

Accepting Applications

The Alaska State Employment Service is currently accepting applications for the Electronic Technician course to be held at the University of Alaska, starting September 11, 1967. The course is funded under the Manpower Development and Training Act, and will be 73 weeks in duration. Applicants should be at least 17 years of age, with a high school education, or its equivalent preferred. A potential trainee must have had courses in science and mathematics and demonstrate a high interest and aptitude for this field of work. Applicants with less than a high school education or equivalent may be selected, provided they meet the other criteria.

All interested persons should contact the Alaska State Employment Service, Room 131, State Court and Office Building, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Bartlett Criticizes Federal Agencies For Large Land Withdrawals

WASHINGTON—Senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett criticized federal agencies for large-scale withdrawal of lands from the public domain.

In a statement explaining why he cosponsored a bill to require congressional approval of any withdrawal of public lands in excess of 5,000 acres by the Federal Government, Bartlett noted that federal departments "have a tendency to take far more land from the public domain than they actually require."

"It would be in the public interest to have these departments come to Congress for any large withdrawals. Time after time we have discovered withdrawals have been made far in excess of needs, and once withdrawn, it is difficult to get the land returned to the public domain," Bartlett said.

The proposed legislation would broaden the Defense

Withdrawal Act to include a 5,000-acre limitation on all federal agencies, rather than just on the Department of Defense.

The need for such a bill, Bartlett said, was highlighted by the recent action of the Department of the Interior in issuing its geothermal withdrawing order. This order, since modified, would have withdrawn in one stroke all lands which the department believed to be valuable, either presently or prospectively, for geothermal steam.

Interior Department witnesses admitted that this might amount to more than 80 million acres.

The present bill is similar to one introduced by Senator Bartlett and passed by the Senate in 1960, but not acted upon by the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in the House.

Previous attempts to get land withdrawal limitation bills passed have encountered opposition from the Interior and Agriculture Departments.

CHOPPING WILLOWS—Anaktuyuk Pass woman is chopping willows for fuel.

Sea Otter Pelts to Be Sold for First Time Since 1911

Sea otter pelts will be sold for the first time since 1911 next Jan. 30 at the Seattle Fur Exchange.

Ed Shepherd of Anchorage has been named by Governor Walter J. Hickel to oversee the sale of 1,000 pelts. He estimates they will sell for \$1,800 to \$2,700 each.

Sea otters were hunted to near extinction until 1911 when by a protection treaty between the United States, Canada, Russia and Japan. The pelts will be taken

this fall by Aleut hunters from Atka under supervision of the Department of Fish and Game. Under the 1911 treaty sea otter could not be taken either within or beyond the three mile limit of Alaska coastal waters.

With statehood, Alaska gained control of the three mile coastal waters and decided to harvest some pelts.

"We want to stress that every precaution is being taken to see that we will

enhance development of our sea otter herds through this controlled kill," Shepherd said. "By no means will this project endanger this vital resource and historically significant animal."

In 1911, sea otter was considered to be the most valuable fur animal in the world. Only 500 existed. Today the Department of Fish and Game estimates about 30,000 Alaska sea otter.

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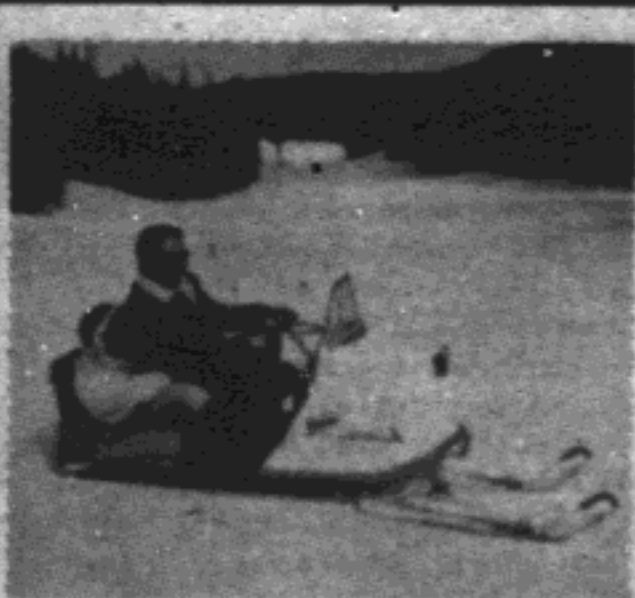
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