

the Rucker Family Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

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FAMILY PROFILE: FLORENCE RUCKER COLLINS

by Michael P. Rucker

"I've always done the unexpected. Even my initial arrival was a surprise. My parents were invited to spend a weekend with friends in New Haven, Connecticut, in May 1921. So, I took that opportunity to come into the world as a temporary citizen (one month) of the Nutmeg State. Otherwise, I would have been born in Brooklyn - and who would want that?"

That is how Florence Rucker Collins (nee Florence Parks Rucker) describes her grand entrance. Florence, an only child of Florence Harriet Dickey and Benjamin⁷

Parks Rucker (Benjamin⁶ Lindsay, Benjamin⁵ Jennings, Isaac⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹) was a resident of Brooklyn until age six.

In 1939, upon graduation from high school in Atlanta, Georgia, she was accepted by the University of Chicago. Unfortunately, she could not begin college that fall because of illness. She made the most of the situation by studying the freshman course textbooks and entered the following autumn as a sophomore after passing comprehensive exams in each subject.

Her major was geology. Extended summer field trips with a close friend, Florence Robinson, to Wyoming and Wisconsin further contributed to her desire to travel. After graduation in June 1943, both Florences accepted employment with Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas. "Houston didn't appeal," she reports, "Too hot, too wet, too flat."

So they developed a plan: "Work and save our money until 1947, then quit, buy a car and spend the next two summers traveling and the winters studying for our masters degrees. Early in 1945 an exhibit of fighter planes, supposed to encourage the purchase of War Bonds, had a different effect on us: we took flying lessons instead." After obtaining their pilots licenses,



Florence Rucker, 1950
U.S. Geological Survey Lab, Fairbanks, Alaska

the two friends occasionally rented a J-3 Piper Cub to see more of Texas.

After becoming proficient pilots, they finally learned to drive, bought a Jeep station wagon, resigned from Shell and in early 1947, headed North. After a travel-filled summer, they returned to the U. of Chicago for a year of graduate school.

The next summer the Alaska Highway opened for tourists for the first time, so naturally the two friends again headed North. The Canadian authorities provided lots of "red tape and many warnings, ("Have you lots of food? Extra gasoline? Spare tires? Camping gear?") especially for a couple of girls in blue jeans.

Florence's diary: "We found the road in good condition, though unpaved of course. We travelled slowly, savoring the wilderness, the wild raspberries along the roadside, and the camp sites we found, most of which were recently abandoned gravel pits."

They returned to the university that fall and received masters degrees in geology in March 1949. "We had fallen in love with Alaska's wide open spaces and were lucky enough to get jobs with the U. S. Geological Survey in Fairbanks."

The drive up the Alaska Highway in March was far more arduous than that of the previous summer. They crossed the Smokey River in Alberta on the ice bridge just days before the Mounties closed it for fear of the ice breaking up.

In the fascinating frontier town of Fairbanks, Florence's diary recorded, "We were lucky to have a place in the housing area beside our office. We live in a quonset hut, which makes a really

fine apartment in spite of the curving walls." The diary continues, "We like our work as well as our location; it consists of describing the cores and cuttings from the 84 test holes drilled by the U. S. Navy in North Alaska."

"In 1950 we plunked down \$3,800 of our savings for a Cessna 140. With the plane we could, and did, visit most of Alaska, from the Canadian border to the western tip of the Seward Peninsula, where we could see East Cape in Siberia."

One of their favorite places for weekend flights was beautiful Lake Minchumina 150 miles west of Fairbanks and accessible only by airplane. There they made the acquaintance of Dick Collins and his wife Jeanne. Dick was an employee of the Federal Aviation Authority and resided in F.A.A. housing at the lake. [More about Dick Collins later.] The two friends were enthralled with the beauty and tranquility of the region and bought part interest in a cabin there.

By 1954 the Navy had finished its geological work and the two had to relocate to Washington, D. C. As a finale to their Northern adventure they undertook a 450 mile kayak trip down the Yukon River. They were joined by four other women and the husband of one. Their adventure was written up in the August 1957 National Geographic Magazine article entitled "Squaws Along the Yukon" after a popular song of the day. To alleviate the confusion created by having two paddlers named Florence, the others promptly named them "Ru" and "Ro."

In Washington Florence recorded, "We felt like birds in a gilded cage: nice place to live, relations nearby, pleasant co-workers, but little of the freedom and adventure of living in

the North. How to get back? Alaska is plane country and we could fly!"

They obtained an assignment to return to Alaska the following summer, but a float plane was needed to visit the various remote sites for geological work. So, they dug into their savings again and bought a Supercub with floats. In June 1956 they took off from a cove in the Potomac.

The chronicle of their trip across Canada reads like an adventure travelogue. Where were they headed? Lake Minchumina. Florence: "It was in the center of the area we wanted to study, and we were part owners of a cabin there. Living there for the summer we saw a lot of Dick Collins [now divorced] - and suddenly I realized that I wanted to see him more and more. He, luckily, seemed to feel the same way about me, and we became engaged. Florence and I had to fly back to Washington in the fall, and after the longest, dreariest winter, April finally came and I flew to Tulsa, where Dick had just arrived from Alaska."

Florence and Dick were married April 13, 1957, at her parents home in Christiansburg, Virginia. The next ten years were happily spent living in F.A.A. housing at Lake Minchumina. The family promptly increased with a son Ray Rucker Collins born May 2, 1958, and twin girls, Julie Hubbard Collins and Florence (Miki) Dickey Collins born September 22, 1959. (The nickname, Miki, is short for the Eskimo word "Mikiruk" meaning "small, but satisfactory.")



Florence, Dick, and baby Ray

Florence's father died June 30, 1959 and her mother came to live with the happy, growing young family. Another satisfaction resulted from the return to Alaska of her best friend, Florence Robinson, in 1958 and her marriage to Al Weber in 1959.

There was no school at the lake, so the children studied correspondence courses provided by the Alaska Department of Education. Florence remembers,

"Every August each child received two boxes, one with textbooks and the other full of supplies - paper, pencils, crayons and paints and such things as batteries, magnets and seeds for science experiments. It was like a second birthday."

In late 1966 the F.A.A. decided to reduce the staff at Lake Minchumina, thus eliminating Dick's job. Florence remembers, "We didn't want to go to Anchorage and climb the professional ladder as the F.A.A. proposed, but if we could just hang on until July 1967 Dick would be eligible for Early retirement. The usual government delays worked in our favor this time; two weeks after he got his 25-year pin and was able to retire, the job was abolished."

The family moved across the lake to the old log cabin the two Florences had bought twelve years earlier. It had three rooms and was very picturesque, fine in summer but too drafty for Alaskan winters. Building a new log cabin adjacent to the old one occupied most of the family's waking hours during the three working seasons. The new cabin was liveable by July 1969.

In the summer of 1971 the family faced another building project: a home in Fairbanks so the children could attend high school. The family lived in the "blue goose," an ancient school bus converted into a motor home, while they all worked together on the new home. This was the period of the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and Florence found Fairbanks much changed from her experience there in the late 1940's--and not for the better. The newcomers ("the get-rich-quick crowd") brought an undesirable value system, not to mention crowding, pollution and outrageous prices. Florence remarked at the time, "Fortunately, our Fairbanks home is 700 feet above the downtown area, and above the ice fog in winter and above the dust and heat of summer."

The first year in town was difficult for the family. The change from wilderness living to contending with the social pressures of town, attending crowded schools and negotiating city traffic gave us all a real dose of culture shock. There were compensations, of course, the chance to see old friends, meet new ones and, for Florence, to renew her much neglected profession of geology.

By 1977 Ray had graduated from high school and began spending winters trapping at Minchumina; the twins graduated in June of that year, so Dick and Florence moved back to the lake. That fall the kids were all attending the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, so Dick and Florence bought a small camper (nicknamed the "Cramper") and planned to travel a bit.

They got as far south as Big Bend National Park in Texas when they heard a faint signal via short wave radio: "Emergency, call Fairbanks." After bumping hurriedly over the dirt road to the nearest phone, they learned that a plane piloted by Ray with the twins along as passengers had crashed. They flew north to find Ray with numerous broken bones which took fifteen months to heal. Miki in the co-pilot seat was uninjured and Julie travelling prone behind the seats of the two-passenger plane with a dog escaped with only a broken ankle.

In 1982 the children had all graduated from the university. The twins returned to Minchumina feeling as though they had just gotten out of prison. They have lived there ever since settling into a seasonal round of trapping, writing, gardening, and handicrafts which supports them and their many sled dogs, and more recently, Icelandic ponies.

They have authored a number of magazine articles and two books, Trapline Twins and Dog Driver; the former auto-biographical, the latter a book of advice for the serious dog musher. Their vacations are spent on long distance dog sled trips around Alaska and Northern Yukon. They both have participated in thousand mile dog sled races including the Iditarod (Miki) and the Yukon Quest (Julie). Other adventures have taken them thousands of miles, from the Bering Sea to the Yukon Village of Old Crow, and many spots in between.

Ray, on the other hand, has stayed in town, where he is a computer operator at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. He also owns an apartment complex and other real estate in Fairbanks. He travels via his Piper plane, which is equipped with skis or pontoons depending on the season, and enjoys his sailboat which he keeps at the port of Valdez. In his "spare time," Ray recently founded the International Space Exploration and Colonization Company, a company that is investigating ways to recycle air, water and food in a sealed environment, for "space-oriented research and development."

Florence and Dick are taking advantage of their continuing good health to enjoy Minchumina and other parts of the world; e.g., Norway, Great Britain and Iceland in the North; New Zealand, Australia and the Antarctic Peninsula in the South. In between, to accommodate Dick's hobbies of sailboarding and sailing, they visit warm places like Hawaii and the Bahamas.

Florence reports, "We've been very lucky to be able to pursue the lifestyle we enjoy and hope to keep it up for a long time to come."

Florence's address is P. O. Box 50, Lake Minchumina, Alaska 99757, for anyone who wishes to contact her or purchase a copy of the twins' books.



Twins Julie and Miki, sled dog Cody, March 20, 1990

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Sorry about the delay in the newsletter. Every quarter something seems to come up to delay it. Last year this time, I had a fractured pelvis (due to a skiing accident) and I couldn't get up stairs to my computer. This year my hard disk crashed. It has taken about six weeks to

get everything working again.

Luckily all information was saved to floppy disks. I heartily recommend that you do the same. It's hard enough to lose power and current memory, but devastating to lose all memory. You might want to consider a back up tape.

Many thanks to Mike Rucker for the excellent family profile. Mike has edited it to perfection and I didn't change a thing. The 1993 Iditarod race is taking place as I write this newsletter. Check it out.

Charles D. Robinson wrote the article on the

history of the Alaska Highway--now 50 years old, see p.10.

GRAYAM COVE HOUSE - visited on the 1990 Rucker Reunion tour - is for sale. This was a McDaniel home, later a Rucker home (see Wood, p.80) and remained in the family for 5 generations. If you are interested, contact Elbert Maddox, Blue Ridge Realty, Amherst Co., VA, 1 (804) 946-5309.

Remember to send in your dues for 1993. Check the date on your address label to see if you are paid up to date. Membership numbers not used for two years will be reassigned. Remember to send in your family update at this time--births, marriages, deaths, anniversaries and anything else you would like included in the Rucker Family Genealogy Update or this newsletter.

Articles, queries, and suggestions are welcome. Family stories are especially desired. This is what makes genealogy interesting.

NOTE: NO MATERIAL IN THESE NEWSLETTERS MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE EDITOR.

Corrections to Sudie Rucker Wood's Book, p. 157, 162
IDENTIFICATION OF REBECCA⁵ ANN OGDEN
 by Jean B. Robinson

When searching in Amherst County, I found a Marriage bond for Rebecca Rucker/Ogden and John S. McDaniel. She was called Rebecca Rucker in one place and Rebecca A. Ogden in another. It was signed by Anthony R. Ogden and Ambrose R. McDaniel. Who was she? Was she an Ogden or a Rucker? What was the connection to Anthony Rucker Ogden and Ambrose R. McDaniel?

Wood, p.157, shows a Rebecca Rucker, dau. of Abner Rucker, as the wife of John E. McDaniel. However she was the dau. of Abner's 2nd wife (his 1st wife died in 1827) making her too young to be married in 1831. This Rebecca Rucker was not the wife of John S. McDaniel.

In looking at the marriage bond again, I see her name was written, in the 2nd part, as Rebecca A. Ogden. There is no Rebecca Ogden listed in Wood's index.

In searching the Will Book, I found the following: W. B. 11, p.451, John S. McDaniel & Anthony R. Ogden, bond... \$200 ...John S. McDaniel, guardian of Francis, John, Nancy, Mary and Benjamin McDaniel, orphans of Rebecca Ann McDaniel dec'd, dated 16 Nov 1846. Signed: John S. McDaniel, Anthony R. Ogden (the same person who signed Rebecca's marriage certificate--there has to be a connection).

Rebecca A. McDaniel's five children have been identified. We know her husband was John S. McDaniel, but why does Anthony R. Ogden sign her marriage certificate and her children's orphan bond? Was she kin to Anthony R. Ogden? And how is Ambrose R. McDaniel connected?

The following document was found by Ruth McBride of Amherst Co., VA: Clerk's Order Book 5, 1867-

1873, p.25, 28 Aug 1867, Anthony R. Ogden and James M. Ogden (two sons of Benjamin Ogden and Agnes Rucker) vs John McDaniel, et al. On motion of John S. McDaniel, Benjamin McDaniel, Nancy H. E. McDaniel, Richard Woody and Frances his wife (here are those children again), requesting R. R. Ligon show why sale of property should not be made since he has not paid for it. Another Clue--Frances was married to Richard Woody.

Look on page 162 of Wood, the Will of Agnes Ogden (W. B. 7-8, Amherst Co., VA, dated 1 Sep 1858, prob. 11 Jan 1865): "I give unto Frances I. Woody a bed and \$100.00 to be divided equally between Nancy E. McDaniel, her two brothers and her sister." Mentioned are two of the children of Rebecca by name. Here is a clue that Rebecca was the daughter of Agnes Rucker and Benjamin Ogden!

In other records of Benjamin Ogden, he called his daughter Ann or Ann R. YES! Ann Rebecca Ogden or Rebecca Ann Ogden--wife of John S. McDaniel--was the daughter of Benjamin Ogden and Agnes Rucker. It all fits. (Note in Wood, p.162, the name is Agnes Rucker--not Mary Agnes Rucker. Sudie Rucker Wood confused her with her granddaughter, Mary Agnes, dau. of James Madison Ogden.)

Now to connect John S. McDaniel and Ambrose R. McDaniel. They were father and son. Proof: Will of Ambrose R. McDaniel in Amherst County, VA. In my January trip to Amherst, I searched the Chancery papers and found some interesting facts about the McDaniels which I will write about in the next newsletter.

Conclusion: John S. McDaniel was the son of Ambrose R. McDaniel and Rebecca A. Ogden was the sister of Anthony Rucker Ogden. Following is an update of this family:

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2. **JOHN⁶ S. MCDANIEL** (Ambrose⁵ Rucker McDaniel, Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹), b. Amherst Co., VA; m. 22 Dec 1831 (Marriage bond, Amherst Co., p.315, 469), cousin, **REBECCA⁵ ANN OGDEN** (Agnes⁴ Rucker, Anthony³, John², Peter¹), d. 1846.

Will Book 11, p.451, 16 Nov 1846, and Order Book 5, p.56, 28 Aug 1867, Amherst Co., VA, lists the names of the children: Frances, John, Nancy, Mary, Benjamin-- "orphans of Rebecca McDaniel."

Two children are mentioned in the Will of Agnes⁴ Ogden, W. B. 7-8, dated 1 Sep 1858, prob. 11 Jan 1865, Amherst Co., VA. All five children are living with Agnes Ogden, age 70, in the 1850 Amherst County census.

Issue:

1. Frances⁷ McDaniel, b. @1832, m. Richard Woody.
2. Nancy⁷ McDaniel, b. @1835.
3. John⁷ McDaniel, b. @1840.
4. Mary⁷ McDaniel, b. @1843.
5. Benjamin⁷ McDaniel, b. @1845.

(Source: Wood, p.114, 157, 162, 410, 415; Amherst Co. Marriage records, Will Books, and Order books; 1850 Amherst Co., VA, census.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

JOHN McDANIEL AND LUCY⁴ RUCKER, widow of Zachariah Dawson, married 16 Nov 1799, in Davidson Co., TN, Marriage Records, Book 1, p.234, submitted by John Morris, Richmond, VA--addition to Rucker Family Society Newsletter, Vol 3, No 4, p.10. John writes: "The most interesting new information I have was discovered by another descendant of Nelson Carter Dawson, Rebecca Dawson Fox, who lives in Lee's Summit, MO. Becky found the probate records regarding Zachariah Dawson and the marriage records of his widow, Lucy Rucker and John McDaniel. Zachariah died in Davidson Co., TN, in 1799. Lucy married John on 16 Nov 1799, also in Davidson County (mar. Record, Book 1, p.234). Zachariah's estate was appraised on 9 May 1800. One of the appraisers was a James Rucker."



Note from the Editor: John McDaniel was in Tennessee by 3 Oct 1799, when he wrote a note of permission for his dau. Judith to marry. I looked this up recently in the Amherst Court House to check Wood's, p.410, date of 3 Feb 1799--a date which didn't compute--and found it was written 3 Oct 1799. Judith McDaniel married 19 Jan 1800 (mar. bond).

See Wood, p.129, (and Whitley, p.91) where it says Lucy married her childhood sweetheart, John McDaniel. If you check the dates, this could not be. John McDaniel married 1st @1773 when Lucy was about eight years old. Lucy married 1st in 1786 and John didn't become a widower until about 1795. Even though Wood, p.114, said John's 1st wife died in 1785, I think she died about ten years later. The new order of birth of John McDaniel's children, in the last newsletter, bears this out.

OTHER CORRECTIONS TO RFSN, Vol 3, No. 4, p.10, brought to my attention by Doris W. Edwards: William McDaniel was married 26 Jan 1801, not 1800. Mary McDaniel was married 1 Jan 1797, not 9 Sep 1797. Ambrose Rucker McDaniel was married 2 Dec 1804, not 25 Nov 1804. Mary Rucker Snyder found Ambrose Rucker McDaniel's death date in Barren Co., KY--25 Dec 1858, age 76. This would mean he was born @1783, not 1780.

Thanks to John, Doris, and Mary for contributing this information.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH: "Do we have people researching our Ruckers in Europe? My Kuhn family was researched by two different people and the results were great. Could we pool our resources and really begin to really 'know' who they were." Jeanette Kirtley Brooks, 214 Hagerman, Houston, TX 77011.

From the Editor: Sudie Rucker Wood, Edythe Whitley and Eva Davidson, our three authors of Rucker books, did extensive research on the Ruckers in Europe. They could not find a direct ancestor of Peter Rucker, immigrant to America. If anyone is willing to take on this project, or if anyone is actively searching in Europe, please let the Editor know. The main problem is that until we can establish the area from which Peter came, research will not be fruitful.

COLBY RUCKER MARKER: "In regard to the Colby Rucker marker--I'll have a go at getting it done. I'm not sure how to approach it, but will work on it. After I develop some kind of strategy, I think it would be desirable to offer that to all the Rucker Family Society members and request support from those who are interested, especially Colby Rucker's descendants. If we can't find where Colby was buried, we will have to decide where to put a memorial. I'll discuss details with the local Chapter of the SAR--perhaps they can give me some pointers." From Ron Payne, Rt. 3, Box 20, Falkville, AL 35622.

Note from the Editor: Colby⁴ Rucker was the son of Peter³ Rucker (Thomas², Peter¹) who migrated from Culpeper Co., VA, to the area of Natchez, MS. Colby lived for awhile in North Carolina and eventually settled in Grainger Co., TN. The marker should be placed at the Rucker Cemetery, on Coffee Chapel Road, near Thorn Hill, TN. Colby lived with his son, William, adjoining son John, and I am assuming, that all are buried in this cemetery. If anyone knows different, please let us know.



Dear Jeannie,

I'm excited re your Arkansas Rucker find! Good Job!!

Perhaps you'd like to publish this picture of Mary Rucker for your newsletter.

This is Mary Lane Rucker, b. 1827, d. 1886; wife of Frank Rucker, b. 1826, d. 1887. She and Frank left Arkansas and settled in Texas. (For more information, see RFSN, Vol 3, No. 4, p.8 and 9.)

Mrs. Mickey Richmond
511 W. Euclid Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85041

THE RUCKER FAMILY COOKBOOK, containing recipes from the children of Joseph Herman Rucker Sr., and his wife, Mary Ophelia Fuller Rucker, compiled by Alice Rucker Allen, is being offered for sale at \$15.50, which includes tax and postage. This is a delightful and well done cookbook, 300 pages of pure enjoyment. Send to Alice Rucker Allen, 1514 Westover Road, Austin, TX 78703. Alice is also offering an "Index of Places" for The Rucker Family Genealogy, created by her husband, Howard Allen. Cost is \$5.00 all inclusive. If you use the Rucker book for research, this pamphlet is a must.

IN MEMORIAM

MARCUS LEE WATSON died 29 January 1993, age 89, at his home in Ruckersville. He was born January 6, 1904 in Greene County, VA, son of the late Marcus Watson and Mary Marshall Watson. His wife, Anna Durrer Watson, was the subject of our Family Profile, see RFSN, Vol. 1, No. 3, Nov. 1990. He and Anna hosted the 1st National Rucker Reunion in 1988.

Marcus, a retired merchant, was a member of Ruckersville Baptist church, having served as trustee and deacon. He served his country for many years as a member of the Selective Service Board and his county as a member of the Welfare Board. He was buried in the Ruckersville Cemetery. (Greene County Record, submitted by Marie Durrer of Ruckersville, VA. Note: Rod and Lou Mason, Jeannie and Chuck Robinson represented the Rucker Family Society at the funeral. It was one of the largest gatherings ever held in Ruckersville Baptist Church, a wonderful tribute to a fine upstanding man and much loved citizen.)

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VIOLET M. RUCKER, of Abilene, TX, died October 24, 1992. She had celebrated her 91st birthday, August 31, 1992. She and her husband, Henry B. Rucker, had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Oct. 14, 1990, see RFSN, Vol. 2, No. 3, Aug. 1991. Violet worked as a licensed vocational nurse for the state of Michigan until retirement. She was a member of Abilene Bible Church and was buried at Elmwood Memorial Park, 5701 U.S. Highway #277 South. She is survived by two sons, Dean A. Rucker of Abilene and David Rucker of Las Vegas, NV, and Lapeer, MI; ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. (Abilene Reporter - News, Oct. 25, 1992, submitted by Alice Rucker Allen. Note: Dean and his wife attended the Rucker Reunion in Fredericksburg this past Oct.)

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JAMES HOWARD RUCKER of Georgetown, TX (formerly of Austin) died February 3, 1993. He was born Aug. 4, 1919, in Elgin, TX. He graduated from the University of Texas and served in World War II in the U.S. Marine Corps. He married Mildred Winston McGonagill on July 26, 1956. For a number of years, Jim worked as a geophysicist in Texas, Louisiana and Canada. Before retirement, he worked 25 years for the Texas Highway Dept. and the Department of Health. He is survived by his wife Mildred, sons, Dr. Grady McGonagill of Boston; Richard Rucker of Los Angeles; Dan Rucker of Austin, TX; and dau. Margy McGonagill of Tucson, AZ. His Rucker grandchildren are Aurora, Alvie and Max Rucker. Interment was at I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Georgetown. (Austin American-Statesman, Feb. 5, 1993, sent in by Alice Rucker Allen, "our good friend and relative").

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CHARLOTTE KILDUFF RUCKER, age 71, of Glebe Point, Burgess, VA, died January 25, 1993, Richmond, VA. She was born July 27, 1921 in Northumberland Co., VA, dau. of the late Walter L. and Mazie Forrester Kilduff. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles Manly Rucker Jr. (see Wood, p.56). She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, C. Manly Rucker III and Ann H. Rucker of Amherst, VA; and four grandchildren, Charles Manly Rucker IV, Sarah Forrester Rucker, John William Rucker, and Addison Clay Rucker II. (Richmond Times Dispatch, Jan. 26, 1993).

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS

Many thanks to everyone who continue to send in their family group sheets and line of descent from Peter¹ Rucker. We appreciate your sending duplicate copies to the three people working on updating our history:

DORIS W. EDWARDS, 2017 43rd S.E. U-2, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.
 MARY R. SNYDER, 1516 Elliott Drive, Jeffersonville, IN 47130.
 JEAN B. ROBINSON, 304 Charmian Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

REPRINTS OF SUDIE RUCKER WOOD'S THE RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY

Our Rucker Family Society had 220 copies of Sudie Rucker Wood's The Rucker Family Genealogy reprinted in 1991. A number of people have indicated an interest in another reprinting so we will take orders at \$16 per copy, including taxes, packing and postage--if we can get a minimum of 100 copies ordered and prepaid. These reprints, identical to the 1991 reprints, will have plastic laminated soft covers. These books will be printed from photocopies of Sudie Rucker Wood's 1932 book, and will NOT contain any new or updated information.

To order, please send, with check made out to The Rucker Society, to Lewis M. White, Treasurer, 9751 Firth Court, Vienna, VA 22181. These books would be great gifts for your Rucker kin and friends. Order an extra one for yourself. April 15 will be our cut off date for ordering reprints, to insure there will be no cost increase. Please send your order immediately as this will be your last notice.

Rod Mason, President

1993 MEMBERSHIP DUES

___ \$7.00 for Membership (The 1st number on your address label is the year you are paid, the 2nd is your membership number): _____

___ Reprint of Sudie Rucker Wood's Rucker Family Genealogy
 Paperback copy, reprint, not an update, at \$16.00 _____

___ Donations for the Cemetery Repair fund, and
 The Historical Marker for Rucker's Church _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Please make check out to The Rucker Society and mail to:

Mr. Lewis M. White, Treasurer
 9751 Firth Court
 Vienna, VA 22181

ALASKA HIGHWAY

In 1942, an engineering miracle was constructed with little publicity. The Alaska Highway, over 1,400 miles long, was completed in 8 months and 12 days.

For many years, the development of Alaska had been hampered by the absence of land transportation with the original 48 states. Canada had resisted such construction, because of the influx of Americans needed to build it, and the impact they would have on the native cultures living there.

All this changed when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Canadian resistance to a road was overcome by the need to defend Alaska, and possibly Canada. In fact, the Japanese invaded two of the Aleutian Islands in VA. 1942, and were driven out with great difficulty the following year.

the Rucker construction began in February, 1942 by engineer regiments of the U. S. Army. Working in appalling weather conditions, both winter and summer, they felled trees, put down gravel and built over 100 pontoon bridges. The road was finished in October, 1942, and served as a vital military supply link until the war ended. Because of the haste of construction, maintenance has been a constant problem.

After the war, the highway was opened to all traffic. Over the years, all the pontoon bridges were replaced, and 90% of the highway is paved today. About 50,000 vehicles drive to Alaska each year.

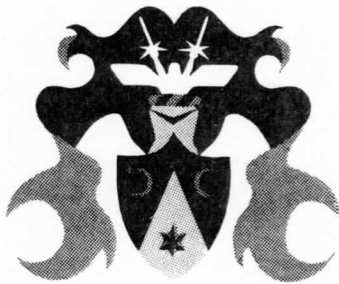
Tourist facilities have developed over time, creating economic growth in a once isolated region. Unfortunately, its impact on the life style of the natives is not all favorable. Progress doesn't necessarily benefit everybody.

For the traveler seeking something different, driving to Alaska would be a great experience. There is spectacular scenery, abundant wild life, and all necessary facilities.

Any votes for a Rucker Reunion in Alaska sometime?

"REACH OUT TO RUCKERS"

Last Chance to Order a reprint of The Rucker Family Genealogy
Check Date on your Mailing label to see if you need to send in
your 1993 Dues



FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE RUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY

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