

Lake George May Be Nat'l. Monument

U.S. Representative Ralph J. Rivers (D-Alaska) announced today that acting upon his request, the National Park Service will explore the feasibility of making Lake George a national monument within the National Park System.

Located 40 air miles from Anchorage, Lake George, sometimes referred to as the "self-emptying lake" is the source of such an unusual natural spectacle each year as to potentially command nationwide interest and attention, he pointed out.

Congressman Rivers, who is Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, has recently asked the National Park Service to investigate and evaluate the area containing Lake George, the Knik Glacier, the Surprise Glacier and the headwaters of the Knik River where the lake breaks through the glacier ice barrier in a most dynamic fashion.

"I have asked for this investigation and study," Rivers said, "because I think that Lake George and the

glaciers and other natural features involved in the annual cycle of events under consideration constitute one of the great natural wonders of the world."

Rivers further said, "The Federal recognition and publicity incident to making a national monument out of the Lake George area would stimulate tourism to Alaska and thereby augment business as well as enhance the pride of all Alaskans in this great outdoor recreation resource."

As is known to many Alaskans, the waters of Lake George, trapped each year by Knik Glacier, break out each summer with phenomenal magnitude and force and carve a channel through the ice along the mountainside and cascade in a raging torrent over a rocky drop-off to join the Knik River on its journey to the sea.

Then, after six to eight days, the 16-mile long lake is largely emptied, and the glacier—as if on schedule—moves ahead to again dam up the outlet of Lake George.