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In 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 which make it impossible to comment on the 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.

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 sub-standard. 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, furthermore, 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. Therefore, 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.

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-
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**KETHOS NEXT STABLE INDUSTRY**

Within Kethos' needs, the stable industry is in addition to salmon fishing and tourism, the development of a new heavy industry project. The Kethos industry project, led by the national government, is expected to bring an additional 5,000 jobs to the region and boost the local economy by 20%.

**KETHOS NEXT CHALLENGE**

The challenge Kethos faces is to balance the development of the new industry with environmental protection. The project will require significant investment in infrastructure and the relocation of local communities. However, the benefits of the new industry are expected to outweigh the challenges.

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**ALASKA HAS BIG LEAD FOR HOUSEHOLD PAYMENTS**

The state of Alaska leads the nation in household payments, with an average of $20,125 per household. This is due in part to the state's high oil and gas revenue, which is used to fund social programs and infrastructure.

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**NOTA BENE**

The Associated Regional Affairs and Environmental Protection, the federal agency responsible for environmental protection in Alaska, has recently announced a new program to reduce emissions from oil and gas operations. The program will provide grants to oil and gas companies to develop cleaner technologies and improve existing systems.

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**DIRTY WORDS**

The term "dirty" is often used to describe environmentally harmful activities. In the context of Alaska's oil and gas industry, the term is used to describe the pollution caused by the extraction and processing of oil and gas.

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**TRANS-ALASKA OIL PIPELINE COLLECTORS' ITEMS**

Items included in the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline Collector's Items program include:

- Oil and gas pipeline segments
- Oil and gas drilling equipment
- Oil and gas processing equipment
- Oil and gas transportation equipment

The program is designed to provide educational opportunities for students interested in the oil and gas industry.

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**DEAK WHITEHEAD, JR.**

Whitehead serves as the CEO of Alaska's Resources (AR), the company responsible for the development and operation of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline. Whitehead has been a vocal advocate for the pipeline and its economic benefits to Alaska.

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**WALKER PLAINS**

The Walker Plains Wind Farm, located in the northwestern part of Alaska, is one of the largest wind farms in the United States. The project, which was completed in 2020, is expected to provide significant environmental benefits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
WILL ALASKA SOLVE GOLD PROBLEMS?

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 area designations. The newspaper said 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, Robert A. Plumbridge, 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 government gold sales.

The Daily News cites figures from Citi-bank 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. Citi-bank 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 continues to outstrip gold 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 bullish action by 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.

RARE II, but that his concern lies with the fact that the withdrawal of 62 million acres from public access with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) will be unnecessarily 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.

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HEMPHILL OUTLINES GOALS FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation has a new executive director. Sarah Hempfill, the former acting director for the corporation, accepted the post from the Idaho Fish and Game director.

Hempfill is a former attorney for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and represented the Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association when she was in private practice. She and the corporation’s offices will move to Anchorage to set up shop.

Hempfill has cited, as one of her major goals, efforts to get projects which were developed for the $1.45 million in Saltonstall-Kennedy funds underway. Those monies are derived from import taxes on fish products for bottomfish development. She said that when those dollars are received, $300,000 will go for a bottomfish nation big boat bottomfishery in Kodiak. Meanwhile, the $1.45 million is being held up in the nation’s capital by a lack of communication between the Office of Management and Budget and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The funds should arrive in Alaska next month.

Another objective of Hempfill 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 will 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. Hempfill 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 be 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 Edenson, 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.

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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 the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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.

— 60 per cent believed the petroleum industry 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 Continued next page