

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ALASKA

- - THE LAST FRONTIER

Brief History of Alaska

Alaska derives its name from an English corruption of the Native word "Al-ay-ek-sa," probably meaning "the great land" or "mainland." The region now known as Alaska was discovered by a Danish captain of the Russian Navy, Vitus Bering, on July 16, 1741. Russian traders and trappers soon entered the country, under the initial leadership of Gregory Shelikov, and through their activities other nations became interested in the region. Spanish expeditions in 1774 and 1775 visited the southeastern shore and in 1778 the English explorer, Captain James Cook, made extensive surveys of the coast for the British Government. The first settlement was made by the Russians under Shelikov at Three Saints, on Kodiak Island, on August 3, 1784, and in 1804 the Russian-American Company founded Sitka, making it the seat of government in 1805. The leader of this easternmost extension of the new Russia was Alexander Andreevich Baranof, a Russian merchant employed by Shelikov.

In 1799 the trade and regulation of the Russian possessions in America were given over to the Russian-American Company for a term of twenty years, a contract which was twice renewed for similar periods.

In 1821 Russia attempted to exclude foreign navigators from the Bering Sea and the Pacific Coast of her possessions. This caused a controversy with the United States and Great Britain. The question was settled by treaty with the United States in 1824, and one with Great Britain in 1825, by which an attempt was made to fix permanent the boundaries of the Russian possessions in America.

In March, 1867, Alaska was purchased by the United States for the sum of \$7,200,000 in gold. American history of the Territory of Alaska dates from 4:00 A.M., March 30, 1867, when the Treaty of Purchase was signed at Washington by Secretary of State William H. Seward, for the United States, and Baron de Stoeckl for Russia. By this treaty, ratified

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by the Senate and proclaimed by President Andrew Johnson June 10, 1867, the United States acquired an area of approximately 586,400 square miles. The formal transfer of sovereignty took place at Sitka, the Russian capital, on October 18, 1867. Under the terms of the treaty, all Natives of Alaska acquired full rights of American citizenship.

For almost a quarter of a century following acquisition of Alaska, American government was haphazard at best. The area was first administered ~~by the War Department and then the Navy Department~~ as a military district, and then the Treasury Department as a customs district. In 1884 with the passage of the First Organic Act, the District of Alaska was officially created. It was not until the signing of the Second Organic Act by President Taft in 1912 that Alaska was officially designated as a territory. The Territorial Legislature met for the first time in 1913.

However, by an act of May 7, 1906, Alaska was empowered to elect a non-voting delegate to the United States Congress. In 1907 Frank Hinman Waskey was elected for the short term, followed by Thomas Cabe (1908/1909); James Wickersham (1909/1917); Charles August Sulzer (1918/1919); James Wickersham (1919/1920); Dan A. Sutherland (1921/1930); James Wickersham (1931/1932); Anthony J. Dimond (1933/1944); and E. L. "Bob" Bartlett from 1945 to 1959.

The Long Quest for Statehood

Between the time of purchase of Alaska in 1867 and the passage of the First Organic Act in 1884, the 17-year interval was characterized by dis- interest and abject neglect by the Federal Government, with an almost total absence of local law and order. During this time approximately twenty-five bills had been introduced in the U. S. Congress providing for civil government. The first concerted effort for self-government was culminated at the convention held in Juneau on August 16, 1881, by irate citizens from the settlements of Sitka, Juneau, Wrangell and Karluk. Alaska had passed through the stages as a military district and customs district. While the movement was in the making for eventual statehood, the First Organic Act became a law on May 17, 1884, and provided for the designation of Alaska as a civil district, a judicial district, and a land district. Congress had refused to designate Alaska as a territory, organized or unorganized. Even though the First Organic Act appeared to serve

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little purpose in that it failed to provide for enforcement of civil laws, it did extend the mining laws and opened the way for public education.

The discovery of gold in the Klondike in 1896 brought an influx of settlers, and thus an even greater need was evident for additional laws and power to enforce them. Congress in 1889 and 1900 provided for a code of civil and criminal law, and in 1903 passed a homestead act.

The Territory of Alaska, with Juneau as the Capital, was finally created in 1912 with a legislature of two houses elected every two years by popular vote, and a Governor appointed by the President and confirmed by the U. S. Senate for a term of four years. The legislature meeting biennially in odd years, consisted of 40 members -- 24 in the lower house and 16 in the Senate. The Delegate to the United States Congress, who held a seat in the House of Representatives and membership on committees dealing with Territorial affairs, was elected every two years. He had no voting privileges, but was permitted to introduce bills.

The Constitutional Convention

The first of the approximately 25 bills calling for Statehood for Alaska, was introduced in 1916 by Delegate James Wickersham. There followed a battle that lasted for 43 years before statehood was ultimately achieved.

The quest for territorial status and later statehood had centered around the need for civil laws, born of self-determination of the new breed of hardy individuals settling the new land. The 1940's brought a new awareness of the territory, mainly generated by military activity during World War II. Each session of Congress witnessed the introduction of a Statehood Bill, new supporters were being added to the growing list, and statehood for Alaska was first entered as a plank in the Democratic Convention Platform of 1948. The Territorial Legislature debated the issue, and both support and opposition began to mount. While momentum was increasing for statehood, it was left to the Territorial Legislature to furnish the impetus needed to spark the determination of the Alaskan people. In January, 1955, the Legislature passed a bill to provide for a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting a constitution. The election for the 55 delegates to the convention was held in September, 1955. The convention convened on November 9, 1955, at the University of Alaska in College (across the Chena River from Fairbanks), and remained in session for a total of 75 days.

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At the suggestion of George Lehleitner of New Orleans, Louisiana, the convention adopted what was later to be called the "Alaska-Tennessee Plan." Several territories had used the plan to gain statehood, the first, of course, being Tennessee. In 1796, the citizens of Tennessee called a constitutional convention, drafted a constitution and elected two "senators" as spokesmen and sent them off to the Nation's Capitol. A few months later, the "senators" returned victorious, and Tennessee became the 16th State of the Union.

While it was too late to elect similar spokesmen by popular vote, the Democratic and Republican parties nominated their candidates, and the convention proceeded to elect Ernest Gruening and William A. Egan as "senators" and Ralph J. Rivers as "congressman."

There followed 19 months of "lobbying" before the Statehood Bill was finally passed. On May 28, 1958, the House passed H.R. 7999 by a vote of 210 to 166, following three days of debate. On June 30, 1958, it passed the Senate 64 to 20. On July 7, 1958, it was signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, becoming Public Law 85-508.

On January 3, 1959, President Eisenhower issued a proclamation, and thus Alaska became the 49th State. William A. Egan became Alaska's first elected Governor; E. L. "Bob" Bartlett and Ernest Gruening were elected Senators; and Ralph J. Rivers became Alaska's first Congressman.

The State Government

The government of the State of Alaska is patterned from the Federal Government in that it has three branches: Executive, Judicial, and Legislative. The Executive is composed of the Governor and a Lieutenant Governor. The Governor is elected for a term of four years, can succeed himself for a second term, but for a third term an intervening four years, or one term, must have expired. Under the office of the Governor are the various departments -- Administration, Education, Environment, Highways, Military Affairs, Commerce, Fish and Game, Labor, Natural Resources, Economic Development, Health and Welfare, Law, and Public Safety. The heads of these departments are all appointed by the Governor.

The Legislative Branch is composed of two houses -- the House of Representatives with 40 members and the Senate with 20 members. The term

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of a Legislature is two years. Members of the House are elected every two years, and the Senators every four years. Half of the Senate membership is elected every even-numbered year.

The Judicial Branch: The State Constitution provides for (1) a Supreme Court of three justices with final appellate jurisdiction; (2) a Superior (trial) Court of eight judges. The Legislature has provided for a system of District Courts and Magistrate Courts with jurisdiction in civil cases, misdemeanors and violations of ordinances of political subdivisions, writs of habeas corpus, etc.

Political Subdivisions: The Constitution provides for the vesting of the powers of local governments in boroughs (corresponding approximately to counties, although larger and holding generally broader jurisdiction), and cities.

Political Parties

The major parties represented in Alaska are Democratic and Republican with the organizations differing little from party organizations in the lower 48 States, namely State Central Committee, District Committee, and Precinct. The State Central Committee is the overall governing body of the parties and is composed of members from the four districts -- Northwestern, Central, Southcentral, and Southeastern. The Central Committee calls the state convention and in presidential election years elects the delegates and alternates to the parties' national conventions.

General Information

The area of Alaska is 586,400 square miles (approximately 365,481,600 acres, exclusive of inland waters), which is about one-fifth the size of the lower 48 States. It has a North-South and East-West extent almost as great as that of the Lower 48 States, when its peninsulas and other extremities are considered. Its East-West span covers a distance of 2,000 miles, and from North to South a distance of 1,000 miles. The State's coastline, 33,000 miles in length, is 50% longer than the conterminous United States. In addition to the Aleutian Islands, hundreds of other islands, mostly undeveloped, are found along the northern coast of the Gulf of Alaska, the Alaskan Peninsula, and the Bering Sea Coast. Alaska has over 3 million

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lakes.

There are twelve major rivers plus three major tributaries of the Yukon, all of which drain two-thirds of the State.

The two longest mountain ranges are the Brooks Range which separates the Arctic region from the interior, and the Alaska-Aleutian Range which extends westward along the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands, and northward about 200 miles from the Peninsula, and then eastward to Canada. Other shorter but important ranges are the Chugach Mountains which form a rim to the central north Gulf of Alaska, and the Wrangell Mountains lying to the north of the Chugach Range and south of the Alaska Range. Both of these shorter ranges merge with the St. Elias Mountains, extending southeastward through Canada and across southeastern Alaska as the Coast Range. Numerous peaks in excess of 10,000 feet are found in all but the Brooks Range. The highest peak (20,320 feet above sea level), in the North American Continent, Mt. McKinley, is found in Alaska, and several others towering above 16,000 feet. Despite this, it is interesting to note that nearly all of the inhabited sections of the State are at 1,000 feet elevation or less.

Permafrost is a major factor in the geography of Alaska. It is defined as a layer of soil at variable depths beneath the surface of the earth in which the temperature has been below freezing continuously from a few to several thousands of years. It exists where summer heating fails to penetrate to the base of the layer of frozen ground. Permafrost covers most of the northern third of the State. Discontinuous or isolated patches also exist over the central portion in an overall area covering nearly a third of the State. No permafrost exists in the southcentral and southern coastal portions, including southeastern Alaska, the Alaska Peninsula, and the Aleutian Chain.

Climate

Climatic Zones: The geographic features already mentioned have a significant effect on Alaska's climate which falls into four major zones. The climate zones are (1) a Maritime Zone which includes southeastern Alaska, the South Coast, and southwestern islands; (2) a Transition Zone between marine and continental influences (this zone is difficult to define but generally comprises a very narrow band along the southern portion of the Copper River, and the northern extreme of the South Coast -- specifically the

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Chugach Mountains, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, and the coastal regions of the West-Central Division); (3) a Continental Zone made up of the remainders of the Copper River and West-Central Divisions and the Interior Basin; and (4) an Arctic Zone described as the Arctic Drainage Division.

The old popular misconception of Alaska as a forbidding land of ice and snow has been greatly dispelled. While it is true that at certain seasons and in certain localities higher temperatures occur than would normally be expected in those latitudes, the interior of Alaska generally has a climate resembling in many respects that of the northern portion of our Central States -- Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana. Along the coasts and in southeastern Alaska, average annual temperatures are much higher and winters are warmer. The area of southeastern Alaska generally compares favorably with Seattle's climate with somewhat more snowfall. Only on the Arctic Slope, and possibly on some parts of the Aleutian Islands, is the climate so rigorous or unattractive as to discourage general settlement.

Cities and Areas

Southeastern Alaska comprises the narrow strip of mainland lying between Canada and the sea, and the group of islands called the Alexander Archipelago. With the exception of limited areas surrounding the cities, virtually all of Southeast Alaska is included in the Tongass National Forest, with stands of Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock.

In addition to the Capital City of Juneau (population 6,000); the cities of Ketchikan (6,700); Wrangell (2,000); Petersburg (2,000); Sitka (3,300); and Skagway (650), are located in this area. (Including the immediate outlying areas, the population figures would be about doubled). All these cities have modern services and facilities such as schools, churches, hospitals, water systems, electricity, newspapers, and theaters.

The local economy is based on fish, minerals, timber, recreation, and other resources. The fishing industry is highly developed with Petersburg serving as center of the largest fishing operations.

Southcentral Alaska, includes the Prince William Sound and the Cook Inlet sections of the southern coast and extends north to the Alaska Range. Anchorage, Alaska's largest city with a population of 48,000, is in this section. The 1970 Census shows the figure of 124,542 for the Greater Anchorage Borough and City.

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Other cities are Palmer (1,200); Cordova (1,000); Valdez (1,000); Soldotna (1,100); Kenai (4,000); Seward (1,500); Homer (1,100); Kodiak (3,600); and Dillingham (1,000). Again, for the outlying areas the figures are about doubled.

Two large military facilities, Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson, are located in the area of Anchorage. The bases employ thousands of civilian workers and are a major source of income for the residents of Anchorage.

Central Alaska, comprises mainly the drainage basins of the Yukon, Tanana, Copper and Kuskokwim Rivers. Fairbanks, with a population of approximately 15,000 is the major city. The Borough population is about 46,000.

Mining was long a principal industry, gold being produced in the Fairbanks district and Eagle district on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Coal is mined at Healy for heating use for the Alaska Railroad, and for power production. Two major military facilities are located near Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base.

Southwestern Alaska covers the Bristol Bay area, the lower Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers, the Alaska Peninsula, and the Aleutian Islands. Much of the topography is rugged, and generally has wet, foggy summers, and cold, moist winters. The vegetation consists of grasses and brush. There are no large commercial timber supplies. The fisheries of the Bristol Bay area contribute a large portion of the Alaska salmon pack. Many of the Aleutian Islands are considered suitable for raising of sheep and cattle, and several commercial operations have been established during the last ten years.

The Seward Peninsula is one of the most northerly areas of Alaska and has a climate characterized by short summers and long, cold winters. Nome, with a population of 2,375, is the largest town.

The Arctic Slope is that part of Alaska extending north from the Brooks Range to the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic or the North Slope is the scene of extensive oil explorations. In August, 1969, the oil lease sale brought in more than \$900 million to the State.

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Natives and Native Communities

Alaska Natives -- Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts -- comprise about one-fifth of the population of Alaska and number about 60,000, and are, of course, citizens of the United States and Alaska. While they have special status under Federal law as aboriginal people of Alaska, they are not wards of government. Natives vote, hold political office, serve in the armed forces of the United States, pay taxes, and otherwise accept and exercise the rights and duties of citizens.

Many Alaska Natives live in urban communities. Though their cultural heritage is far different from the backgrounds of non-Native Alaskans, these Natives -- in their style of dress and pattern of living, jobs and wants and aspirations -- are not distinguishable. Other Alaska Natives live in villages. There are about 178 predominately Native places (of 25 persons or more) scattered across the State -- the home of 70% of the Native population. The Eskimos live mainly along the Bering Sea and Arctic Coast, the Athabascan Indians in the Interior; the Tlingit and Haida Indians in Southeastern Alaska; and the Aleuts in the Aleutian Islands.

Village Alaska stretches from the communities of Metlakatla and Hyda-burg in the rain forests of the southeastern Panhandle -- north and west 1,300 miles to Barrow and Wainwright on the tundra along the Arctic Ocean and south and west nearly 1,600 miles to Nikolski and Atka on the foggy, lushly vegetative islands of the Aleutian Chain. In a number of ways these places and 172 other Native places are unlike -- in size, in climate, in landscape, in cultural heritage and its continuing influences, and in patterns of life and work -- but in important ways they are alike.

Most importantly they are alike in that village people rely upon gathered resources of the land and waters -- not upon income from jobs -- as a base for their subsistence. While not all villages or all village people depend to the same extent upon hunting, fishing, trapping and other activities of gathering for food, reliance on gathering activities is generally characteristic of village Alaska.

Most villages are small. For example, fifty villages have a population of 25 to 99 inhabitants; another 64 have less than 200 inhabitants; and another 26 places have less than 300 inhabitants. Even smaller are an additional 50 Native villages where one or more Native families are reported to live most of the year, but whose population is believed to be fewer than 25.

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Living Conditions and local customs among the non-Native population of Alaska are not unlike those in comparable parts of the Lower 48 States. Many frontier conditions and customs are somewhat in evidence. Yet in the cities and outlying communities there are modern conveniences and facilities which are usually found only in much larger communities in other parts of the United States. The cities and larger communities all have hospitals and clinics.

Cost of Living in Alaska is higher than in the Lower 48 States for two major reasons: dependence upon imports of food and manufactured goods, and high cost of transportation. It is understandable that the farther away a person settles from the shipping and marketing centers, the more costly will be commodities.

For example, the 1968 indexes of intercity difference in cost of equivalent goods and services, as compared to Seattle Washington at 100 base, show Anchorage costs as follows: Food 119; housing rental 142; housing total 127 (includes rent, hotel and motel rates and homeownership costs); apparel and upkeep 110; other goods and services 115; total of all items 119. The total for all items for Ketchikan is also 119; for Juneau 126; and for Fairbanks 132.

Alaska Schools

The State Department of Education is charged with the responsibility to establish, maintain, govern and operate state-operated schools. In general the districts of the state public school system are broken down in that each first, second and third class city in the unorganized borough is a city school district; each organized borough is a borough school district; and an area outside organized boroughs and outside first, second and third class cities is the state-operated school district. The operation of schools outside of organized boroughs and cities is under the management of the Department of Education. School districts within organized boroughs or cities are under the management of local school boards.

Institutions of higher learning include the land grant school, the University of Alaska, located in College, just across the Chena River from Fairbanks; the Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage; Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka; and community colleges in Kenai, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Anchorage. The Anchorage Community College is now the Southcentral Regional Center of

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the University of Alaska. Agricultural experimental stations are operated in Fairbanks, Palmer, and Petersburg under the auspices of the University of Alaska.

Industries:

Fishing has been traditionally Alaska's most valuable industry and the State's leading private employer. The chief catches are salmon, king crab, halibut, shrimp, Dungeness crab, and scallops. At the present time the greatest potential lies in increasing production of Dungeness and Tanner crab, shrimp, and various other fish and shellfish specialties. The full development of Alaska's fisheries resources would free America from costly fish imports, provide tremendous quantities for export to a protein-hungry world, and stimulate the great industries that can harvest, process, transport, and market these important food resources. The fishing areas are principally confined to the coastal waters of southeastern Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, and Kodiak Island.

Mineral: Oil is by far the most important mineral product at this time. Commercial production has been restricted until recently to the south-central portion, specifically the waters of Cook Inlet and its surrounding land area. Alaska's mineral wealth has barely been scratched. Recent discoveries in Alaska's Arctic Slope indicate Alaska has the greatest petroleum reserves in the United States. Alaska already ranks 8th in oil production and 1st in average production per well. These continued finds are giving birth to other new industries. In the Kenai area there is a huge new plant to liquefy natural gas. This same gas will be used in a new Alaskan fertilizer manufacturing complex.

In addition to the discovery of oil on the Arctic Slope, the area between the Brooks Mountain Range and the Arctic Coast, has furthered the economic potential of the State. Exploratory drilling has been conducted by the U. S. Navy for some time and has produced commercial gas wells in the Barrow area, the northernmost tip of Alaska.

Alaska has deposits of nearly all the minerals classified as strategic and critical by the Federal government; precious metals like gold and silver and platinum; exotic elements such as beryllium, molybdenum and uranium; rich copper deposits; abundant iron ore; and vast quantities of coal to provide low-cost power and heat. Coal is presently mined in the Matanuska Valley, and bornite is being mined experimentally in the vicinity of Kobuk,

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on the Kobuk River inland from Kotzebue Sound. All other types of mining are of minor nature but are expected to develop as problems of transportation and production costs can be solved.

Timber: Wooded areas in the State total approximately 100 million acres of both commercial and non-commercial timber. Southeastern Alaska is, and always has been, the principal production area. Lumber and pulp mills are important contributors to the economy of that portion of the State. In southcentral Alaska, high barren mountains and numerous glaciers limit the forests to about 10 to 20 percent in the total area. Some forested land exists in the central interior and southwestern portions but have not been developed commercially. No commercial timber is found northward from the Brooks Range or along the western coastal region. In the western interior forested areas are limited to small isolated patches where permafrost does not exist.

Tourism: Out-of-state visitors have been increasing in numbers each year. Because of the airplane, tourism extends into nearly every part of the State. This is particularly true if game hunting is included. Hunting for bear, caribou, moose, and sheep draws hundreds of people to the State each year and contributes heavily to the Alaskan economy.

Alaska's spectacular scenery and extraordinary hunting, fishing and camping opportunities make the State one of America's most attractive travel destinations. By 1980, Alaska expects to host 325,000 tourists a year who will spend in excess of \$100 million. New accommodations and transportation facilities offer the traveler an outstanding variety of tours and itineraries for vacation budgets of any size.

Agriculture: The major areas of agricultural activity and production are: Matanuska Valley - Anchorage - pork, dairy, grain, vegetable; Tanana Valley - Fairbanks - pork, grain, vegetable; Kenai Peninsula - beef, pork, dairy, vegetable; Southwestern - poultry, vegetable; Kodiak-Aleutian Islands - beef, sheep; Western-Nunivak Islands - vegetable, reindeer.

It is estimated that statewide there are a few million acres of land potentially suitable for cropland, but less than 100,000 acres is actually under or has been under cultivation. The largest acreages are devoted to grass crops for hay, silage, and pasture. Vegetable crops, especially potatoes, are also important, and milk production has substantially increased the income of the Matanuska Valley. Within the agricultural areas freeze-free

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days average 140 to 180 each year. There is a short growing season but the daily potential of 16 to 19 hours of sunshine each day results in some of the finest vegetables grown anywhere. Cabbages over 60 pounds, turnips over 30 pounds, and other giant-size vegetables are common.

Most of Alaska consists of rugged mountains, high broad plateaus and extensive swampy tundra plains. These land forms profoundly influence the climate, vegetation, and the distribution of population. The areas of fairly level land least suited for settlement comprise the glacial outwash and morainic deposits in the larger interior valleys. With the limiting criteria of soils, climate, and accessibility, the maximum acreage suitable for agricultural settlement is estimated at 1,000,000 acres.

Except in favorable locations, agriculture as the sole means of livelihood, is not likely to attract a great influx of settlers. While agriculture is physically possible on tillable lands in all parts of Alaska, except in the extreme north and northwest, all major developments are located in areas comprising accessibility to markets and roads, availability of medical services, schools, churches, and other facilities. The extent of the agriculture depends upon topography, elevation, exposure of the lands, quality of soil, summer temperatures, precipitation and length of the growing season.

In 1934 the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation chose the Matanuska Valley as a site for resettlement of farmers from the northern and midwest states escaping from the Great Depression compounded by a series of ruinous droughts. While most of the original settlers returned to the Lower 48 States, the project did demonstrate that farming in Alaska on a commercial scale was entirely practicable. Domestic food and feed crops that are being successfully grown include most of the more common field crops grown in the northern United States, corn and alfalfa being exceptions, and all of the common vegetables except those intolerant to the cold, e.g. tomatoes.

Land Acquisition

Before Alaska became a State in 1959, more than 99% of its 586,400 square miles was "owned" by the Federal Government. All homesteading was on Federal lands. Under provisions of the Statehood Act, Alaska was given the right to select for State use or disposition approximately 104 million acres of public land. Today, approximately 75% of Alaska is vacant public domain administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior. Congress gave Alaska 25 years to choose its 104 million acres.

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As of January, 1969, the State had selected approximately 25 million acres.

The State of Alaska sells some of its land at auction and through an open to entry program. It is also possible to homestead State lands, but actually it is more like buying private land. Before the land is offered for sale, it must be classified as suitable for farming and minimum prices are set. The land is then sold at public auction. To buy a State homestead, you must be 19 years old or over and a citizen of the United States. Residence is not a requirement. You may pay the entire purchase price at the time of the sale, or you may buy your homestead on contract, 10% down and the balance annually over the next 9 years. Credits earned by making improvements on the property may be applied to the annual payments. Improvements used as credits include land brought into cultivation, clearing, draining, fencing, wells, buildings, and access roads.

From 1969 to early in 1972, Federal lands in Alaska were withdrawn from homesteading, purchase, or other transfer from Federal ownership under Public Land Order 4582. The order was issued to stabilize the Alaska land situation until the Congress could act on the Native Land Claims. This, of course, did not apply to state-owned lands. Now that the Native Land Claims question has been resolved by PL 92-203, enacted December 18, 1971, technically about 15 million acres are open to entry, but this land is not suitable for homesteading. Hence, homesteading is virtually a thing of the past.

For more information on state-owned lands, write to: Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands, 323 East 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; and for Federally-owned lands write to: Bureau of Land Management, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Transportation in Alaska

The Road System: Alaska's highway system totals approximately 5,200 miles (including 754 miles of the ferry routes), of which 1,200 miles are paved or blacktopped, and 3,200 miles of dirt or gravel. Of this system, about 3,000 miles are maintained twelve months per year.

A primary roady system consists of the Richardson, Alaska, Glenn, Seward-Anchorage, and the Haines Highways, all paved, and the Sterling Highway of which 75% is paved, and the Anchorage-Fairbanks Highway which is nearing completion. Nearly 3,000 miles of secondary roads connect farming, mining, and industrial areas to the primary highway system.

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The Alaska Highway: Access by road to Alaska is by a 1,523-mile gravel and blacktop highway from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska. Except for the first hundred miles, the Canadian section is gravel-surfaced. From the Canadian border to Fairbanks, the highway is blacktopped and maintained the year around.

The Alaska Railroad: Rail service to Interior Alaska from Seward, on the Gulf of Alaska, is provided by the Alaska Railroad. It is 470 miles long, and has a spur line into the Matanuska coal fields. Mt. McKinley National Park is accessible by this route. Passenger service is available between Anchorage and Fairbanks.

White Pass and Yukon Railway: This 111-mile route was constructed from Skagway, Alaska, to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, at the turn of the Century. At Whitehorse it connects with the Alaska Highway.

Steamship Transportation: Freight service by sea is provided from west coast ports. Cruise ship service is available during the tourist season from Vancouver, British Columbia, and other west coast ports.

Air Transportation: Alaska's vast size has made air transportation of paramount importance. Many communities are not accessible by other than wheel or amphibian aircraft. Jet service to the Lower 48 States is available on a daily basis to Seattle, Portland and connections to the east. Western Airlines has a direct flight from Anchorage to Hawaii. Intra-state air systems are well developed. Of recent importance was the granting of stopover and traffic rights to foreign airlines operation into Anchorage, and approval of the international flight of Pan American World Airways from New York -Fairbanks-Tokyo. Both Anchorage and Fairbanks are designated international airports and enjoy the latest in modern airport facilities and services.

Major airlines operating and maintaining offices in Alaska are: Air France, Alaska Airlines, Inc., British Overseas Airways Corp., Japan Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Lufthansa German Airlines, North Air, Northwest Airlines, Pan American World Airways, Inc., Scandinavian Airlines System, Sabena Belgian World Airlines, Western Airlines International, and Wien Consolidated Airlines.

The State Marine Highway System : One of Alaska's most progressive developments has been the Alaska Marine Highway System extending from Seattle up the southeastern coast to and through Alaska. Starting in 1963

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with three 352-foot high speed ferries (each capable of carrying 108 automobiles and 500 passengers) along the famed "Inside Passage" of the Alaska Panhandle, the system has been enlarged to include one 100-foot vessel between the southcentral ports of Valdez and Whittier and one 240-foot ship between Kodiak and the Alaska mainland. The principal ship operating in the fleet is the luxurious 363-foot ferryliner M/V WICKER-SHAM, sailing from Prince Rupert through the Alaska Panhandle.

Ports of call for Southeastern Service include Seattle, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Juneau, Haines and Skagway; Southcentral and Southwestern Service include Kodiak, Homer, Seward, Seldovia; and the Prince William Sound Service includes Cordova and Valdez.

Where to Write for Specific Information

Agriculture

Extension Service
University of Alaska
College, Alaska 99701

Division of Agriculture
Post Office Box 1828
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Business Opportunities

Department of Economic
Development
State of Alaska
Pouch EE
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Alaska State Chamber of
Commerce
111 Fourth Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Fishing, Hunting, Trapping

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
6917 Seward Highway
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Department of Fish and Game
State of Alaska
Subport Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Schools

Department of Education
State of Alaska
326 Alaska Office Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

University of Alaska
College, Alaska 99701

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Mining and Minerals

Bureau of Mines
Department of the Interior
Post Office Box 560
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dept. of Natural Resources
State of Alaska
Pouch M
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Employment

--Federal
Manager
Anchorage Area Office
U. S. Civil Service Commission
Post Office Box 199
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

--State Employment Office

Anchorage, Box 2240
Fairbanks, Box 1010
Juneau, 123 Seward Street
Ketchikan, Box 159
Kodiak, Box 1546
Nome, Box 161
Petersburg, 1078

Official Emblems, etc.

State Tree - Sitka Spruce: This native of Alaska is the largest of all the spruces. It has long been prized by boat-builders because of its lightness. This spruce is now an important source of high-grade pulp.

State Fish - King Salmon: The King, or Chinook, Salmon is the supreme western game fish. Its tasty red flesh makes it a premium food and an important part of the Alaskan economy.

From the Office of Mike Gravel,
United States Senator from Alaska

State Bird - Willow Ptarmigan: Alaska's most important game bird is pure white in the winter. It is found in valleys and foothills throughout mainland Alaska.

State Flower - Forget-me-not: Alaska's State Flower is blue with a center of gold. It is found along the banks of ponds, brooks, and streams.

Alaska's Flag: In 1926, the American Legion, Department of Alaska, conducted a contest in the Alaska public schools for designing a flag for Alaska. The design of Benny Benson, a 13-year old orphaned Native school-boy, was chosen winner. Accompanying his design, he wrote: "The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the Forget-me-not, an Alaskan flower. The North Star is the future State of Alaska, the most northerly of the Union. The Dipper is for the Great Bear - symbolizing strength."

Official Mineral - Gold

Official Gem - Jade

Official Song:

The poem "Alaska's Flag" was written by Marie Drake and set to music by Elinor Dusenbury. In 1955, it was designated as Alaska's Official Song.

Alaska's Flag

Eight stars of gold on a field of blue --
Alaska's flag. May it mean to you
The blue of the sea, the evening sky,
The mountain lakes, the flow'rs nearby,
The gold of the early sourdough's dreams,
The precious gold of the hills and streams;
The brilliant stars in the northern sky,
The "Bear" - the "Dipper" - and, shining high,
The great North Star with its steady light,
Over land and sea a beacon bright.
Alaska's flag -- to Alaskans dear,
The simple flag of a last frontier.