

CENTURY NOTES

JUBILANT DRUMS URGE ACTION

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Spring is on the calendar and has begun upon the land: evanescent green clouds hover above the birches, willows shimmer purple with rising sap and the catkins puff pearly-pink and enormous.

And Centennial plans are sprouting like spring blossoms as the season's jubilant drums urge growth.

Most communities are developing multiple-interest projects for the celebration with various displays and programs related to arts, crafts, sports and history. Most also are centering attention on one big project of lasting value in keeping with one of the themes of the Centenary of Purchase: "To build permanent projects that will aid in the economic development of Alaska."

Communities and their major projects are: Cordova—memorial to Captain Vitus Bering; Delta Junction—tourist information center; Fort Yukon—restoration of old English fort to include museum and handcraft center and to work on old Fort cemetery; Haines—Port Chilkoot—reproduction of war canoes and development of theatre building for dramas and Chilkat Dancers' performances; Homer—museum with displays of relics from Eskimo cultures which once existed in Kachemak Bay coastal areas;

Hope—reconditioning of Community Hall from both age and earthquake ravages; Kasilof—combination museum and tourist information center and also a campsite area; Kenai—reconstruction of Fort Kenay to include use as community

center and tourist information point; Ketchikan—community center; Kodiak—amphitheatre; Kotzebue—addition to the library; Metlakatla—library which will also house display of Tsimshian culture; Montana—modern park and camp area;

Niulchik—restoration of original Russian log school house; Nome—library and museum; Palmer—museum with Matanuska Valley colonial days displays; Petersburg—finish museum sponsored by Petersburg Pioneers and also set up a marine aquarium; Seward—reconstruct "Phoenix" (Baranof's boat) and establish museum; Skagway—community center; Soldotna—tourist recreational sites; Sutton—landscape and repair Stickman Indian graves (already done) and restore historic coal-washer; Talkeetna—museum to display story of early mining days; Tok—various "welcome to Alaska" projects, intensified in 1967, from moose barbecues to art shows to sled dog hospitality;

Tustumena—access road from Sterling Highway to Tustumena Lake; Valdez—preservation of some outstanding building in the old town and community center including library and museum in the new one; Wasilla—improve old community hall to house historical articles and to mark Chief Wasilla's grave; Willow—replica of "Lucky Shot" mine and outfit miner's cabin authentically; Wrangell—restoration of city hall to include museum and information booth; Yakutat—community house.

Four major sites for the celebration and their prime projects are: Anchorage—civic center; Fairbanks—40 acre centennial site and downtown

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information center; Juneau-state museum; and Sitka-Centenary Civic Center plus restoration of St. Michael's Cathedral.

All of the cited projects depend on matching funds from the Federal appropriation which is awaiting congressional action. Listing the items does not do justice to imaginative planning each community has done on its building purpose, appearance and admirable aptness for each locale. We plan to give the interesting details in future issues.