

The Early Days of Fedrelandet #23 Sons of Norway

Sons of Norway Trading Union Store

Petersburg Weekly Report, Petersburg, Alaska

March 11, 1916

OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The store building being erected west of Sons of Norway hall is nearing completion, and will be ready for occupancy by April 1, when the S. of N. Trading Union, Ltd., will open for business with a full line of general merchandise and fishermen's supplies. The new enterprise is a stock company, in which a number of local people have interest. The store will be operated under the management of Jacob Otness.

April 1, 1916

The new store of the S. of N. Trading Union opens for business today, a big shipment of their grocery stock having arrived on the Farragut. More goods in the grocery line, together with a stock of fishermen's supplies, etc., are expected on an early boat.

April 8, 1916

Jacob Otness, manager of the S. of N. Trading Union, reports a very satisfactory business at the new store for the opening week. Mr. Otness calls attention in an advertisement on third page to some new brands in the grocery line.

August 5, 1916

ARNESS COMPANY TO HAVE LOCAL LUMBER YARD

The Olaf Arness Mill Company has purchased the tide flat lot opposite Sons of Norway hall and will use it for a lumber yard. A platform and shed are now being built on the piling. A Stock of all kinds of building lumber and shingles will be kept in supply for the local trade. Jacob Otness, manager of the S. of N. Trading Union, will have charge of the yard, the office quarters for which will be in the store near by.

August 5, 1916

Special Session of Council

From the residents south of the saw mill, asking that the town build a bridge across the creek in front of the store building of the S.of N. Trading Union.

August 12, 1916

DOINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

It was decided that the council should meet at 9:00a.m. the following day for the purpose of investigating the matter of the new bridge, asked for by residents south of the saw mill, to cross the creek in front of the S. of N. Trading Union store building.

August 19, 1916

The platform and sheds, on the flats opposite Sons of Norway hall, for the Olaf Arness Company's lumber yard were completed this week and are now stocked with all kinds of building lumber. Jacob Otness, at the S. of N. Trading Union store, is acting as local sales agent for the mill company.

Petersburg Weekly Report, Petersburg, Alaska

December 12, 1919

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Last Monday night the Sons of Norway Trading Union store was totally destroyed by fire.

The blaze started at about half past five in the evening and within two hours the building was a blackened ruin. The loss is estimated between thirty and forty thousand dollars, about one third covered by insurance.

The fire started in the upper rear corner of the building, presumably from a defective electric wire. It spread rapidly through the upper story, the building being so filled with smoke when the fire department arrived that the firemen were unable to enter the building. The chemical engine failed at the critical moment and by the time water was secured the building was blazing nicely. Although the firemen fought valiantly they were unable to stop the flames. Through a combination of good luck nearby structures were saved. The roofs of the nearby buildings were covered with snow and ice, and this fact combined with the further fact that there was no wind blowing undoubtedly saved a large part of the town from destruction.

The Sons of Norway store was owned by a large number of local people and was operated on a co-operative plan. Erick Ness, the manager was away from town at the time of the fire, but returned later that same night.

December 19, 1919

Notice

The office of the S.of N. Trading Union is now located in the Sons of Norway Hall. Those owing bills to said concern are asked to please call and settle same as soon as possible in order that the affairs of the company may be straightened up.

Erick Ness, Mgr.

January 30, 1920

LOCAL INTEREST

Work will be started on the re-building of the Sons of Norway Trading Union, which was destroyed by fire recently, as soon as the weather permits, according to an announcement of manager Erick Ness. The new structure will occupy the site of the one destroyed and will be two stories in height 26 by 50 feet. The new building will contain practically as much floor space as the old one, besides leaving room in the rear for additions as the business warrants.

Since the fire which destroyed their old building the directors have been arranging the affairs and collecting in their accounts. They decided to re-build after a full financial statement had been received from manager Ness and will continue the business under old management.

Friday February 27, 1920

BIG STORE SOLD

A deal has been concluded, with the exception of minor details, whereby the Petersburg Packing Corporation will transfer the The Trading Union, Incorporated, a large part of their property including the large store and store building, the wharf, several warehouse buildings, six lots in block 2 of the Town of Petersburg, two floats and waterfront holdings in front of the present store buildings. The consideration is understood to be between eighty and one hundred thousand dollars, according to the value of the goods in the store.

This will give The Trading Union, which is a co-operative concert formed with local stockholders one on the most valuable pieces of property in Petersburg.

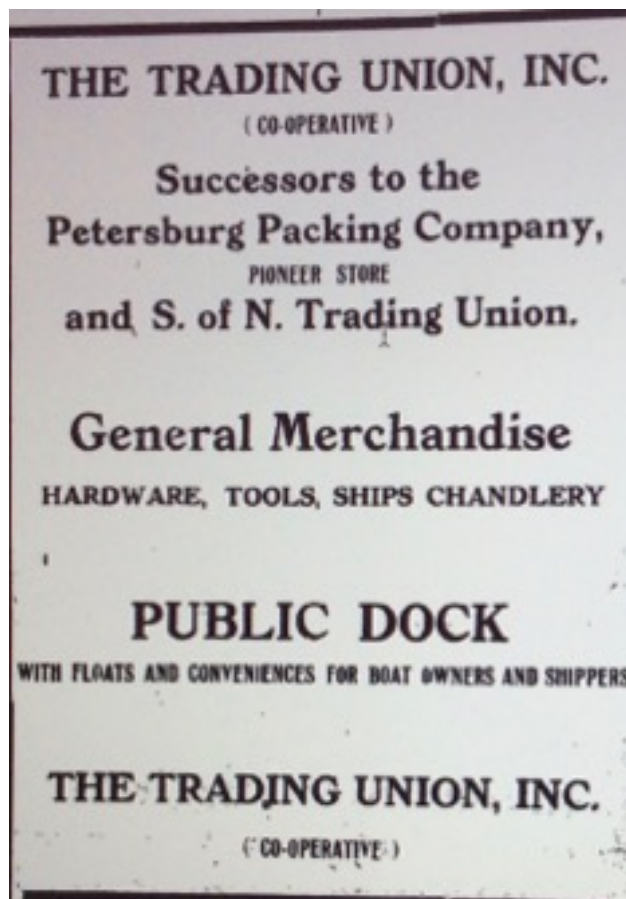
Petersburg Weekly Report, Petersburg, Alaska
March 12, 1920

The details of the transfer of the store of the Petersburg Packing Corporation to the Trading Union have been completed and it is expected that the store will be open for business on Monday under the management of the new owners. The man who will have the actual management of the store has not been selected as yet but this will be done by the Board of Directors at one of the next meetings of that body.

The store has been closed for the past week while the representatives of both the buyers and sellers took inventory of the stock on hand, but this work has now been completed.

March 19, 1920

Carl E. Swanson, formerly associated with the Petersburg Packing Corporation in their store has been selected as manager for the store which was recently taken over by the Trading Union. Mr. Swanson has had a large experience in this line of work and is well known in this section.



Respectfully submitted by, Jill Williams
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February 10, 2016

