

Wien Air Alaska Opens Spanking New Terminal

By DON ALDER

On Saturday, November 23rd, Wien Air Alaska played host to the travel industry and the press at a gala cocktail party on the occasion of the dedication of their new passenger terminal at Deadhorse Airport, Prudhoe Bay.

Representatives from virtually all air carriers serving the state, the news media, chambers of commerce, and city and borough officials were treated to a scenic flight to the top-of-the-world facility to witness the ribbon cutting ceremonies and be wined and dined to the strains of live Hawaiian music and dancing.

Chairman of the Board and President Ray Petersen, and Vice-President A.E. "Bud" Hagburg presided over the official ceremonies, with an assist from the reigning Miss Alaska.

The more than 100 guests were also honored with the reading of a new poem, written especially for the occasion, and read by its author, the great "Bard of Alaska" himself, Larry Beck.

Speeches were short and spirited, were high as Wien proudly displayed their unique facility.

The center of activity for the whole Prudhoe Bay complex, it also houses the new branch of the Alaska National Bank, providing full banking services to construction workers.

The second floor provides luxurious living quarters for Wien

employees, eliminating the need for unnecessary exposure to the sharp Arctic cold.

The building itself is a veteran air traveller as every single piece of it was pre-fabricated in Anchorage and flown to the sight by Wien themselves in the Boeing 737 Jet aircraft. Well designed and appointed, the plush carpeted terminal gives little hint from the inside as to its unique construction.

According to John Jurgenson, the man who supervised its construction, the building stands on 96 pilings. The holes for these pilings were bored into the frozen base of ice and gravel to a depth of twelve and one-half feet.

The pilings were then set in place with concrete and back filled with four feet of gravel, leaving the floor of the structure standing some four or five feet off of the surface.

Work on the pilings had to be carried out quickly and with a great deal of precision to prevent any thawing of the base material. The stability of the structure relies of constantly frozen ground. In the event of any indication of thawing by heat-transfer, freon filled tubes are employed to re-freeze the area.

With the exception of that used in the support of the pilings, the buildings contains no concrete or structural steel. It is made entirely of wood and pre-

formed laminated beams.

Fully carpeted and panelled, it is as modern and attractive as any air terminal anywhere. In fact, with the German beer, Japanese food, and Hawaiian music, one felt like he could have been anywhere as long as you didn't look out of the windows!

President Petersen pointed

out that Wien did not simply jump on the pipeline bandwagon in bringing these facilities to Prudhoe Bay. In fact, Wien has always served the north country, and has held the traffic rights for many years.

Wien has to be congratulated for their never ending efforts to serve the people of Alaska. Their pioneering of passenger and cargo service to the remote areas of the state, their ability to operate modern equipment from gravel runways, and

now, providing such an outstanding facility in such a unique way.



WIEN'S DEADHORSE TERMINAL — WAA last Saturday played host to many people who had anything with travel at its brand new terminal at the Deadhorse airfield on the North Slope. The people were wined and dined to the strains of Hawaiian music.

— Photo by DON ALDER