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Pioneer of Alaska, Aged 71, U.S. Commissioner at Valdez, passes away in Seward

Mr. Martin Harrais of Valdez, who was appointed a member of the Board of Regents of the University last fall, passed away December 27 in Seward. He was 71 years old.

Mr. Harrais was a graduate of the University of Washington in mining engineering. He came to Alaska more than 30 years ago. At the time of his death he was United States commissioner at Valdez and president of the Valdez Igloo of Pioneers in Alaska.

Prominent in Democratic politics, Mr. Harrais was once a candidate for Congressional delegate and two years ago was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Territorial Treasurer. Last September he was appointed by Gov. John W. Troy to the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska to succeed Mr. A. A. Shonbeck of Anchorage, resigned. He attended a meeting of the Regents in Fairbanks on October 3, at which time he presented his commission and was declared a member. Mr. Harrais is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Harrais, who was on her way to Seward aboard the steamship Gen. W.C. Gorgas at the time of his death.