

THE VALDEZ EARTHQUAKE BUGLE



VOLUME 1, Number 16

VALDEZ, ALASKA

Thursday, June 25, 1964 FREE

CONTRACTOR ARRIVES

Bill Branson, superintendent for B & A Construction Company, Fairbanks, reached Valdez last night. Three other members of his crew were with him and material and equipment will follow. He said that three backhoes with fork lifts, two or three pickups and a truck would be arriving this week.

B & A Construction will have headquarters at 316 Hobart St. (Walker residence) while here. The Walkers will be moving into the Cox house shortly.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Valdez will be enriched with a gift of 315 tons of building materials from the Alaskaid ship load of lumber from the West Coast. The lumber, along with 5,000 lbs of cheese from Tillamook, Oregon, arrived in Alaska the first part of May.

The Valdez portion is due to leave Seward this week by barge or steamship for Valdez, it was announced by Acting Mayor Jim Bedingfield at the Monday night council meeting.

Volunteer labor will be donated by qualified long shoremen to help unload the lumber, Bill Pettit explained. Herman Sontag has offered equipment for this purpose.

Jack Brandis, Willamette Valley lumberman who served as chairman for Alaskaid, visited Valdez briefly at the time the ship load of lumber reached Alaska the first part of May.

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED TONIGHT IN VALDEZ

A general, public review of the over-all planning for Valdez from a funding, programming and timing standpoint may take place in Valdez tonight. Dwight A. Ink, Executive Director of the Alaska Reconstruction Commission, with Wilmont L. Averill, his executive officer, are expected to arrive in Valdez this morning along with Vic Fischer, Assistant Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, Washington, D.C., and others.

Weather permitting, Director Ink and his party should arrive in Valdez today to appear at the public meeting tonight. Mayor Bruce Woodford announces that the meeting will begin at 7 p.m., at the High School. Every one in Valdez is welcome to attend.

TOWN MEETING

Whether or not the official group arrives in Valdez, A GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7 P.M. TONIGHT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. Paul Finfer of City Planning Associates, Mishawaka, Ind., will give a general presentation on the New Town of Valdez - Mineral Creek Site.

Meetings were held yesterday to discuss the Small Boat Harbor, the Dock, and the business section of the town.

BE SURE TO COME TONIGHT

The resignation of Mels Kjelstad, city council member for nearly two years, was accepted by the Council Monday night. Kjelstad was also mayor pro tem and had served as acting mayor on a number of occasions.

Don Teeters, elected to fill the vacancy at an earlier council meeting, took his place at the council table Monday night.

Kjelstad, District Engineer for the Dept. of Highways, asked to resign (P.2)

True to his promise made three weeks ago, Director Ink is returning with most of the answers to problems that confronted the city on his earlier visit.

Message

Vic Fischer sent word to Valdez via John Kelsey and Bill Wyatt, in Anchorage for planning meetings, that none of the problems concerning the deed provisions of the Mineral Creek site were so great that they couldn't be worked out. This was affirmed by Harris Bullerwell, Fairbanks City Attorney and representing Valdez, at the same meeting. He, too, will be here tonight.

This information was given at a planning meeting of the business community last night at the City Hall.

In preparation for the public meeting tonight, one preliminary and one final planning meeting were held in Anchorage last week, with Councilman Jim Bedingfield attending the Friday afternoon session.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE MEETING TONIGHT!

Published on a voluntary basis by Ed and Frances Walker, 316 Hobart St., with supplies furnished courtesy of Fairbanks folks.

(From Page 1) for business reasons.

KAY WALKER of the Alaska State Housing Authority, Anchorage, is in Valdez this week with her staff to make a Relocation Family Survey .. to help bring about a smooth transition to the new site.

MAYOR BRUCE WOODFORD, in Fairbanks this week on business, returned last night driving a new Volkswagon - a gift from the Volkswagon Company!

ED MARTIN of Fairbanks, acting city manager of Valdez immediately after the earthquake, is responsible for a number of the gifts that have reached Valdez. It was Martin who approached the Schramm Co., that resulted in the handsome Pneumatractor. It was Martin who requested a portion of the gift lumber for Valdez, and it was Martin who had a hand in the latest gift - the Volkswagon!

THANKS, ED MARTIN!

BILL WYATT and RAY HUDDLESTON were named to fill two vacancies on the School Board, during the Monday night Council meeting.

COOPERATION

It is difficult to understand the tremendous amount of work, effort and cooperation that has gone on among federal, state and local government groups to make possible the New Valdez.

The two Urban Renewal programs here, one - a regular Urban Renewal and the other - a very rare Open Land development, require time consuming procedures. Usually, these take up to two years to initiate. Here, it is taking just a few weeks!

Everyone is keenly interested in helping Valdez.

CITY PLANNING UNDERWAY NOW IN VALDEZ

The Mineral Creek townsite of the New Valdez may well become a national showplace with the type of city planning that is now taking place. Paul Finfer of City Planning Associates, explained to the business community last night that a group of the nation's top architects had been retained by the Anderson Committee

to "look over the shoulder" of his firm and the Alaska State Housing Authority to make sure that a pearl of a city develops.

In addition, Finfer said, the group was so impressed with Valdez that it had decided to "adopt" Valdez in some manner, in regards to architectural planning.

It is not known in just what way this will develop, but Finfer felt that Valdez was indeed fortunate to have men of such renown in their field take such a deep interest in Our Town.

Business Section

Finfer felt that elements of the central business area could include a community shopping center, a town square, city hall facilities, one or two churches, a social or cultural center with movie house, gas stations (close to the main highway artery), motels or hotels, fire house, a fine restaurant, professional office facilities for lawyers, etc., and a bowling center, and bars.

He felt that the business section should have round the clock activity.

Finfer pointed out that Valdez enjoys a situation that very few communities ever have - the chance to start anew, using the very latest thinking and experience of the entire nation and the world.

Architecture

An Alaskan architecture, suggestive of the very ruggedness of Alaska, could be developed, the planner thought, that would be at home with the Valdez picturesque setting. This could be an architectural style all its own, not necessarily what has been built in the past, or elsewhere in the State. Nor would it be a copy from another country.

The earliest stages of planning are now taking place, Finfer said. It is hoped to design a plan that fits best the natural features of Valdez, yet result in a compact, efficient city.

DIRECTOR INK AND HIS PARTY...WILL NOT COME TO VALDEZ TODAY due to weather conditions, City Manager B.G. Smith announced this morning. BUT THE GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD TONIGHT, AS PLANNED.

IF THE TOP LEVEL FEDERAL AND STATE GROUP SHOULD ARRIVE FRIDAY OR SATURDAY OR EVEN SUNDAY - AND A PUBLIC MEETING CAN BE SET UP - A SIGN WILL BE PLACED IN THE POSTOFFICE WINDOW AND A TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED BY VOLUNTEERS - TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC. THIS WILL BE A VERY SHORT NOTICE MEETING - IF IT TAKES PLACE.

The Alaska State Housing Authority will be managing whatever family type mobile homes are needed in Valdez this winter, Mrs. Kay Walker of that office, explained today,

Persons needing trailers as homes this winter are asked to make application to the City Manager's office as soon as possible.

"We can get as many as are needed, if we know how many are wanted", Mrs. Walker said. They will be rented at cost. Already, five family sized trailers are enroute from North Dakota.

J. ELLSWORTH MC CARTHY of the State Department of Education is due to arrive Monday to give assistance to the Valdez School Board on school matters.

McCarthy, no stranger to Valdez, has visited the city on several occasions. Prior to his present position, he was with the Fairbanks High School administration and had served as principal for a number of years.

Those seeking employment on the sewer and water repair job should make application through the Alaska State Employment Office, according to Bill Branson, B & A Co. superintendent.