

the Sam Campbell Special



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1755

Advance indications are that the year 1955 will break all records for travel. Everyone wants to go somewhere. Our congratulations to the Campbellites for choosing ALASKA as their goal this year. You may be sure that no one is going to look on greater beauty or experience greater travel joy than you will this year. The journey to Alaska and return has EVERYTHING.

GETTING READY --

Time to start rollin' your packs, pals. Get out your shovel, your pick, and your pan. We're going to have a little gold rush all our own. We're going up the long trail of '98, and give those mountain sides, rushing streams, and Alaskan skies a looking over such as they never had before.

We'll find gold a-plenty, too. It may not be the kind that they take down to Kentucky and bury in the ground again. We can't see any sense of digging it up if you just mean to move it to another hole in the earth. The gold we are going to get we will carry in our hearts, and we'll be using it for the rest of our lives.

We gather some of this gold from the shores and mountain peaks along the Inside Passage. This waterway, about 1100 miles long, has much more than its share of beauty. We'll take our treasure from those endless wooded shores, from the blue waters, the snow-capped summits of mountains, the solitude and peace that reigns in this vast land--and we'll leave just as much there for the next fellow. We'll gather nuggets from the history, legends, and traditions of this wild country, where wilderness still rules. We'll gather of the stars in those brilliant, smoke and dust free heavens, we'll take our share of the northern lights and the land of the midnight sun. We'll stake our claim to a full share of the grandeur of America's last frontier, and declare our right to know and love unspoiled nature, in this realm where the primitive still rules.

Shoulder up your packs, my hearties! Harness up the dog team and MUSH. The call of the wild has got us. We're under the spell of the Yukon, and we like it!

There is a lot to properly getting ready for a journey. The make-ready days, rightly used, are a vital part of the whole experience. We don't mean just the buying of clothes, suitcases, film, and such things--though this, too, is part of the fun. The mental preparation is the important thing. As much as your time will allow, read all you can about Alaska, and the way you are going there. Learn what the boys went through who first visited this fabulous land, the hardships they endured, the effect it had on their thoughts and lives. Read of the early days at Wrangell, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan. See what world travellers have said about the overpowering beauty of the place, the land built upon a scale of such magnitude as to defy adjectives and even human comprehension.

There are two books that we would especially recommend for this pre-journey period. One is "Alaska Today" by B. W. Denison, the other "The State of Alaska" by Ernest Gruening (Governor of Alaska, 1939-1953). Both are well written, and offer information and description that make one realize anew that Alaska is a place with which the American of today must become familiar.

Alaska was discovered by one Vitus Bering in 1741. Bering was a Dane by birth,

but was in the employ of the Russian government at the time of this journey. Alaska was about the last thing there was to discover in this small world of ours, for most everything else was known, even though various places still had to be sorted out, divided, fought over, and developed.

The name Alaska came from the language of the Aleut Indians. The original word has had a number of spellings, the one most often seen being Al-a-aska, meaning the "Great Land." The story of Bering's journey will make cold chills run up and down your back. It was an epic of hardship, courage, endurance, and heartbreak.

The history of Al-a-aska already makes volumes. It is a strange mixture of unorthodox proceedings, intrigue, irregularities, skullduggery on an international level, muddling, and marvels. How Alaska came to be a part of America is one of the most fantastic and fascinating stories in the record of modern nations.

We of today have many things to learn about Alaska. The place has been maligned by reports, and misconstrued by tradition. The rugged nature of the climate in certain areas and the tragic experience of some ill-prepared pioneers has been played up too strongly, while more admirable features have been lost sight of.

The interior of "The Great Land" is undoubtedly "America's Deep Freeze" in the heart of the winter. But that coastal strip of territory in which lie the cities of Ketchikan, Wrangell, Juneau, Cordova, and Seward, is relatively mild and pleasant. Much of this area has an average temperature comparable to Arkansas. This is the "Pan Handle" of Alaska, and the famed Inside Passage winds its way through it. The warmth is due to the Japan current (Kuro Shiwo), which circles about these shores tempering the prevailing west winds.

So, you of the Campbell Gold Rush, 1955, don't fancy that you are going on a rough and gruelling journey into a land that makes December out of June. Leave out your snow shoes and thick red underwear. Dress the way you would for any northern U.S. City at that spring season. Get ready for a thrilling trip, a restful trip, an inspiring trip--with as fine a group of companions as one could find in this world!

NOW ABOUT THAT REUNION LUNCHEON--

Everything is all ready for a grand get-together. The Lake Shore Club has the old red carpet out, and the cooks are working overtime to fix a menu up to the Campbellite standard. Folks are coming from far and wide. We are in for a wonderful day, meeting new friends, renewing contact with old ones, talking and laughing of what we have done, and getting excited about what we are going to do.

Lovely and lovable Phoebe Cramer, Secretary of the Luncheon, has sent out notices to all on the Campbellite's list. In case you misplaced her letter, here are the details again. The luncheon will be at the Lake Shore Club, 850 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. The hour will be 12:30 P.M., though gab fest and visitin' hour begins at 11:30. The cost is \$4 per plate, including gratuities. There is lots of room in the Grand Ballroom at the Lake Shore Club, so bring as many guests as you wish. Send requests for reservations and your check to Miss Phoebe Cramer, 2958 North Washtenaw Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

If you ever acted as chairman for such a luncheon, you will know from experience that the biggest part of the job is to get folks to send in reservations early. They mean to do so, but somehow the hours and days slip by until one day they realize with a start that the event is right on them--and no reservations. In the meantime, the chairman has been walking the floor trying to figure out how many he will have on hand so the cooks can prepare the right amount of food, etc.

Give sweet Phoebe a break, folks. Get your reservations in so we can go ahead with final details of the party. It will sure help if you will.

Bring something for our display table! Pictures, scrapbooks, souvenirs, novelties, all are interesting and help make the occasion a joyful one.

The afternoon program will be divided between recollections of Hawaii, and looking forward to Alaska. Dr. Forest K. Paul of Indianapolis has agreed to show some of his excellent slides of Hawaii. Dr. Paul has unusual ability as a photographer. His color pictures of Hawaii will compare favorably with those by the top professionals.

Following this, Sam Campbell will give his lecture on Alaska, illustrated by motion pictures in natural color.

The menus of the day will be supplied by the SS PRINCE GEORGE.

DOINGS:

Down Indianapolis way the folks held their own reunion. Many of them are coming to the Chicago shindig, April 16, but they wanted another party anyway. This was of the format of a dinner at the Riviera Club. A large group attended and there was a great feast of good fellowship as well as good food. Quite a number were there who are going to Alaska. On special request, Sam Campbell showed his north woods pictures featuring the animals which are such favorites. Dr. Forest K. Paul was re-elected President of the Indianapolis Sam Campbell Club.

A card comes from Elsie Pawley, who is on a Mediterranean Cruise. She was on the Sam Campbell tour to Hawaii, and many will remember her. She says "The roughest time on the Lurline was smooth compared to our crossing." Apparently the old Atlantic was kicking over the traces. She says that the Mediterranean was quite smooth, though, and hints that other passengers likely get tired of hearing her rave about our trip to Hawaii. Well--that WAS a wonderful experience we had, and the world might just as well get used to hearing about it.

The good news comes that Mildred Knabe is going to Hawaii in 1956. Many will remember lovely Milly on the previous Alaskan tour. She has been to Hawaii before, but wants to go again (and again, and again) especially with the kind of folks she knows on the Campbell trips. That gives us all a thrill, Milly, to know that we are going to have you with us in 1956!

Hawaiian influence shows up in our lives continuously. Irene and Dorothy Weldon are taking Hula lessons from a professional in Chicago. Iva Mae Muth is giving lessons to many of her friends. Giny Campbell has Hawaiian records playing half the time when she is home, and has gotten so she can hula the vacuum cleaner all about the New Campbell house.

REMEMBER THE TOUR REUNION, April 16. Lots of joy will be there.

thought-of-the-month

"I will take my prayer to the mountains,
Where the inviolate towers
Shadow the silence with holiness."

(Stefi Samuelson)