

Pacific Northwest Lands Protein Plant

The pilot plant for fish protein concentrate will be located in the Pacific Northwest, according to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall. The specific location will be announced following further study and on-site inspection.

The 1968 federal budget includes \$1,000,000 for construction and \$700,000 for operation of the plant and for associated research. The plant will provide experience for the design and construction of larger, commercial plants by private firms.

Special Task Force to Make Study of Alaska's Forests

The formation of a special task force to extend the economic development of the State's commercial grade timber forests beyond South-

eastern Alaska has been announced by Gov. Walter J. Hickel.

The group, comprised of Alaskans from State and Federal government and private industry, is to report on the results of its efforts in 90 days.

The Timber Task Force will concentrate on four major areas: Seward, the Susitna Valley and Railbelt, Kodiak-Afognak, and the Yukon-Kuskokwim River. Other areas will be studied as rapidly as time and personnel permit.

"This task force will stimulate interest in capital investment in Alaska's commercial forests," Hickel said. The investment would include stumpage fees, logging equipment, and manufacturing plants made adaptable to non-coastal and other timber.

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AAIA Executive Director Marries Mary Lou Payne

The Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc. of New York in a surprise announcement sent out a bulletin saying that William Byler, Executive Director of that organization, and Mary Lou Payne were married on March 18.

Mary Lou had been employed by AAIA for the past several years principally in public relations. She is also the editor of the organization's publication, the Indian Affairs. The newsletter comes out five times a year.

The bulletin was sent to the AAIA's executive committee as well as to friends and associates of the newly married couple.

Byler formerly resided in Connecticut while Mary Lou Payne, an Indian lady, came from the Carolinas.

Poison Accidents Kill Six Persons

Six persons died in Alaska from accidental poisoning last year, a relatively high rate compared with the rest of the nation.

In the nation as a whole, 5,000 children under five years of age died from accidental poisoning, and 500,000 children are involved in such accidents.

Principal sources of the poisonings are: drugs in an unlocked medicine cabinet, detergents, cleaners, polishes, and solvents stored under a kitchen sink or in other accessible places.

Poison information centers, with files of thousands of poisonous substances and their antidotes, have been established in six Alaskan cities to offer aid to poison victims. They can be contacted in emergencies for names of antidotes.

The six centers are: Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage; Northward Drug store, Fairbanks; St. Ann's Hospital, Juneau; Ketchikan General Hospital, Ketchikan; Alaska Native Hospital Mt. Edgecumbe; and Maynard MacDougall Memorial Hospital, Nome.

Many Visitors Crowd Village At Conference

(from Mountain Village News)

The Covenant Church right now is having a conference here.

Some people came from Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay and some other places. There are quite a few people here in Mountain Village.

Some of them are Catholics. M.B.

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Townsite Extension Proposed at Bethel

A plan to extend the townsite of Bethel into new, higher ground has been proposed by the City to the Bureau of Land Management and the State Division of Lands.

The proposal would offer about 900 acres of high ground behind Bethel for sale and homesites over the next five or more years.

The State would claim the land, now held for public purposes by the city, and the BLM would grant it to the State. The State would then sell the land to the City at a negotiated price.

The City would have the land surveyed and zoned. The cost of the surveying would be paid for through the sale of land to private owners.

Roscoe Bell, Director of the State Division of lands, said he saw no reason why the State could not do this, and added that negotiations would get underway with the BLM and the City Council of Bethel.

Bethel thinks the Tach-Ann road could be extended into the area to help open it to settlement. The city says the arrangement would speed land selection by at least five years, the present backlog of work for BLM surveying of the land.

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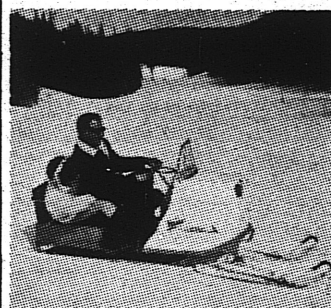
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