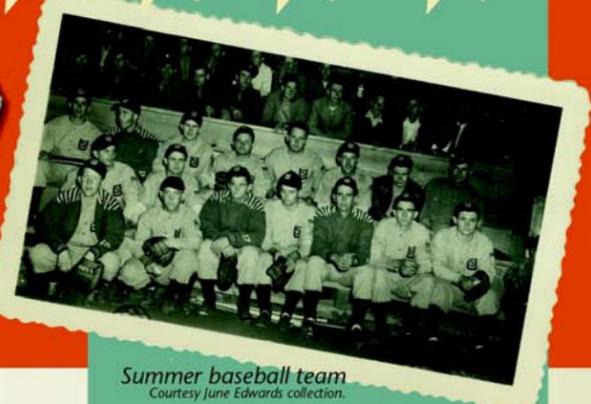


Wartime Life At Ladd Field

The men and women who served at Ladd Field during World War II found plenty of outlets for recreation in their off-hours.

The Army made a special effort to help boost morale by sponsoring a post newspaper, showing movies, providing books and magazines and hosting USO performances by the likes of movie star Ingrid Bergman and comedian Bob Hope. On his first visit to Ladd in 1942, Hope quipped that the fog was so thick while he was flying in Alaska that "even the birds were walking."

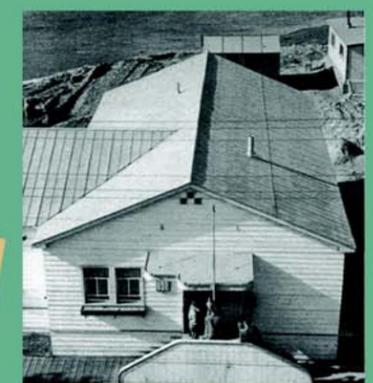
There was an officers' club and a non-commissioned officers' club on the field. The NCO club charged \$1 a month for members who could buy hot sandwiches, candy, soft drinks and cigarettes on the premises. The Ladd Field Glee Club sometimes sang there and a group of soldiers formed a 12-piece big band. Heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis visited Ladd and served as the referee at a boxing match that drew a crowd of 3,000.



Summer baseball team
Courtesy June Edwards collection.

Sports of all types were popular, including hunting, baseball, football, basketball and skiing. The Ladd Field Ski Club formed in 1943, with the goal of developing a ski run on Birch Hill.

Basketball was one of the major winter pastimes in Fairbanks then, and Ladd Field was represented by several teams in the city league. The Cold Nose squadron, the Quartermasters, the Medical Corps, the Air Corps, the Commandos, the Military Police and other units all fielded teams.



The USO in downtown Fairbanks was open to the off-duty soldiers. Here, a soldier could play a variety of games, listen to the jukebox, have a cup of coffee and a slice of pie, or write a letter home in comfortable surroundings. Most popular with both civilians and soldiers were the occasional dances that were held there.



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GUESTS OF HONOR at a party on the post were the visiting Hollywood celebrities, shown in the reproduction above. Standing behind Jerry Colonna is Capt. L. E. Matthews, one of the official photographers. In shown between Frances Langford and Bob Hope. The picture at the right, with Hope and Miss Langford at the "mike," was taken as they entertained the soldiers from atop a large semi-trailer.



LADD FIELD, PHOTO SECTION.

Men Routed
Beds

Here's Bob's
Diary--Or A
Day At L.F.

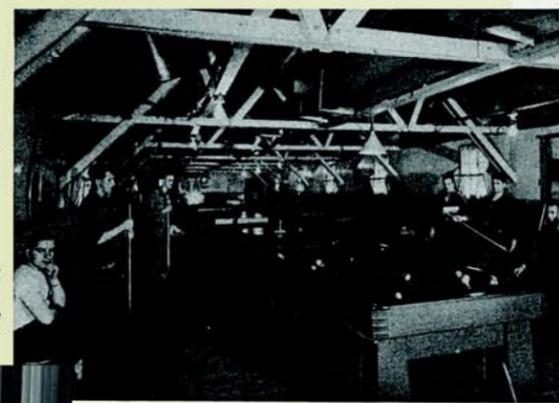
G. I. Dance
Tonight At
Moose Hall

Pretty Wife
Of Corporal
Wins Contest

Bob Hope Gang Spends
Busy Sunday Here,
Makin' Hit With Men



Right: "Day Room" for troops at Ladd Field.
From Ladd Field Midnight Sun, Special Magazine Section, Candy Waugaman collection.



WACs and their dates at NCO club, 1945. Audrey Virden collection.



WACs and a recreational game of cards.
UAF Archives, Betty Wiker collection, Acc# 2003-0175-00026.

Post Library Gets Magazines As Gifts

Copies of The Reader's Digest, the Saturday Evening Post and the Look Magazine will be available in the post library for the next year--thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Morton L. Newhoff, of Altadena, Calif.

Lt. Colin D. Campbell, officer in charge of the Air Corps technical library, announced this week that Mr. and Mrs. Newhoff had subscribed to the three magazines for Ladd Field soldiers. Lt. Campbell was notified of the subscriptions by The Reader's Digest in a letter which said:

"We hope that the copies thus made available will give many hours of pleasurable reading to the men of the library."



1466 BU--19 JULY 45. WAC'S TAKE SUMMER PICNIC. SLEIGH RIDE.
Photo: Betty Wiker collection.

BASE THEATER

DRAGON SEED M-G-M's Mighty Production

Kenneth HEPBURN
Walter - Alton -
Houston - MacMahon
Akim Tamiroff
Turkay Bay

SUNDAY AND MONDAY

All news clippings and advertisements are taken from issues of the Ladd Field Midnight Sun, Candy Waugaman collection.

Glee Club To Appear

New Organization Will Sing At USO Tea On Nov. 18

The newly formed Ladd Field Glee Club of 20 voices will make its first public appearance at a USO tea on Nov. 18, Pfc. James Porter, director, has announced.

The club also will give a special Christmas program at the USO on Sunday, Dec. 20. Arrangements of carols for the group are being made by Pfc. Porter and other choruses appropriate for the occasion have been ordered.

Additional appearances of the Glee Club, which is under the sponsorship of the E&R Association, are

SERVICE MEN'S ITEMS
Now on Display for the First Time in Fairbanks

- Service Memory Diaries
- Trench Mirrors
- Military Button-Polishing Kits
- Elastic Glass Identification Tag Holders
- Sewing Kits
- Money Belts
- Leather Photo Cases
- Military Cigarette Cases
- Toilet Kits
- Empty Utility Kits
- Khaki Duffel Bags — Contains everything the soldier needs. Sewing kit, mirror, shoe polishing outfit, and toilet articles.

Also a complete line of Stationery — Candy — Toiletries — Dry Goods — Small Hardware

A and H STORE
10-15-25c
LACEY AND SECOND
\$1.00 and up