

And in the Beginning There Was Pando and the Wilderness

Pioneer Resident Tells of the Rigors of Construction Days Here

In the beginning, Pando Valley was one of the most beautiful in all of Colorado. Its lakes and swamps and beaver ponds beckoned any fisherman from the straight and narrow road of business trips through the country, and many hours were spent in telling tall tales of the best holes in the state right here within a stone's throw.

This was really all before the beginning of our story because the Village existed only as a few fisherman's and lumberjack's cabins on "Asparagus Flats" until the Pando Constructors began to move in their equipment in the spring of 1942. The expansion was rapid, and in the last week of May the office building was near completion and the "Caravan" moved in from Denver.

The general offices had opened in Denver earlier and the personnel of different departments were trained in procedures before they arrived at the construction camp. This was a lucky thing, for there were so many adjustments to be made in mode of living for the entire group that it is doubtful if anything would have been accomplished in a business way for months had office operations been entirely new, too.

The night we arrived the first dormitory for the women had just been roofed and the partitions set in; there was no water and no heat, the lights were connected just before dark and we moved in with carpenter tools for furniture and purloined beaver board slabs for dressing tables. We set them on "borrowed" nail kegs and tried to feel at home. The first night that we slept on Army cots we were sure our backs were broken, but the mountain air and the hard work of getting settled did their work and when we woke

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