

Alaska Highway, Stretching for 1,100 Miles, Carved Through Wild Country

Anchorage, Alaska—A twisting ribbon of gravel more than 1,100 miles long stretches across the northern tip of British Columbia. It winds through the lower portion of the Yukon Territory until it reaches Alaska.

Once inside the boundary of the 49th state the road is paved to Fairbanks and Anchorage.

That narrow ribbon-known as the Alaska highway-is the only land route to major Alaska cities. It is 20 years old.

Built at a cost of about \$120 million, the highway connects Dawson Creek in British Columbia and Fairbanks in Cen-

tral Alaska. It was carved from the wilderness after only eight months and 11 days.

Opened in 1942

The complete 1,630-mile stretch was officially opened with a brief ceremony at Klunac Lake, milepost 1,054, on Nov. 20, 1942. As part of a fast-paced wartime construction project, scores of Army engineers joined forces to build a road many thought was still at best a dream.

Seven engineer regiments under the command of Brig. Gen. Clarence Sturdevant worked on the project until it was completed.

For his direction, Sturdevant, who was then Asst. Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, became known as "The Alcan Genius."

There have been many descriptions of the highway through the years. When it was completed, dignitaries called it "America's Burma Road." For some time travelers called it the "Alcan." Now it is properly called the Alaska highway. But there are other less endearing descriptions.

An anonymous poet described the highway like this: "Winding in and winding out

Has made me wonder what the lout Was doing when he built this road Going to Hell or coming out?"

Milepost "0" of the highway stands at Dawson Creek, but the distance between the two nearest major American cities on the land route, Seattle, Wash., and Anchorage, is 2,570 miles.

Precautions Taken

The precautions taken by Canadian customs officials of Alaska-bound motorists at tests to the Alaska highway's ruggedness. Drivers of cars more than

10 years old regarded in poor condition must post a bond guaranteeing their passage over the Canadian section of the road. Motorists are advised to carry extra water, gasoline and a good spare tire or two. Some drivers shield the gas tanks of their cars with cardboard to protect against three days worth of flying rocks.

There are hundreds of curves, ruts and potholes. Wooden bridges span madly rushing streams or dry, rock-strewn creekbeds. It depends on the time of year.

In the winter months the travel is replaced by a smooth cover of hard-packed snow

and sometimes by a treacherous cover of shiny glare ice. The best time to travel the road is between mid-June and late September when maintenance crews have repaired the ravages of winter freezes and spring thaws. But regardless of the time of year, the highway stretches through some of the most scenic country in North America.

But for all its beauty and all its privations, the Alaska Highway is still only the threshold for the nation's largest state with its vivid contrasts of unsurveyed wilderness and modern cities. It is an exciting highway to thousands of tourists and a road of destiny for many emigrants to the nation's north-land.

Illinois Is Host To Canadian Geese

Springfield (UPI)—The director of the Illinois department of conservation says more Canadian geese are wintering in Southern Illinois this year than in 1962.

Approximately 100,000 were counted during the annual winter waterfowl survey, an increase of 37,000 over last year.

Livestock Claimed Costly to Forests

Chicago (UPI)—The Illinois Forest Industries committee says livestock grazing is considered by many experts even more destructive to Illinois forests than fire.

The animals not only eat up tomorrow's timber crop but damage the larger trees, thereby lowering the quality of the logs, the committee said.

Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor, and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

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Ervin T. — She has every household appliance and she's still tired.

Lucy T. — You can't care for three small children with electrical gadgets.

Ervin T. — If my wife gets so exhausted that she must greet me with a long face every evening, I'd like to know what's wrong. My mother had six kids, did her own washing, cooked her own baby foods, and still managed to be merry and smiling most of the time. But Lucy is always on the verge of collapse, despite the fact that she has an electric washer, dryer, dishwasher, vacuum cleaner, freezer, air-conditioner, stove, and even a hair-dryer! I'd even buy electric tooth brushes if I thought that would help.

It's bad enough that she has no pep for me. What's worse, though, is that she pushes the kids away when they want her to play with them.

Lucy T. — No matter how many push buttons Ervin hands me, there isn't one that can take care of three lively babies. Our children are 4, 2, and 7 months. I know the few times I've left Ervin to take care of them by himself, as when I've gone to the city to shop, he isn't exactly a model of composure when I get home, either! To do the job right you have to be in three places at once doing six things in each place — like putting a fresh diaper on the baby, while keeping the big fellow out of the neighbor's lily pond.

Ervin should be glad to find the house and children in good shape each day. As for me, he shouldn't expect me to be in shape for the Bossa Nova, exactly.

The Council: When asked to name the one factor which can make or break the well-being of a family, a prominent physician cited "young mother's fatigue." When the lady of the house lets herself get overtired, nobody's happy, everybody suffers.

Efficiency experts who have studied fatigue find that it is often related to boredom, as well as poor work methods. The happy farmer who whistles while he works just keeps rolling along, without backache, because he's enchanted with how sturdy the asparagus is coming up. But the sardine-packer, watching the clock and looking out the window, is exhausted from the first coffee-break on.

So we suspect that it's the "sameness" of each day that's taking much of the starch out of Lucy. And also it's her short-sightedness in not budgeting her time to allow rest periods for herself, come hell or high water or hast for supper.

Our suggestions: A useful refrain for Lucy would be, "Is this really necessary?" With it she will eliminate many non-essentials such as white shoes, ironing, baking, impulse shopping. During the children's naptime, she'll lie down, or at least use a half-hour for a "change," for relaxing via TV, reading, music. Before Ervin gets home, she'll try for a once-over with comb and lipstick. Evenings, well one evening a week anyway, she'll follow a Lucy-pursuit by taking a course, or attending a concert, or joining her girl friends for a restaurant dinner. And she'll get the 4-year-old's name on the waiting list for a good nursery school or kindergarten.

As for Ervin, we ask him to be kind and mindful of all the solid work that's behind Lucy's limpness. That's love in them that fills Ervin, as Khalil Gibran puts it, "Work is love made visible." Help her, though, to hoard her energy and to add to her zest via an extra-curricular interest. You yourself, Ervin, can do much to make her "so nice to come home to."

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Sausage, Oysters Are Feast Day Fare

Chicago (UPI)—Peppery sausages with fresh raw oyster "chasers" are traditional for the Feast of St. Blaise in the French and Spanish Pyrenees, says the American Meat Institute.

The February holiday is named for an early-century bishop who was said to have had the power to heal throat ailments and other diseases.

SOFT WATER

Chicago (UPI)—Sales of water softener equipment for home use totaled 288,237 units in 1962, representing an increase of nearly 10 per cent over 1961 volume, the Water Conditioning foundation reports.