Sun. 28. Travelled to Lower Toklat cabin. 25 miles.

A few days later Pearson returned to headquarters. That spring he took the ten weeks' leave he had saved up and headed for the "Lower 40," first to San Francisco, then to New York City via the Panama Canal, up to Michigan and back to Alaska via Seattle. It was on this trip that he met, in Seattle, the woman he was to marry 18 months later.

The 1937 record ends with a few entries in June and July, when Pearson made brief trips out into the park.

June 17. Travelled out to Teklanika River and made camp.

June 18. Hauled a load of coal from East Fork and cut telephone poles in the afternoon. 900 sheep, 152 goats.

June 19. Cut and skidded poles

June 20. Cut and skidded poles.

July 17. Hauled a load of telephone poles to mile 50 and returned. 4 bear, 27 sheep, 150 caribou.

July 18. Went down to mouth of Igloo Creek and got a load of telephone poles and hauled them to Little Stony Creek. 3 bear, 12 sheep, 200 caribou.

July 19. Travelled to Little Stony Creek with a load of telephone poles.

July 20. Hauled one load of poles out of the wood and worked on the telephone line raising poles and digging holes.

July 22. Hauled out 3 loads of telephone poles.

July 23. Worked stringing telephone wire and tying wire.

July 24. Worked tieng [sic] wire.

Pearson's next notebook begins in October 1937 with preparations for another tour of winter patrol duty, this time in the western district, with winter quarters in the Moose Creek ranger's cabin.

October 1937

Sat. Oct. 16. Hauled two loads of coal. Then I got my out-fit ready and travelled out to mile 75 with the truck and my dog team out fit. Left the cache at 4.20 P.M. and arrived at Moose Creek rangers cabin at 6.15 P.M. Had a team of 7 dogs. Two of them were pups that had never been worked before. Seen fox, wolf and wolverine tracks. 5 miles.

Sun. Oct. 17. Cooked dog feed and fixed two radio poles. Cloudy.

Mon. Oct. 18. Cooked dog feed, baked bread and built a shelf in the cache and cleaned the cabin. Cloudy.

Tues. Oct. 19. Made a round trip to the cache on foot. Two inches of snow. 10 miles. Cloudy in the morning, clear in the evening. 8 above zero.

Wed. Oct. 20. Cooked dog feed and dug two holes for radio masts. Cut wood the balance of the day. Clear.

Thur. Oct. 21. Patrolling 6 miles down stream and returned. Seen moose and fox tracks. Seen 1 rabbit. 12 miles. Partly cloudy.

Fri. Oct. 22. Cooked dog feed and cut wood. Partly cloudy. Froom [sic] at night.

Sat. Oct. 23. Cooked dog feed and cut wood. Patrolled [sic] up stream 1 1/2 miles. 3 miles. Partly cloudy.

Sun. Oct. 24. Worked around cabin. Washed clothes.

Mon. Oct. 25. Cooked dog feed and cut wood in the morning. Patrolling down stream in the afternoon. Noticed beaver workings 1/2 mile below the ranger cabin. 6 miles. Partly cloudy.

Tues. Oct. 26. Cooked dog feed and cut wood 4 hrs. Will haul the wood when there is snow. Clear, 12 above zero.

Wed. Oct. 27. Cooked dog feed and cut wood in the morning. Patrolling upstream in the afternoon. At 12:45 P.M. I noticed an airplane flying towards the west. Seen fox, rabbit and ptarmigan tracks. 7 miles. Clear.

Thurs. Oct. 28. Made a trip to the road cache. There was mail and some other things there for me. 10 miles, clear.

Fri. Oct. 29. Made a round trip to the cache. Seen bear tracks. Clear. 10 miles.

Sat. Oct. 30. Patrolling 1/2 day. 7 miles. Seen ptarmigan and two rabbits. Clear, zero at 8 P.M.

Sun. Oct. 31. Washed clothes, cooked dog feed and cleaned up the cabin. Cloudy, warm.

Total [for October] - 64 miles

November 1937

Mon. Nov. 1. Cut wood and patrolling 7 miles. Travelled towards the north fork of Moose Creek.

Tues. Nov. 2. Patrolling 5 miles down stream. Saw two rabbits. Weather warm.

Wed. Nov. 3. Patrolling down stream in the morning. Harry [Liek] arrived at 4 and stayed for the night. 6 miles. Partly cloudy.

Thurs. Nov. 4. Travelled to the park highway with Harry. Packed back a load of dog fish. 1/2 inch snow. 12 miles.

Fri. Nov. 5. Exercised the dogs in the morning. Patrolling in the afternoon. 10 miles. Clear, getting colder.

Sat. Nov. 6. Made a trip to the cache and got 200 lbs of dog feed. 10 miles. Cloudy, 1 inch snow.

Sun. Nov. 7. Cooked dog feed and rested. 3 inches snow. Cloudy.

Mon. Nov. 8. Broke trail 5 miles towards McKinley Bar and returned. Seen wolf tracks. 10 miles.

Tues. Nov. 9. Traveled 7 1/2 miles towards McKinley Bar and returned. 15 miles. Cloudy, warm.

Wed. Nov. 10. Cut wood and worked around the cabin. Warm and cloudy.

Thurs. Nov. 11. Patrolling 6 miles down stream and returned. 1 fox. 16 caribou.

Fri. Nov. 12. Patrolling upstream 5 miles and returned. Moose Creek is frozen over for 1 mile upstream and good traveling for a dog team. From there on the creek is open and travel on it is impossible. 10 miles.

Sat. Nov. 13. Made a trip to the cache and got 200 lbs of dog feed. 10 miles.

Sun. Nov. 14. Cooked dog feed and cleaned up around the cabin.

Mon. Nov. 15. Traveled to the Kantishna ranger's cabin. Trail rough. 145 caribou. 13 miles. Foggy.

Tues. Nov. 16. Patrolling northwest from the ranger's cabin. Called at Ed Shannon's cabin but he wasn't at home. Heard the wolves howling during the night. 14 miles, clear and cold.

Wed. Nov. 17. Traveled back to Moose Creek rangers station. Seen 1 wolf, 300 caribou. Partly cloudy, 1/2 in. snow. 13 miles. Dogs very tired.

Thurs. Nov. 18. Patrolling down stream. Seen 1 fox. Weather partly cloudy. Getting colder. 6 miles.

Fri. Nov. 19. Made a trip to the cache and got a load of dog fish. Cut wood. 10 miles.

Sat. Nov. 20. Patrolling down stream. 8 miles.

Sun. Nov. 21. Worked around the cabin. 6 below zero.

Mon. Nov. 22. Hauled 6 loads of wood with the dogs. Windy. 4 below zero.

Tues. Nov. 23. Made a trip to the cache and got a load of pipe and wire. 10 miles. 10 below zero.

Wed. Nov. 24. Patrolling up stream 6 miles. Windy and cold.

Thurs. Nov. 25. Thanks Giving day. Stuck around the cabin. Windy and cold. Zero.

Fri. Nov. 26. Made a trip to the cache. Cloudy and warm. 10 miles.

Sat. Nov. 27. Snowed 2 inches. Worked around the cabin.

Sun. Nov. 28. Worked around the cabin.

Mon. Nov. 29. Worked cutting a dog trail through the timber down-stream.

Tues. Nov. 30. Patrolling down stream. 12 miles. 15 caribou. 2 inches snow.

Total miles [for November] - 203

December 1937

Wed. Dec. 1. Traveled down to the mouth of Rainy Creek, then returned and traveled up Spruce Creek two miles, returned to Moose Creek. 24 miles. Partly cloudy. 12 below zero.

Thurs. Dec. 2. Cooked dog feed, repaired my dog team out-fit and dried [sic] my out-fit that got wet yesterday. 14 below zero.

Fri. Dec. 3. Patrolling up stream. Seen 18 caribou. Cut wood. Windy. 12 miles.

Sat. Dec. 4. Cooked dog feed and cut wood.

Mon. [Sun.] Dec. 5. Made a trip to the cache and got a load of supplies. 10 miles.

Tues. [Mon.] Dec. 6. Traveled to Copper Mountain and hauled over a load of dog fish and oil from the cache. 12 miles. Clear and warm.

Wed. [Tues.] Dec. 7. Returned to Moose Creek ranger station. 12 miles, clear and warm.

Thurs. [Wed.] Dec. 8. Patrolling to Kantishna ranger cabin. 32 caribou, 1 fox. 13 miles.

Fri. [Thurs.] Dec. 9. Returned to Moose Creek ranger cabin. 13 miles. Trail poor.

Sat. [Fri.] Dec. 10. Patrolling up Moose Creek 5 miles and returned. 10 miles. 1 fox.

Sun. [Sat.] Dec. 11. Hauled three loads of wood and made a trip to the cache and got a load of supplies. 10 miles.

Mon. [Sun.] Dec. 12. Hauled a load of supplies from the cache. 10 miles.

Tues. [Mon.] Dec. 13. Hauled a load of supplies and cut wood. 10 miles. 6 caribou.

Wed. [Tues.] Dec. 14. Patrolling along the boundary east 7 miles and returned. 14 miles. 28 caribou. 14 miles.

Thurs. Dec. 16 Traveled down stream two miles and returned. Met Alex Mitchell. 4 miles. Clear and warm.

Fri. Dec. 17. Cooked dog feed, cut wood and worked around the cabin. 20 above, clear and warm.

Sat. Dec. 18. Traveled along boundary line east. Then traveled to Mitchell's place on Spruce Creek where I stoped for the night. 12 miles.

Sun. Dec. 19. Traveled down Moose Creek to Quigley's. An air plane of the Pollack Flying Service had just landed as I arrived. When it went to take off it crashed at the end of the field. No one was hurt. 12 miles. Lots of over flow ice.

Mon. Dec. 20. Traveled back to Moose Creek via Mitchell's place on Spruce Creek. 18 miles. 1 inch snow, getting colder.

Tues. Dec. 21. Stormed all day. Repaired my dog team outfit. Started to rain.

Wed. Dec. 22. Patrolling west 5 miles and returned. 10 miles.

Thurs. Dec. 23. Cut wood, washed clothes and baked bread.

Fri. Dec. 24. Traveled down to Eureka Creek via Kantishna ranger cabin. 18 miles.

Sat. Dec. 25. Spent Christmas at Eureka Creek.

Sun. Dec. 26. Returned to Moose Creek rangers station. 12 miles.

Mon. Dec. 27. Cut wood and cooked dog feed.

Tues. Dec. 28. Patrolling upstream 6 miles and returned. 12 miles. 30 below.

Wed. Dec. 29. Cold and windy. Worked around the cabin all day. 32 below.

Thurs. Dec. 30. Patrolling 7 miles downstream and returned. 12 caribou. 28 below. 14 miles.

Fri. Dec. 31. Cut wood and hauled it with the dogs.

Total miles [for December] -- 250.

January 1938

Sat. Jan. 1. New Years day. Rested.

Sun. Jan. 2. Washed clothes, baked bread and worked around the cabin.

Mon. Jan. 3. Patrolling down stream and returned to the station. 10 miles.

Tues. Jan. 4. Worked rigging up radio poles. 1 inch snow.

Wed. Jan. 5. Patrolling along boundary east. 12 miles. 15 caribou.

Thurs. Jan. 6. Patrolling down stream seen an air plane flying over by Mitchell's place. 10 miles.

Fri. Jan. 7. Cut wood and hauled it.

Sat. Jan. 8. Cut wood and cleaned up around the cabin. 2 inches snow.

Sun. Jan. 9. Rested. 26 below.

Mon. Jan. 10. Hauled two loads of wood and patrolling down stream. 10 miles.

Tues., Jan. 11. Cut wood and worked around the cabin.

Wed. Jan. 12. Strong wind and 20 below zero. Stayed around the cabin.

Thurs. Jan. 13. Made a trip to the cache and got a load of dog feed. 10 miles. 20 below zero.

Fri. Jan. 14. Patrolling towards Wonder Lake and returned. 16 miles. 24 below zero.

Sat. Jan. 15. Cut and hauled wood all day. 10 below zero. Started to cloud up.

Sun. Jan. 16. Rested.

Mon. Jan. 17. Traveled to Eureka Creek. 12 miles.

Tues. Jan. 18. Went to Kantishna rangers cabin. 8 miles.

Wed. Jan. 19. Traveled down McKinley River 10 miles and returned to the ranger cabin. 20 miles. 1 inch snow.

Thurs. Jan. 20. Returned to Moose Creek ranger cabin. A little snow fell. 12 miles.

Fri. Jan. 21. Patrolling down stream 6 miles and returned. 12 miles.

Sat. Jan. 22. Worked on my sled. Lew [Corbley] arrived, bringing my mail, just like Christmas.

Sun. Jan. 23. Made a trip to the cache and brought the stove and the rest of the dog feed. 10 miles.

Mon. Jan. 24. Cut wood and got an outfit ready to leave on a trip to the west.

Tues. Jan. 25. Traveled down to Eureka Creek. 12 miles.

Wed. Jan. 26. Stayed at Eureka Creek.

Fri. Jan. 27. Traveled to Davis [Dan's?] Creek. 13 miles.

Fri. Jan. 28. Traveled to McClod Creek. After I tied my dogs up I snow-shoed 5 miles towards Slippery Creek and returned to McClod Creek. 14 miles.

Sun. Jan. 30. Traveled to McKinley River rangers cabin. 18 miles. 4 inches snow.

Mon. Jan. 31. Traveled to Eureka Creek. 12 miles. 4 inches snow.

Total miles [for January] - 221.

February 1938

Tues. Feb. 1. Traveled to Moose Creek rangers station. 12 miles. 2 inches snow.

Wed. Feb. 2. Washed clothes, cooked dog feed.

Thurs. Feb. 3. Cut wood and cooked dog feed.

Fri. Feb. 4. Hauled wood. Started to break Mudge as a leader.

Sat. Feb. 5. Got every-thing ready to leave.

Sun. Feb. 6. Left Moose Creek rangers station. Traveled to Mt. Eielson. 12 miles. Clear and cold.

Mon. Feb. 7. Traveled to Toklat River. 8 rams at the mouth of Thoro-Fare Creek. 15 miles, clear and cold.

Tues. Feb. 8. Rested the dogs. I walked to the top of Polychrome Pass and picked out a trail. 10 miles. Warmer.

Wed. Feb. 9. Traveled to Igloo Creek. 4 sheep, 2 fox. 20 miles. Started to snow.

Thurs. Feb. 10. Traveled to Savage River. 22 miles.

Fri. Feb. 10 [sic]. Traveled to Head Quaters. 10 miles.

Feb. 11-12-13-14. At Park Head Quaters.

Wed. Feb. 16. Left Head Quaters, traveled to Igloo Creek. 32 miles. 2 moose.

Thurs. Feb. 17. Traveled to Toklat River. 26 sheep. 20 miles.

Fri. Feb. 18. Patrolling 12 miles. 30 sheep, 4 fox.

Sat. Feb. 19. Traveled down to Stony Creek ranger cabin. The over flow ice is even with the door outside of the cabin and it will soon be impossible to stop in the cabin. All of the dog houses except 4 have ice in them. 12 sheep. 15 miles.

Sun. Feb. 20. Made a round trip to Toklat and got a load of dog feed. 30 miles. Clear & cold.

Mon. Feb. 21. Broke trail 1 1/2 miles past the summit between boundary and Moose Creek. 18 miles. Windy and warm.

Tues. Feb. 22. Traveled to Moose Creek rangers station. 18 miles. Windy and warm. 1 inch snow.

Wed. Feb. 23. Traveled to where I had left my load of dog feed at the head of Moose Creek and returned to the ranger cabin. 18 miles. Cloudy and warm.

Thurs. Feb. 24. Seen two coyotes and went hunting them. 10 miles. Cloudy, warm.

Fri. Feb. 25. Cut wood and patrolling downstream. 6 miles. Cloudy, 4 inches snow.

Sat. Feb. 26. Cut and hauled wood. Partly cloudy. 2 inches snow.

Sun. Feb. 27. Worked around the cabin. Wind blowing hard.

Mon. Feb. 28. Broke trail 5 miles upstream and returned. 10 miles. 42 above zero.

Total miles [for February] 280

March 1938

Tues. Mar. 1. Left Moose Creek, arrived Toklat River. A snow slide caught my dog team about 30 yards below the top of Boundary Pass. It buried my sled and three of my dogs. It took me 30 minutes to dig my dogs and sled out of the slide. Lucky nothing was hurt. Arrived at Toklat at 4:45 P.M. Lew was at the cabin when I arrived. The cabin at Stony Creek has a foot of ice in it. 42 above when I left Moose Creek. 33 miles.

Wed. Mar. 2. Patrolling down-stream. Seen 2 fox, 12 sheep. 6 miles.

Thurs. Mar. 3. Traveled to the top of Stony Hill and returned to Toklat River. 15 miles. Partly cloudy, warm.

Fri. Mar. 4. Traveled to Igloo Creek. 20 sheep, 1 wolf, lots of ptarmigan. Warm. 20 miles.

Sat. Mar. 5. Traveled to Park Head Quaters. 32 miles. Clear and warm.

March 6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13 at Head Quaters and went to Flo Ice Carnival at Fairbanks.

Mar. 14. Left Head Quaters, traveled to Savage River. 10 miles.

Mar. 15 & 16. Traveled to Sanctuary River and spent 1 day patrolling. 25 miles.

Mar. 17. Traveled to Igloo Creek. 12 miles.

Mar. 18. Traveled to East Fork and patrolled. 20 miles. 14 sheep.

Mar. 19. Traveled to Toklat River. 2 fox, 31 sheep. 11 miles.

Mar. 20. Heard some wolves howling during the night and was out trying to locate them. 15 miles.

Mon. Mar. 21. Traveled to Moose Creek rangers station. Met Lew in Thoro Fare Pass. The dogs ran away from me and Lew caught up with them where they were tangled in the willows. Lots of caribou along Moose Creek. 27 miles. 10 sheep. 500 caribou.

Tues. Mar. 22. Baked bread and washed clothes. Cloudy and warm.

Wed. Mar. 23. Traveled down to Eureka Creek. 12 miles. 20 caribou.

Thurs. Mar. 24. To cold to travel. Went down and visited Fannie Quigley. 4 miles. Clear & cold.

Fri. Mar. 25. Traveled back to Moose Creek rangers station. 75 caribou. Partly cloudy, cold. 12 miles.

Sat. Mar. 26. Cut wood and hauled it. Clear and warm.

Sun. Mar. 27. Worked around the cabin.

Mon. Mar. 28. Cut wood and hauled it. Three moose are staying near the rangers station in the timber. Clear and warm.

Tues. Mar. 29. Cut wood and patrolling 6 miles. S.H. (Shorty) Harbell arrived at the cabin at 4 P.M. bound for Mitchell's place on Spruce Creek. 6 miles. Partly cloudy, warm.

Wed. Mar. 30. Patrolling 10 miles. Partly cloudy, warm. Shorty Harbell left for Spruce Creek. 10 miles.

Thurs. Mar. 31. Made a round trip to the cache with some supplies and my radio. 16 miles. Hunting wolves 6 miles.

Total miles [for March] 294.

April 1938

Fri. April 1. Cleaned up the cabin and got ready to leave. Clear & warm.

Sat. April 2. Traveled to Toklat River. 150 caribou, 6 sheep, 1 fox. 27 miles.

Sun. April 3. Baked bread and washed clothes. Clear and warm.

Mon. April 4. Patrolling 12 miles. 42 sheep, 2 fox. Clear and warm.

Tues. April 5. Patrolling 14 miles. 20 sheep, 2 fox. Clear and warm.

Wed. April 6. Got my out-fit ready to go back and meet Lou. John and Sam arrived. Clear and warm.

Thurs. April 7. Traveled to Igloo Creek. John and Sam got away for Lower Toklat at 4:20 A.M. 20 miles. Clear and warm.

Fri. April 8. Traveled to Head Quaters. 32 miles.

April 9 to 14 at Head Quaters.

April 15. Left Head Quaters. Traveled to Sanctuary River. 20 miles.

April 16. Storming, stayed at Sanctuary.

April 17. Traveled to East Fork. 21 miles. Cloudy.

April 18. Traveled to Toklat. Storming hard. 11 miles.

April 19. Traveled to Mt. Eielson. Cloudy and snow. 17 miles.

April 20. Traveled to Kantishna rangers cabin. 20 miles. Partly cloudy.

April 21. Took John's team with mine (15 dogs) and traveled to Toklat. 37 miles. 7 sheep.

April 22. Traveled to Head Quaters. 52 miles. 1 sheep. Trail poor.

April 23-24 at Head Quaters.

Pearson's next assignment was essentially a hunting expedition into the park to look for and destroy any wolves he could find.⁸³

Mon. April 25. Traveled to Igloo Creek with the truck. We had Lew's dog team and out fit.

Tues. April 26. Walked over to Toklat River. Seen 47 sheep, 1 wolf and 1 ded [sic] fox. 20 miles.

⁸³ The park's "limited wolf-control" program, adopted in 1929 particularly to protect the dwindling Dall sheep population, finally came to an end in 1952, "with noticeable recovery of the sheep and a reduced wolf population." During the program's 43 years 70 wolves were destroyed (NPS, *A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region*, pp. 196-200).

Wed. April 27. Moved my out fit to the rangers cabin and cleaned the A.R.C. cabin.⁸⁴

Thurs. April 28. Out looking for wolves. Seen 1 fox, 13 sheep. 12 miles. Clear and warm.

Fri. April 29. Traveled down to Wolverine Creek and Sheldon. Seen no wolves or tracks. 15 miles. Clear and warm. Lew left for Igloo Creek.

Sat. April 30. Hunting for wolves. Seen 1 fox, 21 sheep. Clear and warm. 10 miles.

Total miles [for April] 340.

May 1938

Sun. May 1. Traveled down to the old cabin on Toklat. Had lunch, then went down stream looking for wolves. Returned to the old cabin for the night. Partly cloudy. 18 miles.⁸⁵

Mon. May 2. Left my siwash camp and traveled down Toklat River to the rangers cabin. Seen 150 caribou, 2 wolves. One of the wolves was trying to kill a caribou. It was only 200 yds away but it was imposible [sic] to get a shot at it because it disappeared in the brush. The other wolf was on the river about 800 yds from me. I took two shots at it, but it was to far away. 150 caribou, 2 wolves. 15 miles.

Tues. May 3. Started out in the morning to look for the wolf. Seen one wolf on the river but it was to far for a shot. It snowed in squalls during the day so returned to the Toklat rangers cabin where I spent the night. 525 caribou, 1 wolf. 10 miles.

Wed. May 4. Patrolling between rangers cabin and East Fork. Seen only 1 caribou. 15 miles. Clear & warm.

Thurs. May 5. Washed clothes and rested. Partly cloudy.

Fri. May 6. Traveled upstream, then across to Clear Water Creek. Then I went to Stampede Creek where I spent the night. 55 caribou. Partly cloudy. 10 miles.

Sat. May 7. Traveled to O-Clair [Clear Water?] where I tryed [sic] to find some wolf dens. No soap. 250 caribou. 15 miles. Partly cloudy, warm. 1 fox, 1 moose.

Sun. May 8. Traveled to Stony Creek rangers cabin. Heard wolves howling during the night. The ice on the river is covered with water so I traveled on the hillsides most of the way. 15 miles. Many caribou, 1000 or more seen in small bunches.

⁸⁴ This entry indicates that Pearson had spent the first night in the A.R.C. cabin and was moving into the Upper Toklat ranger's cabin, now known as the "Pearson Cabin."

⁸⁵ The "old cabin" on the Toklat downstream from the park road was probably the cabin Harry Karstens built in 1907 for Charles Sheldon, hunter-naturalist and early explorer of the Mount McKinley back country. Pearson's reference to his "siwash camp" suggests that the cabin was in ruins and that he had slept out in the open.

Mon. May 9. Cleaned the cabin and rested. Clear and warm.

Tues. May 10. Traveled over to Toklat River via Sheldon Creek. Located two wolf dens on Toklat River. The old wolf was making a den in one of them and she ran away when I got close to the den. It was so bushy that I didn't get a shot at her. 20 miles. 250 caribou, 1 wolf, 47 sheep.

Wed. May 11. Traveled to the A.R.C. road cabin on Toklat River. Seen 12 caribou. Lots of wolf tracks but no wolves. 20 miles. Partly cloudy. 135 sheep.

Thurs. May 12. Traveled 6 miles down the canyon. It started to snow when I got a mile down stream from the cabin and continued for the rest of the day. 12 miles. 21 sheep down-stream. Cloudy & snow.

Fri. May 13. Stormy and cloudy. Walked up stream 3 miles & returned. 3 sheep. Got wet. 6 miles.

Sat. May 14. Left Upper East Fork cabin, camped for the night at the mouth of the canyon. Seen 40 sheep, 1 moose and some ptarmigan. Seen some wolf tracks in the canyon. Seen two lambs. Hunting for wolves after I had made camp for the evening. 20 miles. Partly cloudy.

Sun. May 15. Traveled back up to the road cabin. Seen 30 sheep, 1 wolf, 1 fox and 1 moose. Traveled 3 miles up the creek at the mouth of the canyon and returned. 16 miles. Partly cloudy. 20 minutes of snow.

Mon. May 16. Blowing hard all day. Traveled 4 miles upstream and returned.

Tues. May 17. Traveled to Head Quaters with Gil [probably Giglione, one of the Road Commission employees].

From May 18 to May 31 was spent around Head Quaters cleaning around Head Quaters, hauling lumber, working on C.C.C. camp and cutting timber for C.C.C. camp.⁸⁶

Tues. May 31. Traveled out to Igloo Creek. The old Ford quit at mile 14 and we walked back to Savage T & T camp.⁸⁷ The A.R.C. boys fixed the Ford and we traveled out to Igloo Creek. 1 bear.

Wed. June 1. Traveled over to Teklanika River. Then traveled to opposite Sable Pass. Then traveled up a fork of Teklanika two miles and returned to Igloo Creek. The last hour before I returned to camp it rained hard. 65 sheep, 75 caribou. Seen some wolf tracks. 15 miles. Partly cloudy, some rain. 65 sheep, 8 lambs.

⁸⁶ The Civilian Conservation Corps' 200-man crew operated for two seasons (1938 and 1939) at Mount McKinley National Park, building employee housing, garages, a machine shop, a 40-dog kennel and equipment house for the park's sled dogs, and laying utility lines at park headquarters. They also built the Wonder Lake ranger station (NPS, *A History of the Denali-Mount McKinley Region*, p. 202).

⁸⁷ The campground operated by the Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company from 1925 to 1941.

Thurs. June 2. Rained until 1 P.M. Traveled up the road looking for wolves. Seen 42 sheep, 9 lambs. 2 bear. 5 miles.

Fri. June 3. Traveled down to Teklanika River bridge in the A.R.C. truck. Then traveled up Teklanika River. Then cut across to Igloo Creek. Seen 9 sheep, 10 caribou & 1 cross fox. The fox had a piece of meat or squirrel. Also seen 1 moose. 8 miles. Partly cloudy, windy.

Sat. June 4. Traveled up the hill back of Igloo Creek cabin. Seen 6 sheep. Cloudy. Rode to h.q. with Gilyonne [Giglione ?].

Mon. June 6. Travelled out to East Fork. Ted [Ogston] and I was out hunting for wolf tracks. 5 miles. About 600 caribou. Partly cloudy. Stopping at East Fork A.R.C. cabin. 1 dead fox 1/2 mile down stream from the cabin.

Tues. June 7. Left East Fork at 2:45 P.M. Traveled 9 miles downstream where we camped for the night. Seen 1 dead caribou calf that might have been two weeks old. It had been killed by a wolf, only part of it had been eaten. 5 lambs, 125 sheep, 150 caribou. Some wolf tracks and many bear & fox tracks. Partly cloudy. 9 miles.

Wed. June 8. Traveled to the mouth of the canyon. Then we went up the creek that heads east from the mouth of the canyon 3 miles & returned. Seen 2 sheep, 75 caribou. Many bear tracks. 12 miles. Hot, & 20 minute rain squall.

Thurs. June 9. Started down stream. We soon noticed many wolf tracks. After traveling 2 1/2 miles Ted located a wolf den. There was fresh meat and pieces of hide around it so we decided to camp there and dig it out. After working for six hours we gave it up for the day as we were tired. I seen 1 wolf and a few caribou. 10 miles.

Fri. June 10. I awoke at about 4 A.M. and heard a wolf pup howling near the den. At 6 A.M. he commenced again and Ted shot it. It was the only one in the den. We then packed up and continued on down to the ranger's cabin. Seen wolf tracks all the way down the river. 10 miles. 12 caribou.

Sat. June 11. Went up-stream to where a creek comes in East Fork 4 miles above and followed up it for two miles, then returned to the East Fork rangers cabin. Seen wolf & caribou tracks. 12 miles. Partly cloudy.

Sun. 12. Travelled across the river and travelled up-stream 5 miles. Then I returned to the ranger's cabin. Seen fresh wolf tracks going up-stream. Seen 1 caribou travelling up the bar as if some-thing was after it but failed to see any thing. 1 caribou. 10 miles. Partly cloudy, light showers.

On June 11th Ted seen a flock of black birds a little smaller than the raven. A fluttering slow flying bird.

Mon. 13. Travelled five miles up-stream. We stopped there and looked for more wolf dens. Then we travelled two miles up the canyon where we camped for the night. 12 miles. Partly cloudy.

Tues. June 14. Travelled to the East Fork road cabin. 100 caribou, some sheep. 10 miles. Partly cloudy.

Wed. June 15. Moved to Toklat River. 85 sheep. Cloudy, some rain.

Thurs. June 16. Travelled to mile 50 1/2 and travelled over the hills looking for wolves. Seen 1 old wolf den. 300 caribou, 125 sheep, 11 lambs. 20 miles.

Fri. June 17. Made a trip around Devide Mountain in the morning. Seen 26 sheep, 2 lambs. Made a trip with Broemer in the afternoon to Wonder Lake & return. Seen about 800 caribou. 12 miles.

Sat. June 18. Travelled to Head Quaters. 5 bear, 1 old bear & 3 cubs, and 1 two year old bear. 16 sheep, 1 lamb.

Sun. June 19. at Head Quaters.

Mon. June 20. Rested.

Tues. June 21. Worked on the telephone line between Teklanika and Sanctuary Rivers. 12 miles. Clear.

Wed. June 22. Worked on the telephone line between Sanctuary River and mile 18. 8 miles. Clear.

Thurs. June 23. Hauled a load of telephone poles from Igloo Creek to Head Quaters. Moved out to A.R.C. cabin Sanctuary River. Clear.

Fri. June 24. Travelled upstream looking for wolf dens. 6 caribou. 15 miles. Partly cloudy 1/2 rain.

Sat. June 25. Travelled down stream 5 miles & returned. 10 miles. 3 sheep. Clear & hot.

Sun. June 26. Travelled five miles upstream & returned. 1 moose. 10 miles. Clear. Seen fresh wolf tracks.

Mon. June 27. Made a trip across the hills to 1/2 mile above the telephone line, then returned to Sanctuary River. 10 miles. Clear.

July 1938

Fri. July 8. Travelled out to Toklat River, had dinner with Al at Igloo Creek. 5 bear, 6 sheep, 4 caribou. 4 miles. Worked on telephone line.

Sat. July 9. Worked on the telephone line and returned to Head Quaters. Seen 2 bear, 30 sheep, a few caribou, 2 moose. 6 miles. Partly cloudy.

Mon. July 18. Travelled down to Moody rangers cabin. 4 1/2 miles. Cut wood 1/2 day

Tues. July 19. Cut wood all day. Seen young rabbit.

Wed. July 20. Cut wood all day.

Thurs. July 21. Cut wood until 3 P.M. when we returned to H. Q. 4 1/2 miles.

Fri. July 22. Returned to Moody rangers cabin. Worked cutting brush out of the horse trail in the morning. Cut wood in the afternoon.

August 1938

Fri. Aug. 12. Travelled out to Wonder Lake & camped for the night at the tent. Met Ted [Ogston] at mile 76. We have a out-fit and bound for Birch Creek. Cloudy, some rain.

Sat. Aug. 13. Travelled to Kantishna rangers cabin. Seen 12 caribou. 5 miles patrolling on the bar.

Sun. Aug. 14. Ted and John [Rumohr] arrived with two pack horse loads of supplies. Then I returned to Wonder Lake with Ted. We helped Lew [Corbley] pack. Then Ted and I took down the tent. Ted started for Park Head Quaters with the truck. I returned to Kantishna ranger cabin. 5 miles. 1 caribou. Partly cloudy.

Mon. 15. Went picking blue berries in the morning. 4 miles. John got a mess of graylings. Clear & warm.

Tues. 16. Travelled over to Muddy Creek. We arrived at 3:25. Trail soft some of the way to Clearwater Creek. Good trail from Clearwater Creek to Muddy Creek. Set up camp. Rained most of the day. 10 caribou. 12 miles.

Wed. 17. Cut wood and crotch poles for the tent. Patrolling 3 miles. Showers all day. Went out the Muddy Creek & looked up the old cabin. It was still up and appeared in good condition. Lew left for McKinley Bar.

Thurs. Aug. 18. Picked blue berries in the morning. Lew arrived at 2:10 P.M. We set up the canvas tent that Lew brought with him. Rained most of the day.

Fri. Aug. 19. Cut wood. Went up to the lakes looking for fish. No fish but seen about 20 ducks on the lakes. Lew left for McKinley Bar. Rained all morning. Scattered clouds in the after-noon.

Sat. 20. Cut wood. Picked berries. Went up to the cache in the evening. The cache appeared to be in good condition. 4 miles. Clear. John & Lew arrived at 2:30 P.M.

Sun. 21. Patrolling 8 miles in the morning. 11 caribou. Rained hard until 11:30 P.M. [A.M.] Picked some berries. Clear in the afternoon. Heard avalanche during the after-noon at Mt. McKinley.

Mon. 22. Stayed around camp. Picked some blue berries. Lew made a round trip to Birch Creek. He returned at 8:05 P.M.

Tues. Aug. 23. At 3:30 A.M. the dog (Buck) awakened us with a few barks. John went out of the tent with the 22 Woodman (our big rifles were cached 25 feet away). Buck was barking at a wolf that was stealing a bone that Buck had the night before. Lew killed the wolf. Seen a very big wolf this evening. Rained hard all day.

Wed. Aug. 24. At 11 A.M. Lew and I left with two pack horses and a saddle horse for Birch Creek. There was thick fog laying all over the country and it was imposible to tell where we were going. We left our supplies where we could locate them and traveled back to Muddy Creek. It was two P.M. when we arrived back. Star lost his footing while fording Muddy Creek and got part of our supplies wet.

Thurs. 25. Dried my out fit, went picking berries. Rained hard until two o'clock, then clear up.

Fri. 26. Lou and John left for Birch Creek. I am camping at Muddy Creek until Lou returns. Clear in the morning, cloudy in the after-noon. Out looking for wolves. 8 miles.

Sat. 27. Lou returned. I stayed at Muddy Creek. Rained all morning.

Sun. Aug. 28. Travelled over to Kantishna rangers cabin. Then to Wonder Lake. Returned to Head Quaters with Ted & Helen, arriving at 12 P.M.

Mon. Aug. 29. at Head Quaters.

Tues. Aug. 30. Travelled out to Wonder Lake. Walked from the road tent over to Kantishna rangers cabin. 2 miles. Ted and I seen three yearling bears in swimming.

Wed. 31. Travelled to our siwash camp on Muddy Creek. 12 miles. Partly cloudy.

September 1938

Thurs. Sept. 1.

travelled over to Birch Creek. Seen 6 caribou. 15 miles. After I got to the camp I travelled two miles down stream and returned. 19 miles. Partly cloudy.

Fri. Sept. 2. Cloudy. Picked some blue berries. Stayed around camp most of the day.

Sat. Sept. 3. Travelled down Birch Creek 12 miles & returned. 24 miles.

Sun. Sept. 4. Moved camp 15 miles. Seen 12 caribou. No water except Muddy Creek at this camp. Partly cloudy.

Mon. Sept. 5. Travelled down to the old trappers cabin near the boundary line and returned. It is 7 or 8 miles down to it. It took 2 hr 15 minutes of steady walking to make the return trip. There is a fair cabin site 1/2 mile up stream from the trappers cabin. Lew left for McKinley Bar. Lots of spruce hens and cranberries. 16 miles. Partly cloudy.

Tues. Sept. 6. Worked 1/2 day fixing up the trappers cabin. Picked cranberries in the after-noon.

Wed. Sept. 7. Put the roof back on the cabin. Partly cloudy.

Thurs. Sept. 8. Finished the cabin and cut some wood. Partly cloudy.

Fri. Sept. 9. Cut wood in the morning. Worked on the cache and picked cranberries in the after-noon. Lew arrived with the beds [?].

Sat. Sept. 10. Broke camp and moved to head of Birch Creek. 15 miles. Partly cloudy, some rain. 2 moose.

Sun. Sept. 11. Travelled to Muddy Creek. 10 caribou. 15 miles.

Mon. Sept. 12. Travelled to Kantishna rangers cabin. We travelled via the mouth of Clear Water Creek. 16 miles. Partly cloudy.

The notebook entries break off here, to resume on October 31, 1938. During the interval, Grant Pearson and Margaret Wolfe, of Seattle, were married in Seward on September 19. On their return to Mount McKinley National Park a few days later, they took up residence in one of the employee cabins at park headquarters. Shortly after, Superintendent Liek announced a new policy for winter patrol duty. Rangers would go out for two weeks, return for a week of headquarters duty and local patrols, return to the field for two weeks, and so on through the winter. As a newly married man, Pearson recalled years later, he particularly appreciated the new arrangement.

October 1938

Mon. Oct. 31. Work around Head Quaters. Started to tear the front of the old light power house out. Started for Moody ranger cabin at 3:15 P.M. Hot. 4 miles.

November 1938

Tues. Nov. 1. Worked cutting brush out of the old road that is to be used as a dog team trail this winter. Cloudy, a little snow.

Wed. Nov. 2. Returned to Head Quaters.

Nov. 22. Exercised dogs and breaking five young pups to work. 6 miles.

December 1938

Thurs. Dec. 1. Travelled out to Savage River, then walked down Savage to the rangers cabin. 7 miles. Foggy. Wolf, sheep and fox tracks.

Fri. Dec. 2. Travelled to Moody rangers cabin. Seen ptarmigan and rabbit. Seen one hunter at Otto's Macki's place [on Otto Lake]. Travelling was good except on the summit between Ewe Creek and Dry Creek and from Macki's place to the railroad. Foggy, some snow. 20 miles. 8 hrs.

Sat. Dec. 3. Travelled to Head Quaters. Seen 1 sheep, rabbits and ptarmigan. 6 miles. Partly cloudy.

Mon. 5-Fri. 9. Worked digging out steam line.

Sat. 10. Exercised a dog team 7 1/2 miles. Repaired dog harness after I returned.

Sun. 11. Exercised dogs 10 miles.

Mon. 12. Exercised dogs 8 miles. Worked on the steam line. Fixed the break and started to fill in the ditch.

Tues. 13. Worked filling in the ditch. Finished it.

Wed. Dec. 14. Travelled out to Savage River in the pick-up. Walked 3 miles down the river to see if it was possible [sic] to travel down the river with a dog team. Seen 12 sheep and about 50 ptarmigan. Returned to Head Quaters at noon. Disconnected the steam line that we had used to thaugh [sic] out the dirt so we could dig out the main steam line. 6 miles.

Thurs. Dec. 15. Exercised dogs 11 miles. Worked repairing my sled.

Fri. Dec. 16. Exercised my dog team 7 miles and Lou's dog team 6 miles. Then I walked over part way 2 miles on the trail that leads to Riley Creek. 15 miles.

Sat. Dec. 17. Exercised my dog team in the morning. Travelled 1 1/2 miles towards Riley Creek. Then I repaired my out-fit. 3 miles.

Mon. 19. Exercised Lou's dogs 10 miles in the morning. Exercised my dogs 10 1/2 miles in the afternoon. After I got through I got my out fit ready so I can leave for Savage to-morrow. 21 miles.

Tues. 20. Travelled out to Savage A.R.C. cabin with Lou in the pick-up. We hauled 5 dogs and their sled and out-fit. Walked three miles down Savage & returned. 6 miles. Cloudy, inch of snow.

Wed. Dec. 21. Made a round trip down Savage River to the rangers cabin. 16 miles. Hauled 3 bales of dog fish. Foggy & cold.

Thurs. Dec. 22. Made a round trip to Lower Savage cabin. Hauled 4 bales of fish. Seen 14 sheep, a few ptarmigan.

Fri. Dec. 23. Returned to Head Quaters. 10 miles. Clear & cold. 2 moose.

Dec. 24-25-26. Christmas at Head Quaters. I had a very Happy Christmas. The first real Christmas that I have had in years.

Tues. Dec. 27. Exercised the dogs 9 miles. Then I fastened paper on the coal bin. 10 caribou near 6 1/2 mile.

Wed. Dec. 28. Exercised my dog team 10 miles in the morning. Exercised Lou's team 10 miles in the after-noon. 20 miles.

Thurs. 29. Exercised dog 24 miles.

Fri. 30. Exercised dogs 12 miles.

Sat. 31. Holiday.

January 1939

Sunday Jan. 1 1939. Took Margaret for a 6 mile dog team ride.

Mon. Jan. 2. Packed up some grub to take on the trip out in the park.

Tues. Jan. 3. Travelled out to Igloo Creek with John and his dog team loaded in the truck. Seen 500 caribou. This was the first time that a truck has been driven to Igloo Creek in January. Also I seen 500 caribou. This is the first time that I have seen that many caribou in a herd at this time of the year.

Wed. Jan. 4. Lou took me out to Igloo Creek in the truck, also the rest of my dog team. 150 caribou.

Thurs. Jan. 5, 1939. Moved to East Fork. I had 250 lbs and made the trip in 1 hr 50 min. 8 sheep. Trail excellent. 9 miles. At 9 P.M. wolves came to within 6 feet of my lead Dog. I seen them but it was too dark to see the gun sights. I had to shoot to scare them away. 1 fox.

Fri. Jan. 6. Travelled 10 miles down East Fork and returned. I left 4 bales of fish when I turned to come back. Warm. Good trail. 20 miles.

Sun. Jan. 8. Travelled down to East Fork Rangers cabin. Killed Don [Dan?] in the canyon.⁸⁸ There was much overflow (water) from the mouth of the canyon down to the cabin. The rangers cabin was an awfull [sic] mess. The bear had been in the cabin. It took me three hours to get it in shape to stop in. 20 miles. Warm. 8 sheep, 22 caribou.

Mon. Jan. 9. Travelled 5 miles towards Sushanna and returned. Cut wood and worked repairing the cabin 3 hrs. 10 miles.

Tues. Jan. 10. Made a round trip up to the canyon and hauled down a load of dog feed. Much overflow from the canyon on down to the rangers cabin. Trapper Gene Morris stopped over night with me. He is trapping down stream on East Fork. 20 miles.

Wed. Jan. 11. Made a round trip up to the canyon and got the last load of dog fish. Seen one very large owl. Gene Morris left for down East Fork. 20 miles. Put the fish in the cache and cut wood.

⁸⁸ Probably one of Pearson's dogs.

Thurs. Jan. 12. Broke trail 6 miles towards Toklat River. Tied the dogs up and walked to the bank of the river on foot. Very foggy and there is not enough snow on the nigger [sic] heads for dog team trail. 22 miles. Very tired. Returned to East Fork cabin.

Fri. Jan. 13. Rested dogs. Cut wood. Patrolled towards Sushanna Creek. 6 miles.

Sat. Jan. 14. Travelled to Sushanna Creek. There was a low fog all the way and I thought I might have to back track. The ranger's cabin at Sushanna Creek was in bad condition due to the bear breaking in. I cleaned up and repaired it the best I could with what material I had. 9 miles. Poor travelling.

Sun. Jan. 15. Travelled to Teklanika River, I stopped for the night at Lee Swisher's trapping cabin 1/2 mile below the park boundary. Sam went lame. Hauled him 1 mile. 12 miles.

Mon. Jan. 16. Travelled to Savage River A.R.C. cabin. I stopped at Savage River rangers cabin 2 hrs and made a 5 mile patrol trip up Sunday Creek. 21 miles. 250 caribou near Savage A.R.C. cabin. 18 sheep in the Savage River canyon.

Tues. Jan. 17. Travelled to Head Quarters. Seen 115 caribou. Glad to be home.

Wed. Jan. 18. Rested.

Jan. 19-20-half of 21. Worked digging out steam line.

Sun. Jan. 22. Went skiing with Margie and Harold.

Mon. Worked digging out steam line.

Tues. Worked 1/2 day on steam line, exercised dogs 1/2 day.

Wed. 25. Worked digging out steam line.

Thurs. 26-Sat. 28. On steam line.

Mon. 30. Worked box up steam line and filling in the ditch. Exercised the dogs 10 miles.

Tues. 31. Worked 1/2 day filling dirt in ditch and 1/2 day hauling coal.

February 1939

Wed. Feb. 1. Hauled wood 1/2 day. Exercised dogs 10 miles and got my outfit ready to go to Moody rangers cabin.

Thurs. Feb. 2. Travelled to Moody rangers cabin. Patrolling out from Moody. 6 miles & returned. 16 miles.

Fri. Feb. 3. Returned to Head Quaters. Patrolled along the river as far as Horse Shoe Lake, then to Head Quaters. 7 miles. 4 rabbits, 1 fox.

Sat. Feb. 4. Exercised the dog team in the morning. 10 miles.

Sun. Feb. 5. Rested.

Mon. Feb. 6. Got my out fit ready to leave.

Tues. Feb. 7. Travelled to Savage rangers cabin. 275 caribou near mile 11. 14 sheep. Patrolling 4 miles after I arrived at the rangers cabin. 22 miles. Cold.

Wed. Feb. 8. Travelled to Teklanika River. Lots of caribou tracks. 10 miles. Clear & cold. Stopping for the night at Lee Swisher's trapping cabin.

Thurs. Feb. 9. Travelled to Sushanna Creek. The going was very bad, no snow and the ice was as slick as glass. After I arrived at Sushanna Creek rangers cabin I fitted three windows and made two shutters for the windows and a shutter for the door. 18 miles. Clear and cold.

Fri. Feb. 10. Travelled to Toklat River. Rested the dogs 2 hours at Sushanna Creek. Trail bad. 125 caribou, 2 moose. 20 miles.

Sat. Feb. 11. Patrolled 3 miles up Clear Water Creek & returned. 1 moose. 6 miles. Cooked feed for the dogs. Real cold.

Sun. Feb. 12, 1939. Travelled to Big Creek at the head of Clear Water Creek. Seen 1 moose. Trail good. Very cold. 20 miles. This cabin is very comfortable.

Mon. Feb. 13. Travelled to Moose Creek rangers cabin. Seen 15 caribou. Lew and John arrived about 1 hr after I arrived. 20 miles. Trail not so good.

Tues. Feb. 14. Traveled to Toklat River. Stopped for the night at the A.R.C. road cabin. 4 sheep. 28 miles. Travelled via Mt. Eielson.

Wed. Feb. 15., 1939. Rested at Toklat River. Picked trail across the bar. Repaired the sled and dog harnesses. Windy and warm.

Thurs. Feb. 16. Travelled to Sanctuary River. Seen 13 sheep, 1 fox, many caribou signs. 32 miles.

Fri. Feb. 17. Travelled to Head Quaters. 125 cabin [sic, for caribou]. 20 miles.

Sat. Feb. 18. Rested at Head Quaters.

Sun. Feb. 19. At Head Quaters.

Mon. Feb. 20. Worked fixing the coal bin.

Tues. Feb. 21. Moved light plant and exercised dogs.

Wed. Feb. 22. Worked on coal bin. Washington's Birthday.

Thurs. 23. Got my outfit ready and travelled to Windy station. Worked 1/2 day on the coal bin before I left.

Fri. 24. Patrolling up Windy Creek and along Nenana River. 4 miles.

Sat. Feb. 25. Returned to Head Quartters [sic]. Travelled along the rail road and part of the way along the Nenana River. 21 miles.

Sun. Feb. 26. Rested.

Mon. Feb. 27. Worked on coal bin.

Tues. Feb. 28. Exercised dogs 1/2 day, worked on coal bin 1/2 day.

March 1939

Wed. Mar. 1. Hauled coal.

Thurs. 2. Hauled coal.

Fri. 3. Hauled coal 1/2 day. Exercised dogs 1/2 day. 10 miles.

Sat. 4. Worked getting my out fit ready to leave.

Sun. 5. Exercised dogs. 2 miles.

Mon. Mar. 6, 1939. Ted & I travelled to Savage A.R.C. cabin. After I arrived Ted got lunch then I walked down to the bridge & returned. 12 miles. Clear, cold. 2 1/2 hrs.

Tues. Mar. 7. Ted & I travelled to Igloo Creek. Seen about 100 caribou. Noticed wolf tracks near mile 20. 22 miles. 6 hrs.

Wed. Mar. 8. Snow shoed a trail to the top of Sable Pass & returned to Igloo Creek. Seen many fox tracks, 4 sheep, 2 flocks of ptarmigan. 9 miles. 1 hr 4 min.

Thurs. Mar. 9. Travelled to East Fork A.R.C. cabin. Seen numerous ptarmigan along Coal Creek. 9 miles, 1 3/4 hrs. Clear & cold. 4 sheep.

Fri. Mar. 10. Patrolling near East Fork. Real cold. 10 miles.

Sat. Mar. 11. Out looking wolves 10 miles.

Sun. Mar. 12. Travelled down to Lower East Fork rangers cabin. Seen 75 sheep, wolf & fox tracks. Real cold. 21 miles, 3 hrs 20 min.

Mon. March 13, 1939. Patrolling towards Sushanna Creek. 8 miles. Bitter cold.

Tues. March 14. Travelled downstream to the cat [caterpillar] trail and travelled on it to Toklat. Clear & cold. 14 miles, 2 hrs.

Wed. March 15. Travelled up Clear Water Creek to Big Creek trappers cabin. Passed Dunkles freighting out fit. He had just landed his airplane beside the caterpillar [sic] tractors and there was tractors airplane and dog teams at the same time. Seen where 7 wolves had travelled down Clear Water Creek. 18 miles. Clear weather, warmer. 3 hrs 40 min.

Thurs. 16. Travelled to Moose Creek rangers cabin. Pass Dunkles freighting out-fit on the top at Myrtle Pass. 18 miles. 4 hrs.

Fri. 17. Patrolling up stream 4 miles & returned. 8 miles. Clear & warm.

Sat. Mar. 18. Travelled to Toklat River via Mt. Eielson. 28 miles. Foggy and a little snow. 6 hrs 5 min.

Sun. Mar. 19. Travelled to Igloo Creek. 35 sheep. 20 miles, 4 hrs 5 min.

Mon. Mar. 20. Travelled to Head Quarters. 250 caribou from Sanctuary to mile 11. 32 miles, 6 hrs 30 min.

Fri. Mar. 24. Harold and I left H.Q., travelled to Igloo Creek. Time 6 hrs 20 min. 32 miles. 800 caribou, 1 fox.

Sat. Mar. 25. Travelled to Toklat River. Seen 17 sheep, 1 fox, 1 porcupine. 20 miles. 4 hrs 20 min.

Sun. Mar. 26, 1939. Travelled to 1/2 mile past Stony Hill where I met Ranger Rumohr. Then returned to Toklat. 17 miles.

Mon. March 27. Storm bound at Toklat. Blowing real hard.

Tues. March 28, 1939. Travelled to Igloo Creek. 20 miles. Windy. 75 ptarmigan, 1 fox. Fox made the dogs bark all night at Toklat, not much sleep. Warm.

Wed. Mar. 29. Travelled

Pearson's 1939 field notebook ends here, presumably the day he got back to headquarters. Two months later he left for California to take up his new duties as Park Ranger in Yosemite National Park. He returned to Mount McKinley National Park as Chief Ranger in July 1942.

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