

# Anchorage-Fairbanks Hwy. May Be Named George A. Parks

Governor Jay Hammond said he is accepting the recommendation of a special committee and ordering the Anchorage-Fairbanks highway be officially designated the George A. Parks Highway. Parks was appointed Governor of Alaska by President Coolidge in 1925, and served until 1933.

The six-member committee to select a name for the highway was composed of three members of the Alaska Historical Society, two

members representing the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a member of the Alaska Department of Highways. They considered 19 names before overwhelmingly selecting Parks' name.

The committee said they recommended Parks because he was a former Governor, but more important he is a man who has spent his entire adult life in the State. He took an active part in the development of Alaska as a Cadastral Engineer. Parks is now retired and continues to reside in Juneau.

Hammond said the choice of Parks was an excellent one for the designation of the highway. Hammond also said it was coincidentally appropriate that

Parks' name was chosen for the highway linking Alaska's two largest cities with McKinley National Park and Denali State Park.

Governor Parks first came to Alaska in 1907 as a member of an engineering party. He worked studying coal areas in the Bearing River, Matanuska Valley, Healy River, and Kougark River area of the Seward Peninsula.

At the end of World War I, Parks returned to Alaska to work with the Land Office, and became

Chief of the Field Division for the State. As Governor between 1925 and 1933 he was the first chief Alaska Chief Executive to travel widely by airplane.

The Capitol in Juneau was built during his term. Following his term as Governor, Parks returned to the Land Office and was appointed District Cadastral Engineer in 1948.