

Great World

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For those who enjoy the stories of adventure in places that are remote and without all the modern conveniences we have in our community, the story of Dorothy Novatney must strike a responsive chord.

Dorothy was the Leisure Worlder of the month for February, being honored by the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association and her neighbors for her outstanding contributions toward making our community the wonderful place it has come to be.

But while Dorothy enjoys all our luxuries now, her early career found her in the last great frontier of America, the remote regions of Alaska!

We are happy to add our note of congratulations to those Dorothy will, be receiving throughout the month, and we must say how much we enjoyed reading about her activities in nature's wonderland, the 49th state.

The image the mind calls forth when Alaska is mentioned will always be that of blowing snow and barren ice fields, huge polar bears and bundled up Eskimo hunters braving the elements in search of food.

Actually, Alaska had modern cities and conveniences that will rival those of any in the "lower 48." And it probably gets as cold in Dorothy Novatney's native Minnesota as it

does in Alaska. But her job during much of her 30 years up there was to travel in the rural regions of the territory as a supervisor of the Territorial Department of Education. She was the first such supervisor, assuming the job in 1945.

She got around on her job by riding two-passenger float planes, mail boats and private fishing vessels.

Born in Alexandria, Minn., the daughter of the town druggist, Dorothy grew up to be a professional educator.

It was while visiting an aunt in Ketchikan, Alaska that she found her place in professional life.

In Alaska at the outbreak of World War II, Dorothy stayed on to teach English to high school students before joining the staff at the University of Alaska as associate professor of English.

Then came the challenging job with the territorial education department and its inspection tours to the remote areas travelling by catch-as-catch-can vehicles from bush pilot planes to refrigerated trucks.

Dorothy was named the first director of the Juneau-Douglas Community College which she established at Auke Bay.

The school library is named in her honor, and one of her plans is to take a ship back to Alaska.