

Nation's Capital Awaiting Three Congress Members From Alaska

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington — The nation's capital is awaiting the arrival of three newly elected members of Congress from whom there are no seats—two "senators" and one "representative" from Alaska.



All three were duly elected by Alaskans in their October general election. Two of them are now wading their way down the Alcan highway toward the Pacific Northwest in a trip that is to be celebrated enroute at Seattle, Portland, Sacramento and many state capitals and prominent cities enroute to Washington, D.C. The third member will join his colleagues in Seattle when they are due there Monday or Tuesday.

In the new Alaskan congressional delegation are "Senators" Ernest N. Gruening, governor of the territory from 1939 through 1952, and William A. Egan, who was president of the Alaska Constitutional convention which met at Fairbanks a year ago; and "Representatives" Ralph Rivers, former attorney general of Alaska. They are all Democrats.

White Automobiles
Driving white automobiles especially inscribed "Alaska The 49th State?" the three men and their wives will transit the country from Seattle to Washington via the state capitols of all the states which successfully used this same political stratagem in their fights for statehood—Oregon, California, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan and Tennessee. In each case, not many months after these states elected congressional delegations and dispatched them to Washington to lobby for statehood, bills were passed to admit them to the Union.

and manage their own affairs of state.

Statehood Bills
Statehood bills have been introduced in Congress since 1916, but only in the last decade has the statehood drive had any real chance of success. On different occasions, both House and Senate have passed bills to admit both Alaska and Hawaii—but one tactic or another by the opponents of the idea has successfully prevented a statehood bill from ever reaching the president's desk.

President Truman was the first chief executive to endorse statehood for both territories. President Eisenhower has asked for Hawaiian statehood, but his opposition to Alaskan statehood in the past four years has resulted in a blockade in Congress against approval of either territory.

Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton recently claimed that the administration will present Congress with an Alaskan statehood bill which the president will approve if passed—so Alaskans are reaching a new zenith of optimism that this may be their year.

Case for Statehood
To make the case for statehood as strong as possible, Alaskans drafted and ratified a constitution during the past year. Their overwhelming approval of it in the spring primary put to rest all arguments that may be Alaska didn't really want statehood.

Population of the territory now approximates that of Nevada, about 210,000, and is growing at the fastest rate in the U.S. "Son" Gruening, author of the recent book "The State of Alaska," believes it is Alaska's destiny to be developed just as completely as Scandinavia because of the similarity in climate, topography and resources. Scandinavia has a population of some 18 million.

Most potent opposition to statehood comes from Seattle based interests, mainly fishing and shipping, who benefit from what Gruening calls "colonial treatment" of Alaska.

Intractable Congress
The only intractable opposition in Congress comes from the Southern Democrats, with only

several exceptions, who as a bloc fear the loss of power in the Senate that four new senators would bring. Their main concern is being out-voted on motions to stop a filibuster, a move which now takes a vote of 64 senators out of 96.

Generally, a majority of northern Democrats and Republicans has favored statehood for both territories—but the opposition on military grounds of the president threw most Republicans against Alaska the past several years. Democrats retaliated by blocking Hawaii, which was then considered a Republican territory.

But in the recent election, both territories went Democratic in the main, both electing Democrats as their non-voting delegates to Congress and installing a majority of Democrats in their territorial legislatures. Whether this will cool the ardor of the GOP for Hawaii, and make Democrats more attracted to it, remains to be seen.

Uncertain Factor
One other uncertain factor now is that the Senate Internal Security committee has just concluded hearings in Honolulu in a search for Communist activities in the Island. Chairman Eastland of Mississippi, a foe of statehood, concluded by saying the committee had turned up evidence of a "conspiracy to further Soviet purposes on these islands."

The evidence pertained to witnesses who are officials or members of Harry Bridges' International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, which was tossed out of the CIO on charges of being Communist-dominated. Statehood opponents frequently argue that it would not be sound policy to admit Hawaii because of the control the ILWU exerts over the island economy by virtue of being able to tie up shipping. Statehood backers say the best way to diminish the union's power would be to give Hawaii the authority of statehood.

New York's Commerce Department in 1955 played a part in locating nine firms in the state with 3,490 potential jobs and annual payrolls totaling an estimated \$11,275,000.

Is That So?

Want to discover, describe and add a brand-new Latin name to the zoological list of mammals? It's not as impossible as you might think.

In the past 50 years, eight animals from Africa have been "discovered" and added to the scientifically-known list. Most unusual, seven of these were

large animals, including an antelope, the pygmy and hippopotamus, the giant forest hog, the



king cheetah, and the Cottontail race of white rhinoceros, which, after the elephant, is the largest mammal in all Africa. And not to be overlooked, the beautiful Okapi, standing as high as a quarterbred horse.

Who knows, but from any one of the continents a new mammal may be found: there are accounts of a tiger cat in Australia; a snowman in Asia; a boar in Africa; a giant sloth in South America.

About the abominable Snowman, his footprints have been photographed. Most are agreed that he is dark-skinned, with long shaggy hair, giant-sized, and capable of making terrifying roars. A few say he is ape-like; others, more bear-like.

Or if you prefer South America, it is possible that an 18-foot giant sloth weighing some tons may still be roaming the wilds of little-explored Patagonia. Well-preserved remains of this creature have been found.

And in South America, with many huge tracts of jungle still unexplored, there may be other beasts. Gold prospectors in the great Matto Grosso jungles have reported footprints in soft sand

which resembled those of a man, but 21 inches long. (Don't smile; remember those eight mammals found in Africa during the past 50 years, including very large ones.)

Giant Kangaroo
If Australia is your dish, reports from the westland claim there is a giant species of kangaroo in existence. From North Queensland, come reports of a large tiger cat. Aborigines are not at all uncertain about its description: as big as a dog, face round like a cat, long tail, body striped from the ribs under the belly with yellow and black.

Or Africa. Judging from many scattered reports, it is quite likely that a great bear merely

awaits the final capture. Natives call it the chui. Inset, whites the Nandi bear. Fossil remains of recent origin have been found.

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Grange

Phoenix Grange met Tuesday eve, Dec. 11.

Preceding the regular meeting, the newly-elected officers of Phoenix, Roxy Ann and Griffin Creek Granges were installed by Jackson Co. Pomona installing team.

State Overseer William Howes was the installing officer, and state steward, Roscoe Roberts, acted as marshal.

Following installation Dee Hendrickson, the newly installed master, declared a short recess, after which he called regular Grange meeting to order.

All business except the most urgent was dispensed with.

The charter was draped in memory of Sister Dorothy Loffer. During the brief memorial service Vaughn Quackenbush sang "Abide With Me."

HEC chairman, Velma Johnson announced the next HEC meeting would be at the home of Mrs. Frank Perl and would be a covered dish dinner and gift exchange, Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Master Hendrickson announced the names of those appointed to serve on the various committees, and requested all officers and committee members to be present at an officers meeting Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Grange hall. He said any interested members would be welcome.

Reference Book on Taxes Available

Portland—Copies of a reference book, "Your Federal Income Tax," are available from the Portland office of the U.S. department of commerce.

The 1956 edition has expanded the subject matter of previous issues and contains more examples and illustrations to help the taxpayer. It gives information as to who should file, proper form to use, the advantages and disadvantages of joint returns, personal and dependent exemptions.

The booklet is available for 30 cents from the department of commerce, 217 Pioneer post office building, Portland.

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