

# The Alaskan Philatelist

The Journal of the Alaska Collectors Club • American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 218



**Volume 43, No. 2 • Whole No. 222**  
**2nd Quarter, 2007 • Pages 27-51**

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The Journal of the Alaska Collectors Club

ISSN #1096-5963

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## AWARDS

Colopex 2000—Silver-Bronze  
Colopex 2002—Silver-Bronze  
STaMpsHOW 03—Silver-Bronze





**FOR SALE:** "Grandfather's Collection" Beautiful Alaskan covers, mostly older, 7 hand colored/ drawn cachet with each order. Nice Alaskan covers. 35 covers \$110.00 Guaranteed. Victor Schwez, 10519 Casanes Ave., Downey AK 90241

**FOR SALE:** I am a longtime vintage paper dealer who is phasing out over the next year. I deal with many museums and websites (on dozens of subjects) who collect for archives and/or sell in shops or on line. I have a large collection of Stamp Collecting Paper...articles, photos, stories, ads, etc... great graphics and information...from all eras and publications. Please contact me for more details: Sandi at [gallopingbeggar@adelphia.net](mailto:gallopingbeggar@adelphia.net)

**HELP WANTED:** I am looking for information about the Anchorage Contract Station 11. I never found anything about it and I do have the numbers 10 and 12 and the existence of Number 11 is then logical. Dirk van Gelderen, Voorkade 74, 2771 ZB Boskoop, Netherlands. Email: [info@esveld.nl](mailto:info@esveld.nl)

**WANTED:** Any old postal cards or covers from the Chitna, McCarthy, Kennecott area, 1890 - 1950. Please send list to: Thomas Kinzer, P.O. Box 107, Chitna, AK 99566-0107

**HELP WANTED:** I am looking for mint and used postcards depicting ALASKA LIGHTHOUSES. Russell Bartlett, 5 Saint Clare Street, Braintree, MA 02184-8239

**WANTED:** Any era postal cards (government preprinted stamps, not picture) used in Alaska. No philatelic, please. Don Glickstein, 1300 University St. #9G, Seattle WA 98101. Email: [glickwolf@earthlink.net](mailto:glickwolf@earthlink.net)

**WANTED:** Censored civilian mail from Alaska and Western Canada from World War II. Eric Knapp, 4201 Folker Street, Unit C102, Anchorage, AK 99508. Email: [eknapp@gci.net](mailto:eknapp@gci.net)

**WANTED:** Mail from the gold rush era Alaska forts. Eric Knapp, 4201 Folker Street, Unit C102, Anchorage, AK 99508. Email: [eknapp@gci.net](mailto:eknapp@gci.net)

## TAP DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE
1st Quarter .....	February 1
2nd Quarter .....	May 1
3rd Quarter .....	August 1
4th Quarter .....	November 1

## Alaska Philatelic Cover Catalog Volume 1 & 2

Volume 2 of the Alaska Philatelic Cover Catalog, covering the Alaska Collectors Club, the Gastineau Philatelic Society and the Northern Lights Stamp Club is now available.

The catalog features illustrations of all major and minor covers issued by the three clubs.

The catalog is 8 ½ x 11 loose-leaf format punched for a three ring binder.

Prices:

Volume 2:

\$25.00

Volume 1, Revised Edition:

\$25.00

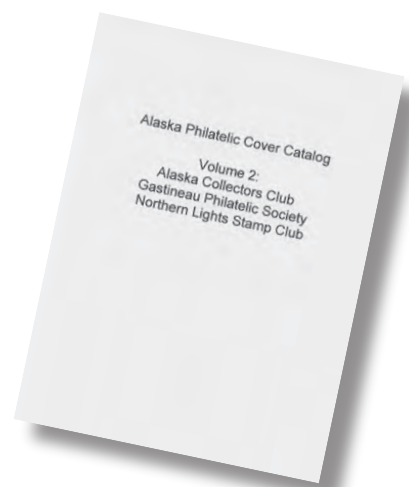
Original Volume 1 Update:

\$3.00

(All prices are postpaid)

For orders or more information, contact:

Eric Knapp  
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Anchorage, AK 99508



# President's Message

by Jim Zuelow ([Jimzuelow@aol.com](mailto:Jimzuelow@aol.com))

It was a real pleasure to be able to attend the May 23rd meeting of the Anchorage Philatelic Society and surprise Eric Knapp by presenting him, on behalf of the ACC Board of Directors, with a plaque honoring him for "...his many contributions to Alaskan Philately - past, present, and future..." The ACC Directors paid for the plaque. As most of you know, Eric is currently the TAP Editor, our ACC Secretary Treasurer, and Anchorage Philatelic Society President. Virginia and I also enjoyed meeting and talking with the ACC members who were in attendance, including several we had not previously met.

While in Anchorage, I decided to spend some time researching old Alaskan newspaper microfilms at the Z. J. Lous-sac Library looking for any possible clues as to the origin of the Alaska Arctic Air Mercy Flight cinderella stamps. In the 1930's and early '40's, it was not unusual for newspapers to list flight details and print the names of passengers flying between Anchorage and other destinations such as Bethel, and so on. The names of steamship passengers traveling to and from Anchorage & elsewhere in Alaska were also listed. Unfortunately, I was unable to find a single clue related to the Air Mercy Flight stamps! I did, however, find out when my wife's father sailed from Alaska to the Outside in 1941, and also learned that Eric Knapp's grandfather was a top vote-getter for the Anchorage School Board in the 1930's!

After we returned from Alaska, I contacted Roger Riga of Rigastamps ([www.rigastamps.com](http://www.rigastamps.com)), a noted cinderella expert and dealer. Here is what he had to say about the Alaska Arctic Air Mercy Flight stamps:

"I would be happy to help you, but the story of the "Mercy Flight" stamps is one of those mysteries that at this point remains unsolved. Other stories to the contrary, I (and most others that I know of) believe them to be bogus rather than genuine. For whatever reason, I would tend to date them from the 1930's. They were certainly around in approval selections when I collected as a child in the 1940's & 1950's. Other than a more verbose statement of what can be seen by looking at the stamps, I don't recall having ever seen anything that explains their existence, the great number of varieties that can be found, or any hint of who was actually or supposedly responsible for their creation. All that being said, they remain among the most popular cinderella items, despite a dubious heritage. And why not! They've got something for everybody: airplane, polar bear, triangle, exotic location, always another variety and whatever story there is has more questions than answers. Could anyone have



## "Award goes to editor of TAP"

Editor Eric Knapp was surprised recently at a meeting of the Anchorage Philatelic Society. Jim Zuelow, President of the Alaska Collectors Club, presented him with a plaque that read "...his many contributions to Alaskan Philately - past, present, and future..."

planned it better? Probably not, which is why we may never know the "true story." Roger has a free reference resource at [www.cinderellas.info](http://www.cinderellas.info).





## Found on eBay

Dirk van Gelderen has found the following early cover on eBay.

St. Michael, AK TY 1898

Alaska Commercial Co.,

Red Double Oval ties 2c Bureau



"The Episcopal Church was assigned the Yukon River region. John Chapman opened one of the most important Episcopal missions in 1887 at Anvik. He spent the next 40 years among the Ingalik Athapaskans. The mission was built apart from the Ingalik village. Natives who wanted to live in the new town were charged rent of one dollar a year. Both English and Ingalik Athapaskan languages were taught in the mission school. The church had a strong influence on Anvik youth, but most elders, in particular the village shaman, held to their old beliefs."



The starting bid price on this gem was an astonishing \$750! no word on whether there was a buyer or not.

## I Don't Know What to Write About!

### Part II

We have asked all the members to write about Alaska history as it pertains to philately for this publication many times. We thought maybe the reason we don't get much response is because the perfect topic was eluding you. So, we have compiled list brief list of Alaska history in several parts (other parts will appear in subsequent issues) for you to look over and if something intrigues you, please do a bit a research and write a short piece for inclusion in the next TAP. We really need your assistance.

#### May 7, 1906

*President Roosevelt signed a bill authorizing the Territory of Alaska to elect a non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress. Alaska was represented federally by delegates until statehood was achieved in 1959.*

#### August 14, 1906

*The first election was held to name a non-voting Alaskan Delegate to Congress. In a twist of fate, two men were elected. One served a short term, while the other a full term.*

#### September 8, 1906

*The office of the Governor of Alaska was moved from Sitka to Juneau, completing the movement of the capital, which had begun the year before.*

#### May 20, 1909

*Walter Eli Clark was appointed the last District Governor of Alaska. In 1912, he would become the first Territorial Governor of Alaska.*

#### August 24, 1912

*Passage of the Second Organic Act establishes the Territory of Alaska. The Second Organic Act would be the basis of law in Alaska for the next fifty-seven years.*

#### November 5, 1912

*An election selected the 24 members of the first Territorial Legislature.*

#### March 3, 1913

*The first Alaska Territorial Legislature convened in the Elks Lodge in Juneau.*

#### March 21, 1913

*Governor Walter E. Clark approved the first act of the first Territorial Legislature, giving Alaska women the right to vote.*

I know it seems like I am always saying it, but it is a constant problem. We need original articles and other material for TAP. I have said it before and I will keep saying it. Everyone has an item that can tell a story and everyone can tell that story. Please take some time and write something for TAP.

# Letters Home From Ft. Liscum

by Eric Knapp

In my gold rush forts collection I have these two covers from Fort Liscum. Fort Liscum, located at Valdez, Alaska was an active army post from 1900 to 1925. These two letters are from later 1921 and early 1922.

Both are addresses to a Mrs. C.F. Jordan and are signed Alice. Alice mentions her husband George and that he was part of the headquarters. I did some research and found that Major George Donaldson was the commander of the fort from May 1921 until it closed in July 1922. Major Donaldson had his family with him at the post so I surmise these letters are from his wife.

They are an interesting window into life at a remote army post in the 1920's:

Fort Liscum  
Dec, 22 1921

*Mother Dear:*

*Strange to say we have had no more snow for a week, so there is no more on the ground now than we often have at home. It has been clear and cold with very little wind, and really not very cold, the lowest was 15 degrees above.*

*Yesterday was very warm nearly 50 and to-day cloudy so I think we shall have more snow to-morrow.*

*George and the boys got our Christmas tree last Sunday but I shall not decorate it till Saturday night. We shall have our tree Sunday forenoon and the one for the post Sunday evening. We have a nice lot of decorations for it which we bought from Sears Roebuck. The candy bags are filled and Helen's and my*

*presents for the children are done up and ready.*

*I made a loaf of fruit cake Saturday but it settled a little in the middle so I don't know how good it will be. Tomorrow I shall make mince and apple pies and I think I shall try some doughnuts.*

*Saturday I am going to cook a plum pudding so all I shall have to do Sunday will be the turkey and vegetables.*

*Out turkey has not come yet but there is a boat due to-morrow, and we expect they are on it with also apples, oranges, grapefruit, nuts and Xmas candy.*

*I have a new heather blue polo cloth coat for Helen. It has a wide collar of the same and belt, and it very pretty. The coat I got new for her last Xmas is absolutely all worn out.*

*The children all want to hang up their stockings so I shall have to divide their things. I have slippers for them which will fill up a lot, and I got some animal crackers over town.*

*They have vacation next week, and so do all the post. It will be fine to not have to get up so early, and after a week it ought to be a little lighter, tho it hasn't been so dark as I expected it would be, partly because it has been pleasant weather.*

**Friday Evening 11 p.m.**

*Altho its time to go to bed I must finish this letter to you so as to send it over to-morrow.*

*The steamer arrived here about noon so we have heard from home again, and we were very glad to get Christmas cards from you, Helen and Perley and Marion, also Janis later. She is getting into society with as many parties as we were having a month ago. I am very glad it will do her good. Probably we shall not have any more parties with the town people till May.*

*It snowed a little last night but cleared towards morning and has been very windy to-day.*

*We got all our Christmas supplies to-day and are all ready except decorating the trees. I will write you all about this the first of the week and will have the children write to.*

*George says I must go to bed now so will say good night with best wishes in a happy new year.*

*With hugs of love to all*

*Alice*



## Letters from Liscum (continued)

Fort Liscum  
Jan. 12, 1922

Mother Dear:

For the first time in almost a week we had a glimpse of blue sky and saw the tops of the mountains in sunlight. It has snowed, and snowed, and snowed some more, if it wasn't so light, and fleecy it would be twelve feet deep, but it has packed down to about seven, except where it falls off from the roofs.

The commissary is buried on the front. All you can see is the three holes where the doors are and the chimneys sticking out of this big heap of snow.

Where it has come off from the side of Dr. Stearn's house it has covered her dining room and living room windows up to within six inches of the top. I am glad our house sits up high but at that we can't see anything from the living room windows when we are sitting there. George had to have the snow shoveled away from the windows across the back of the headquarters, or he would have had to burn electricity all day. The porch on headquarters and on the long barracks is just a tunnel.

Honestly, I didn't believe it could snow so hard for such a long time. Every morning George puts on his snow shoes and packs down a path for the children to go to school. There is just one nice thing about it. When it snows the wind does not blow and it's not cold. Our thermometer was forty today.

Two weeks more and the sun will begin to shine again, first on the end of the dock, gradually gaining a little every day; you may be sure we shall be glad to see it.

We had great excitement Monday, the large double house at the farther end of the row, where the two captains lived caught fire and was burned flat, except the wall and part of two rooms next to Capt. Halsey's house.

It was discovered about nine o'clock in the forenoon, the roof fell about noon and they kept water on it till three o'clock. One captain saved nearly everything, but the other one lost all his clothing and most everything else. It started in the chimney and worked thro the partitions, breaking out most unexpectedly.

George and Capt. Halsey got right in with the men and worked hard, they were both soaking wet at noon but did not take cold.

Altho the deep snow hindered a bit it was not freezing weather so the hose was not so hard to handle as it might have been.

Except for minor cuts from glass and two men being overcome by smoke, there was on one hurt.

Yesterday Capt. And Mrs. Parsons came over from town and were here to dinner. Then we went over to Tillicim with



them. There were six tables to play altho it was snowing furiously. We had to wade through at least eight inches of new snow at midnight. Mrs. Sterns and Mrs. Halsey won't go till spring. All we can talk about now is "where shall we go if the post is abandoned in the summer." I only hope it's toward home.

I have just made out an order to Sears, Roebuck for about fifteen dollars worth of white cotton goods, biting flannel and cambric edges for under ware they have a sale this next month. I hope to do a lot of sewing as the days get longer.

Saturday morning – Snowing again after 24 hours. Mail this morning. Glad Christmas was so pleasant, but sorry you got so tired. Hope the cold weather has not continued.

Much love to you and father alone in that big house.

Alice



# Postal Changes Concern Tiny Village

From the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, by Eric Lidji

A retired postmaster and a soon to be retired post office building in Lake Minchumina have led the United States Postal Service to re-examine mail operations in the tiny village near Denali National Park and Preserve.

Many in the community of 16, which can expand to 50 in the summer, worry possible changes could make life difficult in a place where neighbors live far away and the post office has become a communal point over time.

"It's kind of the heart of the community," said Julie Collins, a writer and president of the Lake Minchumina Homeowner's Association. "It's where people go to meet other people."

The Lake Minchumina Post Office operates out of the airport shop building originally built by the Civil Aviation Authority, a precursor to the Federal Aviation Administration, as one of 47 field locations scattered throughout the country to support America's lend-lease efforts with the then-Soviet Union during World War II.

Although the building is still owned by the FAA, it has been used by the Postal Service for mail operations since 1988. The nearby runway made the location a convenient place to unload mail flights coming in from Fairbanks.

However, for the past decade, the two organizations have been in negotiations to transfer the building into Postal Service control.

Allen Kenitzer, an FAA spokesman in Renton, Wash., did not know what held up the negotiations.

The Postal Service finally pulled out of the deal in January, after deciding it was "not a good investment," according to Ernie Swanson, a Postal Service spokesman based in Seattle.

Swanson said he did not know the terms of the deal. Kenitzer said the Postal Service had not been paying to use the building and would not have paid to take control of the building.

The original shop building had two power generation facilities on site. When the FAA demolished one of them in 2000 it discovered widespread fuel contamination that had spread to the current post office.

Kenitzer said the easiest way to finish the cleanup effort would be to move the post office building to access the ground beneath it. However, if the FAA could not find a buyer to take the building, it would likely destroy it instead.

"Certainly we would prefer it if someone would take it," Kenitzer said.

Kenitzer said the Postal Service would not be responsible for finishing the cleanup if it took control of the building.

The Postal Service's decision to investigate possible changes to mail operations sparked concern throughout Lake Minchumina that the post office would be permanently closed or down-graded to a "no-office point," where a community designates one person to collect the mail and disseminate it from his or her home.

The Lake Minchumina post office is open several hours every weekday, and receives mail flights twice a week.

Stella Wildrick, who had been the postmaster for 15 years, retired from the position last Friday after a community-wide picnic also celebrating her husband's 70th birthday. The Postal Service has hired a temporary "officer in charge" from the community to manage Wildrick's duties.

The Postal Service recently sent a questionnaire to residents in Lake Minchumina to determine how the community uses various services offered by the post office. Swanson said the decision to close or downgrade an office is always public and involves the community.

Before closing a post office location, the Postal Service regulations require an extended public comment period and an appeal process following any decision that together could take between seven months and a year.

Unless the Postal Services decides to take over control of the building, the lease expires on Sept. 30.

Swanson said he was not aware of similar examinations at other rural post offices in Alaska.

*Once again, I am asking for articles. You will note that this issue contains two letters from Fort Liscum, circa 1920s. If old letters are something you have in your collection, how about sending me good copies for transcription? Letters are a window on the past and a great way to see life then. Please remember to send a high quality color photocopy of the cover(s) as well.*



# Also Seen on eBay

## Anvik AK 1898 Cover

U.S. Post Office 7/22/1898 with manuscript Anvik in red ink + St. Michael 8/1898. Reported by Dirk van Gelderen.



## Gold Nugget

It is rumored that it was a woman, Tagish native Kate Carmack, who first discovered gold in the Yukon 1896. Of course, at the time, only her whole husband could register the claim. Thousands of gold seekers descended on Alaska in the next few years, many of them women. They came by steamship through the Inland Passage from Seattle and walked the steep trail up and over Chilkoot Pass from Dyea or the White Pass Trail from Skagway. They came overland from Montana through Canada and up the rivers from

Nome to the interior.

They came with their husbands and they came alone. They mined the land and filed their own claims. Sometimes they took vast riches out of the ground, but just as often took only enough to keep going for the next year, or at least to the next strike.

And some of them "mined the miners," finding it easier to provide the room, board and "other services" that the men needed.

# The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, 1909

by George A. Frykman

*Editor's Note: Dr. Frykman was professor of history and assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School at Washington State University. His article was originally published in the July, 1962 issue of Pacific Northwest Quarterly.*

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, held in Seattle during the summer and early autumn of 1909, followed the precedents of a familiar American institution which had been established in 1876, when Philadelphia held its Centennial Exposition. Yet the Seattle promoters invited the whole world to enjoy a fair which they declared was different. This one, they insisted, did not commemorate the past, but celebrated instead the beginning of a new era of commercial and industrial expansion which should make Seattle the leading trading center of the Pacific rim territories. The city's heritage was accepted as a blessing, but much of the literature which poured from the presses emphasized the idea that the fair would usher in Seattle's millennium.

To be sure, one could not break loose altogether from history, nor would one wish to do so. When James J. Hill, the "empire builder", gave his address at the dedication ceremonies, on June 1, 1909, he spoke chiefly of the future conquests of the city and the region; yet he acknowledged that progress must rest upon the achievements of the pioneers and upon the American tradition of equality, justice, simplicity, and economy. But Seattle was entering upon an exciting new stage in its development. Even as the fair opened, the urban terrain was being dramatically changed by gigantic regarding projects. It is not surprising that the promoters of that day should feel themselves liberated from their pioneer limitations and their colonial dependency. With a typical western exuberance, they proclaimed that their society and their fair were different from anything that America had yet produced.

The inspiration for Seattle's first world's fair came initially from a group of Alaska's gold-rush pioneers who merely wanted to establish an Alaska exhibit in Seattle. Godfrey Chealander of Skagway, Alaska, and other leaders of the Arctic Brotherhood first publicized the project, and Chealander's employment by the federal government to collect an Alaska exhibit for Portland's Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905 gave him the opportunity to develop the idea. On July 29, 1905, the Alaska Club of Seattle approved the proposal for an Alaska exhibit.

Enthusiastic support for the scheme was immediately forthcoming from Seattle's newspapers and from the local Chamber of Commerce. In the spring of 1906, fifty Seattle businessmen formed an exposition corporation and suggested radical altera-

tions of the original plans. The exhibition was postponed from 1907, the date first selected, until 1909 to allow the proponents time to seek financial support from Congress and to avoid a conflict with the exposition at Jamestown, which had been scheduled for 1907. Perhaps the most important decision, as reported in the Seattle Times on June 1, 1906, was "to enlarge the scope of the fair to take in all the countries bordering upon the Pacific Ocean, including the islands of the sea".

The exposition corporation hoped to make Seattle the capital of a vastly expanded imperial hinterland. Since Seattleites were enjoying a major commercial victory in 1906, their objective did not seem to be a chimera. The capture of the lucrative Alaskan trade, which had sprung up with the gold rush, had paved the way for further conquests. Seattle businessmen had wrested the larger share of the Puget Sound trade from Tacoma, and they were challenging Portland for primacy in the Pacific Northwest's foreign commerce. They had not, however, been able to shrug off the competition of San Francisco for the trade of the Pacific Ocean area, although many assumed that their triumph was inevitable.

But in spite of its intoxicating exploits, Seattle remained economically dependent upon eastern financial centers. Thus business leaders looked upon the exposition as an agency for luring to the city capital for local indus-



trial and commercial development. In addition, many local financiers expected the fair to stimulate real-estate transactions and produce speculative increases in the value of their lands.

Brave testimony to a deeper conception of Washington's destiny was given by civic leaders who spoke to a crowd of 15,000 people at the exposition's ground-breaking ceremonies on June 1, 1907. Henry Alberts McLean, president of the Washington State Commission for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, asserted that the fair would mark the end of the obscurity of pioneer days, as Washington would take its "proper place among the great states of the republic..." He expected that Washington would become well known throughout the world for its climate, its economy, and its society.

John P. Hartman, president of the University of Washington's Board of Regents, voiced a similar faith in the region's future greatness, but at the same time he pointed out that materialism should not be regarded as an end in itself. It was, he declared, only a means to make possible the "higher life that has builded the church in the valley and the school-house on the hillside, and as the natural result demanded and later acquired the higher schools of learning".

Confident predictions did not conceal an insecurity which might sometimes be felt when the local community was under scrutiny. The Rev. Stephen B. L. Penrose, president of Whitman College, reported that Washingtonians regarded the fair as a means of dispelling the false notions of Easterners that the typical Westerner "is a flamboyant individual, loud in his self-assertion, arrogant, and grasping... careless of art as of the law... in fine, a crude, good-

souled, but noisy giant, with an ineffable local conceit and no sense of proportion". Not only would there be much that was beautiful at the exposition, Penrose stated, but the Pacific Northwest would be revealed as having passed beyond the frontier stage of society. The most characteristic scenes of beauty he mentioned, however, were those of unmarred nature—the virgin forests, the snowcapped peaks, and the natural watercourses. The specific evidence of a civilizing influence, he suggested, was the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic beverages on the exposition grounds.

Many Seattleites felt a pride in their heritage and a sense of patriotism which they sought to express in the exposition. Attempts to introduce historical and patriotic themes were bolstered by the knowledge the commemorative aspect had been prominent in a succession of earlier American fairs. Ever since Philadelphia's exhibition of 1876, which had marked the centennial of the nation's birth, expositions had reflected the growth of the nationalistic fervor that burned increasingly bright as memories of the sectional rancor of the Civil War faded at the end of the century.

Seattle and Pacific Northwest fully accepted the symbols of patriotism and committed themselves to the fashionable modes of commemorating American history. This was demonstrated in 1905 when Seattle's Rainier Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution began to collect funds to erect a statue of George Washington which would serve as a center for patriotic rites. Within two years other groups sought to honor Abraham Lincoln, William H. Seward, and John Jacob Astor with statues. These projects soon became linked with the exposition's plans for patriotic observance.

Unfortunately, the exposition failed to inspire a historian to produce a luminous view of Washington's past and a challenging appraisal of her future, such as that which Frederic George Young offered to Oregon before the opening of the Lewis and Clark exposition in 1905. Two historical societies, one with headquarters in Tacoma and the other in Seattle, had diligently and reverently commemorated with historical markers and anniversary celebrations the early settlement of the region, but they had seldom encouraged historical writing that was more critical than the pioneer memoir.

The financial promotion of the fair offered serious problems, but it suggested solutions already familiar to business enterprise. This was, indeed, a traditional pattern for promoting American expositions. The exposition corporation began by launching a drive to sell stock





## AYP Expo (continued)

to Seattle investors, and more than \$500,000 was obtained in a spectacular one-day subscription campaign on October 2, 1906. A later sale of bonds did not elicit the same enthusiasm and returns because it was conducted in the midst of a nationwide financial depression. Nevertheless, the local results encouraged the promoters to make the traditional appeals for assistance to the state and federal governments.

Through a series of measures passed in its 1907 session, the Washington state legislature provided for \$1,000,000 in state warrants. Much of the financial burden was thrust back upon Seattle as the sum was to be obtained through the sale of state-owned shorelands on Lake Union and Lake Washington, the expectation being that local property owners would purchase the lands.

Lobbying in the national capital was a familiar practice, whether for frontier internal improvements or for aid to an exposition. Former Governor John H. McGraw spent part of January and much of February, 1907, in Washington, D.C. assisting the state's Congressional delegation in seeking federal appropriations. Richard A. Ballinger, a Seattle politician who was then land commissioner in the General Land Office, was asked to intercede with a number of important congressmen. Most of the lobbying, including the endorsement of a proposed appropriation bill by more than 250 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, was directed by Seattle's Chamber and the exposition corporation, whose directorates were closely interlocked. Success was achieved in May, 1908, when Congress voted \$600,000 for the erection of federal buildings and for the mounting of exhibits.

A program for advertising the exposition and soliciting the exhibits was extended to all of the states, to Canada, to the Orient, and to most of the European countries. Edmond S. Meany, of the University of Washington, and seven other emissaries set out to lobby before business groups and legislatures in the forty-five states during the winter of 1906-07. Meany and Ira A. Nadeau, who visited Canada as well as the eastern United States, returned with optimistic predictions about participation, most of which, however, were not to materialize. In February, 1907, one hundred Seattle and Tacoma businessmen traveled to Or-



egon and California, where they presented their message with the homely booster techniques and fraternal spirit of the local community. They visited approximately thirty cities and towns from the Columbia River to southern California, and they too brought back many promises of participation.

Selection of the site for the exposition caused relatively little debate: ranks quickly closed behind supporters of the University of Washington campus. On June 16, 1906, a committee of prominent citizens, led by Meany, requested that the Board of Regents allow the fair to be held on a 250-acre portion of the campus, offering the persuasive argument that it would leave several buildings and improved grounds which could be utilized by the school. The advantages for the fair were readily apparent. The beautiful wooded campus was sufficiently close to downtown Seattle to permit reasonably convenient transportation. At the same time, the location of the site would allow the architects to take advantage of the breathtaking vistas of the Cascades and Olympics and of Lake Washington. One serious objection came from the extension of the fairgrounds of the prohibition of the use of alcoholic beverages on the campus. But this seemed a small price to pay for the use of the site.

The Olmstead brothers of Boston, nationally known landscape architects who had been engaged earlier by the board of Regents to plan the development of the campus, produced a landscape design worthy of the setting. Their previous proposals had evidenced eastern aesthetic and architectural values and showed a marked bias against the primitive - for example, they had stated that the widespread retention of wild fir trees was neither desirable nor practical.

The fairgrounds which the Olmstead Brothers planned paid tribute to the magnificence of the natural setting, however; the central portion of the grounds was oriented along a major axis which opened upon a vista of Mount Rainier. Secondary axes bisected the Rainier axis at forty-degree angles and provided views of Lake Union and Lake Washington. John C. Olmstead staunchly defended the fundamental plan against encroachments suggested by the chief building architect, John Galen Howard.

Olmstead had little influence over the architectural de-



signs for the buildings, however, for Howard, a California architect trained in the East, tactfully dismissed the proposal to utilize Russian designs. But Howard had nothing novel to offer; most of the buildings were of a French Renaissance design.

The Forestry Building, a massive structure of huge logs taken from Washington's forests and used in their natural state, was the most distinctive structure. The Seattle Times proclaimed it an exhibition of "Nature's storehouse, which is more striking than anything man could devise as a display of the Northwest's greatest division of natural wealth." The building, unfortunately, had few practical architectural features and provided no inspiration for the development of a school of Northwest architecture.

Curtailment of the funds for the construction program proved to be one of the most effective local influences upon the plans for the grounds. As early as November, 1906, warnings were given that funds for construction might be smaller than had been originally intended, but the designers evidently did not face this problem until a series of meetings with exposition officials in April and May, 1907, made it abundantly clear that their plans had to be reduced in magnitude and lavishness. Consequently, the number of sculpted adornments was reduced, and those that were used were placed appropriately at main entrances: buildings were decreased in size, and great masses of annual flowers were substituted for permanent shrubbery.

The enforced simplicity and reduced scale probably added to the charm of the fair, as John C. Olmstead admitted when reminiscing at a later date. The public readily accepted the design, showing little concern either for the lost statuary or for the lack of originality in style. In fact, the enthusiasm for the countless flowers, the cream-colored buildings, and the artificial cascades seemed almost as great as the pride in the natural setting.

The magnificence and charm of the locale challenged the exhibitors to provide displays which would be equally arresting and inspirational. The federal government offered extensive and impressive exhibits, although the official in charge admitted that they were smaller than those shown at some of the earlier fairs. Exhibits ranged from documentary and artifact displays of American history to shows which revealed the lives of the exotic peoples of the Philippines, Hawaii, and Alaska. Much attention was also given to the work of the reclamation service and other federal agencies which were of especial interest in the west. The education value of these exhibits was enhanced by

illustrated free lectures given by a number of experts.

New York was the only state outside of the Far West which presented a truly significant display, but California, Oregon,



Idaho, and Utah provided buildings and serious exhibits of their products. Washington's legislature of 1907 had created a state commission which was endowed with funds for "advertising" – as the commission later expressed it – the state's resources, industries, and social advances.

Washington's exhibit was created through a cooperative venture in which the state commission worked closely with the counties. The 1907 legislature had provided for a special one-half mill levy for financing county exhibits which enabled thirty-six of the thirty-eight to participate. Four counties erected their own buildings under the state commission's sponsorship. As an additional promotional scheme, the state commission also provided judging facilities and awarded ribbons which were prized by the counties.

Many exhibits were supplemented with souvenir booklets and other forms of explanatory materials in which the publicists allowed their imaginations a free reign. Not only was Washington depicted as the Garden of Eden reincarnate, but each locality, including Seattle, represented itself as that portion of the Garden which was destined to be the cynosure. California and Oregon both competed vigorously, and their brochures offered golden promises which easily matched those of Washington.

Strenuous efforts to attract the public to the serious displays did not meet with unqualified success. In a humorous story printed in the Seattle Times for July 4, "Jimmie the Office Boy", when sent by his editor to see what he wished at the exposition, wrote that he "did de big buildings of de Fair in ten minutes and den I hikes to de Pay Streak..." He found that amusement section to be "the real candy" and in elaborately illiterate prose regaled his readers with his exploits there.

The thesis that "Jimmie" probably exemplified the attitude of a host of people is supported by a complaint of the Times, made just twelve days before the closing date, that probably as many as 100,000 Seattleites had not yet seriously studied the exhibits. A more impartial critic supported the thesis of W. M. Geddes, the experienced United States commissioner to the exposition, who stated

that a great many persons among the large crowds which thronged the federal building simply wandered about aimlessly, ignoring the guides and looking only for novelties.

There were tours for adults, of course, but special attention was given to the interests of children. Guided study tours for the latter were conducted throughout the fair's season. The serious purpose was attested by the support given to the program by Henry B. Dewey, the state's superintendent of schools, who personally awarded "diplomas for exposition educational exploitation". In early October it was announced that approximately 1,000 children had earned such diplomas. Unfortunately, since Japan and Canada were the only foreign nations offering significant exhibits, the educative force of the exposition was restricted largely to local, regional, and national influences.

Much attention was focused upon designated "days" for cities, states, foreign peoples, and special interest groups. These fetes proved to be popular both with the fair promoters and with the public. For the exposition's management, they offered a successful means for increasing attendance, especially during the middle of the week, and a convenient method for extending courtesies to visiting dignitaries. For Seattleites and other visitors, they provided opportunities for reunions, for viewing the exposition, and for enjoying a variety of amusements involving contests, parades, pageants, speeches, banquets, and balls. For politicians publicists, the special days offered a stage for airing points of view and for promoting favorite schemes.

A penchant for formal and costumed fraternal activity was enthusiastically indulged. Norway Day, August 30, featured an imitation Viking vessel, manned by armor-clad warriors, and an elaborate pageant depicting Norwegian history. On Swedish Day, July 31, a crowd of 17,000 persons assembled in the amphitheater to witness the colorful ceremonies, and from a gigantic stage filled with young Swedish-American dressed in "native" costumes. Fair officials and political leaders lauded Swedish-American heroes and extravagantly complimented the local Swedes.

Special challenges were offered to the exposition management when rival cities of the region held their days. The promotional activity carried on by most visiting delegations became blatant when an estimated 10,000 Oregonians, under the leadership of Governor F. W. Benson, invaded the grounds on July 9. Tacoma Day, July 16, brought another army of 10,000 boosters who flaunted "I like Tacoma" and "You'll Like Tacoma" signs.

Seattle was equal to the occasion on Tacoma Day; it offered not merely a warm welcome, but participated in a love feast in which speakers from both cities affirmed their common objectives. Seattleites sponsored a Made-in-Washington Day on August 28 in order to ingratiate their city with its local rivals by cooperatively exhibiting their manufactured goods. It also afforded Seattle's downtown merchants a unique opportunity to advertise their own wares.

Seattle staged a fun-filled day for itself on Labor Day, when a huge crowd of 117,000 persons paid admission. The Pay Streak was jammed by evening, and the theme and spirit of Mardi Gras held sway. Ellery's Royal Italian Band gave a concert which was notable in that the attendance of 25,000 persons represented the largest outdoor crowd ever assembled in Seattle. The Post-Intelligencer described the memorable scene:

*with the lights from the buildings reflecting across the basin, and a searchlight from the top of the European building playing across the quiet water, on the grass and flowers, then on the musicians and spectators, and finally on the slim, white pillars of the Agricultural and Manufacturers buildings a veritable fairyland was revealed.*

Many of those who enjoyed such beautiful scenes came to attend conventions held in Seattle while the fair was in progress. At the end of the season, Seattle's promoters could add up a list of what was surely an unprecedented number of national and regional conventions. The national meetings held either in downtown Seattle or at the exposition grounds included those of the American Institute of Banking, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the National Council of Women, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the American Prison Association, and the National Conservation Congress.

The great attraction for these meetings undoubtedly was the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. Seattle's remote-



ness generally served as a deterrent to its acceptance as the site for holding national meetings. The National Council of Women, a militant feminist organization with international affiliation, met in Seattle in 1909 despite the fact that it had few, if any members there. On the other hand, the forty-first annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met in Seattle partly because it wished to recognize the advances Washington had made in promulgating woman suffrage.

Women's meetings, in particular, were distinguished for their consideration of some of the most advanced ideas on suffrage, social reform, and conservation. Local women's gatherings sometimes revealed a consciousness of social questions which was as keen as that exhibited in the national meetings.

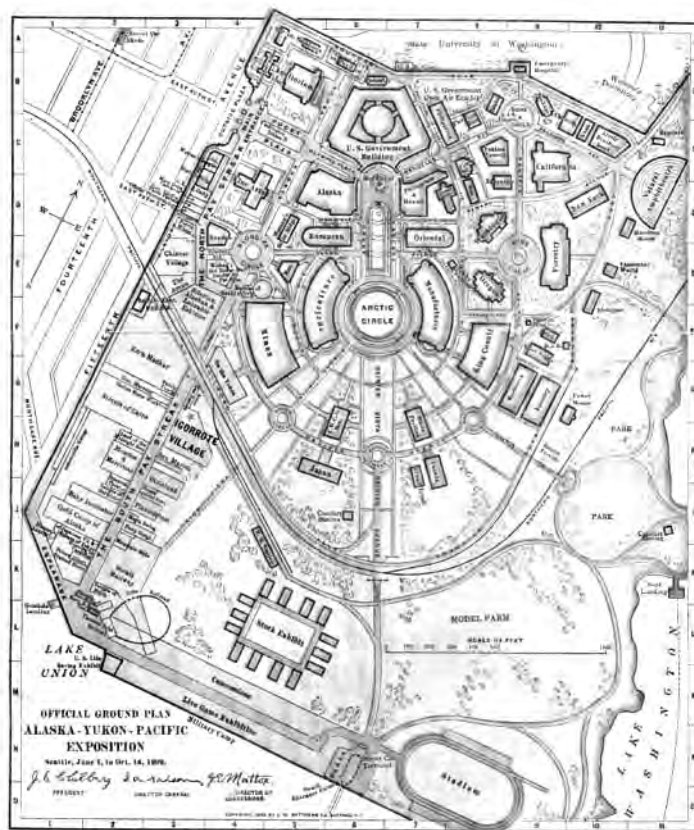
Although the president of the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs claimed that 90 per cent of the local organizations were more concerned with studying literature than with investigating social problems, their convention produced demands ranging from advocacy of more public libraries to sex education in the high schools. The Federation, moreover, demonstrated a practical "uplift" movement when it awarded scholarships for the artistic and higher education of young ladies. Judicious newspaper reporting and tacit recognition of women's rights given by exposition officials who helped to arrange the meetings suggest that the more enlightened members of the community were accepting women's new role in society.

The interest in urban planning and beauty which had been manifested in the creation of the exposition grounds was demonstrated further by a meeting of the Interstate Federated Improvement Clubs, which included 125 men and women delegates from Washington and other far western states. They discussed improvements in government, parks, and other aspects of city life. Seattle men led

a "Congress" which advocated improved roads and highways and discussed the engineering problems involved. Their concern for this type of civic improvement undoubtedly was popular with the fair's management, since their very meeting place, the Good Roads Building, had been constructed expressly to advertise the state's needs for improved communication as a means of attracting capital and industry.

Seattle's growing wealth and increased leisure had inspired a new interest in the arts and in musical perfor-

mances which prepared the way for satisfactory artistic offerings. One outside observer, who was highly critical of the amenities and of many of the fair's displays, reported that the galleries of the Fine Arts Building were excellent, though small, and that the pictures hung there were of the "highest quality". A more noteworthy critic, the eminent artist Ernest Peixotto, did not find the paintings uniformly distinguished, but wrote that "one heard enough eager groping for knowledge and enough intelligent criticism in these galleries...to wish that the more discriminating class of visitors could have been aided in their enjoyment by a careful segregation of the pictures."



Only two years before the exposition opened, Seattle had granted substantial support to its symphony orchestra: and in the midst of the exposition season, Alden J. Blethen, editor of the *Seattle Times*, wrote that his city had become "one of the musical centers of the world." He was joined by Erastus Brainerd of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, whose assertion of Seattle's musical leadership was hardly less startling in its exaggeration.

The editors were strongly influenced by the large audiences that attended the numerous concerts offered by a variety of local musical organizations. The applied the quantitative judgment of the market place and did not, apparently, recognize its inadequacy when applied to music. Blethen's highest praise was bestowed upon the con-



certs under the stars which drew great crowds of listeners; his greatest censure was reserved for those who criticized the Seattle Symphony Orchestra when it played "ragtime" as well as Beethoven.

The location of the George Washington and William H. Seward statues on the exposition grounds presented a satisfying blend of cultural achievement and demonstration of patriotic faith. Four years of solicitation and planning by Seattle's Rainier Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution had resulted in commissioning Laredo Taft to create the 14-foot figure of Washington at a cost of \$14,600. Although the ladies had hoped to finance it exclusively from Daughters of the American revolution funds, they were forced to call upon the state's commission to the exposition for an \$8,000 subvention. The unveiling thus became a public witness to faith in the past.

The speakers at the dedication ceremonies recalled the many examples of Washington's greatness which set a high standard for patriotism. When Thomas F. Kane, president of the University of Washington, accepted the statue for the University and the state, he emphasized the special inspiration it offered for future generations of students. He declared that the grantors of the statue were adding their "convictions" to his belief that "the first and basic service of the university to the state is in sending out young men and women as citizens of character, of patriotism toward the state and of established virtues." It has since been a continuing tradition for patriotic groups to rally students and townspeople at the foot of the statue on Washington's Birthday to keep fresh the memory of his patriotic example.

William H. Seward occupied a unique place in the

hearts of many of Seattle's businessmen and promoters. They supported a Chamber of Commerce project to erect a Seward statue because they accepted him as the first political leader to recognize the potential value of Alaska and as the man who had made it possible for them to reap the profits of Alaska's resources a generation after its purchase. The Seward statue, created in Paris by the American artist Richard Brooks at a cost of \$16,000, was unveiled on the exposition grounds on September 10, 1909, in a ceremony which inspired the speakers to exalt their hero to a high place in the American pantheon.

The amusement section, called the Pay Streak, offered little which had not been tried at previous fairs. Newspaper reports indicate that probably the most unusual and intriguing show of the Igorot Village, a community of Philippine Island native headhunters who wore scanty native costumes and lived in a simulated native habitat. A movement to "trouser" the Igorots was fully exploited in the press as well as by a group of civic dignitaries who inspected the village and even tried on the native breechcloths over their regular clothing. On this and other occasions, newspaper feature stories revealed a sense of amused tolerance tinged with curiosity.

A mock Battle of Gettysburg and a simulated naval engagement were additional popular attractions which purportedly had educational value. The proprietors attempted with some success to attract teachers and their students and even elicited a public comment from a Japanese admiral that the naval engagement seemed like a real battle.

A variety of shows produced exotic dancing, such as that of Princess Lola in the "Death Dance of Cleopatra", and La Belle Zamona in the "Salome Dance" in the Streets of Cairo concession. These performances probably were not very daring, since the management showed great sensitivity to criticism from the churches and sought vigilantly to exclude shows of questionable taste and moral standards.

The promoters boasted that the Pay Streak possessed the largest Ferris wheel in the world. The variety of rides included a thrilling miniature railway journey through an artificial complex of mountains, valleys, and tunnels. There was a Foolish House and a Tickler, each of which is easily recognizable as a forerunner to attractions on today's midways. A daily aeronautical show provided the newspapers with occasional feature stories.

Military spectacles, athletic events, and other contests crowded the calendar from the opening day. The exposition corporation had built a \$25,000 stadium which





held most of the larger spectator events and was more than paid for in prestige and glory with the staging of the National Amateur Athletic Union's track and field championships on August 13 and 14. The Seattle Athletic Club won the team trophy, although a team from Seattle had never before entered that meet. Seattle was proud of defeating the eastern clubs, and her press was equally proud of the financial success of the promotion.

The sports program offered a variety of spectacles from virtually every class of society. Military drill and maneuvers by cavalry, infantry, and artillery units thrilled large numbers of people. Mock battles between Indians and white settlers and soldiers were popular attractions which evoked vicarious excitement about a day that had passed.

An almost unprecedented rowdiness by hundreds of University of Washington students on Greater Washington Day, just three days before the closing, shocked the management into urging a record attendance of Seattleites on the final day and a redemption of the reputation for good behavior which, they asserted, had distinguished their fair from all of its American predecessors. The size and spirit of the crowd on closing day, October 16, fully met the hopes of the officials. The evening generated a romantic spell which was reminiscent of the last hours of the St. Louis exposition of 1904. At the final ceremonies, Exposition President Joseph E. Chilberg spoke emotionally of the sadness that comes with closing. Then, at midnight, he:

*threw a switch and in the twinkling the fairy city... was wiped from the map of Seattle. An instant after the president had pressed the electric button, a bomb burst high above the banked multitude. In the darkness absolute quiet reigned, save for the soft whisper of the wind in the giant firs which tower back of the amphitheater.*

*Silvery clear, intensifying the solemn loneliness of the night, a bugle sounded taps. Sadly and sweetly the crystal notes swelled and diminished. Quiet fell. The crowd sat immovable.*

Ellery's band began to play "Auld Lang Syne", and the 20,000 people became a great chorus as they took up the words. This strongly moving scene dissolved at the end of the song when "a wild straggling cheer, full of good will, pride of achievement, and congratulation, marked the end."

The chorus of self-congratulation swelled as Seattle-



ites reflected upon the economic gains which would be theirs when Easterners, Southerners, and Middle Westerners began to move to Washington, bringing their wealth with them. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer claimed that 3,740,561 persons had passed through the gates in the 138-day season. The official paid admission, however, totaled only 2,765,683, which placed Seattle above the Portland fair, but far below those held by Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and Buffalo. The sanguine estimate by the Seattle Times that "at least" 125,000 visitors had come from the East and the Middle West suggests in retrospect that the fair was largely regional in its influence.

Seattle waited in vain for the anticipated influx of people. Census reports showed only an estimated 5,000 population increase per year between 1909 and outbreak of World War I in 1914, with only a thousand new jobs being created in that time. The city was experiencing a slackening of the pace of economic development which affected the entire region from 1910 until the war's demands changed the local economy.

Seattle's hope of stimulating the further development of Alaska was frustrated as that frontier's attributes were less attractive to prospective investors and settlers than were those of many places in the states. The ambition to develop better trade relations with other Pacific rim countries was also thwarted, since, with the exception of Japan, they did not even participate in the fair. There is no evidence of a significant increase in trade with the Orient in the years immediately following the exposition.

Satisfaction on the cultural expectations, which for many Seattleites were as great as the economic hopes, was limited by financial realities and other mundane considerations. The expensive and impressive fisheries exhibit, which had been great admired during the fair, was dismantled when the Board of Regents of the University decided that it did not have the authority to remodel the exhibit building. The thirty-six county exhibits apparently were quickly dissipated, but some of the state exhibits were transferred to the University for educational purposes.

Frank P. Allen, Jr., director of works for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, expressed the highest expectation of Seattleites when he advocated that the entire fairgrounds should be retained as a part of the city park system, catering to the needs of a growing urban population. The Seattle Chamber of Commerce and local improvement clubs showed considerable interest in this idea, which was in accord with Seattle's history of park development. Akin to this ambition was the hope of music and art enthusiasts that the inspiration of the exposition might lead to the building of art museum and to the granting of increased support to the symphony orchestra and other musical endeavors.

The increase in the number of buildings occupied by the University of Washington and expansion of the campus proper were the most spectacular of the consequences of

the exposition. Through a series of agreements, the Board of Regents commandeered the three permanent buildings and more than twenty of the temporary structures. Hailed as a magnificent gesture on behalf of culture and formal education, these agreements actually represented a considerable measure of opportunism and niggardliness. The need for a carefully planned program of campus construction was urgent, but the fair's largess lined the campus with temporary structures which retarded planned development.

The three permanent buildings erected by the state at a cost of \$600,000 were remodeled and equipped for university use for the sum of \$88,617 and, fortunately, served the educational purpose very well. The temporary structures that were retained and revamped hardly justified the claim that the University of Washington had been given property worth more than \$1,600,000. They were expensive to adapt and constantly presented maintenance problems, and the passing years brought serious deterioration.

The landscaping of the grounds which were now added to the campus proper had been a monumental task, and the value to the university was probably far greater than the \$381,000 spent by the exposition authorities. It had removed the wilderness and opened new vistas and possibilities for a radically new set of university installations. The actual creation of a worthy campus, however, awaited a new era of construction.

The conservative urban middle-class management had created an exposition which, while not truly international, had met most of the standards of the traditional American world's fair. Its corporation, indeed, had achieved a goal which has remained almost unmatched in American exposition history by returning a modest profit and paying a 4 per cent dividend to the stock holders. Thanks to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Seattle enjoyed a season of stimulating enterprise and gay entertainment. The realization of the major economic goals was not to come as quickly as had been hoped. Yet the community was aroused to action, and significant public improvements were brought about. Surely the exposition deserved to live long in memory.

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3. *University of Washington Digital Archives*

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# The President's Speech at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

*Speech of President William H. Taft at the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition*

ADDRESS AT THE ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION, SEATTLE, WASH.

September 29, 1909

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Citizens of Seattle, of Washington, and of the Pacific Coast:

"This great Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was the objective point on my trip to the West, and I am glad to have arrived here after two weeks' travel from the old Bay State. As I look about me at this wonderful exhibition of the progress of the Northwest, of Alaska, and the Pacific Coast, I feel a great pride in having urged upon the proper Congressional committee, with all the emphasis of which I was capable, the importance and the utility of the enterprise. And it is gratifying to know that under the administration of Seattle men the Exposition has been a great success both in arousing world-wide interest in the growth of the Far Northwest and in showing a profit over the immense outlay needed in its construction and maintenance.

"When I first planned my visit to Seattle, I had included with it a trip to Alaska in order that I might by a personal investigation make myself better acquainted with the character of that great territory and with the best method of securing its development. I greatly regret that the time consumed by Congress in the consideration of the tariff bill prevented my carrying out the part of the plan embraced in a visit to this most interesting territory.

"One of Mr. Seward's substantial claims to the gratitude of his countrymen and to a place among the statesmen of his country was the broad view which he took of the value of Alaska and his wisdom in effecting its purchase. The cession of Virginia and the ordinance of 1787, which gave to the nation the Middle West, the purchase by Jefferson of Louisiana Territory, which carried our domain to the Rocky Mountains, the annexation of Texas, and the treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo, which extended our territory to the Pacific Coast, were properly supplemented by the acquisition of Alaska, and this Exposition may well be regarded as a celebration of the foresight of Seward in his policy of expansion.

"It would seem that the wealth of Alaska in minerals, in fish, in furs, and even in agriculture, was still but inadequately known, and yet its value from a mere money standpoint to the nation, as shown by the wealth which has



been extracted from it, exceeds by many fold the cost of it to the Government of the United States. A review of the history of the territory will show that Congress has been very slow to extend to it a proper form of government.

"Alaska is a country of immense expanse, and the governmental needs of the southeastern portion near to Washington and the Northwest are quite different from those of Nome and the Seward Peninsula and of the valley of the Yukon. Such a territory has need of local legislation and local government, which can only be understood by those who are on the ground, and it is utterly impossible and impractical for Congress in its legislation to govern the details by legislation required for the best development of the territory.

"There has been no authority in the territory having an adequate jurisdiction to meet the exigencies of such a young but potentially prosperous territory.

"It has been proposed that Congress should give to Alaska the regular form of territorial government under which a legislature and a Governor might be elected, and between the two they might be given the powers ordinarily given to the legislature and executive of regularly organized territories. I think this would be a great mistake, because I don't think that the territory has



## President's Speech (continued)

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a population of sufficient number or sufficient stability and permanence of residence to warrant the delegation to a locally elected legislature of such authority. Many of the places in Alaska, where there is a considerable population, are nothing but mining camps, with all the migratory and temporary features of such settlements. More than that, the population is so small, as compared with the vast expanse of the territory, that it would be unwise to provide that a comparatively small population in southeastern Alaska should elect representatives and legislate for the enormous territory reaching from British Columbia clear to the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean.

"Local self-government or home rule, in a country so large as Alaska, with a scattered nomadic population, intense local and sectional feeling, should not be given serious consideration until the population and developed resources of the country have increased to such an extent as to warrant the division of the territory into more limited areas, where the inhabitants of each would have an opportunity to become acquainted, and where there would be some degree of similarity of interests. Before such an experiment, an earnest effort should be made to secure larger percentage of permanent residents and endeavor to attach some of the population to the soil.

"My own judgment is that the only way properly to develop Alaska for the benefit of everybody in it, is to bring the Territory under the management of one bureau and department in Washington, so that all the officials in the Government shall have to report to one head, and so also that the interests of the entire Territory shall be centered in one responsible bureau chief in Washington, whose business it shall be through his Department chief to present to Congress the needs of the Territory, to follow legislation, and to attend to everything at the National Capital in which the people of the Territory are interested. It is not necessary that the delegate shall be dispensed with, but an executive office, with records, with information and constantly active, can greatly contribute to the welfare of a territory for which it is responsible when located at the National Capital, and when understood to have the proper authority and responsibility.

"Certain general laws, like the mining laws, the forestry laws, the customs laws and the land laws should be passed by Congress and perhaps executed by national officers, but this would leave a wide domain for domestic legislation which it seems to me ought to be entrusted to some local authority on the ground and having a knowledge of local needs. Of course if the Territory were so settled with a permanent population more or less

equally distributed through its extent, such legislative power might be entrusted to an elected legislature, but for the reasons I have given, it seems to me that it would much wiser to entrust this local legislative power to a commission of five or more members, appointed by the President, to act with the Governor in the discharge of such legislative functions. It seems wise not to confer legislative functions on the Governor alone, but to assist him in its exercise by the addition of competent persons who will live in the Territory, familiarize themselves with its local needs and bring to the attention of Congress and the Executive such additional legislation as may from time to time be wise.

"It will be observed that this is practically the government which was given to the Philippine Islands, although the Commission there had more legislative authority than it would be wise or necessary to give to the Alaskan Commission. Objection will be made on the ground that this is treating the people of Alaska, who are generally free-born American citizens, as if the Territory were a dependency of persons unfit to exercise the power of self-government. I can not deny that the conditions in Alaska are such as in my judgment to prevent the extension of local self-government safely to that Territory. It is not because of the character of the people if they were permanent residents and sufficient in number and sufficiently distributed to warrant the establishment of a representative government. But the conditions that exist are such as to put them for the time being in a position justifying a similar treatment to that of the Philippines. Indeed it would be a great deal better government than at present, because it would be vesting power in a local authority familiar with local needs, and to-day no such power exists. In other words, it would be a great advance over the present conditions. I don't know that Congress will agree with me in this view, but a personal experience in the practical operation of such a system of government for the benefit of the territory governed leads me to feel justified in making such a recommendation. The territory will develop much more rapidly and the boon of self-government will come much more quickly under such a system than as the government is being carried on at present.

"The future of Alaska is big with prosperity and great productiveness, but it needs intelligent legislation to develop it quickly and in the right way; and I know no better method of securing such a result than by a properly constituted Commission. There is an opportunity for Congress to aid in the construction of certain railroads



## President's Speech (continued)

that will largely develop the territory, and which private enterprise is not able or willing to undertake unless it receives some sort of guaranty from the Government. That I would unhesitatingly recommend, because Alaska is a territory in which private capital can not be expected to build the first railroads.

"I am especially interested in Alaska because her development has been delayed by a lack of appropriate legislation and because I know something of the needs of a land so far distant. Of course the lawmaking power of the Commission should be subject to the approval of the head of the department at Washington responsible for the government of Alaska, just as is provided now by the law governing the Philippines.

"Since I last visited the Coast, I am glad to say that the Philippines have had extended to them in the matter of a tariff law a measure of justice, which ought to have been adopted nine years ago. If it had been adopted, the city of Seattle, the city of San Francisco, and the whole Pacific Coast would have profited by its enactment. Free trade with the Philippines has now established between the Islands and this country will develop an exchange of business between the two countries which will be greatly to the advantage of both. Trade in the Philippines has long had one trend, and it will take some time, perhaps two or three years, to effect a change, even now that the law is passed; but a familiarity with the situation in the Islands makes me confident that the Pacific Coast will come to value more and more highly the trade from the Philippines which will fall to it. There are many industries

in the Philippines the products of which will sell well in the United States now that the tariff is lifted from them, and with similar relief from burden in entering the Philippines, American manufactures will have a far wider sale in those distant islands on the Pacific.

"The Panama Canal will be completed on or before the first of January, 1915, and with its completion the trade between the Eastern and Western coasts of this country will be revolutionized, for the carriage of heavy bulk merchandise between the Pacific and the Atlantic Coast is almost certain to be by water. This will reduce the transcontinental business to the carriage of the more valuable classes of merchandise, which can profitably pay a higher rate of transportation. More than this, it will change the avenues of international trade, will bring the eastern coast of America closely in touch with the western coast of South America, and will greatly facilitate the direct transportation from the west coast of America to European ports.

"China is waking up. She is approaching a period of development that can not but increase her trade and augment her importance as customer and as a trader with this country, while Japan and all the other Oriental countries are moving onward with giant steps in the commercial competition of the world. The many prophecies that have been made that in the next half century the commercial progress of the world is to be seen more decidedly in the Pacific than anywhere else are certainly well founded; and under those conditions it behooves us as Americans interested in pushing her trade into every quarter of the globe to take steps to repair a condition that exists in respect to our merchant marine that is humiliating to our national pride and most burdensome to us in competition with other nations in obtaining international trade.

"We maintain a protective tariff to encourage our manufacturing, farming, and mining industries at home and within our jurisdiction, but when we assume to enter into competition upon the high seas in trade between international ports, our jurisdiction to control that trade so far as the vessels of other nations are concerned, of course ceases, and the question which we have to meet is now with the greater wages that we pay, with the more stringent laws we enact for the protection of our sailors, and with the protective system making a difference in the price between the necessities to be used in the maintenance of a merchant marine, we shall enable that merchant marine to compete with the marine of the rest of the world.

"This is not the only question either, for it will be found on an examination of the methods pursued in



## President's Speech (continued)

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other countries with respect to their merchant marines, that there is now extended by way of subsidies by the various governments to their respective ships, upward of \$35,000,000, and this offers another means by which in the competition the American merchant ship is driven out of business and finds it utterly impossible to bid against its foreign competitors. Not only this but so inadequate is the American merchant marine to-day that in seeking auxiliary ships with which to make our navy an instrument of offense or defense, or indeed in sending it around the world as a fleet, we have to call on vessels sailing under a foreign flag to carry the coal and to supply the other needs of such a journey. Were we compelled to go into a war to-day, our merchant marine lacks altogether a sufficient tonnage of auxiliary unarmed ships absolutely necessary to the proper operation of the navy, and were a war to come on we should have to purchase such vessels from foreign countries, and this might under the laws governing neutrals be most difficult.

"The trade between the eastern ports of the United States and South America is a most valuable trade, and now equals something like \$250,000,000; but European nations, appreciating the growing character of this trade, have by subsidies and other means of encouragement so increased the sailings of large and well-equipped vessels from Europe to the ports of South America as visibly to affect the proportion of trade which is coming to the United States by the very limited service of a direct character between New York and South American ports.

"I need not tell you of the inadequacy of the American shipping marine on the Pacific Coast and the growing power for commercial purposes in this regard of the Empire of Japan. Japan is one of the most active and generous countries in the matter of subsidies to its merchant marine that we have, and the effect is only too visible in an examination of the statistics.

"For this reason, it seems to me that there is no subject to which Congress can better devote its attention in the coming session than the passage of a bill which shall encourage our merchant marine in such a way as to establish American lines directly between New York and eastern ports and South American ports, and between our Pacific Coast ports and the Orient and the Philippines. We earn a profit from our foreign mails of from \$6,000,000 to \$8,000,000 a year. The application of that amount would be quite sufficient to put on a satisfactory basis two or three Oriental lines and several lines from the

East to South America. Of course, we are familiar with the argument that this would be contributing to private companies out of the treasury of the United States; but we are contributing in various ways on similar principles in effect, both by our protective tariff law, by our river and harbor bills, and by our reclamation service. We are not putting money in the pockets of ship owners, but we are giving them money with which they can compete for a reasonable profit only with the merchant marine of the world.

"From my observation I think the country is ready now to try such a law and to witness its effect in a comparatively small way upon the foreign trade of the United States. If it is successful, experience will show how the policy can best be expanded and enlarged and the American commercial flag be made to wave upon the seas as it did before our Civil War. It is true that our foreign trade is great and increasing, and this without the merchant marine, but it is also true that the ownership of a merchant marine greatly enhances the opportunities for the merchants of the country having such a merchant marine. This is shown by consular reports and a reference to statistics in an indisputable way.

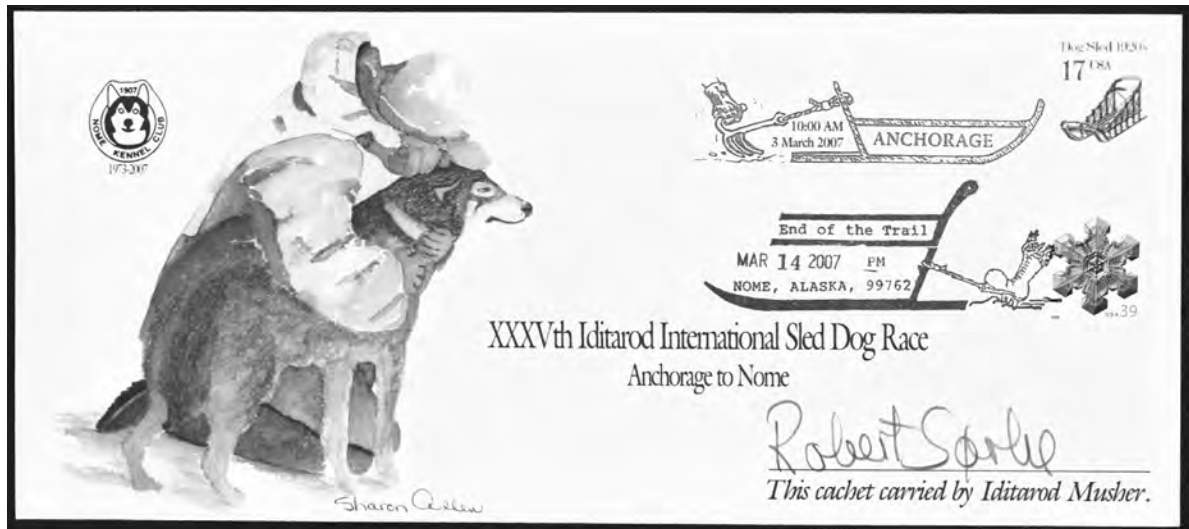
"There is no part of the country more interested in the development of this policy than Seattle, Washington and the whole Pacific Coast. With the enormous energy and potential force that you have developed in your community here for trade and business expansion, it cannot have escaped the foresight of your business captains that the development of a merchant marine means the growth of Seattle into a port of such importance that hardly the lively imagination of her ambitious citizens can compass."

### Postscript:

*Taft, William H. (1857-1930) 27th President of the U.S. (1909-13) and 10th Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1921-30). Secretary of War (1904-8) and a close adviser to President Theodore Roosevelt, he ran as Roosevelt's successor in 1908 and defeated William Jennings Bryan. Taft continued many of Roosevelt's policies, but his steadfast conservatism antagonized the progressive elements in his party. Taft's relations with Roosevelt deteriorated and in 1912 Taft ran for reelection against his former mentor. The Republican vote split and Democrat Woodrow Wilson was elected. Appointed Chief Justice by President Harding (1921), Taft's main contribution to the Court was in his administrative efficiency.*

# Iditarod XXXV

by David Schwantes



There we were, standing in the cold near the burlwood arch on Front Street in Nome. Over a thousand other Iditarod and dog mushing fans and myself, waiting to see history in the making. After what seemed like an hour, we saw the police lights, indicating a musher had moved up onto the street from the Bearing Sea. For the first time in Alaskan history, the same musher was going to win both one thousand mile plus dog races, the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod, in the same year. AND, we were there to witness it!

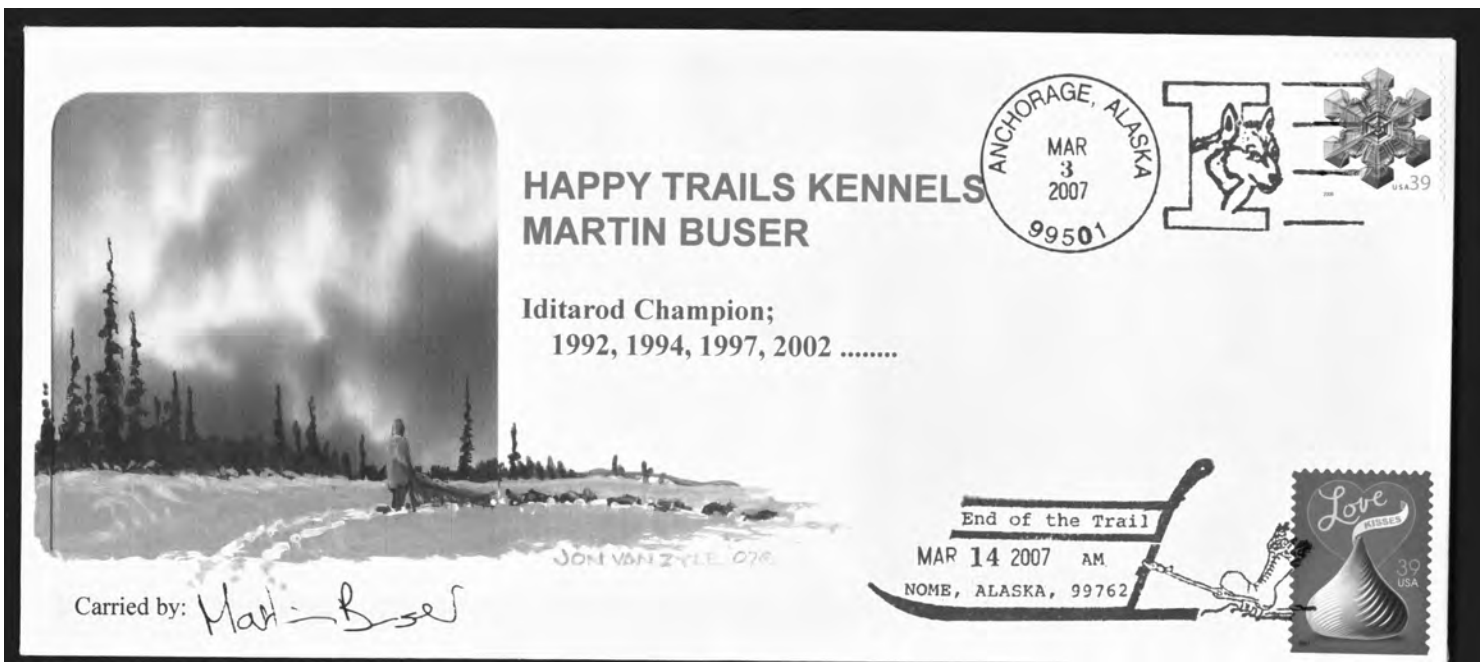
The thirty-fifth running of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race began on March 3, 2007 on Fourth Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska. Eighty-two mushers began the 1100 mile race to Nome. The Anchorage start is always just ceremonial, and each team carried an Idit-a-rider. However, the excitement was great and the dogs were noisy.

All the talk at the beginning of the race was about "The

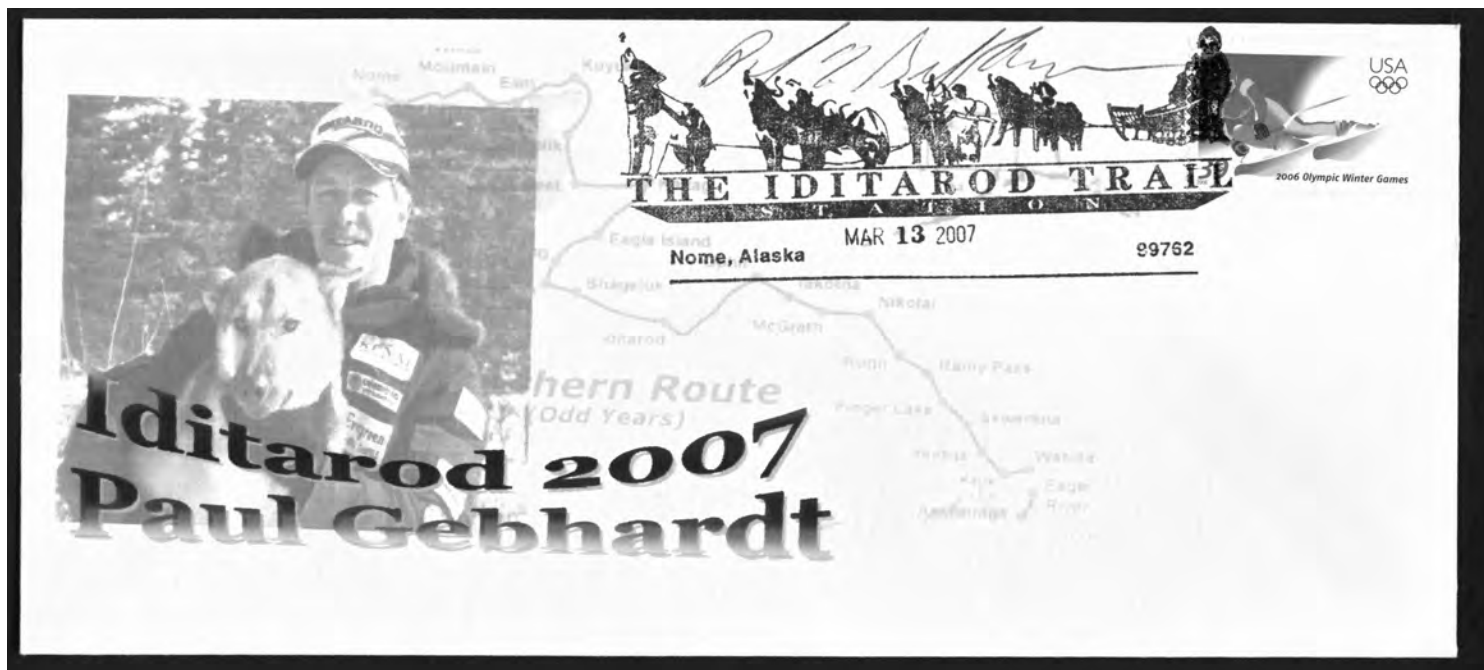
Gang of Four", Jeff King, Martin Buser, Doug Swingley, and Robert Sorlie. Among them, they had won fourteen of the last fifteen races. Things changed very soon. On the second day, Swingley scratched because of back and rib injuries, and Sorlie fell behind early in the race. Lack of snow on the first part of the trail caused injuries and scratches. Then came the wind storms, the glare ice, and the frozen tussocks.

By day seven, there was another "Gang of Four", at the front of the race, all within an hour of each other at Unalakleet. This gang included King and Buser, but also included Paul Gebhardt, and Lance Mackey. Paul had finished third in the 2006 race, and Lance had just won the other long distance race, the Yukon Quest, for the third year in a row. The race from Unalakleet to Nome saw the lead change hands a couple of times, and an unexpected musher move up into third place.

But, it was a magical race for Lance Mackey. Everyone







said it couldn't be done, winning both long-distance races in the same year. But Lance Mackey proved them wrong. The stars were definitely aligned for Lance and his family. First of all, Lance was wearing Bib #13, the same number his father and brother wore when they won their races in 1978 and 1983. Second, each of the three Mackeys won the race on their sixth attempt. Lance won the race on March 13th, and his son finished 13th in the Junior Iditarod a few weeks earlier. Thirteen of the dogs from his Yukon Quest team were a part of his Iditarod team, and eight of them finished. Mackey arrived in Nome at 8:08 pm with a winning time of 9-days, 5-hours, 8-minutes, and 41-seconds. Dog mushing history had been recorded.

Twenty-three teams scratched from this year's race, one team was disqualified and fifty-eight crossed under the burlled arch on Front Street in Nome. Paul Gebhardt finished second,

and Zack Steer finished third, having passed Buser and King near the end. Buser was fourth and King rounded out the top five.

There was mail carried over the trail again this year. The Official Trail Mail, sponsored by the Nome Kennel Club is shown in figure 1. This year, the mail changed from an envelope to a post card, but remained the same size. The cover shown was carried by 2003 and 2005 winner Robert Sorlie of Norway, and was designed by Sharon Allen. Figure 2 shows Martin Buser's Happy Trails Kennels cover. This is his eighth cover, all designed by Jon Van Zyle. Paul Gebhardt's 2007 cover is shown in Figure 3. It shows Paul and one of his lead dogs, and the map of the Southern Route. The thirty-fifth cover in my set is shown in Figure 4. It was designed by the late Bill Devine, and was carried by Aaron Burmeister from Nenana.

Four-time winner Susan Butcher, who passed away in August 2006, was the Honorary Musher for the 2007 race.



# Secretary-Treasurer's Report

by Eric Knapp

Well summer is here, the weather is good and I am running late again. Sorry. I can blame part of it on my annual bout of hay fever, but it has been more of a case of me being lazy. It has been a good spring to be lazy.

Today is June 21st, the longest day of the year and it has been close to 80 degrees here. We also have several forest fires burning around the state. But the outdoor activities are great. Summer in Alaska. There is nothing quite like it.

Things club wise have gone well. Jim Zuelow and his wife were in Anchorage for grandchildren's graduations and had some time to visit the local Anchorage club. It was a good evening of fellowship and stamping.

I am planning on attending Stampshow in Portland in August. If anyone else is going to be there, let me know and we can see about meeting up.

We have a new member since the last issue. Please join me in welcoming our new member.

#693

Chic McQueeney

29 Applewood Ln.

Avon, CT 06001-4503

*Interests: Territorial Era, Statehood Era, APO's, Postcards and DPOs*

*Until next time, happy collecting!*

## Gold Nuggets

### *Pioneering Tourism*

The first cruise ships to carry sight-seeing passengers as well as cargo along the Inside Passage were lavishly fitted Pacific Coast Steamship vessels. The S.S. Idaho took the initial batch of tourists to view Glacier bay in 1883, and other paddle wheelers like the S.S. Ancon followed in her wake; within a year, there were 1,650 people cruising up here.

### *Chilkoot Trail History*

The Chilkoot Trail, which spans 33 miles from Dyea, just north of Skagway over the pass to Lake Bennett, British Columbia, was one of the established routes taken by prospectors during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98. Thousands of stampedeers climbed the tortuous trail over Chilkoot Pass that winter. Those who made it built boats to float down the Yukon River to Dawson City.

Today, the steep and rocky Chilkoot Trail is part of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is

climbed each year by about 3,000 backpackers.

The trail begins approximately nine miles from Skagway on Dyea Road. There are a dozen campgrounds along the trail and ranger stations on both the Alaskan and British Columbian portions of the trail.

The trail crosses the international border at at 3,525 foot Chilkoot Pass, 16.5 miles from the trailhead. Highlights of the area include Slide Cemetery near the remains of the town of Dyea; the Golden Stairs, a 45° climb to the summit; and numerous relics left by prospectors still visible along the trail.

The trail ends at Bennett, eight miles from nearest roadway, so you best be prepared to "Hoof it out" if you decide to make this one your vacations spots.

### *Global Warming?*

The highest recorded temperature in Alaska was noted at Fort Yukon: 100°F on June 27, 1915. Not to be outdone, -80°F was recorded at Prospect Creek Camp on January 23, 1971.