

STATEWIDE IN ALASKA

Highlights: An estimated \$50 million liquid gas plant is under construction on the NORTH KENAI. The plant, when completed, will be under contract to supply Japan with an estimated \$500 million worth of liquefied natural gas over a 15-year period. Two special tankers, each with a capacity for 1.5 billion cubic feet of gas, will deliver the low sulphur content gas to Japan. Construction on the plant is to continue through the winter months with expectations that the plant will begin operation prior to July 1969.

Twelve exploratory drilling rigs financed by ten major international oil companies are expected to be on the NORTH SLOPE this winter. The stimulus was provided last winter when one drilling rig made the tremendous oil discovery in the PRUDHOE BAY area. In addition to the exploratory drilling activity, an estimated 11 seismic crews will be performing field work in search of potential drilling sites.

KODIAK ISLAND'S two slaughtering houses are in operation slaughtering and processing beef brought in from local and neighboring AFOGNAK ISLAND cattle herds. A reindeer slaughter house facility is nearing completion at NOME. The \$60,000 project is being undertaken by the State of Alaska which intends to lease or sell the facility to private management. The plant will employ 6 full-time and 12 part-time workers over a 4 month period. Operations are scheduled to begin next month.

A 30 ton order for MATANUSKA VALLEY potatoes was filled at the request of an Anchorage firm engaged in the manufacture of potato chips. Market research is being presently conducted on the virus-free potatoes in the hope of establishing a market for seedling potatoes in the lower '48.

Scallop fishing in KODIAK waters seems to be rewarding according to boats operating in that area. One boat reported harvesting a catch of 27,000 lbs. valued at a SEWARD dock price of 95¢ a pound. Several boats are expected to continue fishing for scallops throughout the winter months.

The first jet plane landed at BARROW'S newly lengthened airstrip this month. Barrow residents claim the farthestmost point north for a jet landing on the North American Continent.

Two BRISTOL BAY communities received Rural Development Agency funds for local public projects. At CLARK'S POINT, funds have been approved for local residents to repair and replace a road washed out by tidal action. The road is the villagers' route to their sole place of employment, a cannery, and to the village grocery store. At NEWHALEN, local residents will construct a multi-purpose building to house a community hall and a generating plant.

A 1/4 million dollar film based on Tlingit Indian folklore has been completed in Alaska. The feature length film contains excellent wildlife and scenic footage. The picture has an all-Alaskan cast and was totally financed and produced in Alaska.

Employment: Total estimated employment for Alaska moved downward in September from its August peak, as a result of employment declines in manufacturing and transportation. Major industry groups indicating more jobs were mining, construction, trade, and the federal & local sector of government. Increased activity in both production and exploration raised oil & gas industry hires by 100. Construction employment increased slightly and was mainly due to a carry-over from projects started earlier in the season.