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Alaska History

Alaska becomes 49th State!

On July 7th, 1958 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Alaska Statehood Act. This crucial event in Alaska State history paved the way for Alaska's admission as the 49th State on January 3rd, 1959. In the years that followed the quest for an Alaskan culture would inspire indigenous groups to play an active role in their state and local government. Native American groups became united in their quest to claim title to the areas that were stolen from them. The

government took their time in responding to these claims until oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic coast. So that they could lessen the difficulty of drilling at a remote location and transporting the oil to the lower 48 states, the government decided to build a pipeline that would carry the oil across Alaska to the port of Valdez. At Valdez, the oil would be loaded onto tanker ships and sent to the lower 48 states.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Signed-Pipeline to be built!

Oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay in 1968. Although the plan was approved, the permit to construct the pipeline was denied. However, there was a caveat. The pipeline would cross the lands that were involved in the Alaskan culture argument. The Alaskan culture dispute needed to be settled before the pipeline could be built. Since petroleum dollars were now on the line, in 1971, the *Alaska Native*

Claims Settlement Act was signed. The Native Americans relinquished aboriginal claims to their lands in exchange for 44 million acres of land in other parts of Alaska. They were also paid 963 million dollars. As a result, Native American Alaskan culture is alive and well, and can be seen all throughout the state.

The 48-inch diameter, 800-mile pipeline links

U.S. Buys Alaska from Russians

On April, 9 1867 United States Secretary of State William H. Seward engineered the purchase of Alaska from the Russians for \$7.2 million dollars. For years, the Alaskan territory would become a major gold rush site. Gold rush timeline pg. 4.

Where guests become friends!

Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean with the terminal at Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in the Western Hemisphere. The flow from this pipeline accounts for roughly 20 percent of U.S. oil production annually.

This created the biggest boost to the Alaska economy since the gold rush days.

Continued on page 3.

Early Alaska History

Although Alaska be- 1741. When the crew re- came part of the United States in 1867, early Alaska history begins in the Paleolithic period. When Alaska history books tell us that the earliest Alaskan inhabitants were of Catherine the Great Asiatic decent. The population was divided into three categories: with compassion. How-honorables, which in- cluded the respected whalers and elders; com- mon people; and slaves. The honorables were mummified at death. Oc- casionally, a slave was killed in honor of the de- ceased.

Meanwhile, King Charles the III of Spain Alaska history dates back to the European settlement, when a Dan- ish navigator aboard a 1774 and 1791, he sent Russian ship discovered the territory in the area. Eventually,

Charlie decided that both the Russians and the Natives were formidable enemies. As a result, he abandoned his efforts at trying to claim any of Alaska's territory for Spain.

During this time frame, the British also tried to claim a piece of the ac- tion. When Captain James Cook set sail to explore the Alaskan terri- tory in 1778, his crew was also impressed by the possible uses for the sea otters. When they returned to England to show off their newly- killed fur coats, the Brit- ish decided to send out more expeditions to Alaska. As a result, the town of Wrangell be- came subject to British rule.



How Big is Alaska?

Alaska contains 586,412 square miles of land. It is one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states, 488 times larger than Rhode Island, two and a half times larger than Texas. With Alaska's 2003 estimated population at 648,818 that equals .90 square miles per person. Alaska is about 1390 miles tall and 2210 miles wide. The mean elevation is 1900 ft. The Aleutian Islands are 1100 miles long. Alaska has both the eastern, western and northern most points in the U.S.

Mountains:
Alaska has 17 of the 20 highest mountains in North America with Mt McKinley being the high- est at 20,320 ft. The sec- ond highest is Mt Saint Elias, at 18,008 ft, in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

Calendar of Events

January

Polar Bear Jump Off Festival -- Seward

February

Fur Rendezvous -- Anchorage
Iceworm Festival -- Cordova

March

Iditarod -- Anchorage-Nome
Winter Carnival -- Fairbanks

April

Alaska Folk Festival -- Juneau
Extreme Skiing Championships -- Valdez

May

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival -- Homer
Whale Festival -- Kodiak

June

Edward Albee Theater Conference -- Valdez

July

July 4 Mount Marathon Run -- Seward
Soapy Smith's wake -- Skagway

August

Ship Creek Silver Salmon Derby -- Anchorage
Silver Salmon Derby -- Seward

September

Alaska State Fair -- Palmer
Bluegrass Festival -- Talkeetna
Gold Rush Days -- Valdez

October

Equinox Marathon -- Fairbanks
Alaska Federation of Natives Convention -- Anchorage

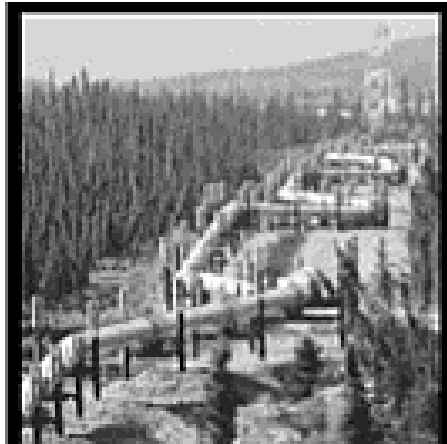
November

Great Alaska Shootout -- Anchorage
Bald Eagle Festival --



Why is some of the pipeline above ground?

420 miles of the 800 mile trans-Alaska pipeline is elevated above ground to protect the delicate permafrost. Permafrost is permanently frozen soil and covers approximately 75% of the pipeline corridor. Vertical supports elevate the pipe 5 to 15 feet above ground to prevent heat of the pipeline from melting the permafrost. The other 380 miles of pipe are buried in ground that remains stable even if it thaws and refreezes.



Why does the pipeline zig zag?

Alyeska's engineers designed the trans-Alaska to zig zag so it can move sideways when the pipe expands or contracts due to temperature changes. When the first warm oil was put in the pipeline during the start-up in 1977, the above ground pipe lengthened almost four feet per mile! A straight, above ground pipeline would not have the flexibility to absorb that much growth. The zig zag pattern also allows for movement during earthquakes. Where the pipeline crosses the Denali Fault, it is designed to slide up to 20 feet horizontally and 5 feet vertically.

Pipeline Facts

- The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System was designed and constructed to move oil from the North Slope of Alaska to the northern most ice-free port- Valdez, Alaska.
- Length: 800 miles.
- Diameter: 48 inches.
- Crosses three mountain ranges and over 800 rivers and streams.
- Cost to build: \$8 billion in 1977, largest privately funded construction project at that time.
- Construction began on March 27, 1975 and was completed on May 31, 1977.
- First oil moved through the pipeline on June 20, 1977.
- Over 14 billion barrels have moved through the Trans Alaska Pipeline System.
- First tanker to carry crude oil from Valdez: ARCO Juneau, August 1, 1977.
- Tankers loaded at Valdez: 16,781 through March 2001.
- Storage tanks in Valdez- 18 with total storage capacity of 9.1 million barrels total.
- The mission of Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System is to safely escort tankers through Prince William Sound.

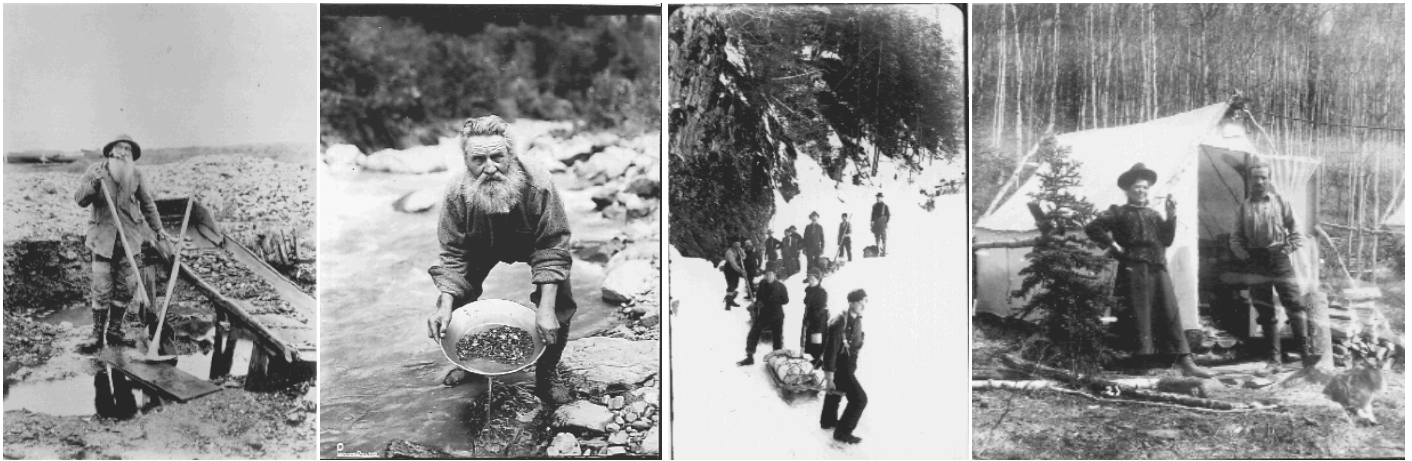
**"The Freshness,
the Freedom,
the Farness
Oh, God!
how I'm
stuck on it all"**

*Excerpt from Spell of
the Yukon,
Robert Service*

**Annual Temperature
daylights hours**

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Day hours
May 12	4:42 a.m.	10:57 p.m.	18:15
May 26	3:54 a.m.	11:46 p.m.	19:52
June 9	3:14 a.m.	12:29 a.m.	21:15
June 23	2:59 a.m.	12:48 a.m.	21:49
July 7	3:26 a.m.	12:24 a.m.	20:58
July 21	4:11 a.m.	11:42 p.m.	19:31
August 4	4:59 a.m.	10:53 p.m.	17:54
August 18	5:46 a.m.	10:03 p.m.	16:17
Sept. 1	6:29 a.m.	9:12 p.m.	14:43
Sept. 15	7:12 a.m.	8:20 p.m.	13:08

McKinley Creekside Cabins & Café



Gold Rush Timeline

August 16, 1896—Discovery of gold in the Klondike by George and Kate Carmack, Skookum Jim and Dawson Charlie.

August 17, 1896—George Carmack, Skookum Jim and Dawson Charlie stake their claims on Bonanza Creek

August 31, 1896—Discovery of gold on Eldorado Creek (a tributary of Bonanza).

September 1896—All of Bonanza Creek is staked and many claims are already producing

Summer 1897—The population of Dawson grows to approximately 3,500.

July 14, 1897—The steamship Excelsior arrives in San Francisco with a half a million dollars worth of gold on board. Stories of the Klondike Gold Rush hit the news wires.

July 17, 1897—The steamship Portland docks in Seattle and 68 miners unload one million dollars worth of gold in front of a crowd of 5,000.

October 1897—A Seattle newspaper prints an eight-page Klondike edition which is sent to every postmaster and public library in the country and to thousands of businessmen and politicians.

Summer & Autumn 1897—Ships bearing the first stampedeers arrive in Dyea and Skagway, Alaska or steam directly up the Yukon River to Dawson City.

Autumn 1897—Oliver Millett of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia stakes on claim on Cheechako Hill, far above Bonanza Creek, and it produces a half a million dollars worth of gold. A staking rush of the nearby hills begins.

Winter 1897/98—The Chilkoot and the White Pass trails reach their zenith of stampedeers scrambling towards the Klondike. Among these is writer Jack London who trudged over the White Pass.

April 1898—An avalanche kills over 60 people on the Chilkoot Trail.

Spring 1898—The population of Yukon peaks at over 30,000. Dawson City becomes the largest Canadian city west of Winnipeg.

May 29, 1898—The ice on Lake Lindemann and Bennett Lake goes out and an armada of over 7,000 boats begin their water journey to Dawson City.

April 1899—More than a million dollars worth of property and 117 buildings are destroyed in a fire in Dawson City.

July 1899—The first White Pass and Yukon Route train runs from Skagway, Alaska to Carcross, Yukon. A year later, the line is completed to Whitehorse.

Summer 1899—Gold is discovered on the beaches in Nome, Alaska and the next gold rush begins. The Klondike Gold Rush is officially over.

1900—The year of greatest Klondike gold production. Over 22 million dollars worth is pulled out of the creeks. \$2.5 million was pulled out in 1897 and \$10 million in 1898.