

Alaska Prepares Coming Out Party As Statehood Nears

By MARTIN HEERWALD UPI Correspondent
Juneau, Alaska —(UPI)— Statehood is to Alaska what a coming out party is to a beautiful debutante.

Suddenly, the tomboy of the far north has become the belle of the ball, and if she wasn't so gosh-darned big, the rush of popularity would sweep her right out of her mukluks.

A record number of travelers visited Alaska during the past summer, and they could not help but say "wow!" when they took a gander at her raw, rugged beauty and considered her incomparable dowry.

The territorial capital here, which will be the state capital when admission day is proclaimed in January, has a problem keeping up with the fan mail. Chambers of commerce at Anchorage and Fairbanks likewise are swamped.

Mail from Children
Much of the mail comes from school children. Don Bullock, assistant to the governor, suggests that "geography teachers have rediscovered Alaska as a bright, new subject for term papers."

Other inquiries come from potential investors, large and small, and a lot of letters are from job seekers or prospective homesteaders who expect Alaska to work miracles for them.

Alaskans are happy to have you come looking for a job or land, and they figure they can help you, but they warn: "Come with enough cash to take you back where you came from if you don't like it here or can't find what you're looking for."

Bullock says some folks who want to come looking should first get a general idea

of where Alaska's 586,400 square miles are located. One letter which recently caught up with him was addressed to Dawson, Yukon Territory, Alaska. The writer didn't know that Dawson and the Yukon belong to Canada.

When it comes to what Alaska has to offer, no state has ever joined the union with such an untapped treasure chest.

Valuable Deposits
There are billions of tons of high grade iron ore near Haines in the Alaska panhandle. Ralph Brown, an economic consultant at Anchorage, says this mountain of magnetite has a potential value "estimated to be worth more than the national debt."

Another huge iron ore deposit has been explored on Prince of Wales Island where there are good uranium prospects as well.

Alaska also claims it has near Seldovia the largest chromite deposit under the U. S. flag. The Japanese are busy testing the extensive Bering River coal fields near Cordova for what they hope will be an economical source of cooking coal. And oil exploration already has turned up three producing wells with excellent signs of many more to follow.

Potential Power
In fact, there isn't much you can't find in Alaska if it's mineral or metal. And surveys show the big north county has a potential hydroelectric power capacity equal to nearly two-thirds of the total for the entire nation.

But very little of Alaska's natural wealth is easy to get out. Most of it is locked securely in the earth, long and expensive distances from



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Hints for Making Cookies Given

Here are a few hints that will make your Christmas cookie baking a lot easier.

First of all, prepared mixes are only slightly more expensive than "starting from scratch," but are great time-savers!

Fancy, thin cookies tend to lose their shapes in transferring them from cutting board to baking sheet so, roll the dough directly on a greased and lightly floured cookie sheet, cut desired shapes, and remove surplus.

If you wish to hang decorative cookies on the tree, press a small navy bean into the top of the cookie for a loop-hole; remove after baking.

Colored bead candies will adhere effectively to cookie surfaces if you brush rolled-out cookies with a pastry brush dipped sparingly in cold water.

To flatten drop cookies, cover bottom of glass with damp white cloth, and use to press down cookies.

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