



*The Unalakleet Covenant church is the setting for Alaska's 75th annual meeting.*



*Fifteen persons who remember pioneer missionary Axel Karlson sing a favorite song, "Over There."*

### **For and About Covenant Churches, Institutions**

## **Alaska Celebrates 75th Anniversary**

**R**EPRESENTATIVES from 17 villages and the city of Anchorage shared in the 75th anniversary celebration of Covenant missions in Alaska the first week of this month at the Unalakleet Covenant church.

The setting for the conference was the same village where the Rev. Axel Karlson started missionary work back in 1887. He is buried there, his grave stone bearing the inscription, "When he came to Unalakleet there was no Christian; when he died there was no heathen."

Of the 212 registered visitors, 174 arrived by airplane, while 38 traveled across the snow-swept tundra and ice by dog team. Bert Eakon, dog-food chairman, was kept busy satisfying the appetites of the 136 visiting dogs.

Each village participated in one or more of the nine general services through such means as ensembles, greetings, testimonies, and messages. Portions of each meeting were spoken in one or more of the native dialects. Conference theme was "Our Blessed Hope," which was reinforced in the minds of the Sunday congregation when an elderly conferee died suddenly.

The service on Sunday morning, April 8, was described as "one of the most impressive" in a report

about the conference by Mr. Paul Lindholm, a teacher at Unalakleet's Covenant high school.

The Rev. Maynard D. Londborg of Unalakleet, chairman of the Alaska Covenant Conference, read excerpts from the archives, some of which date back to 1899. They include a journal which was kept by Karlson and in which visitors recorded their names and comments.

Mr. and Mrs. John Savok, pioneer native workers, reminisced on "God's goodness in sending A. E. Karlson to them."

Fifteen senior citizens who shared in the Bible study and fellowship ministry of Mr. Karlson sang one of "the old-time favorites," the song "Over There."

"Wilson Gonongnan, the first native Covenant missionary," reports Mr. Lindholm, "culminated the morning service by admonishing the people to walk blameless lives before the Lord. As a veteran of 40 years of preaching, he gave special words of encouragement to the prospective young pastors. Since he spoke in his native dialect, Anna Kopanuk, wife of the assistant pastor to the Unalakleet Covenant church, translated her grandfather's message into English."

Greetings to the meeting from

the entire denomination were conveyed by the Rev. Robert A. Honnette of Chicago, secretary. "We wish for you a future bright and long in the service of our glorious Lord," he said, reading a letter from President Clarence A. Nelson. "It is Christ and Christ alone who makes the present and the future meaningful and bright. In truth, we can say with the Psalmist, 'The Lord is my light and my salvation. The Lord is the strength of my life.'"

The Rev. Mr. Honnette also preached along with the following: Walter Outwater of Wales; Fred Savok of Nome; Joshua Ahwinona of Golovin; Howard Slwooko of Elim; Ed Smagge of Koyuk; Reuben Paniptchuk of Shaktoolik; Norman Barram of Unalakleet; Stanley Schneider of Mountain Village; Ben Whitman of Scammon Bay; Peter Smith of Hooper Bay; Henry Shavings of Nunivak Island; and John and Lily Savok, Wilson Gonongnan, Harry Soxie, Jacob Kennick, all retired missionaries.

The business meeting of the conference was held Saturday afternoon, April 7.

David Saccheus was chosen president; Joshua Ahwinona, vice-president; Thomas Tungwenuk, secre-

# News Scope



James Oksotaruk, treasurer, records decisions of the meeting.

ary; James Oksotaruk, treasurer; and Fred Savok and Walter Outwater, ministerial board members.

A budget of \$14,785 was adopted and much of the time was spent in determining the amount of money each village church is to raise.

Through a fund called "Covenant Frontier Builders," \$650 was raised for the Hooper Bay Covenant church last year. Delegates voted that the Univak church building project should receive all the money next year, ending March 31, 1963.

The invitation of the Shaktoolik church was unanimously approved as the location for the 1963 conference.



Missionaries Alfred White, left, and Paul Lindholm gather a supply of water for the meeting.

■ **PULPIT EXCHANGES TAKE PLACE IN CENTRAL, MICHIGAN**—Pulpit Exchange Sunday will be observed in the Central Conference on April 29 and in the Michigan Conference on May 6.

Central pastors will preach on the text, John 21:1-14. "The emphasis will be on all phases of our conference and it is hoped that interest will be created for our conference program," according to the superintendent, the Rev. Robert L. Erickson.

Assignments have been made in Michigan so that every church will have a guest minister who has not previously been assigned to them. The day "should be a time of mutual blessing for all concerned," states the superintendent, the Rev. Willis F. Holmgren.

■ **IOWA TO HOLD TENTH TALENT QUEST AND FESTIVAL**—The Odebolt, Iowa, Covenant church will entertain the tenth annual conference-wide talent quest and festival on Saturday, May 12.

Iowa's best talent of junior and intermediate age will audition in the morning, and the ratings will be announced in the afternoon.

The program will also include a 9:45 a.m. worship period and an afternoon rally with group singing and a festival choir led by the Rev. Sam Diskrud of Stanton.

"The talent quest and festival has stimulated much interest in our churches in these ten years," comments a leader of the event, "and has helped us to find many talents which have become useful for the Lord."

■ **FRIENDS OF NORTH PARK ELECT OFFICERS**—Mr. Paul J. Bratt, member of Countryside Covenant church, Glenview, Illinois, has been elected president of the organization, Friends of North Park College.

The organization is made up of men and women who give regular financial support to the Covenant school in Chicago. Mr. Bratt succeeds Mr. Lester Munson of the Glen Ellyn, Illinois, Covenant church.

Mr. Earl E. Lindberg of Broadway Covenant church, Rockford, Illinois, was named vice-president, and Mr. Vernon E. Anderson of the Evanston, Illinois, church, secretary-treasurer.

■ **MICHIGAN, CALIFORNIA CHURCHES CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES**—An 80th and a 40th anniversary were celebrated this month by Covenant churches in Michigan and California.

The 80th anniversary was observed by the Evangelical Mission Covenant church of Whitehall, Michigan, April 14-15. Guest speaker was the superintendent, the Rev. Willis F. Holmgren, who addressed a testimonial dinner on Saturday evening and preached on Palm Sunday. Upon confession of faith at the April 1 communion service, four adults were welcomed into the church, bringing the membership to 98.

The 40th anniversary of the Pasadena, California, Covenant church was observed at a Maundy Thursday, April 19, communion service when the pastor, the Rev. Arvid F. Carlson, preached on the topic, "Life Begins at 40." A "homecoming anniversary service" is planned for tonight, April 27, with the Rev. Ralph P. Hanson, secretary of Covenant world missions, as speaker. Next Sunday the congregation will break ground for a new youth building.

■ **KANSAS CONGREGATION NOTES PROGRESS**—After eight months in new facilities in a new location, the Salina, Kansas, Covenant church notes an "increase in all of our church activities."

The congregation moved from a downtown location to a church plant which cost \$160,000 last year.

Sunday school enrollment is up 30 per cent. Attendance at Sunday morning worship services is approximately 10 per cent more than the total membership, which is termed "a considerable increase." Offerings are up 100 per cent.