

Trans Alaska pipeline— Mainline pipe half installed

ANCHORAGE—One half of all mainline pipe for the trans Alaska pipeline project is installed.

At mid-April, 400.9 miles of pipe were in place along the project's route—156.6 miles above ground, 220.3 miles below ground and 24.1 miles at river crossings.

The longest continuous stretch of completed pipe extends 41 miles from just south of Pump Station 1 to just north of Pump Station 2 on Alaska's North Slope.

The pipeline—800 miles long and 48 inches in diameter—is to be completed by the end of this year. Construction of pump stations and the Valdez marine terminal will continue into 1977. Completion of the project is scheduled for mid-1977.

As of April 18, an estimated 19,500 persons were at work on the pipeline, at the pump stations and the terminal. Of these, supervisory and craft personnel assigned to pipeline construction totaled about 13,500, approximately 3,500 were assigned to the terminal and 2,500 were employed at pump stations.

On the pipeline portion of the project, 4,000 more vertical support members (VSMs) were installed during the first half of the month for the pipeline's above-ground sections. More than 63,000 of the nearly 80,000 18-inch-diameter pipe supports required for the project are installed.

In addition to vertical support installation, crews in all five pipeline construction sections are excavating trenches for installation of below-ground portions of the pipeline system. As of April 18, 255.8 miles of ditch were excavated.

Other totals for the pipeline portion of the project at mid-April included 463.4 miles of pipe welded, either installed or ready for installation; 20,361 of the nearly 40,000 horizontal cross beams for the above-ground support systems

set; and nearly 9,000 thermal heat exchangers in place.

On the pump station portion of the project, additional progress has been made on the installation of heating and ventilating systems, electrical wiring, conduit, building partitions, air lines and fuel supply lines.

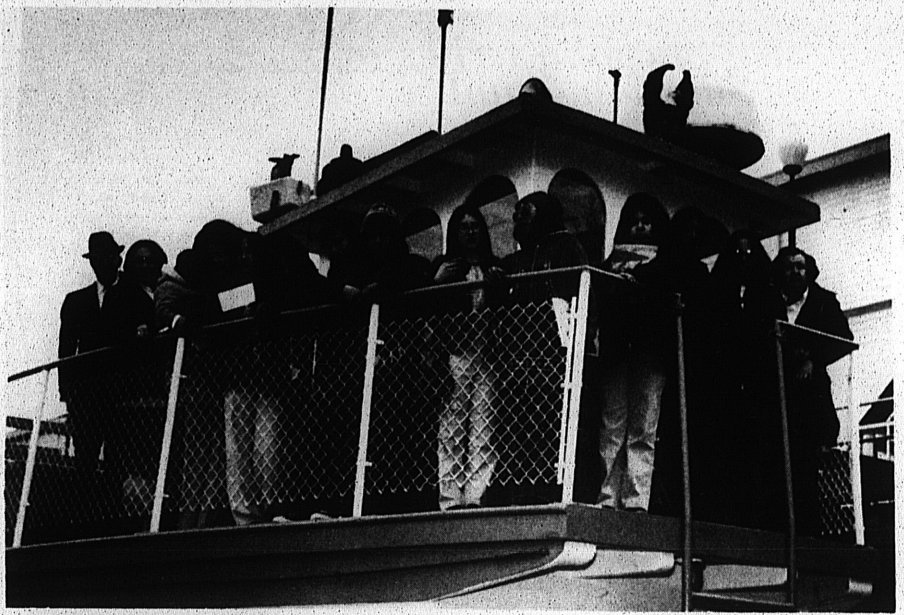
At most stations, work is proceeding on installation of mainline pipe inside station manifold buildings as well as on mainline corridors.

Other recent station activity has included erection of structural steel for the main pump building at Pump Station 6; erection of a 20,000 barrel capacity crude oil storage tank at Pump Station 12; and commencement of installation of 48-inch pipe in the manifold building at Pump Station 9.

At the Valdez terminal, erection of half-million-barrel-capacity crude oil storage tanks resumed in the facility's East Tank Farm. During the 1975 construction season, 10 of the tank farm's 14 crude tanks were completed. Other recent work in the tank farm has consisted of excavation for a firewater system and concrete pours for tank containment walls.

Work also continues in the terminal's berthing facilities where 12 of 13 trestle pier jackets for Berth 5 have now been installed; the first of four casing piles for the central shore anchor for Berth 1 has been driven; and installation of conduit for Berth 4 has been completed.

Other terminal construction has included steel erection, concrete pours, installation of piping, equipment installation and excavation.



NINE Eskimo high school students who had never been out of Alaska visited the Seattle Post recently. Here they are shown on a harbor cruise of the Seattle Port facilities.

—PORT OF SEATTLE Photo

Nine Eskimo students visit Seattle

Nine Eskimo high school students who had never been "outside" Alaska visited Seattle and the Port recently. Half of their expenses were raised through their own remarkable efforts over a seven month period in their tiny village of Teller on the northwest Seward Peninsula.

Shown on a harbor cruise of Port of Seattle facilities on one of their 10 days of sightseeing, the group was joined by the Port's veteran Alaska representative, Jack Dillon, far left, a Port employee from the trade development department Rebecca Simmons, fourth from left holding her small daughter Anita on the railing, and Port

public relations assistant Fred Short, tour guide, not pictured. Mrs. Simmons, a native Alaskan, joined the group since she is originally from Pile Bay, Alaska (Illiamna Lake).

At the far right is teacher Geraldine Hurley and young son Kevin just under the railing. Mrs. Hurley is a one-time Seattleite but has been in Alaska many years. Accompanying her on his eye-opening trip for the shy but most observing 10th graders was Eve McAlister, second from left, instructional program assessment specialist from Nome, Alaska, about 70 miles south of Teller, which incidentally, is only about 70 miles from the USSR boundary line.

Teacher Hurley explained that

when school opened last September the total student body of 39 joined in money raising ventures and in seven months raised \$7,000 by selling popcorn, Kool-Aid, coffee, magazine subscriptions, ran bingo games and operated the village movies. The students earned points and nine with the highest points won the privilege of making this trip.

In the village of 200, this has to be a record achievement. One unkind wag thought it was simple if they charged \$25 for a movie and five dollars a box for popcorn but this writer found the students to be extremely well disciplined, unusually attentive and very courteous; so their price was right.

Their own earnings were supplemented by \$3,000 from the Indian Education Act but they didn't use all of their funds—they saved some for next year's class and as seed money to organize a survival course, like when the temperature and wind get the chill factor down to 89 below zero.

The nine students in the photo (alphabetically) are Ella Okleasik, Jerry Okbaok, Stella Pushruk, Herbert Noyakuk, Carlson Tingook, Freida Topkok, Reuben Topkok, Ruby Topkok, and Walter Weyanna.

What were the most interesting points of the trip? Well, the giant size of the village of Seattle as they flew in, water fountain bubblers and flush toilets.

After that, I guess the Port, (naturally!) the Olympic Hotel where they camped, the Space Needle, TV studios, the aquarium, Sears, and the big soccer game at the Dome Stadium where they saw more people at one time in one place under one roof than in every city in Alaska except Anchorage.

Just reading their list of over 30 major key points to visit in 10 days would make an adult tired but these delightful kids are used to walking in very deep snow and they weren't even out of breath.

They were good and welcome ambassadors.

Alaska manages Pacific walrus

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has decided to allow the State of Alaska to manage the Pacific walrus. Under the State's management plan, sport hunting

of about 100 animals will be authorized.

This final action came in the Federal Register notice published April 5, 1976, announcing the agency's decision to waive a provision of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 which normally prohibits sport hunting of the species—but provides for a waiver of the moratorium based on the best scientific evidence available.

The decision was made in response to a state request, after careful study of the possible impact on the walrus population. The Act required that a management plan be submitted by the State and be approved by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to waiving the moratorium, the decision returns management responsibility for the 140,000-200,000 walrus herd to the State. Implementation of the waiver will be monitored continuously by the Service to assure compliance with the Act. The service Director, Lynn A.

Greenwalt, said the waiver of the moratorium on harvesting is expected to have minimal effect on the total walrus population.

Current annual harvest of Pacific walrus is estimated to be about 1,700 animals which traditionally have been used for Native subsistence purposes.

Greenwalt estimated that once the waiver is implemented, approximately 100 additional walrus would be added to the total annual harvest figure.

Prior to the Director's decision, an environmental assessment was completed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and administrative hearings were conducted in Alaska and Washington, D.C., by an administrative law judge. Testimony was received from proponents and opponents of the waiver and the Marine Mammal Commission.

On July 10, 1975, Administrative Law Judge Joseph B. Kennedy of the Office of Hearing and Appeals, Department of the Interior, recommended that the waiver be approved. After the State of Alaska's management plan was reviewed, the judge's recommendation was implemented.

UA commencement exercises

FAIRBANKS—The University of Alaska will confer nearly 1,200 degrees at commencement exercises throughout the state this month and next. Some 900 were conferred in the 1974-75 academic year.

Most will be presented at Fairbanks and Anchorage, the state university's largest campuses. They include, respectively, Tanana Valley Community College and Anchorage Community College.

Some 740 degrees are to be conferred at the Anchorage exercises—to be held May 7 in West Anchorage High School beginning at 8 p.m. These include 328 associate (two-year), 272 baccalaureate (four-year), and 140 master's (graduate) degrees.

At the Fairbanks exercises, scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Sunday (May 2) in the Patty Building, 353 degrees are to be conferred, including 47 associate, 230 baccalaureate, 66 master's, 2 education specialist, and 8 doctoral degrees.

Thirty-five degrees are to be conferred by the University of Alaska, Southeast, including 20 associate degrees earned by students at Juneau-Douglas, Sitka and Ketchikan community colleges. Fifteen master's degrees—one in fisheries and the remainder in education—were earned by students in the Southeastern Senior College.

Commencement exercises are scheduled May 11 at Juneau's Auke Lake campus, May 12 in

the Sitka High School Library, and May 13 at Ketchikan Community College. All are to begin at 8 p.m.

In Southcentral Alaska, the first exercises were held Thursday (April 29) at Bethel's KYUK television station, with eight receiving associate degrees.

Twenty-eight associate degrees are to be conferred by Kenai Peninsula Community College on May 5 at the college with exercises to begin at 7 p.m. Kodiak Community College will present four associate degrees in its Benson Memorial Building on May 9, at 2:30 p.m.

Matanuska-Susitna Community College will present 13 associate degrees at May 14 exercises at the college scheduled for 8 p.m.

Geneva-Pacific drills Peavine Claims

Parts of the Wrangell Mountain Range of Alaska have long been studied by companies interested in its signs of copper mineralization. Curiosity has continued because of the proximity to the famous Kennecott Mines, one of the largest producers of copper in U.S. History.

The most recent explorer in the region is the Geneva-Pacific Corp., Evanston, Illinois, a mineral exploration firm jointly owned by Cenco Incorporated and Belden Corp.

The company conducted exploratory drilling at its Peavine Mountain claims during 1976. Using a helicopter to support the operation, Geneva-Pacific diamond core drilled at sites 3,000 feet above the Chitstone River Valley, approximately 15 miles south of McCarthy, the site of the original Kennecott Mines.

Although the Peavine Mountain location has been studied by geologists since 1880, this apparently is the first drilling attempted.

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