

ALASKA HIGHWAY SYMPOSIUM

Northern Lights College

June 19,20 1982

Conference Objective: To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the most significant economic development in Northeastern British Columbia and the Yukon in this century. The conference will bring together experts and scholars from across North America and will attempt a comprehensive assessment of the development and impact of the Alaska Highway.

Timing: The two day event held the third weekend in June will facilitate attendance by local pioneers associated with the construction of the Highway, students and community residents, speakers and delegates from long distances and summer tourists on their way North on the Highway,

Location: The conference center is a central hotel located in Fort St. John. Historically, the Alaska Highway began with the Mile 0 located five miles north of Fort St. John. Northern Lights College in Fort St. John is the coordination center for the conference.

Attendance: The conference is designed to accommodate 200 delegates. Special effort will be made to ensure that delegates include pioneers and native people who were associated with the construction of the Alaska Highway.

Programme: Prepared papers will be presented by 20 guest speakers with expertise on the planning, construction, impact, and the future of the Alaska Highway. A panel of guests with social interest in the area and the Highway at the time of construction will discuss the social impact. Official sound-colour films of the Highway filmed during construction and an original play about the Alaska Highway are part of the conference. A banquet will be held to honour local residents who were instrumental in construction of the Highway. A 400 page publication of the history of the Alaska Highway and the conference proceedings is planned.

Sponsorship: community college, government, business and industry will be asked to share the expenses of the conference. Northern Lights College is organizing the conference and sponsors may contribute from \$500 to \$3,500.

Budget: Approximately \$30,500 will be required. (see attached projected revenue and expenses)

PENULTIMATE PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME FOR THE ALASKA HIGHWAY SYMPOSIUM

INTRODUCTION: Opening Remarks

Paper I: "The Romance of the Alaska Highway".

Jim Christy, author of Rough Road to the North: Travels Along the Alaska Highway.

SESSION ONE: PLANNING THE HIGHWAY

Paper II: "Early Proposals for an Alaska Highway".

David Remley, author of Crooked Road: The Story of the Alaska Highway.

Paper III: "T.D. Pattullo and the Alaska Highway".

Dr. Robin Fisher, History Department, Simon Fraser University.

Paper IV: "The Military Imperatives Behind The Building of the Alaska Highway".

Captain M.V. Bezeau, Directorate of History, Department of National Defence, Ottawa.

SESSION TWO: BUILDING THE HIGHWAY

Paper V: "Surveying the Line".

Don W. Thomson, author of the three volume study Men and Meridians: The History of Surveying and Mapping in Canada.

Paper VI: "General Bill Hoge and the Alaska Highway".

John T. Greenwood, Chief, Historical Division, Office of the Chief of Engineers, United States Army.

Paper VII: "The Public Roads Administration's Role in the Building of the Alaska Highway".

Lt. Col. Heath Twitchell, Ph.D., Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

SESSION THREE: FILMS ON MILITARY PROJECTS IN THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST
DURING WORLD WAR TWO

Richard Finnie, veteran author, film-maker and northern specialist was closely associated with the Alaska Highway and its supporting project, Canol, from inception to end of construction, 1942-4. Alone, he photographed and directed official sound-colour films on both projects, writing and editing them under U.S. Army sponsorship. He will screen these films and summarize his firsthand observations on both projects.

SESSION FOUR: SOME OF THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION

Paper VIII: "The Building of the Highway As Seen Through the Eyes of the Army Medical Services".

Dwight D. Oland, Historian, Medical History Branch, Center of Military History, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

Paper IX: "The Impact of the Construction of the Alaska Highway on the Native Peoples of the Yukon".

Ken Coates, doctoral candidate, University of British Columbia.

SESSION FIVE: CONTEMPORARY IMPRESSIONS OF THE BUILDING OF THE ALASKA
HIGHWAY

A panel discussion involving local residents and ex-servicement who participated in the construction of the highway.

SESSION SIX: THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY

Paper X: "The Army of Occupation: Another View of U.S. Military Involvement in the Canadian Northwest".

Dr. Curtis Nordman, History Instructor, Northern Lights College.

Paper XI: "Canada Reasserts Herself in the Northwest".

Dr. Richard Diubaldo, History Department, Concordia University, and co-author of A Study of Canadian-American Defence Policy (1945-1975) - Northern Issues and Strategic Resources.

SESSION SEVEN: THE POSTWAR HIGHWAY

Paper XII: "The Military Highway in Peacetime".

Dr. Steven Harris, Directorate of History,
Department of National Defence, Ottawa.

Paper XIII: "Problems in Maintaining the Highway".

Dr. Stan Thomson, Department of Civil
Engineering, University of Alberta (and
between 1954 and 1959 the Soils Engineer
for the Canadian Army detachment opera-
ting out of Whitehorse).

Paper XIV: "The Civilian Highway".

Ken Coates, doctoral candidate, University
of British Columbia, and consultant to
the federal Department of Public Works.

SESSION EIGHT: IMPACT AND PROSPECTS

Paper XV: "Anatomy of a Loser: The Impact of the
Highway on Dawson City".

Dr. Richard Stuart, Historian, Parks
Canada (assigned to the Dawson City Project).

Paper XVI: "The Impact of the Alaska Highway on the
Settlement Structure of the Yukon"

Frank Duerden, Geography Department,
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto,
and author of "The Development of the Non-
Native Settlement Pattern of the Yukon
Territory" in Canadian Issues.

Paper XVII: "The Future: The Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline".

Francois Bregha, author of Bob Blair's
Pipeline, and Energy Analyst for the
Canadian Arctic Resources Committee.

CONCLUDING BANQUET

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Projected Revenue

Registration fees	\$6,000
Northern Lights College	2,100
Sponsor Contributions	22,345
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	\$30,445

Projected Expenses

Guests fees	\$15,645
Honorary Banquet	5,000
Luncheon	700
Advertising/Publicity	1,500
Promoter	1,500
Printing	1,500
Office supplies	500
Office rental	2,100
Coordinator	2,000
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	\$30,445