Now, Alascom customers can call toll-free "800" numbers across America.

For more information about choosing your long-distance company, call Alascom at 266-7730 in Anchorage or 900-623-7730 toll-free statewide.

From its beginning, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) was destined to become an encyclopedia of superlatives. The final weld on the 44-inch steel pipeline was completed on May 31, 1977. Within three weeks, oil from the supergiant Prudhoe Bay oil field on Alaska's North Slope began flowing through the 800-mile pipeline to the ice-free port of Valdez in Southcentral Alaska.

From Prudhoe Bay, the engineering marvel snakes through three mountain ranges, crosses 834 rivers and streams and traverses three earthquake faults. Temperatures ranging from -80°F in winter to +95°F in summer tested the Arctic coast with its abundant wildlife.

Some 70,000 men and women who worked on the $9 billion line during its three years of construction. The terrain also tested pipeline engineers who had to deal with permafrost which covered 75 percent of the pipeline route. Under the original plans, nearly all of the pipeline was to be buried, but the permafrost, some of it as deep as 2,000 feet, forced builders to elevate about half the line. To prevent settling from permafrost thawing, most production and pipeline buildings were elevated on steel piling driven into the frozen ground.

Shortly after Atlantic Richfield and Humble Oil & Refining Company (later Exxon USA) discovered oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968, oil companies proposed building the pipeline for an energy-hungry America to carry the crude to southern markets. Only caribou and other wildlife occupied the flat and treeless coastal plain region. Never before had Americans tried to tap oil so far north, in such a harsh and remote environment.

Construction of the pipeline to get the 9 billion barrels of recoverable oil to market was delayed for years by legal challenges. A united and vociferous environmental community vehemently opposed construction of the pipeline. They insisted that the massive project would have devastating effects on the environment.

Pipeline is a tribute to the spirit of Alaska

by Carl Portman

(continued on page 4)
Message from the executive director
By Becky L. Gay

Dear friends:
The rumors you have been hearing are true! It is my great honor to serve as RDC's new Executive Director.

The Executive Committee gave a unanimous vote of confidence when it selected me to advance to RDC's top staff position. As you can imagine, I am thrilled and excited to step into the position of "Number-One Boss" with their support.

The continuity offered by a smooth transition from promoting promising young leadership within our organization has a strong history of success. Paula Easley, our retiring Executive Director, had great vision in this regard. Her pursuit of excellence in building a strong, professional staff was part of Paula’s planned exit from the relentless pace of RDC. It is my special honor to have her unwavering support for leading that team into the future — you might say my on-the-job training paid off!

I report long-time staffers Mike Abbott and Carl Portman remain onboard as vital components of my team, as Paula envisioned. Although many of you know them well, they will become even more familiar to you in the upcoming months as we stretch our talents to keep RDC members the most informed, up-to-date individuals in Alaska. We promise to keep you at the cutting edge of resource development issues affecting Alaska — and to do it more efficiently.

Becky Gay is new Executive Director

Easley resigns after 12 years of service

For the first time in more than a decade, the Resource Development Council has a new executive director. On June 4, president Joseph R. Henri announced the appointment of Becky L. Gay to lead the state's largest non-profit economic development organization.

Gay succeeds Paula Easley, who directed the statewide organization for 12 years. Gay served as Easley's deputy since 1985, overseeing a number of functions, including budget administration, local government lobbying, issue coordination and urban and rural economic development planning.

"Becky's dedication to the Council and her faith in our mission have been unwavering," said Henri. "The Executive Committee believes Becky's ability to foster teamwork and carry out the Board's overriding goal of making RDC as strong and as effective as possible in expanding Alaska's economic base through resource development is essential.

An 18-year resident of Alaska, Gay joined RDC in 1984 as Projects Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, continue to make up the subcommittees of Renewable Resources which Tindall heads. Our thanks for the work of outgoing directors Ric Davidge, Lands, and Max Nalley, Oil and Gas. (continued on page 7)

President Joseph R. Henri and Paula Easley congratulate Becky Gay at the RDC June 4 breakfast forum.

In 1979 Gay worked for the Naval Arctic Research Lab in Barrow as a science research aide. Her work with various scientists and other officials took her across the North Slope, including the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea ice packs. She was honored to be invited to a native whaling camp in 1980 and participated in harvesting three of the four whale hunts which were successful. Gay served on the Board of Directors of the Arctic Council's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

While at NARL, Gay developed a keen interest in politics and economics, as well as science. Gay left Barrow in 1980 to pursue a master's degree in economics based in Anchorage.

Gay has a special interest in cross-cultural education and lifestyles. She has studied the values of Indonesia and has traveled extensively in Asia. Gay maintains contacts with public and private officials in the international resource sector to capitalize on trade opportunities benefitting Alaska.

"I look forward to continuing my work at RDC as executive director," Gay said. "My confidence in RDC’s vital role in Alaska’s future is strengthened only by my enthusiasm for the work that lies ahead of us."

During her tenure at RDC, Paula played a leadership role in the Council’s evolution from a "mono-issue" ad hoc group (OMAR) to the multi-dimensional political economics organization RDC is today.

With your help, I promise to keep RDC moving in similar directions, focusing on analysis and action on all major resource issues facing the state. RDC’s motto is: "Alaskans working with Alaska to improve quality of life through sound resource development." We truly live up to that credo and boast a wealth of volunteer assets. RDC has the potential to become a "number-one boss" with their support.

From our board of directors to the individuals who support us, volunteers are the prime reason for RDC's continued success.

One of the best working facets of our volunteer programs is RDC's resource division structure. Under the leadership of volunteer directors, the Council's divisions provide a well-spring of expertise to increase our knowledge and handle consensus-building at the working group level.

I would like to publicly thank our division directors for their ongoing support, enthusiasm and uncanny ability to motivate their respective members to do outstanding work on testimony and issue analyses. They are top performers.

Dick Tindall, Renewable Resources; Paul Glavinovich, Minerals; Mike Abbott, Fisheries; and John Merrick, Forestry, continue to make up the subcommittees of Renewable Resources which Tindall heads. Our thanks for the work of outgoing directors Ric Davidge, Lands, and Max Nalley, Oil. (continued on page 7)

Executive director's message of outgoing directors Ric Davidge, Lands, and Max Nalley, Oil and Gas. New division directors are being sought for these positions.

Although space does not allow thanks by name, I do wish to recognize the support of the many volunteers who served as executive director of RDC during this transition. It is an honor to work with so fine a group of Alaskans from across the state. I am thrilled to continue to work with you.

In closing, I especially would like to thank the work horses of RDC's volunteer effort — the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is a proven ground like no other! The guiding light of RDC policy emanates from this choice group that challenges remain for RPEC, but after considering all factors, the Los Angeles organization believes prices will hold.

The Foundation will sponsor a luncheon on Anchorage on Tuesday, June 30 featuring Michael D. Smolinski, Director of World Service for McDermott & Smolinski. A workbook will present a detailed analysis and forecast beginning at 12:00 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Call 276-0700 for reservations.

Oil prices to stabilize near $17...

Water quality data from reserve pit fluids clearly demonstrate that the vast majority meet or considerably exceed State Drinking Water Standards. In only a small percentage of instances did samples exceed these stringent standards based on the protection of human health, assuming the reserve pits were to serve as a drinking water source.

Results of aquatic toxicity tests with sensitive fresh and saltwater fish species support the lack of environmental impacts from reserve pit fluids. The demonstrated lack of toxic effects on representative food chain species essentially eliminates risks of toxic effects to higher levels of life in the aquatic food chain.

Regarding oil spills on the entire North Slope, spill effects are localized, and to date the cumulative effects have not been significant. Although the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation has reported 953 spills on the North Slope, 64.7% were less than 50 gallons.

In the Prudhoe Bay area, most spills occur on gravel roads and pads; not on tundra or in waterways. At any rate, when a spill does occur, the ground or waterway is usually frozen and covered with snow. The large majority of spills are small and in volume and are handled very successfully.

Operational experience on the North Slope has allowed the Industry to develop and test numerous procedures and techniques to control and clean-up oil spills. This experience can be applied to drilling operations in ANWR to ensure against spills and mitigate their effects.

Environmental record attacked...

Regrettably, spill impacts are accepted in the name of progress, although any spill impacts are of critical concern to resource managers and the public.

Of individuals who spend many thankless hours working on behalf of the Council. They serve willingly, tirelessly (so it seems) and effectively. Oil prices, political flows, economic conditions, trade agreements, development strategy, the future of ANWR, oil prices, job satisfaction, and a host of other issues are discussed as we are asked to bet (and win) our future on every one of these issues. It is your willingness to come forth that makes this possible.

OPEC's market share in world oil supply is declining, but the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is still a major player in the oil market. OPEC's market share in world oil supply is declining, but the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is still a major player in the oil market. OPEC's market share in world oil supply is declining, but the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is still a major player in the oil market.

Oil prices to stabilize near $17...

Oil prices to stabilize near $17...

Oil prices to stabilize near $17...
New independent study projects

1. Lifehacks of many Alaskans may be

The president's annual Independence Day message focused on the nation's commitment to economic growth and job creation. "Our economic recovery is under way," he said in a speech to Congress, "and we must continue to build on this progress by investing in our infrastructure, supporting small businesses, and providing the tools we need to compete in a global economy." The president announced a number of new initiatives, including a $17 billion investment in clean energy projects and a $5 billion fund to support the development of new industries. The president also urged Congress to pass a bill to extend the expiring provisions of the American Dream Act, which would provide a path to citizenship for many undocumented immigrants. "We cannot allow America to lose its competitive edge," he said. "We must stand together and ensure that every American has a fair shot at success."
10 years old

Pipeline exists in harmony with environment

(continued on page 7)

At a 1971 Washington, D.C. public hearing, a representative of Friends of the Earth stated, "I am deeply disturbed that the Department of Interior, acting on what I would guess is somewhat tawdry evidence, is environmental destruction of the American Arctic and possibly the west coast of North America in the name of security."

The Vice President of the Sierra Club had similar feelings: "Broadly speaking, we feel that despite the apparently reassuring summary and recommendations of this (Environmental Impact) statement, the damage attendant to construction and use of the pipeline as proposed would be enormous, so potentially devastating that the DOI should not grant a right-of-way across federal lands in Alaska."

One of the largest single concerns voiced was that the pipeline would block the annual migrations of caribou. Critics claimed the pipeline would threaten "not only the comeback of the caribou but the future survival of the great migratory herds."

Charges were made that the amounts of gravel to be taken from streams and rivers would destroy fish and their habitat. In addition, the sea link of the project from the port of Valdez to West Coast ports drew substantial attention.

"Rest assured, it is not far from Prudhoe Bay, and then shipped down the West Coast, we will, eventually, have an oil spill leading to the greatest kill of living things in history," stated one major environmental group. Another calculated there would be up to four major super tanker spills by 1980.

Practically every critic preferred a trans-Canada line as an alternative to the trans-Alaska proposal. Many felt that a route through what would later be known as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be less environmentally disruptive.

Opponents argued that the project was not necessary for national security reasons. They brought forth witnesses to downplay or dismiss this idea. One leading official said ample supplies of oil existed elsewhere in friendly nations such as Iran.

Private companies they could rise to the challenge. Government officials had to sort through it all, and to their credit they established the rules and established guidelines for construction and operation. The final measure authorizing construction passed Congress by a single vote, cast by Vice President Agnew.

Not only has the pipeline and North Slope oil operations failed to impede caribou migration, caribou populations along the pipeline corridor are booming. Populations are increasing in the two caribou herds whose range the pipeline bisects.

The Central Arctic caribou herd has increased from 5,000 animals to 16,000, migrating more or less parallel to the pipeline. In a real test case of whether a pipeline actually migrates, the Nelchina herd migrates directly across the line.

In its ten years of operation, not only has the pipeline failed to impede the Nelchina herd, but only two percent of the animals cross the pipeline using special and expensive animal crossings. Others cross where the pipeline is located. In one instance where the pipeline is as low as 3.5 feet above the ground.

From 1975 until now, the Nelchina herd has grown in population from 8,000 to 25,000 animals. Studies have revealed that other animals have shown little preference for the locations of pipelines crossing across the pipeline, Moose, Dall sheep, and other animals are facing very well along the pipeline corridor. A still-unspoiled landscape is attracting record number of tourists. In fact, the pipeline is a major tourist attraction.

Rural villages continue to enjoy a subsistence lifestyle, but with the added benefits of public facilities and services provided through oil revenues.

Fishermen have enjoyed historically-high harvests. Commercial fishermen, as well as sports fishermen, have continued to do well. Per capita, fish production along the pipeline is the highest in the world. This state has demonstrated that with proper management and conservation, Alaska's marine resources will continue to thrive.

Studies have revealed that other animals have shown little preference for the location of pipelines crossing across the pipeline. Moose, Dall sheep, and other animals are facing very well along the pipeline corridor. A still-unspoiled landscape is attracting record number of tourists. In fact, the pipeline is a major tourist attraction.

Environmentalists attack Prudhoe Bay record

Environmental organizations opposing oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge have stated in recent Congressional hearings that it is not appropriate to suggest that industry's impressive environmental record at Prudhoe Bay would be duplicated in ANWR. Yet the same organizations appear eager to find the slightest negative impact resulting from Prudhoe Bay development and insist it will be repeated in ANWR should development occur.

"Refuting the use of positive analogies while depending on the use of negative analogies to make a case is not particularly effective logic for non-development interests," said Becky Gay, the Council's new executive director. "It really weakens their credibility."

Some environmental organizations have charged industry with widespread and serious air and water pollution at Prudhoe Bay. However, these charges are not supported by official reports which show North Slope facilities operating well below national and international air quality standards.

At 9.8 billion barrels of recoverable crude, the Prudhoe Bay field is the world's 18th largest and one of only 35 supergiant oilfields ever discovered.

Over $25 billion has been invested by the petroleum industry, exclusive of interest or borrowed capital, to develop the Prudhoe Bay field and build the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

In March 1987 the cumulative production from Prudhoe Bay reached 5.5 billion barrels, surpassing as 1959, the previous largest producing field in America.

North Slope oil production accounts for one in five of the barreis of oil produced domestically.

Development of the North Slope has paid up to $40 billion in business to suppliers and service firms in all 50 states.

Since June 1977, the petroleum industry has paid Alaska state and local governments, as well as Native Corporations, more than $50,000 for each citizen of the state.

Approximately 85 percent of the State of Alaska's revenues come from North Slope oil production.

Prudhoe Bay development has paid the federal government more than $130 billion in petroleum taxes.

From 1980-85, Prudhoe Bay development accounted for 39,000 direct jobs and 29,000 indirect jobs.

Over 7,000 tankers have sailed from Valdez with Prudhoe Bay oil.

The caribou population in the Prudhoe Bay area has more than tripled since oil production began in 1977.