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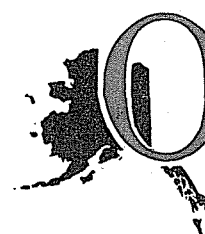
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OMAR RESOURCE REVIEW

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October 1978

COURTROOM BATTLE OVER LAND CONSIDERED

OMAR officials, after a preliminary review of the Department of Interior's draft environmental supplement on Alaska National Interest Lands, are now considering the possibility that OMAR's membership, individually or in conjunction with other parties, will file suit against Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus.

Executive committee member and attorney Homer Burrell told the press Thursday, October 26, that the document was substandard. Burrell said at this point it appeared likely that it did not comply with standards set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Organic Act) or the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. "If this is correct," said Burrell, "legal action is certainly justified."

Arbitrary statements such as "Therefore, no additional analysis beyond that contained in the 1974 evaluation is required for this particular Executive Branch alternative. Fur-

thermore, the temporary maintenance of the status quo under the segregation process does not significantly affect the human environment, and hence is not subject to the requirements of NEPA. Thus, no separate analysis of this alternative would be required under NEPA," are replete in the document. Hundreds of references are made to the 1974 28-volume environmental impact statement, which make it impossible to comment on the supplement without access to those volumes. Only 21 days remain to prepare responses.

Conclusions reached concerning economic impact of the withdrawals were incorrect, inadequate and presented in a shoddy manner. Had such comments been included in environmental statements for projects not supported by Interior, the department would have found them totally unacceptable.

Stand by, members, for the next chapter in this book of charades.

(Believe It
Or Not
Department):
AUGUST 22
PRIMARY
NOT
THE WORST
IN HISTORY

Historical writer Terrence Cole of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, wrote earlier this month that the August 22 primary election is far from being the most confusing election in state history. Cole, in his "Living History" column, cited the elections of 1916 and 1918 for delegate to Congress between Republican James Wickersham and Democrat Charles Sulzer. After the votes were counted and canvassing completed on March 1, 1917, Wickersham led Sulzer by 31 votes. Sulzer requested a district judge to throw out election results from seven bush precincts for various technical reasons. The judge ruled

that results from six districts were to be tossed out, and Sulzer ended up with a 19-vote lead over Wickersham.

Wickersham appealed that decision and after a long fight in the U. S. House, he was declared the victor only three or four days before the 65th Congress was to adjourn, serving only those few days of his two-year term.

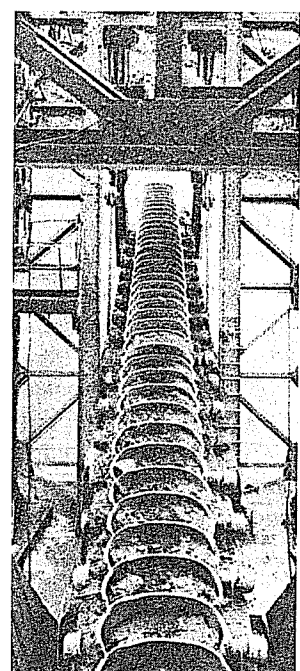
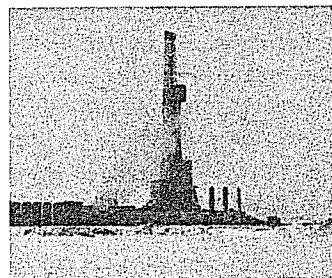
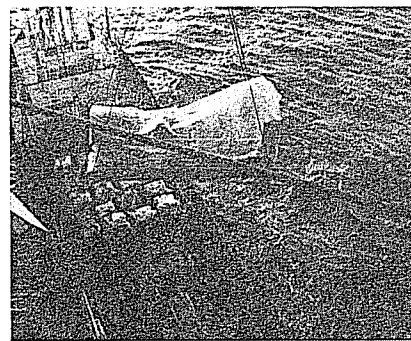
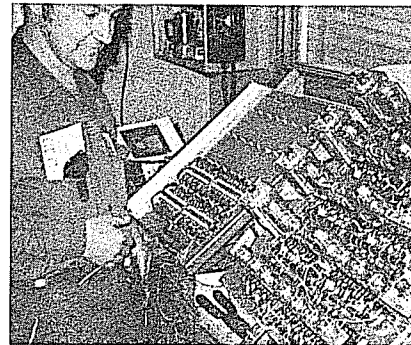
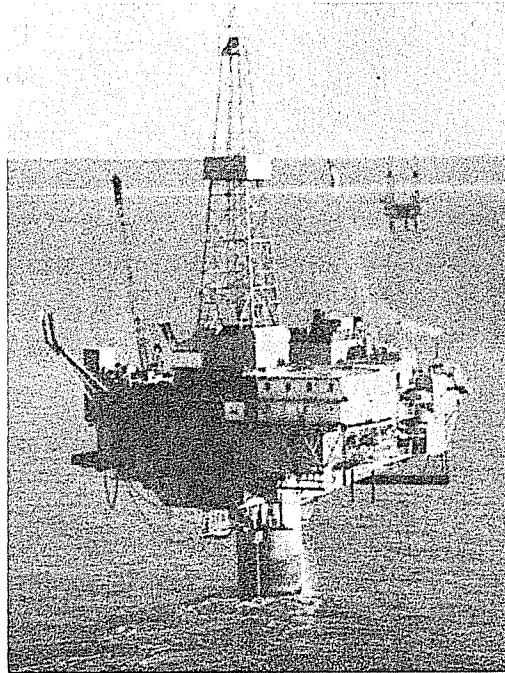
Meanwhile, both men squared off in the general election of 1918, with Sulzer apparently winning this time by 33 votes. Wickersham appealed, but shortly before Sulzer was confirmed the winner, Cole reported Sul-

Continued on page 2

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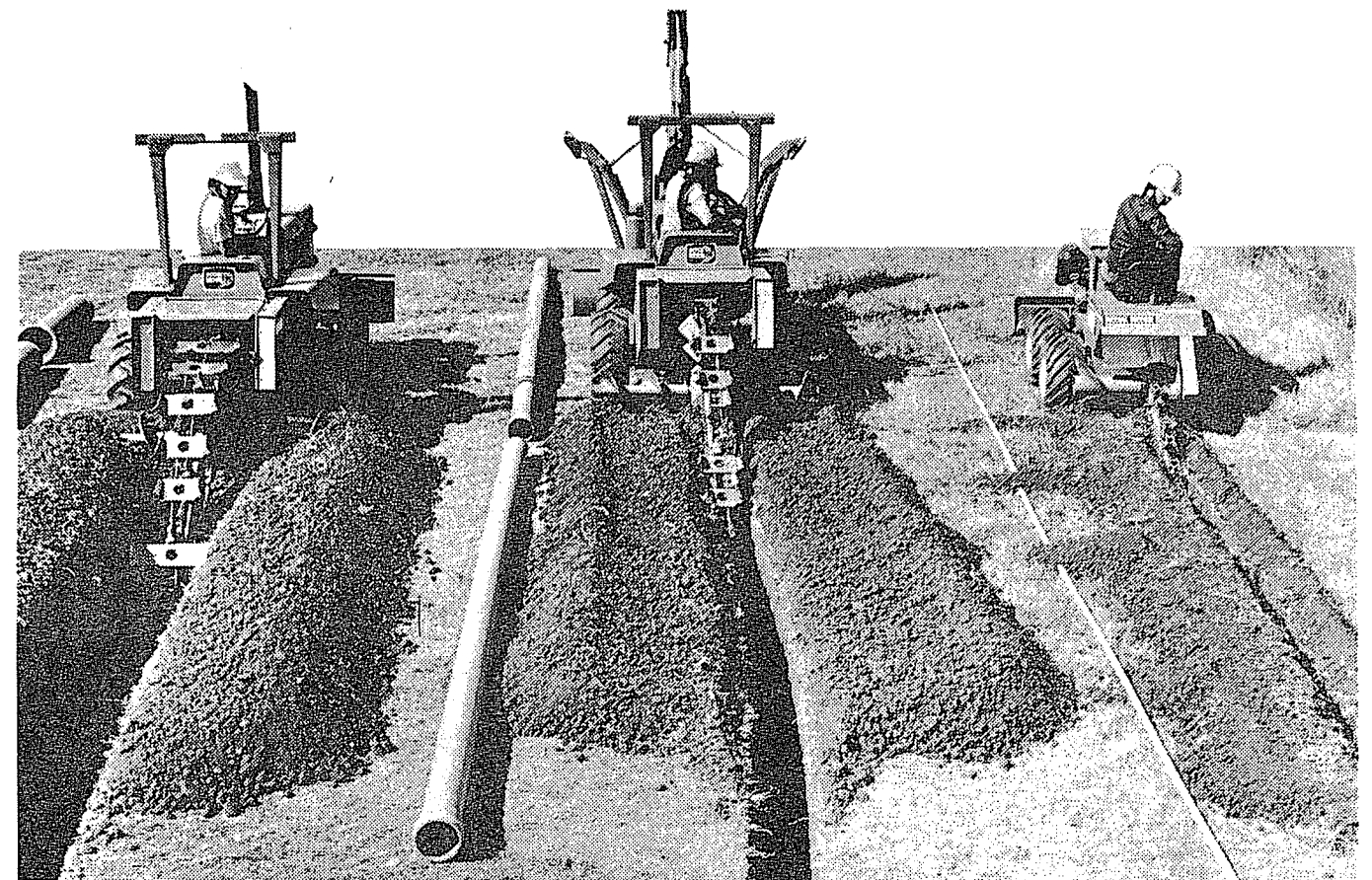
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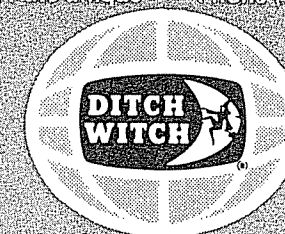
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DITCH WITCH HAS THE ANSWER!

before the end of the 66th congress. Cole noted that Wickershams served about a week of winner of the 1918 race. The battle went to the U. S. House again, which decided in Wickershams' favor. Over Sulzer's successor, but Wickershams was not seated until three days

What Ketchikan needs to keep alive is the development of a stable year-round industry in addition to salmon fishing and tourism. In an editorial dated Oct. 11, the Ketchikan Daily News said fishing and tourism are just not enough to elevate the Southeastern fish industry could be developed with fish processing operations. A community convention center (a bond issue to be voted on by local residents in December), combined with an adjacent hotel project, would attract a big convention industry.

While the town's economy is almost as fragile as the environment itself, it can be developed if residents "work hard and keep a recession in the community's economy. Fear that the major industry will end could result in tighter credit, fear of expansion and de-

burden for this year is Hawaii at \$9,554. Ranking 50 and 51 (Washington, D.C. is included in a survey by the National Enquirer) are Mississippi and Arkansas, with \$5,242 and \$5,019 respectively. The average U. S. household paid out \$7,408 this year in taxes.

Before you do anything else, mark the OMAR symposium on your calendar! The theme for Saturday, December 9 is "Strategy for a Stable Economy." The symposium will be held at the Anchorage Westward Hilton from 9 a.m. until about two in the afternoon. To encourage early sign-ups, OMAR is

offering an advance registration fee of \$20 (includes lunch). Those who register at the door will be charged \$25. We will be keeping you informed of the details, once topics and speakers are confirmed, and will be sending you registration forms in the mail for your convenience.

The Associated California Loggers, in a Humboldt (California) County newspaper advertisement, has defended the logging industry's harvesting methods from environmentalists' criticism. The loggers claim that injunctious filed by environmental groups in the county have prevented the harvest of overripe, diseased, fallen and fire-damaged trees, resulting in a waste of this renewable resource. Damaged trees take room needed for new growth, the ad stated. Many practices advocated by the environmentalists are detrimental to the survival of the redwoods, said the logging group.

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KETCHIKAN
NEEDS ANOTHER
STABLE
INDUSTRY

ALASKA HAS
BIG LEAD
FOR
HOUSEHOLD
TAX
PAYMENTS

OMAR
SYMPOSIUM
PLANS
ARE
LOOKING
GOOD

"LOGGER" IS
NOT A
DIRTY WORD"

ferred that the revenues be used to reduce interest on home loans and to provide investment credits.

— 25 per cent favored the state's participation in the Northwest Alaskan natural gas pipeline, 56 per cent were opposed to that idea and 11 per cent did not know.

— Asked if industrial incentives should be reinstated in Alaska to encourage environmentally clean manufacturing processes to utilize resources, 78 per cent replied affirmatively and nine per cent said no.

— With regard to electric power needs in the next ten-15 years, 65 per cent would like to see this need met with hydroelectric dam projects, 12 per cent preferred coal-powered plants and two per cent chose oil-burning power generation.

duced by Sol., and volcanoes produce more air pollution than all of human activities.

The Journal suggested that the Environmental Protection Agency should consider the opportunities for setting up guidelines to regulate Mother Nature. Forests could have air quality standards, animals could be allowed to prey on snail darters, volcanoes would be scrubbed and water quality standards could be promulgated for swamps.

On a more serious note, the editorial called for more research and publicity on natural pollution "in order to thwart this nonsensical notion of pristine environment spoiled by man. Nature is tough and dirty, and many natural processes have undesirable consequences, just like human ones. In fact, man is part of nature, and it is arrogant to hold otherwise."

move, 67 per cent said yes, 25 per cent said no, and the remainder was undecided or had no answer.

— When asked how much development of Alaska's resources they would like to see in the next five to 15 years, 70 per cent said they would like to see moderate development primarily to meet the job and economic needs of Alaskans, while 13 per cent favored large-scale development.

— On whether to keep state revenues derived from the petroleum industry in a permanent fund, five per cent said yes. 30 per cent favored a portion in the permanent fund with the remainder used to generate more resource development and jobs. 29 per cent wanted part of the revenues put into the fund, and part used to reduce taxes. 28 per cent preferred that the revenues be used to provide investment credits.

The Wall Street Journal, in a recent editorial, said that while natural pollution is no news, it has been the "dirty little secret of environmentalism." Natural pollution, said the paper, has not been broadcast by environmental scientists for a rather obvious reason: "Natural pollution fits poorly into the theology of a pristine nature corrupted only by a cancer called humanity made malignant by capitalism."

The Wall Street Journal cited several cases of Mother Nature as a pollutant, among them an air quality alert in Washington, D.C. five years ago because of the ozone from the Appalachian Forest. A search for an industrial malefactor was conducted upstream of a Canadian lake when mercury was discovered in the water. No industry was found upstream. Studies of radiation effects almost uniformly have concluded, the paper stated, that man-made emissions are dwarfed by those produced by nature, and it is arrogant to hold otherwise."

TRANS-ALASKA OIL PIPELINE COLLECTORS' ITEMS

Commemorative plaques and desk weights certified to contain oil from the FIRST BARREL OF OIL received at Valdez, Alaska, from Prudhoe Bay, July 28, 1977:

WALNUT PLAQUES Distinctive and elegantly designed, each plaque is numbered for one of 799 pipeline miles. The map of Alaska is carved in bas relief, set off by inset brass corners and inscribed plate, raised lettering and miniature pipeline containing Prudhoe Bay oil. Size: 12" x 14" Cost: \$200

DESK WEIGHTS Clear lucite desk weight measures 4 1/2 x 3 3/4 x 1 1/2 inches with red base. Tube of oil, pipeline mile and inscription in center. Cost: \$30

True collectors' items, only 799 of each were manufactured. Register of owners maintained at OMAR. Send check or money order to Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources (OMAR), Box 516, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

"DIRTY
LITTLE
SECRET" IS
NATURAL
POLLUTION,
SAYS
WALL STREET JOURNAL

ists (Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, National Resources Defense Council and others) with using "big lie techniques" in swaying public opinion against the timber industry. While the industry provides the livelihood for the loggers and their families, the ad claims that the industry wants to save their homes' natural beauty. County families are often third and fourth generation loggers, it said, who plan for the trees to be here for future generations through re-forestation practices.

"The environmentalists want to force us out of work, off our land, and out of the county."

The ad states that 27 per cent of Humboldt County is publicly owned land, and despite the deficit which remains on lands acquired for the Redwood National Park, the efforts to expand public lands continue. "Most residents of our county fear we will be swallowed alive in continual grabs for park lands. Every land grab costs county, state and federal tax bases and jobs that are badly needed here."

rive in Alaska next month.

Another objective of Hemphill is to work with the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) to get additional funds for fisheries development in the state. Five Alaska communities (Homer, Valdez, Cordova, Seward and Ketchikan) have devised programs which may be eligible for some \$34 million dollars in EDA funding. Development work would involve \$15 million and the remaining \$19 million of EDA money is earmarked for a fund aiding any new industry which will create new jobs and help the U. S. foreign trade balance.

The development corporation was set up by the state's fishermen and processors last January to administer research funds for the Alaska fishing industry. Hemphill told the Kodiak Mirror that the agency has been working with fishermen, while the State of Alaska has been dealing with processors and working to develop support systems, such as transportation, needed by the growing fishing industry.

In a related story, the newly-appointed director of the Farmers' Home Administration, Jack Roderick, told the Alaskan Agricultural Development Foundation that the FHA's lending capacity will more than double from \$22 million to \$46 million. Roderick told the meeting in Galena last month that the agency's loans are made in four categories: farms, housing, community facilities and business/industrial loans.

The law establishing a bank for agriculture and fisheries went into effect October 10. According to the state's bottomfish coordinator, Jim Edenso, the primary purpose of the bank is to aid rural Alaskans in setting up agricultural and fishing ventures. Governor Jay Hammond is to appoint by November 1, an initial board of directors to oversee the operation. The five-member panel will draw up the articles and by-laws as well as lending procedures of the new bank.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — \$25.00

HEMPHILL OUTLINES GOALS FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE BANKS OPEN FOR RURAL ALASKANS

WILL ALASKA SOLVE GOLD TROUBLES?

The Ketchikan Daily News, in a September 25 editorial, predicted that if gold prices remain over \$200 an ounce or climb to \$300, prospecting in Alaskan hills will resume, despite wilderness designations. The newspaper said also that a few large firms which once controlled the industry, "may begin re-examining the Alaska claims they have closed."

The deputy chairman of South Africa's Gold Fields group of mining firms, Robin A. Plumbidge, was quoted as saying that the group's very existence was surrounded by innumerable uncertainties for the precious metals which include: what production will be in the future and at what cost, whether there will be unrest in South Africa (producer of three-quarters of the West's gold supply), and the amount of Soviet and Western governments' gold sales.

The Daily News cites figures from Citibank which record the sales of gold on the world market of 1,607 metric tons at an average price of \$148 an ounce last year. Citibank is predicting demand will soar by nine per cent to 1,750 tons, while supply will hardly increase from last year's figure. Citibank says the situation may grow even tighter next year as demand gains much faster than supply. The price may go up and the bank's report predicts a \$230 to \$240 an ounce price in 1979, with a mutual fund official predicting bullion at over the \$300 mark in two years.

The paper said it suspects that when gold reaches that \$300 figure, Alaska will be seen as the place to help reduce the gold shortage, just as the state has been called upon to help offset an energy shortage and now as a possible answer to the nation's wilderness shortage.

"Reducing a gold shortage may not be important to the nation. But it may be hard to hold back the jobless, the poor and those with visions of wealth when they suddenly remember that Alaska has a supply of gold in its hills and streams," the paper said.

INTERIOR, AGRICULTURE SECRETARIES FACE LAND SUIT IN WYOMING

The Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF), a public interest law firm, filed suit Sept. 11 challenging the right of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to deny public use and access of the nation's federal lands and natural resources without the approval or consent of Congress.

The suit, filed in Wyoming Federal District Court concerns the U. S. Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) which has been inventorying and evaluating 62 million acres for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

While the suit does not seek to stop the studies of the Forest Service, it charges that the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires that withdrawals or management decisions which exclude public access or use of federal lands must be reported to Congress for approval. The president and chief legal officer of MSLF, James G. Watt, stated the group does not take a position on how many acres or which lands should be recommended to Congress for wilderness under

RARE II, but that his concern lies with the fact that the withdrawal of 62 million acres from public access without Congressional approval will be unreasonably extended by the bureaucrats and political appointees. The purpose of the filing according to Watt, is to shift the decision-making process from bureaucrats to the Congress.

If the court rules in favor of the public interest law firm, the Secretaries would have to report their actions to Congress, as specified in the Land Policy and Management Act. If Congress does not act within the 90 days required, the withdrawals will continue as proposed. Congress would likely set a time schedule for completion of the study process so that most of the lands could be returned to multiple use management or put into the wilderness system.

If the foundation fails in its suit, the RARE II process could continue for many years resulting in the tying up of federal lands and the denial of public use of such lands.

OMAR'S RESOURCE SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

Over 400 persons responded to OMAR's recent survey at the 1978 Palmer State Fair. What follows are some of the responses we received on a variety of resource-related topics.

dustry should be taxed at the same rate as any other business in the state, 12 per cent at a lower rate and 20 per cent at a higher rate.

— Asked if they favored the capital

— 60 per cent believed the petroleum in-

Continued next page