

Alaska Magazine features bear story

A personal account of an afternno of terror and its aftermath, a miracle of survival, is a lead feature in the June issue of ALASKA magazine that goes on sale at local newsstands this week.

Attacked by two marauding brown bears, Ron Cole tells of repeated assaults by the pair that left him with 54 inches about his head and other severe injuries.

"It came to me," he recalls, "that I was dying but not dead."

When Cole's life found him, horribly mauled and near death, his survival rested on three things: her prompt efforts, good weather that permitted a helicopter rescue and the skill of a team of surgeons who worked through the night on his massive injuries.

Other major features in the June issue of the magazine include a series of striking coyote photographs by noted outdoor photographer John Crawford, a detailed report of a 100-foot tidal wave that destroyed the Scotch Cap Lighthouse on Unimak Island in 1946, and a nostalgic look at tourist travel in 1935.

In the first of three installments in ALASKA magazine, Florence Wendt, who was at the time a high school teacher from the Midwest, shares her scrapbook of adventures with modern travelers who will be fascinated by the comparisons. As one recent tourist says, "This lively record of the past shows not only how different some things were then but it also show how much the same ~~some~~ other things remain."