

# Copper Center women take once-in-lifetime trip outside

By **BILL HESS**

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"You had better take a good look at those mountains," Eileen Star says to her friend, 83-year-old Sophie Lincoln of Copper Center.

"I'm just like a little child," Lincoln sparkles. "I'm so excited!" For the first time in her life, Sophie Lincoln is going to take a trip Outside. In just two hours, she and her friend, Elizabeth Pete, also of Copper Center, will board a plane at Anchorage International Airport and will fly to Dallas, Texas.

Later, they will move on to Florida and sunshine, and finally they will journey to South Carolina, where they might see some little mountains. They plan to return home on April 20. It is also Pete's first trip Outside.

The journey is a result of an invitation extended to Lincoln last January from Faye Crandall. "We know her for a long time," Lincoln explains. "She was a missionary here. She's nice." In fact, before Crandall left Alaska, Lincoln adopted her as a daughter. Lincoln has had eight children

of her own, but only one is still living.

Crandall lives in Dunedin, Florida, which is in the Tampa-St. Paul area. Lincoln is also looking forward to seeing her grandson, 11-year-old Stanley Lincoln, who lives there with his mother. She is an Oklahoma Indian.

"Stanley was born in 1970," Pete explains. "In 1971 or '72, he went Outside. So we haven't seen Stanley since he was a little baby." They will visit friends and relatives of Pete's in South Carolina.

Neither of the women have any idea what they will do or see once they get Outside, although they do expect to make at least one visit to the beach. "I don't know Outside. I not plan to go," Lincoln explains.

"I don't know what we'll see," Pete adds. "Faye just invited us to go down there, so we go down. Faye knows more about what we'll do. Us, we just go along. Whatever Faye says, we'll do!"

Both women have flown before, but not on a large jetliner such as will be taking them down South. They are not

worried, however. "We don't know the big planes," Lincoln confides. "It's all right, they say."

Pete admits there are some things down south which could prove frightening. "What scares me is the snake in a box," she says. "And the spiders. They say they are poisonous and everything!"

Cecilia Larson, a friend who has been to California, joins in the discussion. "Down in California, I was sitting in a room there, watching TV. A bunch of little green things came out. I didn't know what they were!" She got help, and learned they were termites.

Pete worries a bit about the possibility of running into cockroaches, and bringing them back to Copper Center with her. Still, the women are confident the trip will go all right.

"We pray," Lincoln explains. "We lean on God. God will take care of us."

"We don't know what we will do," Pete emphasizes. "I don't know where we're going to be, and what we're going to see. You wait till we come back. Then we tell you!"

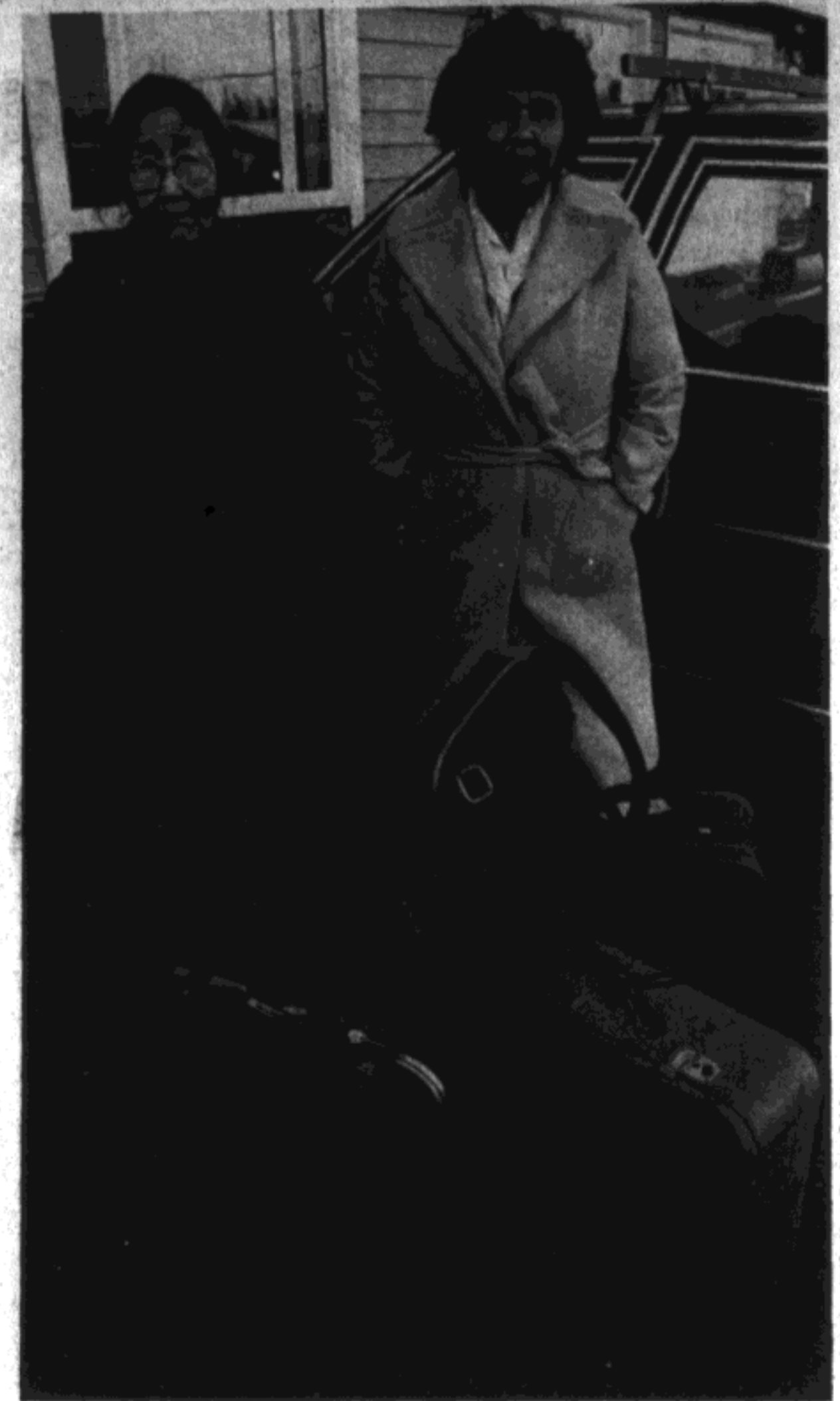


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Elizabeth Pete (right) and 83-year-old Sophie Lincoln stand behind the luggage they're taking on their first trip Outside. The two women are travelling to Texas, South Carolina, and Florida.