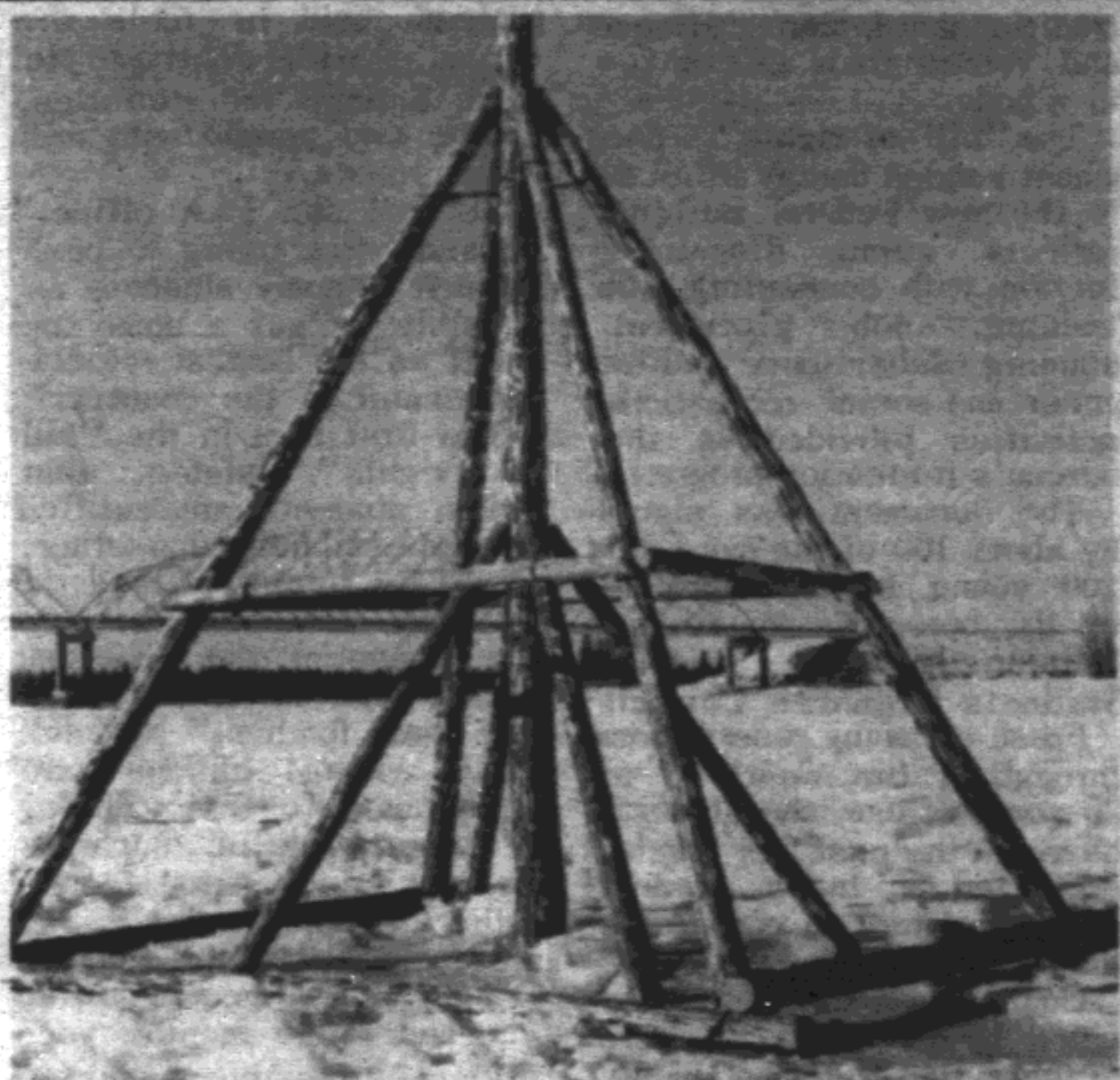




Tripod on white ice of Tanana River will soon topple into river during breakup and stop clock to determine winner or winners of Nenana Ice Classic.

Tanana River Ice Melting

By JILL SHEPHERD

NENANA (Special)—The river which devastated the town of Nenana last August in the worst flood in recent years is the object of a different kind of scrutiny today.

Perched on the ice just opposite the town is a tripod constructed of logs and wired to a clock on the river bank. When the ice breaks up under the long-awaited Spring sun, it will tumble down the river, carrying the tripod with it.

It isn't just the spring sun that is bringing carloads of visitors to Nenana to stand on the road or hang over the bridge staring at the frozen river. For this is the time of year for the famous Nenana Ice Classic, when everyone bets on when the ice will go out.

This year's money purse promises to be even larger than last year's, which was \$105,000, according to a report yesterday from Bob Coghill of Nenana.

The Nenana Ice Classic committee will have their tally completed tonight. Practically the entire town works in some way on the Ice Classic every year.

Nenana, which barely got back on its feet after the flood in time for the winter, is already busy re-building and repairing what wasn't completed last fall.

There is a little water in some of the breaks just a half mile south of town and the ice may go at any time.

And right at their doorstep the frivolous river, which floods regularly in the spring, is rumbling again.

Concerning just when, Bob Coghill wouldn't commit himself, saying only, "Well, I missed it by a month. It could go anytime, I guess."

And for all those people who have tickets in May, this is good news.