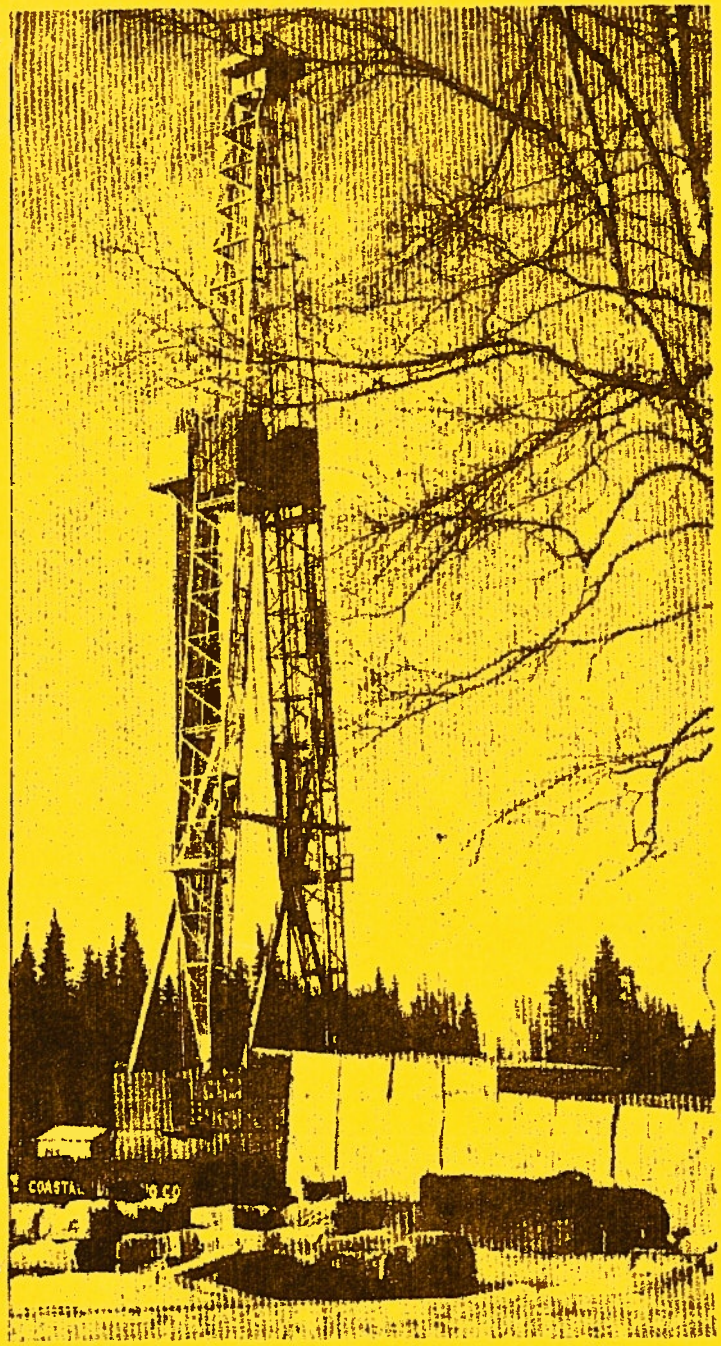
Kenai, Alaska



Oil Capital of Alaska

FACTS about KENAI

from the

KENAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Box 497, Kenai, Alaska

FOUNDED 1791



W E L C O M E
to
K E N A I

"Oil Capital of Alaska"

If you would like to step back a century in time, but also be within minutes of some of the most publicized oil wells of the decade -- if you would like to inspect ancient Indian (Kenaitze) barabara sites, but also have every modern convenience at your disposal in your living quarters -- if you would like to see a salmon cannery in its frenzied operation but also step around the corner and find a land of seagulls and sand, homesteaders, and trappers that hasn't changed much in a century -- if you would like to see a city in which moose and other wild game are commonly in the city boundaries, but also see a city of tremendous optimism with evidence of boom bustin' out all over -- if a city of such contrasts interests you, come to Kenai!

Kenai has officially been a village of Russian background since 1791, but long before that it was a bustling Indian community, for its location at the mouth of the great Kenai (Kaknu) River, on a bluff overlooking the Cook Inlet (which afforded a grand view of approaching parties: trading, friendly, or warring) made it an natural site for a village and the waters of Cook Inlet provided an abundance of salmon. Game abounded in the surrounding countryside. The waters of Cook Inlet tempered the climate right along the coast. Occasionally, Eskimos came in kayaks up the Inlet to do some trading.

After the days of the Russians and the fur industry, came the heyday of the fisherman and two canneries were built, one on the other side of the Kenai River and one on the city side of the river. Both are in operation today. Other old canneries and small canneries are still in the area also. The fish are caught by boat fishermen in drift nets, or by the beach fishermen in setnets. The coast up and down from Kenai in the summer is lined with fishermen, each on their allotted fishing site. It is a hard, dangerous, exciting life but it is fun, too, and the children are turned loose on the beach to romp in the sun after all the cold winter months. Fishing shacks and tents provide housing in the summer. Casting your eyes out to the Inlet, you may see as many as 400 fishing boats, drifting with their nets out, or all coming into the river at high tide to disgorge their fish at the cannery, like a long, ghostly armada.

The excitement and pressure of the fishing industry is contagious, for the better part of a year's salary will be made (or not be made) in the space of two weeks or so. Traditionally, the major run of red salmon "hits" around the 15th of July.

Other joys of the beach around Kenai is simply the beach. Hot sand, virtually unused which is reached by a winding lane past the old Russian Church, down over the bluff, through the fields of brilliant red and purple fireweed and goose tongue (a salty, good-tasting green) and over a stream. Here, one is transplanted into a different world: sun, sand, saltwater and screaming white seagulls and terns and, looking up at the city of Kenai, the tops of houses peeking up and the triumphant cross of the church and chapel. It would be in the 1800's if, suddenly, a bush pilot did not sweep low and wave his wings at you as he approached the landing strip above.

A walk up the beach can disclose artifacts, perhaps even an old cannonball, or maybe a Japanese glass float, or driftwood, or agates which many people polish and make jewelry from. As you look out over the sun drenched waves of Cook Inlet you can also see occasional white beluga whale approaching the river with a new high tide, or you might see a head of a seal, bobbing about trying to perhaps rob a fish net of some dinner. Back up town, however, industry of the strictly 20th century model is booming.

Most important of the new natural resources coming on the Kenai scene are the newly discovered oil and gas fields....gas as a raw material, and equally as important, natural gas as a source of energy for generation of low cost electrical power and heat sources for reduction of mineral ore found adjacent to tide-water of the Cook Inlet-Alaska Peninsula to a concentrated form or reduced to pure metal for trans-shipment to the Orient and our West Coast. On the tidewater of this same area are found large stands of excellent quality timber which has already started to find its way into lumber markets of Kenai. The planned use of natural gas for kiln drying of lumber will expand the versatility of our Alaskan coastal timber wood products. As the local industrial market expands, the increased use of electrical energy continues to expend generation to larger and larger more efficient plants. Industrial areas of the "lower 48" would be pleased as is Kenai to boast of the tremendous pure fresh water supply found here.

Tremendous expansion of the local market due to the centering of the salmon fishing industry of Cook Inlet, high tonnage shipments by ocean barge by local oil field supply companies, and continuing supply of the local army post, has made it profitable for new service type businesses to headquarter in Kenai.

If you want to get back into the country, you'll find farms (raising the famous Alaskan potatoes in abundance), you'll find homesteader cabins and modern ranches, you'll find beaver trappers who still depend to a great extent upon the trap line for a living. If you like to look for wildlife, you can expect to see black bear, perhaps a brownie (careful of him - he's big), beaver, muskrat, otter, other small animals and, of course, moose. Moose are not always too much in evidence in the summer but early in the morning,

one can often be rewarded with the sight of a cow and her calf along the mists about the river or a lake. North of Kenai in the many lakes, one can see the rare and beautiful trumpeter swan (stringently protected by law) and also geese, ducks, grebes, loons, ospreys, and bald eagles. Small birds include the Kenai song sparrows. In short, you can be in the midst of a past century, or in the midst of a primeval forest within just a few steps of a paved highway.

VITAL STATISTICS

LOCATION: On the west shore of Alaska's famed Kenai Peninsula, adjoining Cook Inlet about seventy air miles and 160 auto miles south of Anchorage. Elevations in the city range from sea level to 100 feet above sea level.

POPULATION: Kenai's permanent population is approximately 1,600, with about 4500 in the community service area. This number is increased somewhat during the summer months.

CLIMATE: Kenai has an enjoyable cool coastal climate tempered by the warming effect of the sea in winter. Federal Aviation Agency statistics indicate that this area enjoys the best all-around weather conditions in the State, particularly for flying.

CLOTHING: Clothing suitable for the northern states is adequate for Kenai. Most people new to the city make winter purchases locally, particularly parkas and footwear.

TEMPERATURE AND DAYLIGHT: Summer temperatures at Kenai range from the fifties to the eighties, with the average at about seventy degrees; however, either extreme is uncommon. Frost is possible during any month of the year, though it is unlikely in June, July or August. Winter temperatures range from a brief period of minus thirty degrees to a plus twenty degrees, with an average between zero and plus ten degrees. There is greater fluctuation in temperature in winter than in summer and the weather is generally quite variable. Because of Alaska's location near the Arctic Circle, days are longer in the summer. They reach their greatest length in late June when the sun sets for less than four hours and there is no real darkness. In the winter, the reverse is true, when the nights are long, reaching their greatest length in late December when there is less than six hours of actual daylight.

PEOPLE: Kenai is a bi-racial community, including Indians, Negroes, and Caucasians. English is spoken almost exclusively. The major groups cooperate well in Kenai and discrimination of any kind is

non-existent as far as the general public is concerned. The white people of the community reflect many different nationalities and they also reflect the informality that is characteristic of a frontier land such as Alaska.

MAJOR MEANS OF EMPLOYMENT: The fishing industry employs a large majority of Kenai residents during the summer months, with two canneries operating twenty-four hours a day.

Kenai has gained an excellent reputation in agriculture, with a growing season between ninety and one hundred and ten days. Potatoes and the usual truck gardem items are the main produce, with small fruits and grains a close second. Federal and State agencies account for substantial employment both year round and seasonally, and local merchants and service industries employ smaller groups. The Army and Air Force are located at Wildwood Station at the edge of the City Limits, and there are many civilian jobs manned by local men and women at the facility.

Oil has brought new industry to the area and several drilling firms operate year round, as well as the new Alaskan Refinery built by Standard Oil of California. The refinery employs between thirty and fifty local people for full time and part time work. Conducted tours of the refinery can be arranged for interested groups, during regular working hours.

KENAI DAYS: Annual celebration - usually held on the anniversary of the founding of Kenai. Just one of the many times of the year when the whole community, young and old, gather together to celebrate. Potluck dinners, dances, dog races, a beluga whale hunt sponsored by the local Beluga Whale Hunt Club, are events of fun and frolic.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES: Kenai has an excellent local school system (presently being merged with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School System). In the short 2½ year period since assuming responsibility for its schools (they were run by the State Department of Education), Kenai Central High School has sought and obtained full accreditation from the Northwest Association of Accredited High Schools. A brand new high school building with facilities for a full range of high school programs has been constructed within the last year. Kenai has an expanding adult education program (being phased into a community college).

TRANSPORTATION: Kenai's transportation needs are served by: (1) a daily interstate air service (Pacific Northern Airline); (2) a connection to the Alaskan Highway network by the Kenai Spur; (3)sea going barges docking north of Kenai at Port Nikiski or at the City Dock in the mouth of the Kenai River; (4) two taxi-cab companies; (5) several certified air charter pilots' flying services (one local pilot conducts a flying school); (6) agencies for three national car rental organizations; (7) one resident motor freight company and several motor freight companies operating through Kenai. The Kenai Airport is considered a main alternate for

Anchorage. It has helicopter facilities. A hanger staffed by an aircraft and instrument rated mechanic who is available for small craft repair. A small boat harbor is being planned with recommendations presently in the Washington, D. C. office of the Army Engineers.

BUSINESS: Businesses of Kenai include the Kenai Branch of Alaska State Bank; an excellent shopping center (ladies ready-to-wear, shoes, hardware items, a pharmacy and snack-bar); three hardware and building supply stores; a large furniture store; a hotel; two motels; a bakery; cafes; a barbershop; two washeterias (both of which have facilities for showers): two laundries (one acting as agent for dry-cleaning); two radio and TV repair shops; ten churches; three gas stations (all with attached repair facilities): two garages (not affiliated with gas stations); two real estate agencies; three fuel oil distributors; a beauty shop; three trailer courts equipped for modern trailers; a large welding shop; two stores; seven bars; a watch repair shop: two electrical contractors: a plumbing and heating shop; a ten-lane bowling alley; a flower shop and nursery; electrical service furnished by municipally owned utility (served by natural gas operated generator); two fish canneries; an oil bulk plant; and a totally FHA approved subdivision (only one on the Peninsula).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE: Kenai has a range of professional services with full time local offices including a doctor, a dentist, a certified public accountant, a lawyer and a pharmacist.

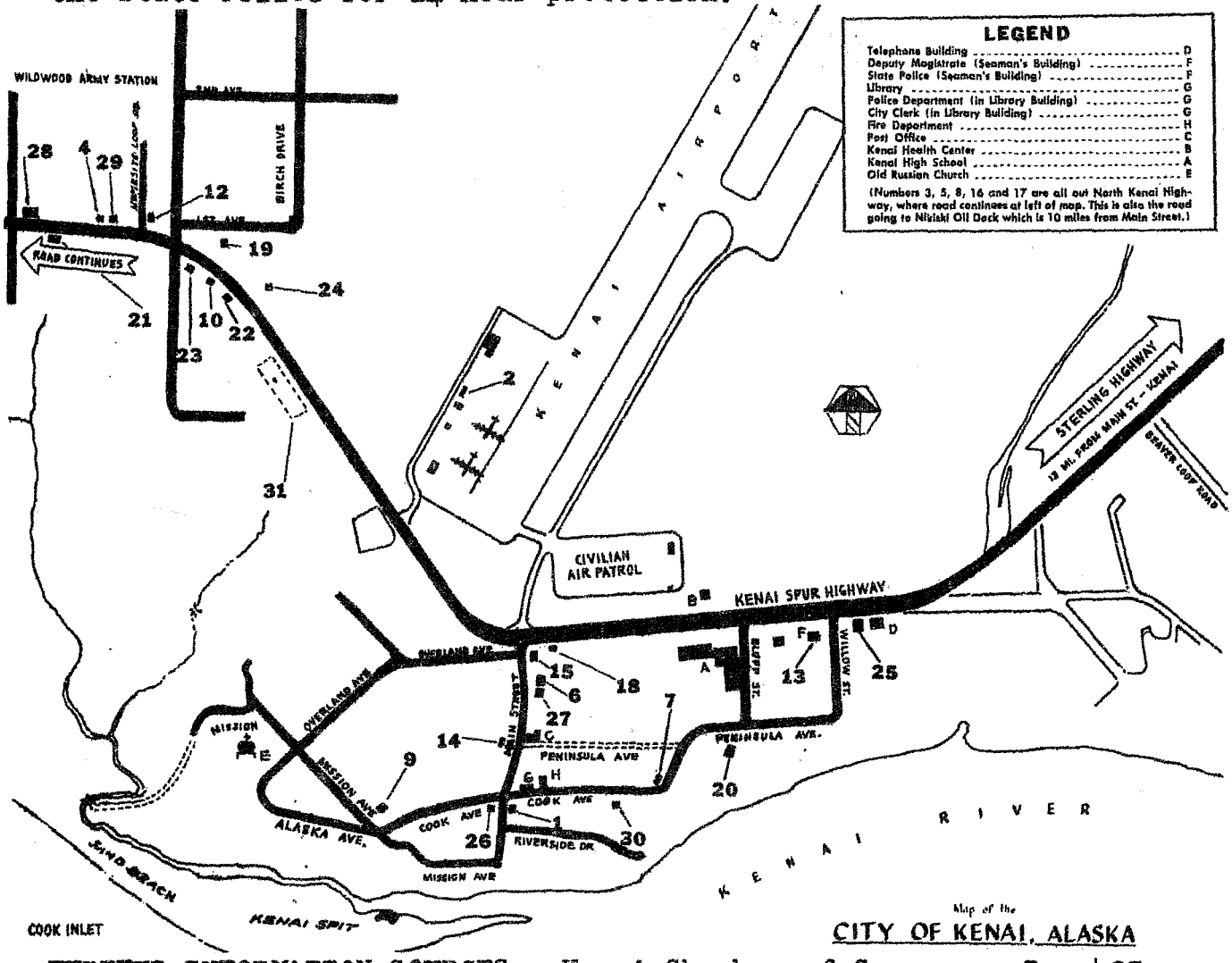
CIVIC GROUPS: Local civic organizations include the Kenai Chamber of Commerce, the Kenai Volunteer Fire Department (we're proud of its' proficiency), the best library on the Kenai Peninsula, Kenai Garden Club, Homemakers' Club, Civil Air Patrol, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, several school clubs, Kiwanis, Toastmasters, Kenai Peninsula Choral Society.

CHURCH GROUPS: East Kenai Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Kenai Bible Church, Christian Church, Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Russian Orthodox, North Kenai Chapel, Lutheran Church, Beacon Baptist Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, Episcopal Church.

RECREATION: Kenai is an ideal place for the sportsman any time of the year. Sports hunting during designated seasons is possible for moose, bear, Dahl sheep, mountain goats, and small game, including Ptarmigan, rabbits and other indigenous Alaskan game. Kenai has a local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sports fishing is commonplace in the many lakes and streams surrounding the Kenai Peninsula and entering Cook Inlet, including ice fishing in winter. Recently the possibility of beluga whale hunting has attracted much local and national attention. Summer camping, hiking and berry picking provide a wonderful opportunity for family receation. Wild fruit in Alaska is sweeter than in the lower 49 states! For those who prefer indoor recreation, there is TV, radio, basketball games, school wrestling matches,

a bowling alley and visiting one's neighbors. Many opportunities are afforded for ice skating, skiing and hiking.

GOVERNMENT: Kenai is a home-rule charter city which permits it the widest possible range of power under the State constitution. It has recently been incorporated in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The City of Kenai is headed by a mayor and six councilmen. The City Clerk is the principal administrative officer. She has recently been joined by other department heads including the Airport Manager, Superintendent of the Kenai City Light and the Director for Street Services. Within one year's time Kenai bonded itself to provide a new high school, purchase of the electrical system, assumed responsibility for the airport and commenced initial installation of a water and sewer system. A most busy year for any city! Police service is provided by contract with the State Police for 24 hour protection.



Map of the
CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA

FURTHER INFORMATION SOURCES: Kenai Chamber of Commerce, Box 497, Kenai, Alaska; City Clerk, Box 580, Kenai (ph: 283-7535)

Brochure prepared by: Kenai City School District

KENAI BROCHURE - FACILITIES LIST SUPPLEMENTED

The initial edition of the brochure of facilities at Kenai is supplemented by announcing the following additions to the list of available community facilities.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES: A private kindergarten; a dancing school.

TEMPERATURE & DAYLIGHT: Prevailing normal temperatures are frequent higher than temperatures of "South 49" interior states such as Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota.

TRANSPORTATION: Twice weekly bus service running from Anchorage through Kenai and terminating at Homer.

BUSINESSES: Several equipment and crane services (including bull-dozers, farm tractors, etc.); a farm machinery dealer; a novelty-vending machine service; an automotive parts store (Automotive Parts and Equipment).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE: A registered land surveyor.

CIVIC GROUPS: A Civil Defense organization, a hospital association, a community clinic, an American Legion Post & Auxillary; Kenai Peninsula Concert Association; a service club.

RECREATION: Headquarters of Kenai National Moose Range is located at Kenai.