

STATEWIDE IN ALASKA

Highlights: One indicator of the expansion taking place in the immediate Fairbanks area is the increase in district school enrollment. The Alaska Department of Education released preliminary enrollment figures for the end of March showing an increase from the 1967-68 school year of over 630 students enrolled in the district schools alone. The enrollment increase in this particular section from the 1966-67 to the 1967-68 school year was 20 students.

A national motel chain is scheduled to start construction of a combination motel and shopping complex in FAIRBANKS. The complex when completed will include a 150 unit motel, banquet room, a restaurant & cocktail lounge, and several retail stores. Several other established motels and hotels in the area have undertaken expansion projects to accommodate the rising influx of oil industry transients and tourists into the area.

Nearly 16 million pounds of air cargo was shipped out of FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT during the month of February, according to the Division of Aviation figures. Totals were 15,987,004 outbound, and 1,151,654 inbound. January figures totaled 10,885,182 outbound, and 951,825 inbound.

The Alaska railroad is clearing a new 40 acre site, building roads and spur lines in the FAIRBANKS RAILROAD INDUSTRIAL AREA in order to handle the ever increasing North Slope supply and equipment inflow into the area. In addition, the railroad is also looking for an area in which to store 250,000 tons of 48-inch pipe, 40 feet in length for the trans-Alaska pipe line. The pipe will be manufactured in Japan and Germany and is expected to arrive here in October. An additional 250,000 tons of pipe will be delivered to VALDEZ and PRUDHOE BAY.

The Busty Bell mine, located in the FAIRBANKS AREA, is scheduled to open in May. In addition to mining gold, silver, zinc, and lead ore, the corporation will operate a mill equipped with a 50-ton ball mill, two crushers, a classifier, mineral jibs, and a concentrating table.

A new cedar mill that will employ thirty-two men is nearing completion in KLAWOCK. The mill is located on a former lumber mill site.

Iron deposits in the SNETTISHAM AREA are scheduled for development through a joint venture of an American mining company and a major Japanese trading firm. Snettisham iron deposits are located about 33 miles southeast of JUNEAU, at SENTINEL POINT and adjacent to PORT SNETTISHAM, a natural port on the east side of STEPHENS PASSAGE. Plans call for eventual pelletizing of two to four million tons annually for Japan. The deposit is of low grade, 15 to 20 percent total iron, and contains some titanium. The Snettisham Dam project enhances the potentiality of economic recovery of the iron ore from this area.

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The KLUKWAN IRON DEPOSITS, located 20 miles northeast of HAINES, has a mountain of ore with several billion tons grading 15 to 20 percent total iron and an alluvial fan of several hundred million tons of broken ore grading 10 percent magnetic ore. This significant iron deposit is controlled by one of the largest steel firms in the United States.

ADAK crab boats earned higher incomes in December 1968 than in December 1967 while landing 20 percent less crab, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The average total catch per vessel was only 184,000 pounds for December 1968 which was well below 1967's average catch of 150,000 pounds for the same month. Based on a December average price per pound for crab of 13¢ in 1967 and 30¢ in 1968, the average vessel grossed \$25,200 in 1968 in contrast to 1967's average of \$19,500.

Federal officials have approved of more than \$9.5 million for high school construction programs in Alaska. The programs call for construction of dormitories and a school at BETHEL which will be almost \$3.4 million; dormitories at SITKA at a cost of \$2.75 million; dormitories at FAIRBANKS at \$2.75 million; and mobile classrooms at KOTZEBUE and Fairbanks for \$596,000.

Employment:

Total estimated employment continued to make strong seasonal advances in April as warmer weather permitted more out-of-doors activity. The month-to-month employment advance was greatly influenced by the opening or expansion of construction projects in several areas of Alaska. A steady increase in Southeastern Alaska logging camp activity was another contributing factor. The transportation sector continues to show solid monthly employment advances with the stimulus being provided by the North Slope oil industry development. Restaurant employment increased again this month as seasonal influences began exerting pressure. The remaining industries showed little appreciable change from mid-March.

Over-the-year estimated employment increased by 3,500. Oil exploration & drilling sectors of the mining industry expanded significantly from April 1968 with the majority of the growth being registered in the Arctic North Slope. The trucking & air transportation sectors also reported solid employment gains and again the increase was in support of oil related activity in the Fairbanks area and to the north. Retail trade continued its upward trend as new stores and expansions took place in most of the major Alaska cities. The service industry reported a modest growth as hotels & motels were opening or expanding in the Fairbanks and Anchorage areas. The local government increase of 10 percent over last year occurred in three different sectors; city & borough government employment increased in Anchorage and Fairbanks, the Juneau borough took over operation of St. Anns hospital and school employment was up in all major areas of the state. The construction and manufacturing industries continue to display some softness which is a carryover from the fall of 1968. New construction starts involving small contractors seem to be the sector where employment is lagging in contract construction. Neither the logging industry nor the fish products sector of manufacturing has fully recouped its early fall and winter employment losses. Indications are that the logging industry employment should reach last year's levels during the coming season while the fish processors with