Number of Important Steps Remain To Make Alaska Union's 49th State

Governor Must Call Election on Several Issues

Washington —(UPI)— The formal admission of Alaska as the 49th state of the Union is not expected until December.

Congressional approval of statehood for the territory did not automatically make it a state. A number of other important steps must be taken.

President Eisenhower must first sign the congressional act into law. It is certain that he will do so.

Then he must notify Alaska's governor, Mike Stepovich, of his action.

Election of Officers

Stepovich will make the issue, no later than Aug. 1, a proclamation calling for an election of a new group of state officers and of the state's first two U.S. senators and its single House member.

The election will be held under terms of a "statehood" constitution which Alaskans ratified April 24, 1956.

Alaskans must also vote on whether to accept statehood. They are virtually certain to accept it, but some opposition does exist in the territory.

Vote on Boundaries

The referendum on this question is expected to be held either during Alaska's primary in early fall or its general election. The general election must be held by Dec. 1.

In the referendum, Alaskans will not vote merely on the statehood issue itself. They must also accept the boundaries set up in the congressional act and recognize the reservations of certain powers being retained by the federal government, including authority to withdraw large sections of the land for federal military purposes.

Rejection of these or other points would kill statehood.

Following the election and referendum, the governor certifies the results to the President.

Only then can Eisenhower issue his official proclamation making Alaska the 49th state.

Tornadic Winds Batter Midwest

By United Press International

Tornadic winds ripped the Northern Plains and upper Midwest Monday and Monday night, tearing down utility lines and causing extensive property damage.

At least one tornado swirled from the severe rain and hail storms, touching down in a wooded area near Spirit in Northern Wisconsin. No injuries were reported.

The storms were blamed on a mass of cool air which overran a heat wave that saw temperatures climb into the 90s yesterday as far north as Redwoon, Minn.

Authorities at Rhinelander, Wis., said tornadic force winds caused extensive damage at nearby Lake Tomahawk and knocked out power and communications.

Earlier, the combined assault of high winds and heavy rains smashed buildings near Parshall, N.D., and Wadena, Minn. Lightning set fire to a home at Abercrombie on the eastern border of North Dakota.

Alaska Not Always Highly Regarded; Land Rich in Adventure, Wealth

By DOC QUIGG
United Press Internaitnoal

Texas will have to move over.

It's only half as big as Alaska. The 586,400 square miles of spectacular scenery that make up Alaska represent territory one-fifth the size of continental United States.

Americans didn't always regard Alaska as highly as they do now. When Secretary of State William H. Seward paid Russia $7,200,000 for Alaska 92 years ago, people called it "Seward's folly." But $7,200,000 wouldn't have paid for the soft coal that was mined in Alaska last year.

Personal Experiences

And as for tall tales—well, there are 300 bound volumes of personal experiences of the gold rush days alone.

"The men who toil for gold" rambled over the tundra, panning "them cricks" at the turn of the century and left a legacy and historic fact that gave Alaska international fame.

"The Arctic trails hold their secret tales that would make your blood run cold," wrote Robert W. Service. But in truth, these tales began to sprout from the day back in 1741 when the first white men —they were Russians—reached Alaska.

Vitus Bering Dies

The voyage of discovery was a harrowing thing of shipwreck and scurvy. The commander, Vitus Bering, died. His men endured terrible hardships, plundered and slaughtered the natives and started the legend of adventure in Alaska.

Those that survived returned home with fine sea-otter skins, and the first Alaskan rush began. Fur traders—the Russian "promyshleniki" who were sort of an early-day version of our own sourdoughs — invaded the Aleutians, the fog-bound, desolate islands that hook scythe-like toward the Orient.

It was the beginning of a 130-year Russian stay in North America. They found in Alaska a fur-rich wilderness of mountains, fjords, magnificent glaciers, centuries-old ice fields, and game in primeval forests.

The remarkable thing about Alaska is that it is still pioneer country in many respects. Bear, mountain sheep, caribou, and moose still roam. Transportation overland is so precarious that the airplane is the main link of scattered small outposts. The name Alaska is a corruption of a native word meaning "the great country." But the phrase that occurs in travel folder and book is "America's last frontier."

The feeling of men who have come under Alaska's spell are deep and strong. Former Gov. Ernest Gruening once put it this way:

The Last Frontier

"Here is the bright land of the summer's midnight sun and of winter's gold, blue, green and scarlet borealis lights. Here is the heart of the unique totem pole culture. Here is the last frontier. Here alone under our flag is it possible to step back into American history and live again the elsewhere departed days of the pioneers."

Alaska is the place where names run from Kotzebue to Ketchikan to Skagway and Ugashik and yet blend easily with such apt English as Hardscrabble Creek and the Valley of 10,000 Smokes. It was in this valley, in 1912, that there occurred one of the great volcanic eruptions in recorded history. The Stump of Katmai, the mountain that blew its entire top off, is now a tourist attraction.

Boasts Highest Point

Besides possessing the world's largest chain of volcanoes, Alaska boasts the highest point in North America—where the Alaska range vaults up 20,300 feet from sea level to the summit of Mt. McKinley.

The freebooting Russian promyshleniki, plundering for fur in the cold grasses of the Aleutians in the mid-1700s, bundling themselves against the fierce wind-blasts of the williwaws, had little time to contemplate its geographic grandeur.

In the reign of Catherine II, merchants organized the fur trade. In 1784 Grigori Shelikhov founded the first permanent Alaskan settlement on Kodiak Island. In 1799, Alexander Baranov launched Sitka as his capital city where later, from a "castle," he ruled the Russian fur monopoly activities.

[illegible]

Capt. James Cook and other maritime explorers visited the region. By the mid-1800s, the Russians were withdrawing and Alaska entered a period of decline. It was due almost entirely to the energetic efforts of Secretary of State William H. Seward that the U.S. acquired the territory in 1867.

"Seward's folly" or "Seward's icebox" lingered as derisive terms even after Alaska developed fortunes in gold and fish. The army had charge of the territory for a decade; then the Navy took over. Hudson's Bay Co., which explored the Yukon. Late in the century, Alaska was given a governor; in 1906 it got a representative in Congress—but it had no local government until 1912.

[illegible]

Gold was discovered in the Juneau region in 1880. But it was George Washington Carmack who put Alaska on the world map with a bang by a peculiar twist—he wandered across the Eastern Alaskan border into Canada's Yukon territory.

Carmack, a prospector, fisherman, and fur trader, married an Indian girl and "went Siwash," living with the tribe. One day late in July, 1896, he and his wife's two brothers, Skookum Jim and Tagish Charley, struck it rich on Rabbit creek, which flowed into the Canadian Klondike river.

"The Klondike Strike" was what loosed a flood of gold-seekers all over Alaska and brought on the wild, lawless, flavorful days. The news of the Klondike ran down to Sixty Mile and Forty Mile camps But it didn't hit front pages around the globe until the next year. It reached the U.S. in June, 1897.

[illegible]

Within a month, thousands were underway. Most of them went through Alaska. The weak perished. The hardships of the trail left the dead to be eaten by dogs.

They struck it in the Tanana Valley and at Fairbanks in 1902.

The miners and prospectors—sourdoughs all—took over Alaska. It was the era of rough and tough camps, fly by night operations, faces on barroom floors, ladies known as shady. It was the era of Jack London, Rex Beach, romantic and lawless, although there was a criminal code applied in 1899.

The term sourdough denotes an old-timer in Alaska today. It comes from the prospectors' usage of flour and water fermented without yeast to make bread and flapjacks. A sourdough's opposite number is a cheechako, a term from Chinook meaning "new arrival."

With gold fever subsiding by the early 20th century, mining passed into the hands of Eastern capitalists. Opposition to large interests became an issue in Alaska and got into U.S. politics in the 1912 election. Fishing began to rise steadily as a big industry.

Camps Cover Land

In World War II, Alaska was dotted with camps and bases. The Japanese took territory in the Aleutians in 1942 and were driven out the next year in bloody fighting. Today, the big territory is sprinkled with defense posts, warning stations, communications networks.

The population, including the Eskimos, who live simply in the northern tundras, is estimated at 214,000. Nearly one-fourth of this is military personnel. Fifty-five miles across the Bering Strait lies Siberia.

The Alaska population density is about one person per four square miles, compared with 57 persons for every single square mile in the U.S. About three persons live in the country to every one city dweller—compared with the U.S. ratio of roughly two city to one rural resident. Its birth rate is higher, its death rate lower, than that of any state.

The "last frontier" is straining to grow, to tap the riches of its earth. With statehood, will there be in the making still another Alaskan boom?

Alaska's New Star To Cost Firm $2,000

Detroit —(UPI)— Alaska's new star will cost the J. L. Hudson Co.—owners of the world's largest flag—about $2,000.

A company spokesman said it would cost that much to reshuffle the stars on the $7,000 flag. The 1,800-pound flag, which is raised across the front of the firm's main store—is 104 feet high and 235 feet long. Each star is 5½ feet high.

"We're not in a hurry to add the 49th star," a spokesman explained. "We've got a grace period since it's only flown on Flag Day, June 14, and next year that's on a Sunday, so it won't be up."

"And before it's time to unfurl the flag we might have an answer on Hawaii, too."

Alaska Border Extends U.S. Within 2.4 Miles of Russia

Washington —(UPI)— With the admission of Alaska the United States will have a state at Russia's back doorstep. Little Diomede, an Alaskan island, is within eyesight of Big Diomede, owned by Russia. The distance between them is only 2.4 miles.

Alaska has been seeking statehood for 42 years. The first statehood bill was introduced in Congress in 1916. It got nowhere, but Alaskans and their friends kept trying. The Alaskan Legislature designated the "forget-me-not" as the territorial flower.

The federal government is going to have to work out a lot of minor problems with a 49th state on its hands. There is that long-discussed matter of where to add the 49th star to the flag, for one thing. Another is changing hundreds of tabulating machines and large numbers of government forms to show Alaska as a state instead of a territory. And what about the Lincoln Memorial which has the 48 states listed around its sides?

Alaska's population in 1950 was 128,643. Its estimated population now is about 200,000. Between 1940 and 1950, its population increased by 77 per cent, while the population of the continental United States increased by only 14 per cent. Alaska's per cent of growth exceeds that of every state except Nevada, which it equals.

Anchorage, the largest city, has 32,000 residents; Fairbanks, the second largest, about 16,000. Juneau, the capital, and Ketchikan in the southeast both have fewer than 10,000 inhabitants.

Alaska will be good hunting for girls looking for husbands. There are 16 males to every 10 females and nearly three-quarters of the women there are already married. In the continental United States, women slightly exceed men in numbers, and only two-thirds of the women are married.

If you think of Alaska as a perpetual icebox, you are mistaken. True, temperatures in the winter range down to 70 degrees below zero. But in the summer the mercury climbs in many places to 90 degrees above.

Fairbanks department stores do a booming summer business in bathing suits.

Winter in Anchorage, bathed by breezes from the warm Japanese current, are no more severe than those in Kansas, the Dakotas and Nebraska. Three-fourths of Alaska is in the north temperature zone.

Alaska is a hunter's paradise. Deer, moose, caribou, bear, reindeer, mountain sheep, mountain goat, elk, bison, muskrat, otter, mink, snowshoe rabbits and other animals are plentiful. So are waterfowl and small game birds. On Nunivak Island is found one of the world's largest herds of musk ox.

The United States paid $7,200,000 when it bought Alaska from Russia 88 years ago. Here's an indication of how good an investment it was: In the past 60 years total commerce between the United States and Alaska has been estimated to exceed 60 billion.

49th Star Presents Problem

Washington —(UPI)— Alaska's victory in its long fight to win statehood turns attention to the problem of what to do about that 49th star in the American flag.

The imminent prospect of another state has brought out the Betsy Ross in a lot of people.

A little-known cubbyhole with the impressive title of Heraldic Branch, office of the Quartermaster General, has been flooded with suggestions on how to make room for a 49th star in the traditional blue field.

There is still time for everyone to get in his ideas. The 49-star flag won't go into official use until July 4, 1969.

Some volunteer designers suggest seven rows of seven stars each.

Then there are fancier variations with the 49 stars arranged in the form of bigger stars, pin-wheels, crosses, eagles and other motifs. Altogether 400 suggestions have been offered. The Heraldic Office says that at the moment no one has any authority to say what the new design shall be.

Court Records

DISTRICT COURT

Clinton R. Phillips, overload, $10.
James A. Evans, failure to yield right of way, $15.
Dennis G. Hegler, driving while license is suspended, $55.
Jesse Oxt, overwidth, $15.
Donald R. Benfield, overwidth, $10.
James A. Brown, overload, $141.
Herbert E. Jones, failure to stop, $10.
Dale Harris, overwidth, $10.
Nolen C. Vaughn, truck speeding, $15.
Christine P. Flagg, defective warning device, $10.
David L. Burns, no operator's license, $10.
James D. Velentin, failure to stop, $15.
Joe B. Vigil, no chauffeur's license, $10.
Thelma B. Mitchell, angling without a license, $30.
Jean C. Mitchell, angling without al icense, $30.
Bessie E. Lynch, failure to stop, $10.
Turner J. Mitchell, overload, $485.
Stephen S. Parrish, improper dealer license, $10.
Delbert Pugh, failure to stop, $10.
Willie R. Taber, failure to stop, $10.

CIRCUIT COURT

Irma M. Parr vs. Roy B. Parr, divorce complaint.
Joan E. Decker vs. Richard Alan Decker, divorce complaint.
Frances Walker McGinty vs. Hugh Glenn McGinty, divorce complaint.

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