

Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas
 Oct. 6, 1974

Pom Pearson returned from Alaska and spent the evening with us, relating his experience of last winter and summer and his objectives for the coming year:

I'm going south this year down to S. America as far as I can go. We hope to make it as far as the S end of the country. A large group of people from Alaska are going sailing in the Caribbean for a month ^{in November} and before the tourist season ^{starts in} December and we will rent a couple of yachts and sail for a month. There will be a dozen people who will sail for about a month and then go on to South America starting at Caracas. I'm really interested in boats now. I went to Cordova and spent about a month working in a cannery. Every time it got sunny I would quit the job and tramp around outside, then it would get cloudy and drizzly and I would go back to the cannery ^{and work awhile.} They needed a lot of people so they would hire me back. I met a fellow with a boat which was an 18' skiff with a cabin on it and an outboard motor. I stayed with him for a couple of weeks and went out digging for clams and fished. I helped him with his cabin. There is a lake call Ex just ^{outside} south of Cordova and there is open water on it and there is 40 to 50 trumpeters swans that stay there the year around. They are really beautiful and were not over 20 yards off the road. You could watch them and all the little egyptians. They are really ^{beautiful} ~~pretty~~ birds. The Copper River goes thru this area and is a natural ~~area~~ ^{flyway}. There is all kinds of ducks. The canal between Cordova and Valdez (another all year open port) has trecky tidal currents. There is a highway that has been worked sporadically that leads south 15 miles from Cordova to the delta of the Copper River and is a big nesting grounds for all kinds of waterfowl. There is a proposed gas line that would effect Cordova but the transportation of oil will not effect Cordova. There are no roads to Cordova and the only people who want a road into this town are the business men and these are ~~pr~~ in the minority. It is a fishing town and the fishing industry keeps the town going. At one time there was a railroad from Cordova up the Copper River to Chelna where Kenⁿceath Mining Co had a rich copper mine at one time. It is proposed that a highway be built upon the grade bed of this old railroad grade. The town of Cordova wants to maintain their uniqueness and are objecting to the highway. They have put in a skii lift and have ~~pretty~~ good snow conditions and get about 10 feet of snow. I