

It's a grand new flag, but—



THIS IS FLAG DAY, usually a time of pride and profit for the makers of our nation's banners. But this year, it's also a day of bewilderment. The admission of Alaska as our 49th state left many producers with an unsalable inventory of 48-star flags. Only the surge of orders for new flags to be displayed officially on July 4th brightened the industry picture. Plants, such as Annin & Co. and Abacrome Co., shown here, launched crash programs.

Then along came Hawaii. Another state, another star, another flag design. And another inventory of obsolete flags. A Chicago flag maker sighed, "We're not doing anything until we know what happens next!"

Maybe a better solution is the one devised by a Richmond, Va., firm. "We're switching over to Confederate flags," the owner said. "That design hasn't changed in almost a hundred years!"



The starmaker has had to accelerate his pace to keep up with new additions to the flag.



Seamstresses spent years working on 48-star flag, then witnessed two changes in months.



These flags will be historical curiosities—obsolete before introduced.

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