

'Longest Reindeer Herder'

The "Longest Reindeer Herder" by Chester Asakak Seveck is the "fascinating true life story of an Alaskan Eskimo covering the period from 1890 to 1973."

The story is told by Chester himself in a lively, down-to-earth, conversational style, and when you put down the book, you have the feeling not so much that you have read a book as that you have had a visit with a warm and interesting human being.

Chester began herding reindeer in 1908, became chief herder for the Kotzebue, Selawik and Buckland herd, which by round-up time in 1946 numbered close to 5500 head of reindeer.

In recounting the history of reindeer herding in the far north, Chester also includes tips on how to survive in extreme cold temperatures.

"EAT FROZEN FISHES — KEEP WARM" is the title of one chapter. Chester explains that when you eat cold, uncooked food, the body starts a "cooking fire" in the stomach and is much better for you than a hot meal.

He also describes building a snow-block shelter when stranded on the trail in a storm, tells of fawning time in the herd, the training of reindeer to pull sleds, and other aspects of life in Eskimo villages.

One account relates a harrowing experience of being cast adrift and lost for nine days and nights when hunting seals off



A FAST DISAPPEARING WAY OF LIFE — A new book, "Longest Reindeer Herder" tells the fascinating life-story of Chester Seveck, shown above with his wife Helen. The couple have traveled all over the world to tell the story of Alaska's native people and their way of life. — Photo by FRANK WHALEY

Kivalina.

Chester survived by chewing

and swallowing pieces of a seal-skin rope, melting frost on the ice to get fresh water, and by crawling "flat like a polar bear" when thin ice formed back to solid land.

After the death of his first wife, Tillie, Chester married Helen Tuzroyluke, sister of Tundra Times' Editor, Howard Rock. Between them the couple have "135 grandchildren, and 37 great-grandchildren, altogether 172," writes Chester.

Chester and Helen have traveled all over the world, promoting tourism in Alaska, and appeared in the Hollywood movie, "Ice Palace."

Today they reside in Fairbanks, Alaska, and at age 83, Chester concludes his book with a chapter called "HOW HAVE LONG LIFE."

We heartily recommend this book to our readers as genuine Alaskan history, written neither by "outsiders" nor by scientists studying the Eskimo people, but by an amazing native Alaskan who lived that history, Chester Seveck.

The book will be available at local book stores: Borealis, The Book Bin, Alaska House, Griffins, House of Wood, Eskimo Museum, and at the International Airport in Fairbanks.

It may also be ordered by mail from:

ARCTIC CIRCLE ENTERPRISES

P.O. Box 3147

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

The price is \$2.65. (Add 14¢ for mail orders.)