

# Alaska May Be State Soon, But Whatever Happens Area Is Important Defense Post

By CLIFF CERNICK  
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Written For UPI  
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UPI)—In this age of rapidly developing missiles and attack techniques, Alaska's role as an advanced outpost of continental defense has never been more important. What's more, it soon may be our forty-ninth state.



Release of 20 million dollars in Federal funds to start construction of a ballistic missile early warning station near Nenana in the interior of Alaska highlights the strategic importance of this vast, far northern territory. Because of the territory's importance in the nation's global defense picture, Alaska's military leaders have never made a secret of their strategic mission, which is:

—To provide early warning of an air attack.  
—To intercept and destroy enemy bombers seeking to fly over Alaska on the way toward targets in Canada and the United States.  
—To strike immediate counterblows using strategic air command planes from Alaska bases. The importance of Alaskan bases for use in this global strategy, as contrasted with NATO bases, is accentuated by the fact that Alaska is American territory. Alaska has six major military installations. Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage is the headquarters for the Unified Alaskan command under Lt. Gen. Frank Armstrong. The other large bases are Ladd and Eielson near Fairbanks; Fort Richardson near Anchorage; Fort Greely Arctic training post about 90 miles from Fairbanks and a Naval base on Kodiak Island.

The development of missile weapons has heightened Alaska's role in the global defense picture because of its proximity to the Eurasian land mass. Range will always be an important factor in warfare and it is cheaper to send an aircraft or missile 500 miles than 5,000 miles. Economically, Alaska has paid for itself many times over since the United States purchased it from Czarist Russia in 1867. Mining, fishing, and the timber and fur industries all flourish.

In 1956, the territory's natural resources produced approximately \$161,848,000 worth of raw materials. No complete figures are available for 1957, but economists expect the figure to remain about the same. The biggest economic news in Alaska during the past year, however, has been the possibility of developing oil fields. A total of 20 million acres already has been leased or covered by offers to lease out of a possible 84 million acres believed favorable for petroleum development.

**ROBBED**  
CHICAGO (AP)—Don Parker, 34, a deaf mute of Denton, Neb., came to Chicago with \$775 to buy an auto. Parker told police in a written complaint Friday night he started drinking with five new acquaintances. After a few drinks he reported they took him to a South Side room and robbed him of all his money, including \$300 he had in his socks.

**WILCHER**  
George W. Wilcher, 80, a native of Springfield, Missouri and a resident of this city, died here June 21. He is survived by seven sons, George Wilcher, Edward Wilcher, C. H. Wilcher, Alva Wilcher, all of Klamath Falls, John Wilcher of Redding, Irvin Wilcher and Ivan Wilcher of Coos Bay, two daughters, Mrs. Clarence Lewis and Mrs. Earl Sherrier of Case Junction. Also 27 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. O'Hair's Memorial Chapel is in charge of the funeral arrangements.

**HOLIDAY**  
ST. LOUIS (AP)—McDonnell Aircraft Corp. will start observing United Nations Day as a paid holiday this year, and company executives hope the idea will spread throughout the world. "We believe it is appropriate that all the people of this planet take one day off each year to celebrate the birthday of the United Nations," said J. S. McDonnell, president of the firm. U. N. Day, Oct. 24, has been made a seventh paid holiday in contracts covering 15,000 union employees of the firm, which manufactures military airplanes and missiles.

**BILLED**  
BANKAKEE (AP)—Unable to start his disabled motorboat, a Klamath Falls businessman was kept over a dam to his bath yesterday as witnesses watched helplessly. The body of Robert H. Just Sr., 60, was found about a half-mile downstream from the dam about 10 hours later. The man was in the middle of the main channel of the Klamath River when the motor stalled.

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**ROSEMARY RAYMOND, 14**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Raymond, 1413 Avalon Street, has entered the Junior Rodeo Queen contest, tryouts for which will be held this afternoon at the fairgrounds. A student at Klamath Union High School, Rosemary is a member of the Junior Broncs 4-H Riding Club. She has been riding for eight years and will take part in the tryouts astride Simone, the chestnut sorrel horse she trained herself.

## KF Publisher Wins Honor At Meeting

CORVALLIS (AP)—Frank Jenkins, veteran publisher of the Klamath Falls Herald and News and president of Southern Oregon Newspapers at Roseburg and Klamath Falls, was given the 1958 Amos E. Voorhies award Friday at a publishers' conference here. High praise was given Jenkins as Alton F. Baker, publisher of the Eugene Register-Guard, presented the award at the dinner meeting of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assn.

Baker, who won the same award in 1955, referred to Jenkins as the "one-man industrial committee for Southern Oregon." He paid tribute to Jenkins' contributions in promoting techniques of newspaper production. The award is named for the president of the G. S. Pass Courier Publishing Co. Newsmen from all parts of the state attending the 71st annual meeting of the ONPA will return home after Saturday's concluding session.

**DAY CAMP**  
The first session of the Camp Fire Girls day camp at Moore Park will be extended to Monday, June 23. This will be a makeup for the session canceled by the rain on June 19. The second week session will begin on June 24 as scheduled.

## Farmers Vote, Lightly, To Maintain Wheat Curbs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Farmers voted Friday for the sixth straight year to keep a somewhat ineffective federal clamp on wheat production. A referendum held in 38 commercial producing states resulted in 165,868 votes for controls on the 1959 wheat crop and 32,342 votes against curbs. This was a majority of 83.7 per cent, far more than the necessary two-thirds. Unofficial returns showed the program was approved in Oregon 1,492-218, in Washington 2,855-1,251 and in Idaho 3,434-803.

The outcome was no surprise to farm officials and leaders even though the program has been under attack on the ground it has failed to prevent the accumulation of what may turn out this year to be the largest wheat surplus on record. The alternative — freedom to produce at much lower prices — was generally looked upon as even less inviting. The program imposes marketing quotas on individual farms and assesses penalties on excess sales. It is designed to limit sales to the production on 55 million acres, which is about 30 per cent less than the postwar peak.

But increasing yields per acre, reflecting better crop practices, have largely offset reductions in plantings. Furthermore, present law does not permit any further reduction in total acreage allotted under the program. Influencing the referendum's outcome was the fact that the 1959 crop would be supported at an average of about \$1.81 a bushel if quotas were approved and at about \$1.29 if they were rejected. This may well be the last referendum on wheat quotas as they now stand. The Eisenhower administration has recommended changes that would grant farmers more freedom to produce if they accepted somewhat lower price supports. The administration contends markets would take much more if prices were lower. Critics disagree with the administration proposal but they, too, have been casting about for a more effective method of stabilizing supplies and prices. Congress may act before the time comes to vote on quotas on the 1960 crop.

## Fremont Forest Summer Work In Full Swing Now

LAKEVIEW — Summer work is again in full swing on the Fremont National Forest with summer crews starting work during the past week at the various work centers, according to Clayton Weaver, supervisor.

District Ranger Henry McCormick of the Thomas Creek District now has a 12-man crew stationed at the newly completed Thomas Creek Work Center on Shoestring Creek. Verle Cook of New Pine Creek is foreman of the crew. Donald Wilson of Portland has assumed duties as Shoestring lookout for the summer. John Wood, Lakeview, is the Dairy Creek fireman, and Raymond Cox, Lakeview, is the Lakeview fireman. On the Warner Ranger District Ranger Clyde Peacock reports the opening of the work camp on the Warner Highway near Camas Prairie. The camp was moved last fall from Vernon Springs and set up on the new site. Ed Kudrna is the foreman of a 12-man crew at this camp. As yet none of the lookout stations on the Warner District have been manned, but they will be shortly. Mrs. Glen Turner of Lakeview will be the Drakes Peak lookout; Ken Peartross, Oklahoma, will be on Abert Rim, and Gerald Lilli, Michigan, will man Crane Mountain. Bill Overton, Lakeview, is the Lakeview fireman for the Warner District.

On the Drews Valley District a 15-man timber stand improvement crew began work under foreman John Saunders, Malin, on June 11. Ray Van Meter of Malin is the lookout on Dog Mountain; Ralph Turner of Portland is on Strawberry Lookout; Joe Russell of Bend on Fitzwater Lookout; Roy Honstadt, Lakeview, on Cougar Peak; Eugene Snell, Lakeview, will be in charge of the State Line fire crew, and Roche Allard, Lakeview, will be the fireman at Dog Lake.

Work crew members on these and other districts on the Fremont Forest are for the most part college students who will work for the summer season and return to school in the fall. Ranger Don Allen on the Drews Valley District reports students from West Virginia, Kansas, Iowa, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Last season the Drews Valley District had a number of foreign students working at the Dog Lake Work Center. Two of these men, Winston Loh and Kheng Song, both of Singapore, Malaya, have returned to the Fremont Forest for the summer and will be employed on engineering work. Both of these men have been students at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma.

## Lake Street Work Starts

LAKEVIEW—Excavation of designated Lakeview streets preparatory to grading, curbing and paving planned for this summer was started by a crew of four men and dirt moving equipment. The project includes about one-half mile of F Street South, under State Highway contract, and about one mile of town street under town contract. The two projects will take from six weeks to two months.

A bid submitted jointly by Russell Olson Construction Company of Pendleton and Bechtel Brothers of La Grande in the amount of \$82,364 for the town portion of the work had previously been accepted. The Russell Olson Company also holds the state highway portion of the contract with Lakeview sharing costs. Curt Denmark is foreman on the job for Bechtel Brothers who are doing the excavation, grading and curbing on both jobs, and the paving will then be done by the Pendleton company.

**FUNERALS**  
**CALDER**  
Funeral services for Charles E. Calder, 64, who died in this city June 19, will be held in O'Hair's Memorial Chapel Monday, June 23, at 2 p.m. The Rev. Bob Greene officiating. Interment will be made in Klamath Memorial Park.

**OPERATION**  
**BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP)**—A 700-pound lioness, Delilah, appeared to be recovering Saturday after a caesarean operation which saved her life but not that of the cub delivered. The operation, rare in the annals of lion captivity, was performed Thursday at Miller Park Zoo where Delilah is caged. Officials decided upon operation after prolonged labor brought the five-year-old lioness to a critical condition.

**STRIKERS FIGHT**  
**L. Y. ALLPUB, West Pakistan (AP)**—Police opened fire on striking textile workers today. Informed sources said 16 persons were killed and 20 injured. Police claimed there were 5 dead and 7 injured. The police reportedly began shooting after they arrested the union president and the workers tried to free him. The strikers stoned the police, wounding two officers.

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## City Worker Suffers Burns

ROY L. TIDWELL, 35, Wocus, KUHS librarian and a summer employee of the city recreation department, was admitted to Klamath Valley Hospital for observation Friday morning after he was burned about the face and arms in a propane gas explosion at Gem Stadium.

Tidwell and two co-workers had called the city fire department some minutes before the explosion when they first smelled escaping gas. The department immediately dispatched two trucks to the stadium and advised the South Suburban Fire Department, which sent three more. While the trucks were on the way, the three men found the point where the gas line was broken. Tidwell was searching for the valve to shut off the gas at the tank when the gas exploded, blowing him from one room to another of the building housing the tank. Cause of the explosion was unknown, but there was speculation that it was set off by a pilot light in the structure located at some distance from the break. One of Tidwell's fellow workers kept the resulting fire to a minimum by playing the stream of a garden hose on the building. When firemen came they shut off the tank and quickly extinguished the blaze.

**WANTS AMERICAS' UNION**  
**RIO DE JANEIRO (UPI)**—President Juscelino Kubitschek has called on the United States to launch a new "Marshall Plan" to cure Latin America's "economic anemia." In a radio speech Friday, Kubitschek declared also that "a union of the Americas is essential for our survival," but did not indicate just what sort of union he meant.

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**JUDY SUTHERLAND, 17**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Capellen, Sprague River, is another candidate for Senior Queen of the Klamath Basin Rodeo. Tryouts will be held this afternoon at the fairgrounds. Judy is a graduate of Bonanza High School and has been riding for 10 years. Her horse is named Tarzan.

**DOCTOR DIES**  
**BALTIMORE (AP)**—Dr. Maurice Chidekel, a rabbi at 16, a doctor for 50 years and the author of 15 books, died yesterday.

## Medical Care Hearings Set

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—Public hearings will be held next week by a legislative interim committee in Los Angeles on the controversial \$29,000,000 medical care program, enacted by the 1957 Legislature.

Committee Chairman Sen. John A. Murdy (R-Newport Beach) said Friday "we should have plenty of testimony on the alleged inequities in the program" at the Los Angeles hearing. The California Medical Association previously approved the principles on which the program was established, which include recipients' free choice of physician, fee for service, and allowing the individual doctor to decide for himself whether or not to accept the patients. C.M.A. now contends that the program's administration causes unnecessary and unreasonable dictatorial control of both patient and physician, Murdy said.

**WARNING**  
**BARNESLEY, England (AP)**—Labor Party leader Hugh Gaitskill Saturday warned against sending American and British troops into Lebanon. "We cannot have another Suez," he said.

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