

LIFE



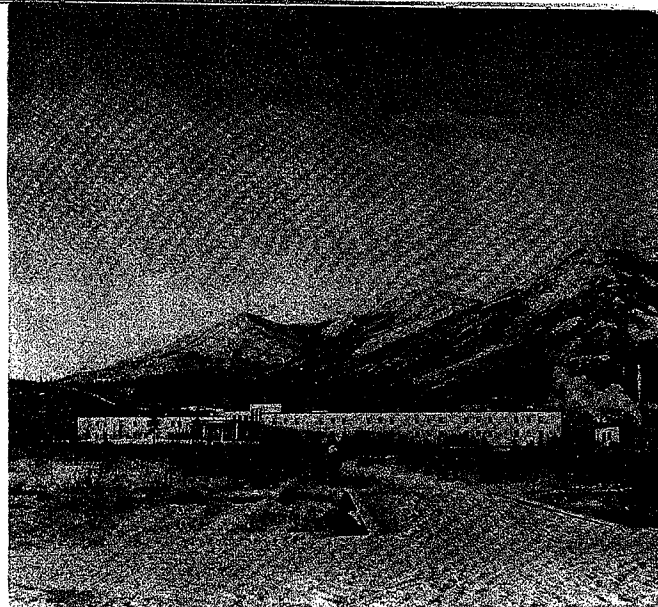
ALASKA HOLIDAY

JANUARY 3, 1944 **12** CENTS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



Guests arrive at McKinley Park Station on the Alaska Railroad. They are welcomed by hotel's senior hostess, who has driven down by dog team. Many of the girl guests are employees of Army Engineers.



The McKinley Park Hotel, where the soldiers and girls live, was built by the Alaska Railroad for tourists. Completed late in 1938, it cost \$350,000 and has room for 128 guests.



Skating on the black ice of a glacier pond is one of the favorite sports. Here Sgt. Bob Norling and Marge Mylius, an Army Engineers' employe, hold on to each other. Neither is much good on skates.



Over new snow, which has sprinkled white the only road in McKinley Park, the boys and girls walk to the skating pond. In the background are peaks of the Alaska Range.

After a skiing spill in the fluffy snow Pfc. Louis Schechter pushes down on poles in a vain attempt to get up. Skiing instruction is given to all those interested by a Sun Valley expert who is now in Army.



Flat on her back goes Barbara Brubaker while trying to herringbone up the steep hill. She is also shown on the cover in a picture made before she got snow all over her face.

ALASKA HOLIDAY

**Soldiers and War Department girls
have fun at McKinley Park Hotel**

No soldiers are more lonely than the soldiers in Alaska. Home seems far away and in the course of time they learn to curse the bleak beauty of the countryside. To alleviate this loneliness and to give a rest to soldiers who have been stationed for many months in Alaskan and Aleutian outposts, the U. S. Army has taken over the McKinley Park Hotel, most modern hotel in Alaska. In the shadow of Mt. McKinley, highest peak on North American continent, this hotel was built in 1933 by the U. S. Government in anticipation

of an increased tourist trade. Now, with no tourists available, the Army sends soldiers there for a week's stay. During this time they loaf or play, sleep on comfortable beds and eat food well served. Also permitted to stay at hotel are women employees of the War Department who are chaperoned by two Army hostesses.

These pictures and the one of the pretty girl on the cover were taken by LIFE Photographer Dmitri Kessel. They show what the soldiers and the girls do for amusement during their all-too-brief Alaska holiday.

THEIR SKIS IN RACKS. TWO LIEUTENANTS ON A HOLIDAY AT MCKINLEY PARK SILENTLY WATCH SUN RISE OVER THE EASTERN MOUNTAINS, CASTING A COLD GLARE ON THE SNOW

