

STATEWIDE IN ALASKA

Highlights: Estimated crude oil production for the first nine months of 1968 exceeded 1967's total production. An estimated 48.7 million barrels of oil were retrieved in the first three quarters of 1968 in comparison to the previous year's final total of 28.9 million barrels. The average-per-day production level for September was 181,146 barrels, an accumulation of 5.4 million barrels for the month. In contrast, September 1967 oil accrued at a rate of 91,300 barrels per day and a 2.7 million barrel production level for the month.

A CORDOVA coal company has shipped nearly four tons of coal samples to Japan's industrial concerns for study. If the coal meets industry standards, the coal export could provide jobs for 150 to 200 Alaskans. Recent exploration by the coal company in the Cordova area unearthed eight million tons of recoverable coal.

Forest products continue to account for the bulk of 1968 Alaska exports, a U. S. Department of Commerce report shows. Total value of pulp, timber & logs exported in the first seven months total \$31.7 million. Japan was Alaska's largest customer with Canada, Europe, Australia, Eastern Asia, India, Africa and Central & South America also receiving exports.

An estimated 500,000 pounds of reindeer meat is to be shipped from a NOME processing plant this season. The plant, one of two operating in the state, produced 140,000 pounds of meat in 1967. This year a market has been found for the reindeer antlers which are usually discarded as waste. A Korean importer has purchased the antlers for resale in his country as a medicinal product.

A major KODIAK shrimp and crab processing firm is expanding its output capacity. The company is installing three shrimp peelers in addition to one already in operation. The additional machines will require 20 more cannery workers and provide an immediate market for the catch of three or four fishing boats. Each of the machines has a production capacity of over 800 pounds of shrimp per hour.

One of the major airlines serving Alaska is constructing a jet fuel facility at the KODIAK naval station in order to expand its freight and passenger service. Upon completion, the fuel station will provide service for the airline's new Electra aircraft.

A projected \$43 million on highway construction in INTERIOR Alaska will be spent between 1968 and 1972.

Rural Electrification Administration announced approval of a \$5.2 million loan to provide electric service for 59 remote Alaskan villages. A total of 53 diesel generator plants will be placed in villages providing power for 20,000 residents. The combined plants will provide a total of 9,560 kilowatts of power to villages which at present are without electrical service. Two local residents from each village in which a generator is installed will be trained in operating the electrical systems. NULATO, OLD HARBOR, HOOPER BAY, NOOVIK and KIANA are scheduled to receive plants before winter sets in.

Car and truck sales are booming in Alaska. Car sales for the first half year of 1968 are up 27% over the comparable period for 1967. Truck sales this year jumped 70 percent above the first six months level of last year.