

## Kenai Lodge Honeymoon in Lawing

After they were married, they borrowed a car and went for their honeymoon to the Lodge on Kenai Lake. It doesn't look like much of a place today, but there was nothing that was 'much' in those years in the Seward region. But Kenai Lake is spectacular. It must be about 15 miles long and perhaps a mile or so across and lies more or less north-south at the foot of a mountain that rises to 4,000 feet, a spectacular setting. The Lodge that was still there when I visited there in the 1950's, on the north shore of the lake. The story I'll tell you here about this honeymoon benefitted from finding a horde of photos of which I only had one that you've seen before:

The thirty images in that collection follow. They capture the quality of their honeymoon.

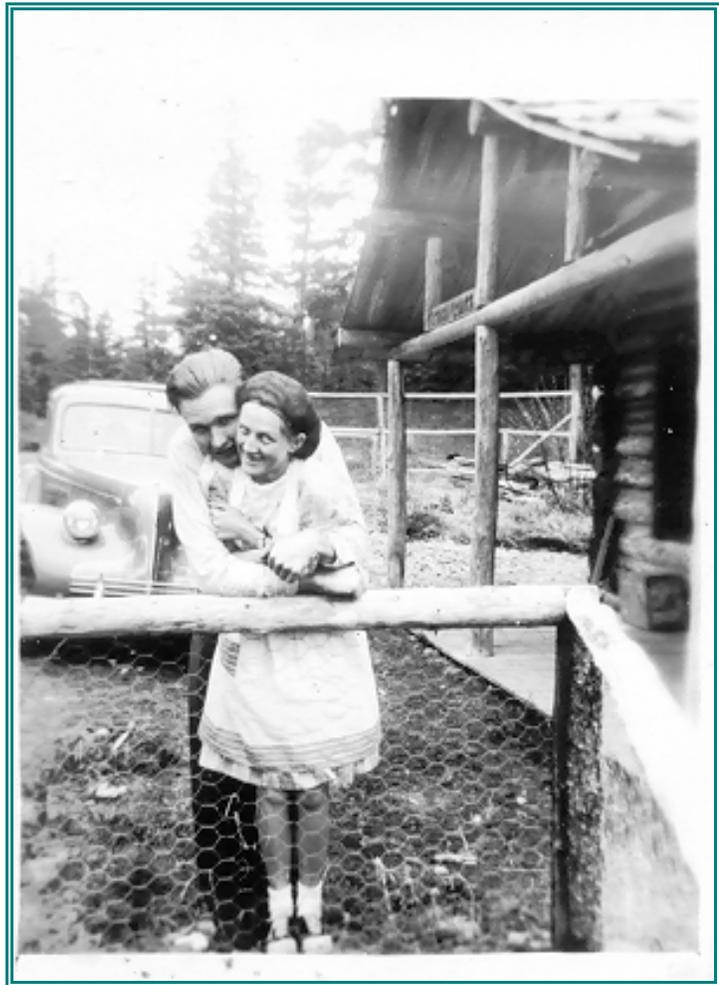
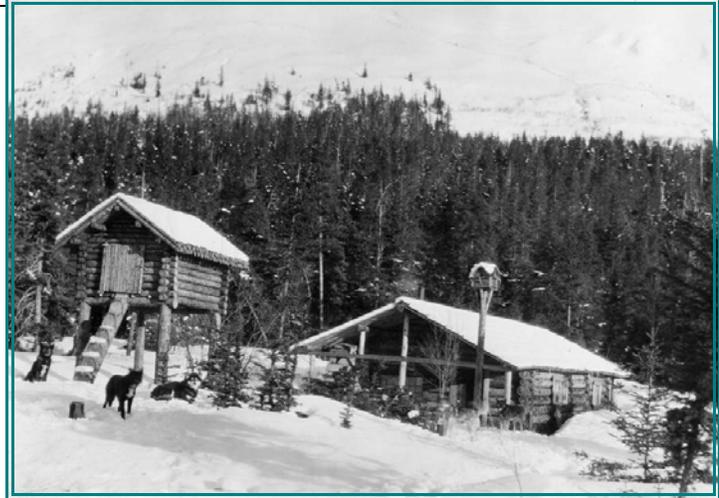
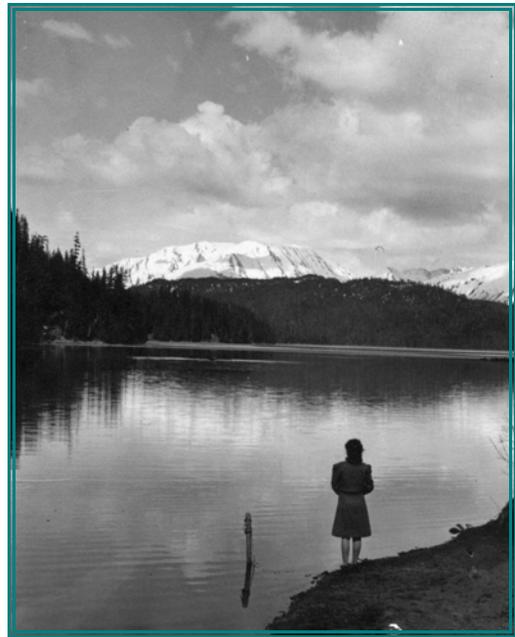


Figure 1. Honeymoon, Kenai Lodge May 1941

This is Kenai Lodge and cache backed by a snow-covered mountain. Dad took this photo during the winter but I put it in to give you a complete picture of the structures.



This photo is looking out from the Lodge at Kenai Lake. Dad's note indicated that this photo was taken the day before they were married. They must have gone out to take provisions and make sure they would have what they needed to live out there for the week or so they spent.



Mom and dad stand by Rachel (middle) and Mable, the two who made this marriage and wedding come to pass. Without those two women in there pitching, it wouldn't have happened.



This has the look of a prolonged good-by where Mable and Rachel are getting themselves on their way while Jim and Marie wait.



The two women decide to give him a good-by kiss before embarking on the trip back to town, leaving the two love birds in peace.



Here Rachel is starting to load her gear into the car for the trip home.

This is the same place as the first photo above that I've had for some time.



Before leaving Mable can't resist heckling dad about having married Marie instead of her while Rachel is methodically taking care of business - that Mable probably should be helping with.



Mable decides she'll try one more time for one last kiss before taking off. While Rachel is finishing up the loading.



I would like to know what Mable was plotting as she stood there on her way out.



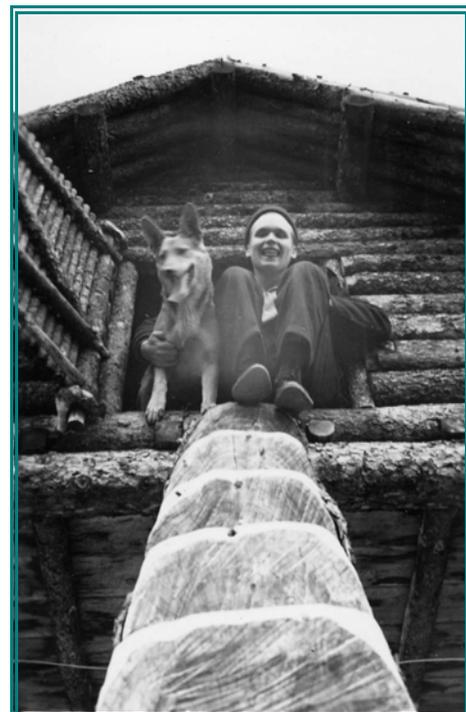
Whoever was running the camera had to get one more staged shot of Mable before Rachel drove away and Mable obliged.



The cache had a swing under it that the two of them played in. Dad is mugging the camera standing there in his fancy shoes for some reason.



He lifted the log ladder up for this shot, sitting there with someone's dog. The ladder is not left in place when no one is in the cache, for obvious reasons.



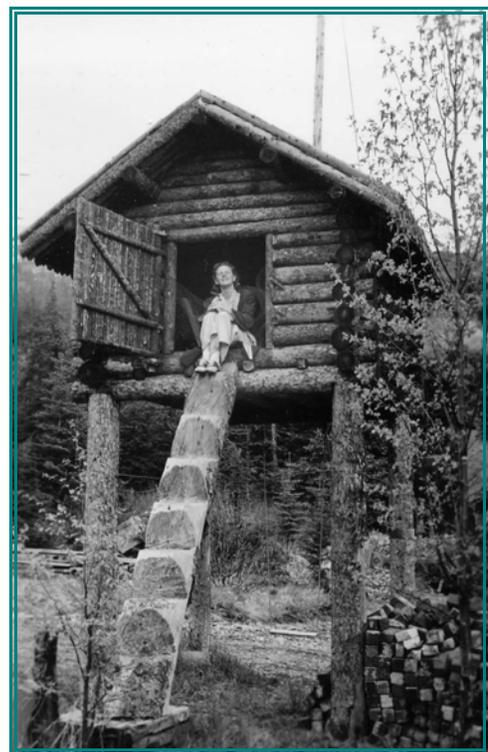
Mom sits in the swing, smiling and happy to be there. Notice this is the same jump suit that she wore while they were dating in Mercur.



Dad took a more artistic photo of her actually swinging. The marten bird house is in the background.



She sits up inside of the cache with the log ladder in place.



Dad took a close up of here inside the cache using an interesting angle to create a well-composed image.



On this outing they found an oddly shaped tree. It was probably bent by snow cover when it was young.



Alaska Nellie's place was not far away. These images confuse me. I have thought that the Lodge they stayed in was on the north end of the lake, but so many photos show the railroad or Lawing that I may be wrong. Whatever, they were all taken on Kenai lake. Nellie had a collection of stuffed animals, some from Africa.



Another of dad's interesting shots using an unusual angle to create an unusual effect. The uni-directional lighting adds to the effect.



You've noticed the chicken-wire fencing in other photos. That's obviously to keep small animals out of the gardens. Dad is harvesting potatoes. Whether he volunteered to do that or that was part of the payment for the lodge we'll never know.



He's feigning dissatisfaction at digging spuds - or the small return on the work. Too much like his childhood.



Mom was also drafted to work in the gardens.



Dad surprised her and caught her sleepy morning smile in this as she's doing something with a camera.



She got a couple more shots of dad showing off for the camera, something that he despised other people doing in later years. He was young here so it was OK.



More of the same. See the rails behind him? My memory of the Lodge was that it was on the north shore so there would be no rails there. Either this photo was taken on another outing from the Lodge or I have incorrectly remembered - not unusual.



They borrowed Mable's car for part of the time and went on an outing where they picked loads of wild flowers, appropriate since it was spring there.



He got another shot of her by the car with flowers.



The last image of this set is one of Rachel and mom fishing. Rachel has a different outfit on so this was apparently during another visit.

