

# 75,000 Nevadans Expected To Sign Freedom Drive Scrolls

### REPORTS COME FROM ALL OVER SILVER STATE

Cooperation Growing As More Learn of Purpose

Nevada's opportunity to gain world wide fame in the Crusade for Freedom campaign was materially increased this week by reports received at the state headquarters from the chairman of 16 of the 17 counties comprising the state.

The cooperation of the schools throughout Nevada has been extremely gratifying, and today in many churches throughout the state "Crusade for Freedom" day is being observed with "Freedom" the text of many of the ministers.

Nevada's goal of 75,000 signatures on the Freedom scrolls will be surpassed if the goals set by the county chairmen are reached.

The Nevada Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs has received from the National Federation the "go ahead" signal and the 19 clubs throughout the state will be solidly behind the effort to gain signatures for the scrolls, according to a letter received by Jordan J. Cronley, state chairman, from Mrs. Myrtle L. Reddy, president of the Nevada Federation.

**County Reports**

Gilbert Gebbe, chairman of the Crusade for Freedom in Eureka county, reporting from Eureka, says in part:

"Every man, woman and child in this county will be contacted. We are a small county, but our workers have pledged themselves to present a Freedom Scroll to every man, woman and child in the county."

Beatty, in Nye county; and Tonopah, in Esmeralda county, according to John O'Leary and William Crowell, co-chairmen of the two counties, will spare the state by the number of signatures to come out of their sparsely settled areas. Everyone in Tonopah, Beatty and Goldfield will sign the scroll, says Mr. O'Leary, who adds that an invitation has been extended to Brig. Gen. James A. May, state adjutant general, to make the principal speech at a rally to be held in Beatty on October 7.

**In Carson City**

The various departments of the state government are rapidly becoming 100 percent inflexible in their signatures are concerned, and according to Paul Laxalt and E. W. Miller, co-chairmen of Ormsby county, 100 per cent cooperation has been promised by Herman E. O'Hara acting superintendent of the Carson Indian Agency. A special ceremony will be held tomorrow at the Stewart Indian school which will give everyone there the chance to affix his signature to a scroll.

Hugh Gallagher, in Virginia City, who is the chairman of Storey county, promises that everyone in Virginia City will sign the scroll, and many of the tourists who visit the ghost town are affixing their names to the scrolls.

Art Stueckert, in Gardnerville, has Douglas county well organized for the final drive and all school children in both Minden and Gardnerville has been given the opportunity to affix their signatures to the Freedom Scrolls.

Stores, schools, churches, service organizations, and clubs in Storey county, Nevada, and the Southern Pacific railroad are solidly behind the campaign. In the industrial areas of the city, even those industries on the outskirts, are making available to every employee the chance to sign the scroll.

The city of Gardnerville, on October 24th to be included in the opening day ceremonies of the Freedom Bell.

Every man, woman and child will have made available a scroll to be signed. Apply at any schoolhouse in Nevada for the Freedom Scroll, for cooperative cooperation in the campaign by Mildred Bray, state superintendent of public instruction, has made it possible to have scrolls sent to the rural areas.

**In Reno**

Down town stores, through the cooperation of the Retail Merchants association, can get scrolls and many have them. In the lead-in hotels, in the clubs, in the depots are to be found scrolls that every where people will have the opportunity of signing. It was pointed out by Jordan Cronley, state chairman, that it is not mandatory to contribute to the campaign. All money received will be sent to the Crusade for Freedom headquarters in New York to be used for the construction and operation of radio stations in free Europe. Funds to conduct the campaign in this state are fully paid, and none of the money contributed will be deducted from Nevada's gift. When on October 24th, the Freedom Bell rings out for the first time in radio free Europe, the radio stations that carry its route around the world will do so gratis.

The money received in this campaign will be used only to defray the cost of keeping the message of hope beamed to a people hungry for the truth as many hours a day as

## VIC WIKANDER'S HOME

on the island in Buck Island Lake where the ski enthusiast and his wife have spent much of their time, high in the Sierras and a long way off the beaten path.



## TALES OF LAKE TAHOE

**By Ethel Joslin Vernon**

**TAHOE BACK COUNTRY**

From the Lake Circle highway at Chambers Lodge (known in the middle eighteen hundreds as Hunter's Home) the Million Lake road leads west through the woods on a gradual up-grade. After two or three miles of the woods road, the canyon narrows and deepens and the road winds high above Lilly Lake, then climbing among the steep mountainside it grows more rugged until it reaches the rugged summit of Buck Island Lake, the top of the world if less itself on the unmarked granite for awhile, wanders in half circles, then tops the last rise to suddenly enter the Rubicon Canyon.

From this point down the rocky backroads runs the washed-out wagon road of the late eighteenth century and across the canyon bottom and up along the banks of the Rubicon River. About a mile up the canyon it passes the Rubicon Inn, the ruins of the ruins of the once flourishing Rubicon Inn. A quarter mile beyond this the old wooden removable bridge spans the river and the road passes over it to climb another mountainside.

A mile and a half of this steep rugged trail led to be more exact, and spread itself at last along the wooded shore of Buck Island Lake. In shape this lake is so irregular that its length and width are hard to determine, but it has a surface of 25 acres. There are two islands at its center, with about 100 feet of water dividing each from the mainland at their narrowest division points. One of these islands measures four acres of forested ground, and in summer is what only by birds, chipmunks and other small wild life.

The other island has about one acre of land. It is forested with pine, bush and shrubs and various kinds. On this island is the mountain home of Victor and Alice Wikander, where they spend the best part of each summer season and where Victor returns each winter as soon as weather conditions indicate that skiing may be good among the high peaks.

**Victor Skier**

For Vic is the Tahoe region's oldest cross-country skier, as well as one of the best in both technique and endurance. He was the first skier ever to traverse the snows of these high altitudes in mid-winter. Since he first came to the mountain country he has made trips on skis at least three times each winter into the high places, staying from one to three weeks on his ice-bound island.

Victor Wikander was born in Abo, Finland, in 1881. His father was Finnish and his mother Irish, and after growing to manhood he visited his mother's native home in Ireland, but found that the Finnish winter mountainland was more to his liking. He learned to ski in his youth, and was soon a skier in his own right. There are thousands of lakes, and when winter comes many of these lakes are frozen over and covered with snow. Wikander was raised on skis and from the age of six he took to snow like a duck to water. Before he was twenty he became the champion long-distance skier of his country, and had won the medals in cross country and long distance racing.

Wikander came to this country in 1902, following his 21st birthday. In 1909 at the age of 28 he arrived at Lake Tahoe for the first time and began the interesting process of pioneering the grand and beautiful Rubicon region and its vicinities. Being a civil engineer he accepted a position as hydrographer with the general construction firm of Stone and Webster, with offices at that time in San Francisco. He worked for the company through the mountains between Lake Tahoe and Georgetown from 1909 to 1911.

**Long Trip**

In the course of his winter work during these three years, Wikander traveled a regular ski route of 65 miles between Georgetown and the old "Hunter's Home" (where at that time had changed its name to "McKinney") on the southeastern shore of Lake Tahoe. He made this long ski trek at regular intervals and returned to his starting point a round trip of 130 miles each week.

The general trend of his route was over the trail from Georgetown to the first station at a point not far from where the Rubicon and the North Fork of the American River join. From there the trail back-tracked, and ran along Pilot Creek, passing two stations before turning out again to the fourth on the banks of the Rubicon. Then on along Gerle Creek to where it crossed the Little South Fork, passing three more stations before lead-

ing to the fourth on the shore of Loom Lake. From there the trail turned left again, crossing the Little Rubicon, past Buck Island Lake and on down to the old Rubicon Inn. From there across the canyon it led up to the summit in the general direction of Lake Tahoe's lakeshore highway.

In describing his weekly trip of early days Wikander says, "I carried a pack consisting of a Price Current Meter with weights, besides my own outfit for the trip. I traveled alone, and my first ski I made for myself, but these were not quiet satisfactory, and finally I sent to Finland for a pair of real cross country skis."

In 1916 Wikander met and married Cecile Alice Boyd, a school teacher, whose love for the great outdoors and the high mountains trails equaled his own. They built a home in the suburbs of Oakland and for several years, they spent their summer months in the wilderness life through the entire month of June spent in this fashion. She took it like a veteran, and through the intervening years she has returned with her husband time after time to spend their vacation periods wandering through the back country regions which he had helped to pioneer.

Wikander has many interesting occurrences which took place on the honeymoon, and also of things that happened while he spent long months alone in his cabin on Buck Island. As he is a friendly and sociable man, he often spent his time with him several days at a time. In the summer of 1925 he was hiking through the high country with a nephew who was visiting him. As the two were eating their lunch on the granite shore of Loom Lake they heard a one-motored plane overhead which was emitting sounds of distress. The plane was still low enough to cause interest and excitement, especially one which seemed to be heading for a crash.

The plane was evidently making for a forced landing, and the two held their breath as they watched the circle over the lake and circle toward the water. It missed the water and landed with a shattering crash on a granite ledge on the lake shore. The pilot wore a hat and goggles as though they had purposely parked there to view the scenery. Both air-men lighted cigarettes, the pilot murmured in a bored voice, "Well old boy, where in blazes are we anyway?"

Scraps of bamboo and metal from the plane were still lying on the ground around it, and were seen there by hikers last summer. Just over a rather flat mountain top to the east from this spot, the Wikanders saw again in their island home, enjoying the mid-summer peace and seclusion of the beautiful Rubicon region.

Wikander homesteaded the one-acre island on Buck Island Lake in 1922, and started building his first cabin on the island's western shore. He later built a rock walled cellar or cooler at the water's edge, in which to keep food and water in summer. Between 1922 and 1928 he completed his own and his wife's cabin under the pines on his island. He also built other conveniences and added improvements, such as many stone-bordered, sandaled walks among the trees. Over the door of one cottage he fashioned in rustic letters the name "Finland," and over the other "Ireland," thus commemorating his Finnish and Irish parentage.

Wikander carried to the island all the materials for building and improvements. For the 1,400 feet of walks he brought in his row boat 37 tons of sand from the mainland. This required hundreds of trips across the water. Most of the rocks for bordering the paths he also brought by boat from the mainland. All lumber and furnishings for the cabins had to carry a mile and a half on foot from the

old Rubicon Inn in the canyon where they had been brought by horse power. From the mainland his cabins he transferred everything by boat.

The Rubicon Inn, or Hotel, in the old days was a thriving back country resort, owned and operated for several years by a sturdy mountaineer named Ralph Colwell. Later when Colwell retired, his three sons, Elmer, Albert and George took over. Coaches, wagons and other horse-powered carriages brought numerous tourists, as well

as a great variety of materials and household furnishings to the Inn which stood between the river bank and the health-spring Iron Springs. Cabins were soon built on the bank of the Rubicon to house the overflow of humanity which could not find sleeping room in the crowded hotel. Even tents were set up all through the woods, and all sleeping apartments were furnished with wooden beds and iron bed springs.

As the years passed the cabins, all except one built of heavy cedar logs, slowly bedded to ruins, and the wooden bedrooms rotted away. The iron bed springs, however, may still be found in great profusion throughout the vicinity of the ruined inn. Some lie rusting in open spaces, some are almost hidden under the brush and shrubs that have grown up through them. One visitor, viewing the ruins of everything in general recently, looked very puzzled and wanted to know, "Is Rubicon Springs named after the iron water springs, or the iron bed springs?"

## Volcano Erupts, Traps Climbers

TOKYO, Sept. 23. (AP)—Mt. Asama volcano erupted suddenly today and caught scores of holidaying mountain climbers in a shower of white-hot rocks and ash and damaged several villages at its base.

A party of 40 Japanese engineering students was near the summit when it erupted. One was killed, six were injured and five were missing.

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