

Journal #5263 from sdc 8.11.22

Oregon State announces in-state tuition waiver for members of any federally recognized tribe

Intern with NICC

Sole survivor of a doomed Arctic expedition, she was called the "female Robinson Crusoe".

1914-1915 eruptions of Lassen Peak

Northeast Minnesota's Native communities adapting to climate change

EWG's Tap Water Database 2021 Update

Not a Climate Solution: Indigenous Land Defender Warn Senate—SB bill will Aid Fossil Fuel Firms

Fiber and Grain Hemp Tour in Reno, Aug. 12, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., at the University's

from the American Alliance of Museums

A mammoth butchering site in New Mexico has been dated to about 37,000 years-old

Pueblo Revolt Day

Scientists Create a More Sustainable LED From Fish Scales

Looking for historian or masters/PhD student to prepare a brief historical research report

Monty Bengochia has walked on



[Oregon State University](#)

[We are pleased to announce that enrolled members of all federally recognized Tribal nations will be eligible for in-state tuition at Oregon State University starting fall term 2022. >> \[beav.es/iuo\]\(http://beav.es/iuo\)](#)

Intern with NNIC!

Are you or someone you know looking for an internship? Look no further! The Northern Nevada International Center is now accepting application for our Fall 2022 Internship Program.

The Northern Nevada International Center (NNIC) is one of few international organizations in the Northern Nevada area. We are committed to educating and engaging the next generation of citizen diplomats and therefore provide internship opportunities for young adults in the Reno-Tahoe area. Most interns are university students, but talented high school students, or students from other universities, are encouraged to apply.

If you or someone you know are looking for unique way to gain professional and transferrable skills that will assist in career advancement while simultaneously making immediate, positive contributions in their community, then an internship with NNIC will provide just that!

We accept applications from students of all majors, and offer flexible schedules as part of the internship program. The deadline to apply for a Fall 2022 Internship with NNIC is August 28, 2022.

For more information, please visit our website, unr.edu/nnic/opportunities/internships, or email the Internship Coordinator, Natalie at nvalenzuela@nnic.org.

Sole survivor of a doomed Arctic expedition, she was called the "female Robinson Crusoe": The remarkable story of Ada Blackjack 🤔



ststworld.com

Ada Blackjack.

timeline.com (pics may be enlarged by clicking lrc)

Ada Blackjack never set out to be a heroine, reluctantly embarking on the doomed Wrangel Island mission of 1921 as no more than a simple seamstress. It would be just Ada and the expedition's cat who survived the expedition.

When she was discovered two years later, the petite Inupiat woman had a tale that would gain her the title of the "female Robinson Crusoe". It was a name Ada humbly dismissed, [explaining](#)

that her incredible display of resilience and survival was borne of nothing more than motherly love.

Which is exactly what makes Ada Blackjack's story so important.

Ada Deletruk was born in 1898 in Spruce Creek, a remote Alaskan settlement north of the Arctic circle. As an Iñupiat, Ada would ordinarily have been raised with knowledge of hunting and wilderness survival, but her father's death when she was just eight would change her destiny.

Unable to support her child, Ada's mother sent her daughter to a Methodist mission school in Nome, where she would be taught enough English to ensure she could study the bible, as well as house-keeping, sewing and cooking.

At sixteen, Ada married local dog musher, Jack Blackjack, with whom she would welcome three children. By the time Jack abandoned her in 1921, just one of Ada's children had survived infancy. She was determined to keep her remaining child alive, even if it seemed like an impossible task.

Five-year-old Bennett was a sickly child, his small body already ravaged by tuberculosis. With her husband gone, Ada returned to Nome by foot, forced to carry her child for forty miles. When she reached her destination, the young mother confronted the future with pragmatism.



anchoragepress.com

Ada and Bennett. Knowing she couldn't care for Bennett properly, she made the heart-wrenching decision to place her son in a local orphanage, where she knew he could at least hope to receive more medical attention than she could afford to provide for him, as well as food and shelter.

As she said goodbye, she vowed that she would find a way to make enough money to return and take him to find the best treatment available, before bringing him home with her for good. And so Ada started working any odd job she could find. Despite the endless hours, the small wages she received made her plan, at times, seem hopeless.

When she heard about the expedition that was bound for Wrangel Island, the young mother's dream suddenly seemed within reach.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson wanted to claim the island for the Canadian government, who refused to assist. The British government next rejected his claim. The raising of the British flag on Wrangel Island, which was already an acknowledged Russian territory, caused an international incident.

The Canadian Arctic expedition was being organized and funded by Arctic explorer, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who had been marooned on Wrangel Island for nine months in 1914.

Seven years later and he was ready to try again, with the aim of claiming the land for Canada. Allan Crawford, 20, Lorne Knight, 28, Fred Maurer, 28, and Milton Galle, 19, were the men handpicked for the expedition, but Vilhjalmur Stefansson wouldn't actually be joining them.

Perhaps if he had, he would have ensured there were more than six months worth of supplies. When the men questioned the meagre rations, they were calmly told that "the friendly Arctic" wouldn't let them down with its ample provisions of game.

The island was, after all, a breeding ground for polar bears.



unsplash.com

With word that the expedition were seeking an Alaska Native seamstress and cook who spoke English, Ada realized she was perfectly placed to fill the position.

She was wary of traveling with four men, especially because she had initially been told she would be one of several Alaska Natives, but Ada knew that the \$50 monthly salary she could earn by joining the Wrangel Party expedition would allow her to bring Bennett home when she returned.

With the money she could make, she would be able to live in comfort with her child.



historydaily.org

Ada with the Wrangel Island explorers, and Victoria the cat.

On September 9, 1921, Ada boarded the *Silver Wave* with the four men, and a cat named Victoria.

The group reached Wrangel Island and the first year passed without concern. But when the rations ran out entirely, the woefully inexperienced explorers realized they were unable to kill

enough game to survive. By the end of January 1923, with the ship chartered to collect them having never turned up (it was unable to reach the island due to ice), the situation was dire.

With starvation setting in and one of the men, Lorne Knight, dangerously ill with scurvy, Ada watched as three of the men set off on foot to try and cross the 90-mile stretch of frozen Chukchi Sea. The explorers would never be seen again.

The months passed, with no sign of any other humans. With the ailing man unable to help, Ada found herself solely responsible for their survival. It was a task that proved difficult, with Knight frequently projecting his own frustration onto the young woman who was caring for him, criticizing her efforts. She would write of her exhaustion in her diary:

He never stop and think how much its hard for women to take four mans place, to wood work and to hund for something to eat for him and do waiting to his bed and take the shiad [shit] out for him.



salyroca.es

The camp in late autumn.

When Knight died on June 23, 1923, Ada found herself alone, with just Victoria the cat for company. She recorded the death on the group's typewriter:

The daid of Mr. Knights death
He died on June 23rd.
I dont know what time he died though
Anyway I write the daid. Just to
let Mr Steffansom know what month he
died and what daid of the month
written by Mrs. Ada B, Jack.



atlasobscura.com

Ada fared far better than her male counterparts.

It was the thought of little Bennett that fueled Ada's determination to carry on, despite the dire situation she found herself in.

Not physically strong enough to bury Knight's corpse, she instead left him in his bed, but built a barricade of boxes around his body to deter scavenging animals. Then she moved herself into the storage tent, repairing the tattered walls and storing her ammunition at the entrance.

Above her bed, she built a gun rack. With a lifelong fear of polar bears, Ada accepted that she might have to encounter one face-to-face. All the time, she kept the image of her son in her mind.



outsideonline.com

Ada taught herself how to use the photography equipment, all the while imagining the stories she would tell Bennett.

For the next two months, she survived by setting traps. To ensure she had enough food, she taught herself how to shoot birds. With endless time to spare, she was able to craft a skin boat from driftwood. Ada's days of endless self-learning were never dull.

Before long, she had mastered the expedition's photography equipment and took a series of pictures of herself standing outside of the empty camp.



historynotes.info

Ada Blackjack after being rescued.

On August 20, 1923, after nearly two years on Wrangel Island, a schooner finally arrived to collect the expedition, with a new party of 13 brought to take their place.

The crew, arriving with apologies that they had been so delayed, were shocked to discover just Ada Blackjack and the cat remaining. They were even more surprised when they observed the camp and survival tactics Ada had deployed, [noting](#):

Blackjack mastered her environment so far that it seems likely she could have lived there another year, although the isolation would have been a dreadful experience.



[archive.org](https://www.archive.org)

Ada and 'Vic' the cat after being found.

By the time the seamstress arrived back in Nome, she was a celebrity, hailed as the real "female Robinson Crusoe", but she would shy away from the mass of attention, telling reporters that she was simply a mother, and she needed to return to her son.

When the pair were reunited, Ada used her wages – which amounted to less than she had been promised – to pay for Bennett to receive treatment for his tuberculosis in a Seattle hospital. The treatment was a success.

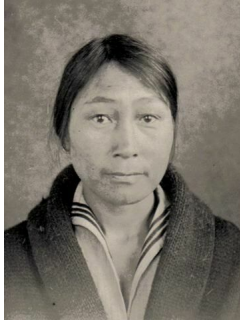


[timeline.com](https://www.timeline.com)

The adoration of Ada Blackjack was short-lived. A smear campaign was launched, with accusations that the surviving woman had refused to nurse Knight, all of which Ada would vehemently deny, her claims backed up by the journals of Knight himself.

Stefansson, organizer of the doomed expedition, would also profit handsomely from the story, while Ada earned nothing. He would eventually find his reputation severely damaged by the disaster, with both the public and the families of the perished men questioning why he had sent such ill-equipped young explorers to Wrangel Island in the first place.

Ada mostly remained out of the spotlight and instead did what she did best, focusing her attention on motherhood. After returning to Alaska, she would have another son who she named Billy.



[google.com](https://www.google.com)

When Ada herself later contracted tuberculosis, she was forced to [give up her sons](#) once more, placing them in a children's home in Seward.

It would be nine years before she was well enough to be reunited with them again. After that, Ada returned to Nome with her boys, where she earned a living from the skills she had taught herself on Wrangel Island: hunting and trapping, as well as herding reindeer.

Bennett, always in relatively poor health, lived until the age of 58. It was an age that was still not as long as Ada – as any mother – would have wished for her child, but it was an age that he would likely have not reached had his mother not spent those two years stranded on an island to afford his treatment.

A decade later, Ada passed away at the age of 85. She was buried beside the child she had fought so fiercely for.

Did You Know?

Tipsy
History



The Inughuit of northwest Greenland, the world's northernmost people. When contact was made in 1818, they had been isolated for several hundred years and were completely unaware of the existence of other humans.



[NorCal Wild](#)

"View of phreatic explosion, Mt. Lassen, CA, 6/14/1914. The photograph was taken by Benjamin Franklin Loomis from Manzanita Lake, northwest of Lassen." - Paul Ayers

"Benjamin Franklin (B.F.) Loomis' photos of the **1914-1915 eruptions of Lassen Peak** brought national attention to the area and supported the campaign to establish Lassen Volcanic National Park." Here is the story behind his photographs of Mt. Lassen: <https://www.nps.gov/people/benjamin-franklin-loomis.htm...> and here is the link for the full collection of photographs that he took of the area. Many of which were featured in his book, "Pictorial History of the Lassen Volcano" : <https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?pg=7126817...> [#NorCalWild](#) [#History](#) [#Lassen](#) [#Volcano](#) [#NorthernCalifornia](#) [#LandscapePhotography](#) [#Nature](#) [#PictorialHistoryOfTheLassenVolcano](#) [#ShastaCounty](#) [#MtLassen](#)

1914-1915 eruptions of Lassen Peak

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**Northeast Minnesota's Native communities adapting to climate change**

<https://www.startribune.com/northeast-minnesotas-native-communities-adapting-to-climate-change/600196691/>

**EWG's Tap Water Database 2021 Update**

Since 2013, water utilities' testing has found pollutants in Americans' tap water, according to an EWG drinking water quality analysis of more than 31 million state water records. **or find your state advanced search** <https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/#results-by-state-map>

**This Is Not a Climate Solution: Indigenous Land Defender Warns Senate Bill Will Aid Fossil Fuel Firms**

*Democracy Now!*

Excerpt: "Mother Nature does not deal in U.S. dollars. That's my response."

**READ MORE**

**Fiber and Grain Hemp Tour in Reno, Aug. 12, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., at the University’s Experiment Station, Valley Road Field Lab, 910 Valley Road.**

This tour will provide an in-the-field learning experience focusing on hemp as an alternative crop growing in northern Nevada. Walia says there has been a lot of interest from producers statewide in growing hemp, and research is needed on which varieties might do well in northern Nevada. This event will showcase a research trial conducted with hemp for fiber and grain production.

[Register for the fiber and grain hemp field tour online.](#)

Close-toed shoes and a shade hat are recommended during each event, and bottled water and light snacks will be provided. Each tour is limited to the first 75 people who register. For more information, call 775-423-5121 or email [Linda Brown](#). Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance should call or notify Paul Lessick, civil rights and compliance coordinator, at [Lessick's email](#) or 702-257-5577 at least three days prior to the scheduled event.

**American Alliance of Museums:**

[Learn more and apply](#)

- Options for serving on the Content Advisory Committee include:**
- **1- or 2-year terms for the AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo**, to include the following duties:
    - Reviewing and selecting sessions and workshops
    - Identifying gaps in Annual Meeting topics and providing recommendations for session content and presenters
    - Offering recommendations for Annual Meeting keynote presenters.
  - **New Pilot Program: 1-year term for AAM Content & Publications review committee**, to include some but not all of the following areas (time commitments vary):
    - AAM Museum magazine
    - Alliance Blog
    - AAM Press (book publishing)

[Learn more](#)

*If you have any questions, please contact [tgilbert@aam-us.org](mailto:tgilbert@aam-us.org).*

**[The Archaeological Conservancy](#)**

A mammoth butchering site in New Mexico has been dated to about 37,000 years-old, making it the oldest evidence of early humans in North America.

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/.../new-mexico.../144343#Archaeology>  
[#PeoplingoftheAmericas](#) [#NewMexico](#) [#Mammoth](#)



[Troy Lomavaya](#)



For the Hopi/Tewa and Pueblo people of New Mexico....today (8.10) is Pueblo Revolt Day. In 1680, the Hopi, Tewa and Pueblo revolted against the tyrannical Spanish. By doing so, it helped ensure the survival of our Hopi and Tewa language, culture, land, religion and our sovereignty.

The Tewa and Hopi warriors conquered and killed many Spaniards and their priests as they did not want to convert to Christianity. Hopi is the only tribe and land that wasn't reconquered by the Spanish nor have any artifacts or buildings such as churches, way of life or religion in our Hopi and Tewa villages.

A small dose of history that modern day history books fail to mention or speak up as a significant part in Native American and Hopi/Tewa history. This may be insignificant to some, but during that time, many Hopi men, women and children were enslaved, killed, traded and traditional artifacts were burned or destroyed and lost forever. All this was done for the Queen of Spain, Christianity and their God.....

Kwa kwai to our ancestors for fighting for our sovereignty and to keep our traditions alive!  
[#pueblorivoltof1680](#)

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**Scientists Create a More Sustainable LED From Fish Scales**

Researchers microwaved fish waste to produce a unique nanoform of carbon that could be used for LED devices in the future

Read in Smithsonian Magazine: <https://apple.news/AJuVJgPBWSnm5cNFNDiJfBg>

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[Max Wilbert](#)

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**URGENT: Looking for historian or masters/PhD student to prepare a brief historical research report on a short timeline in support of Native American tribes and environmentalists. Possibility to pay a stipend. Contact me for details!**

[#ProtectThackerPass](#) [#PeeheeMuhuh](#) [#NativeAmerican](#) [#Historian](#)

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**[Monty Bengochia has walked on.](#)**

A water rights, sacred sites, traditional foods, and medicine advocate Monty was a former tribal leader and current tribal historic preservation officer for the Bishop Paiute Tribe and treasurer for the Native Star Foundation. [Monty Bengochia](#)

*“I always tell the agencies that we share the responsibility for the lands they call public lands. We see them as our ancestral homelands. We want to see that land taken care of in a good way. When we talk about inherent sovereignty, it is not just a political or legal term. It also has an emotional component of love for our homeland. It’s built on thousands and thousands of years of connection to this place.”*  
—Monty Bengochia

Monty Bengochia has been working on tribal land and water rights issues in Payahuunadü for more than three decades. He was involved in the water rights negotiations with Los Angeles during the 1990s and has advocated on those ongoing issues ever since.

Today he is the Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners for the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission and is also the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Bishop Paiute Tribe. He has served multiple terms as a tribal council member and chairman for the Bishop Paiute Tribe and has been an advocate for tribal youth programs and tribal food sovereignty.

In meetings, Monty is known for helping people see the big picture, drawing connections between the past and the present and between environmental and human wellbeing. He reminds us that all of California’s water comes from Indigenous territories, that public lands are also ancestral homelands, and that there is much we can learn from Indigenous stewardship practices.