

# My Observations In Alaska

ALASKA  
Installation 6  
Juneau, Alaska  
May 18, 1933

Dear Sirs:  
This time I send you an article from Juneau, the Capital of our territory. I hope you can catch a glimpse of what I feel about the trip here - or rather the trip here. It is impossible to put in words any of the grandeur and the beauty of this marvelous land. Human attempts to describe only seem to detract from the picture. Yet, the puny efforts of man have done very little towards changing the land - though they have done much to change the nature of living of people who inhabit this land.  
Thursday night - or rather around

we have incomparable scenery. The distance from Point Barrow to Ketchikan is about as great as that from New York City to San Francisco - from Juneau to Fairbanks in further than from Miami to New York City. Even so in spite of great distances Alaskans get around quite a lot - for they fly more than any other people on earth.  
Whitehorse is on the Yukon and is as frontier a Canadian town as Fairbanks is an American town. The people are optimistic - looking unafraid and confidently towards the future. They accept the present not as life's goal or end - but as a stepping stone to better days ahead. They expect the general trend of Canadian affairs to shift from the east to the west - and especially to the Northwest. We in Alaska feel the same way - especially those who look with unblinking eyes to the greatness of our land. Northern Canadians are fully as aware of their closeness to and interdependence upon Americans as we are upon them. We cannot even drive to Alaska without passing through thousands of miles of Canadian territory. We eat the same foods, wear the same winter resistant clothes and share the same problems (the growing pains of a pioneer people). Two years ago I felt hurt when life-long Alaskans looked at me with suspicion and with something akin to resentment - now I understand why that feeling is there. It isn't exactly a feeling of resentment - but a feeling of pity - pity for those who try to reform their land. The reformers only become reformed and have to learn how to conform to the Alaskan living conditions - if they survive. If they persist in feeling that they have come as missionaries to lift the living standards of the poor Alaskan backwoodsmen - then they'll meet their defeat and retreat all the way back to their old habitats - and good riddance.  
We arose Saturday morning to board the most remarkable train I've ever seen - the White Pass and Yukon train. We left Whitehorse around 8:30 a. m. and immediately began to arise above the river level and go over the nearby mountains. Soon though we reached a level, a table land and traveled for half an hour over this plane. After two hours we had reached Carcross - an old supply point for the men of the "88" days. I hoped to purchase films for my CS Argus here - but couldn't for they hadn't any at the sole store. Here we came upon historic old Lake Bennett. We traveled for 50 miles long its shores. The frozen surface of the lake was used formerly and still is used so - as a travel route for gold seekers. Over this route literally thousands came between 1898 and 1902. Many of them met disaster - freezing, being crushed by snow slides and avalanches or the like.  
The narrow gauge locomotive had to be joined by a second at the end of Lake Bennett - for here it had to ascend the passes that were formerly so death dealing to many men, braver and more powerful than myself two weeks to make the same trip - if they survived at all. These early pioneers had gone across the passes into Lake Bennett and on into the adjoining Yukon River - from whence they had floated more than a thousand miles to points strung along the river - Dawson - Forty Mile - Eagle - Circle City and Fort Yukon, eventually even Fairbanks and Nome. These cities grew up - struggled and died as gold ran out yet even today all of them mine gold. Dawson had 50,000 souls, Eagle 3,000, Circle 3,000.



## Summer Driving Courses For School Folks

Raleigh - Summer courses in driver education for teachers, principals, and other safety workers will begin the first week in June according to John C. Noe, N. C. Department of Public Instruction.  
Two week and one week courses will be offered with the trained expenses being borne by other cooperating agencies among them the State Department of Motor Vehicles, N. C. Automobile Dealers Association, American Automobile Association, The Carolina Motor Club, Association of Casualty and Surety Companies, and the N. C. Association of Insurance Agents, Inc.  
A limit registration last year forced the cancellation of five driver education courses, Noe said.  
"The matter of providing necessary expenses for rooms, meals, and transportation creates a major bottleneck and greatly limits attendance of these summer courses. However, in many areas of the state civic clubs, auto dealers groups and others have provided scholarships covering such expenses for teachers from their local communities. If your community has an organization or individual who wishes to provide their local school with such scholarship the cost will be approximately \$35 for one week courses and \$50 for the two week courses. No tuition is charged and the colleges make rooms available to trainees at cost."  
The first driver education courses, for white teachers, will begin at East Carolina College June 8. Deadline for applications is June 1 and applications should be forwarded to Dr. N. M. Jorgenson, New Gymnasium Building, E. C. C., Greenville.  
Later courses will be conducted on the following schedule:  
White: N. C. State College beginning June 29. Applications to be sent to E. W. Ruggles, Extension Division, N. C. State College, Raleigh by June 15.  
University of North Carolina beginning July 8. Applications to Hammond Strayhorn, Woolen Gymnasium, U. N. C., Chapel Hill by June 29.  
Western Carolina Teachers College beginning July 27. Applications to W. E. Bird, Administration, W. C. T. C., Cullowhee by July 20.  
Appalachian State Teachers College beginning August 17. Applications to Chappell Wilson, Administration Building, A. S. T. C., Boone by July 20.  
Negro: Elizabeth City State Teachers College beginning June 15. Applications to S. D. Williams, Elizabeth City State Teachers College, Elizabeth City by June 8.

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Published each Thursday in Kenansville, N. C., County Seat of DUPLIN COUNTY

Editorial, business office and printing plant, Kenansville, N. C.

J. ROBERT GRADY, EDITOR - OWNER  
Entered At The Post Office, Kenansville, N. C. as second class matter.

TELEPHONE - Kenansville, Day 255-6 - Night 215-1  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$3.50 per year in Duplin, Lenoir, Jones, Onslow, Pender, Sampson, New Hanover and Wayne counties; \$4.50 per year outside this area in North Carolina; and \$5.00 per year elsewhere.

Advertising rates furnished on request.

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