

Design Contract Let for Four Alaska Ships

The State Department of Public Works has signed a \$179,000 design contract with Philip F. Spaulding and Associates of Seattle for four ships for Alaska's Marine Highway System.

Three of the vessels are expected to be in operation by next spring. The fourth, a 400-foot ocean-going vessel, will take longer to construct.

Two of the ferries are for

(Continued on Page 8)

Alaska Ferries . .

(Continued from Page 7)

day—boat inland water service. Each is to be 188 feet long and carry 32 vehicles and 150 passengers.

One will operate on Prince William Sound, linking Whittier, Valdez and Cordova. The other will ply lower Cook Inlet between Homer and Seldovia, and Iniskin Bay on the west shore of the inlet.

The 260-foot coastwise ferry will connect Homer, Kodiak and Shelikof Strait. It will carry 35 vans or an equivalent number of vehicles, plus 16 passengers.

The fourth ferry will be a 500-passenger ocean-going vessel with staterooms for all 500 passengers. It will be capable of use in any waters and at any port in the State.

When the three smaller ferries are placed into operation, the Tustumena will be reassigned to serve Sitka in a shuttle run off the main Southeastern system.

The four ships are to be financed through the \$15.5 million general obligation bond issue approved by the voters last November.