

# Dramatic Confirmation

(Editor's Note: The following commentary, in personal and poetry form, by Joan E. Pond, 20 Country Club Road, North Reading, Mass., is a dramatic confirmation, we believe, that the late Charlie Ned had made true friends in the Lower States for himself and for Alaska. Charlie, a personable young man of 21 years, died last month in a tragic accident when he and his dog team broke through thin ice on the Alutna River near his home in Allakaket.)

By JOAN E. POND

... We met Charlie last season and it is unbelievable how knowing one person for two and a half short months could affect our lives so. We just loved Charlie and felt we gained so much by knowing him.

His untimely death has stunned us all and we still can't mention his name without choking up.

After living in the hectic pace of city life around Boston, you quickly recognize and admire a person with a relatively uncomplicated life as Charlie had.

We can still see him sitting at the kitchen table and we'd say to him, "C'mon Charlie, time to start harnessing dogs!" And then watching Charlie look up with a big grin and say, "You betcha, but first please, I'll have one more cup of tea!"

Needless to say, there is a void in our lives now that no one can fill. But we want to say "Thank you" to you people in Alaska for sending him down to us, even for just one short season; for the wonderful memories, and the closeness we feel toward Alaskans now—all this and so much more we were given by Charlie Ned. . . .

## Why Charlie?

*Oh, God, whom we must never question,  
And this is how we should believe,  
Why was he so untimely taken,  
Leaving so many hearts to grieve?  
Why Charlie?*

*We knew him just for one season  
Here in the "Lower Forty-Eighth,"  
And no one can think of a reason  
Why he should have met such a fate.  
Why Charlie?*

*I can think of so many others  
And in that, I include myself, too,  
Who haven't loved all men as brothers  
But, why Charlie? Why? Why you?  
Why Charlie?*

*He gave us so much—for so little—  
So gentle, so sweet, so sincere.  
Can't you see why we question this leaving  
Of someone who to us had grown dear?  
Why Charlie?*

*Do you need him so much up in heaven  
To handle the dogteams up there?  
So many have gone on before him;  
Aren't they all doing their share?  
Why Charlie?*

*I think, God, I've just found the answer,  
You're in training for "Judgement Day"  
When the rest of us "mushers" will be trying  
to break trail,  
There'll be Charlie Ned to show us the way!  
That must be  
Why Charlie!*

... This was written by me on hearing of Charlie's accident. So much more should be said, but words fail me.

Respectfully,  
Joan Pond  
November, 1965

## Trapping Opens In Panhandle

Trapping season for most of the Panhandle (Game Management Units 1A, 1B, 2, 3, and 4) opened December 15, reports the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The season will remain open until January 22, 1966. At Haines and Yakutat (Game Management Units 1C and 5), the season has been open since November 10.

This opening covers mink, marten, land otter, lynx, weasel and wolverine trapping, said John Crawford, southeastern regional game supervisor. There has been no limit placed upon the number of these furbearers a trapper can take.

In addition to the regular trapping season, there will be a spring land otter season extending from February 15 to March 15 in Game Management Unit 1.

There will be little change from last years' fur prices, indicates the Seattle Fur Exchange. It is hopeful this winter's weather is favorable so trappers can make a sizeable harvest to offset low prices, Crawford concluded.