

# Alaska Catalogue holds a Great Wealth of Information

## Anchorage Bureau

"The moose's chief diet in the winter is willows. In the winter the moose stays around sandbars and the mouth of sloughs, where they are lots of willows. When it starts getting

dark the moose tends to go back into the larger trees and sleep.

"The moose will stay in one place as long as (1) There is enough food (2) Wolves don't chase them out (3) Hunters don't kill them all."

## Luke-Pilot Galena High School

This earnest advice is one of the many suggestions on how to make a living in the north more enjoyable packed between the covers of the new Alaska

Catalog. Edited by Elizabeth Johannsen, the Catalog is intended as a tool for increasing knowledge about every aspect of living in the north. More than just a factual source book, the book also conveys something

of the spirit of living in Alaska, both city and country.

Designed by Clark Mishler, (now with National Geographic Magazine), the Catalog contains information on how to fly in

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# Alaska Catalogue has much information ...

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the bush, marine transportation, hunting and fishing, land and house buying, care of wood-cutting tools, skiing, how to build a dogsled, snowshoes and a yurt, and how to locate a job and social services. It contains the full text of a book on how to build a log-cabin.

Neatly organized and thoroughly indexed, the Catalog has the advantage over many other books on Alaska by bringing a lot of information together in one place.

For those of us who have been in Alaska for awhile, or lived here all our lives, some of the information may be a little basic. We have already found ways of dealing with mosquitoes and icy roads and felt the skin of fingertips grow numb when we forgot mittens on our first winter camping trip.

But not all of us have ever taken proper care of our saws and axes, or had to buy a stove for a sailboat, or know how to set a gill net under river ice for sheefish.

When the catalog was first conceived, its sponsors sent out requests all over the state asking people to contribute their wisdom. Unfortunately, the response was not good enough. The fault for this cannot be laid at the editor's feet. Communication in Alaska is often difficult at best and many northern experts living in bush villages and settlements of the state probably just did not get the message. Hopefully when the catalog is revised for a second

printing, a way may be found to include the collective knowledge of some of Alaska's best hunters, fishermen, carvers, weavers, boat builders, sailors, and woodsmen, her Native people.

As an introduction to life in Alaska the Catalog does not pretend to be complete. Still, while a full scale history of the state from Russian times to the present would not be appropriate, outsiders who have decided to make Alaska their home should have some idea

of the social, economic, cultural and historical forces at work here.

There are events in Alaska's distant and recent past, as well as her booming present that dramatically affect the evolution of Alaskan "lifestyle" which the Catalog obviously seeks to promote and preserve.

Some of these events and issues deserve brief, but very careful, objective discussion in a book like the catalog. The Native land claims act is a

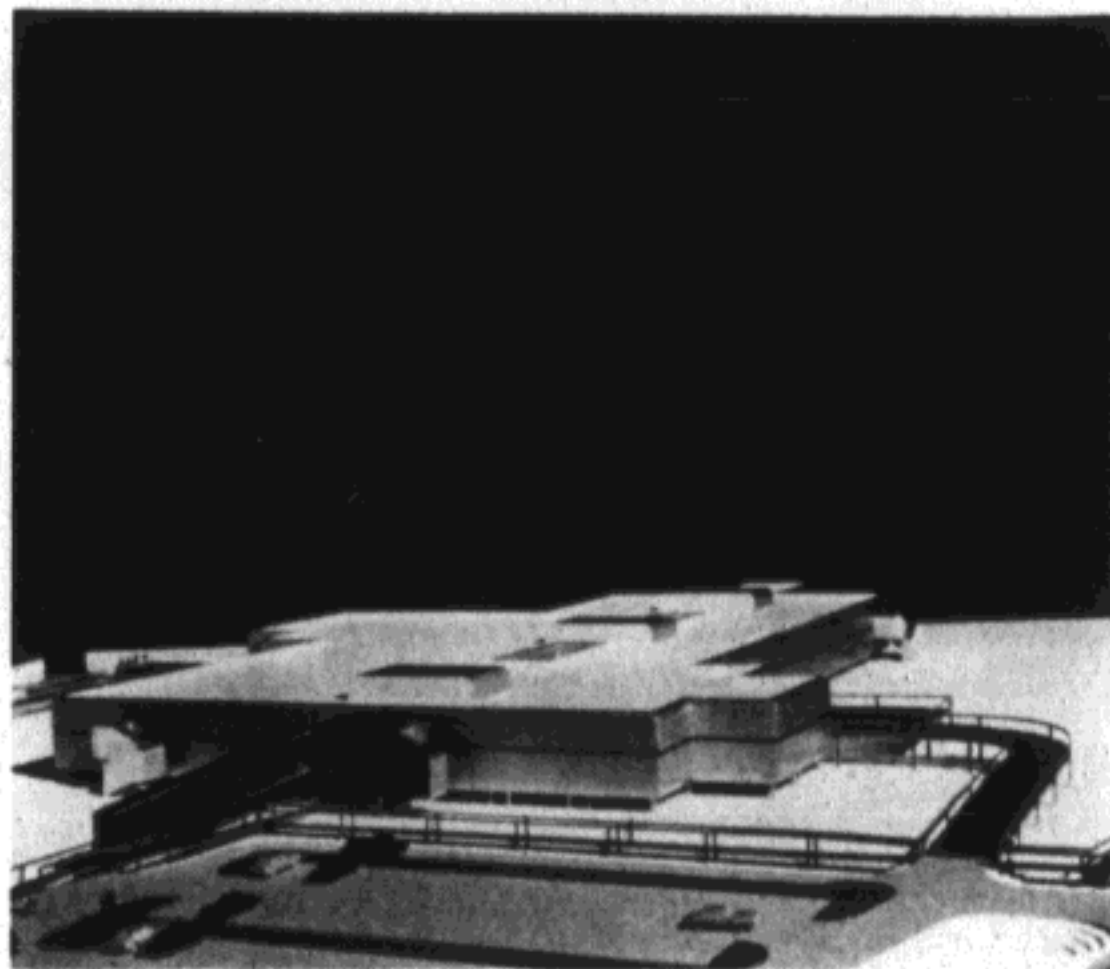
good example. The catalog is careful to point out that the only people with land to sell in the near future, if they ever get it back from the federal government, will be the Natives. Yet there are very good reasons why the Natives will not be eager to part with their lands once they get title to it, and somebody should tell the newcomers the reasons.

There are other events which might have been included in the catalog to add spice, such as survival stories, how the town of Mary's Igloo got its name, the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, volcano stories.

In spite of its shortcomings the Catalog has made a good start toward becoming THE book on Alaska. It is a good guide to other, more complete sources of information. Material submitted to the catalog people has obviously been screened for only the most accurate, reliable information. Dependability is always a treat.

Readers interested in submitting suggestions, or ordering a copy (\$6.95) of the Alaska Catalog should write:

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**BETHEL'S NEW \$36 MILLION COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH FACILITY-** scheduled to be completed in 1980 will be completely self contained medical facility. It will provide general medical and surgical care covering both adult and pediatric care and dental care. The 95 thousand square foot, 50-bed hospital will be built on pilings because of environmental needs. Hoffman Construction Company, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, has a branch office in Anchorage, and is responsible for Construction Management of the new complex. Local contracts have been negotiated with the Aleut Corporation Walsh and Co., to perform all of the site work, drive the piles, erect the structural steel and erect the precast floor system. (See story on page 3)