

# THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA FOLK TRADITION



Courtesy of Alaska State Historical Library

Photo Credit: Vincent Soboleff

Cover Layout by Jan Adkins



SEALASKA CORPORATION

## TOO LATE FOR THE GOLD

## TOO EARLY FOR THE OIL

### 1942-1981



M  
1629.7  
A4  
T668  
1981

MUSIC LP



FOLKWAYS RECORDS FES 34033

**THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA FOLK TRADITION  
RECORD C**

*Compiled and Annotated by: John Ingalls and Barry Roderick  
Archipelago, Box 748, Douglas, Alaska 99824*

**SIDE 1: TOO LATE FOR THE GOLD**

Band 1: (5:05) THE BASKET BAY BLOWDOWN  
BLUES John Jamieson; SOMETIMES  
Katherine Smith

Band 2: (2:19) LICENSE SONG Lonesome Pete

Band 3: (7:03) BILLY BIGGS CONVERSATION Billy  
Biggs; RUM RUNNERS OF SOUTHEAST  
John Osnes; BILLY BIGGS CONVERSATION  
Billy Biggs; THREE FOR A DOLLAR BLUES  
Paul Disdier, John Jamieson

Band 4: (2:37) BILLY BIGGS CONVERSATION Billy  
Biggs; ANNIE FAIR Bruce Horowitz

Band 5: (6:32) TALES OF THE RAVEN Shirley  
Walkush; LAMENT FOR THE EYAK Anna  
Nelson Harry

**SIDE 2: TOO EARLY FOR THE OIL**

Band 1: (2:32) THE SUN COMES OUT Jack Cannon;  
Band 2: (2:06) SOUTHEAST WEATHER SONG Ward  
Eldridge; BOTTOMFISH COME ALL YE

Mark Wittow, Bev Rawson

Band 3: (3:43) KETCHIKAN Chris Kennedy, Eric  
Michaels

Band 4: (4:45) THE LAMENT OF THE LONESOME  
WOLF Olaf Abraham; RAINFOREST REEL  
Chicken Ridge Rowdies

Band 5: (0:55) NIP & TUCK Jay Hammond, John  
Jamieson

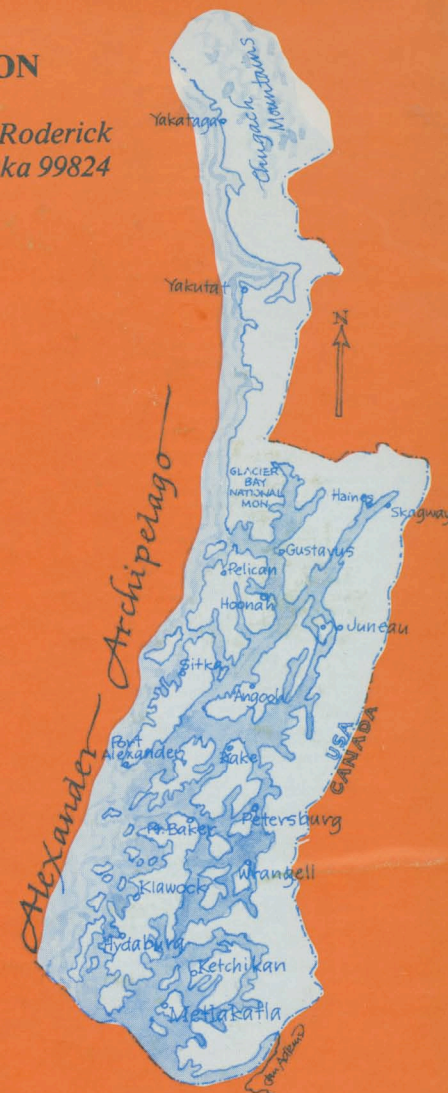
Band 6: (1:45) BALLAD OF THE WHITE PASS AND  
YUKON ROUTE Steve Hites

Band 7: (4:52) BUSTED IN ALASKA Banjo Jim  
Erkiletian; CONVERSATION WITH LONE-  
SOME PETE Lonesome Pete;  
TECHNOLOGY Bev Rawson

Band 8: (2:35) THIS WONDERFUL LAND Hobo Dan  
Neff

ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET INSIDE POCKET

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TOO LATE FOR THE GOLD

TOO EARLY FOR THE OIL

The Southeast Alaska Folk Tradition

1942-1981

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FES 34033



# TOO LATE FOR THE GOLD TOO EARLY FOR THE OIL

## 1942-1981

### This Wonderful Land

*The rainfall is amazing. It rains 24 hours a day and after the rainy season is over the snowy season begins. We do not mind that, however. Imagine a country where for a thousand miles—from Cook Inlet to Ketchikan—there is not, nor ever was, a dry spot large enough to set a weary ass on.*

—Lage Wernstedt, forester,  
1908, Southeast Alaska.

Southeast Alaska is a state of mind—madness in some, tenderness in others. The slick streets and frothing seas are beautiful... so long as you've got a warm home and a cold beer. Even though Alaska has the highest per capita income in the USA, many folks don't even have a warm beer to look forward to. Averages don't go to bed hungry. These records are the thoughts and feelings of Southeast—some hungry, some thirsty; some with an axe to grind and some with ground to break...timber contractors, ship-wrights, street singers, governors, fishers, miners, commissioners, saloon-keepers, mammalogists, and prospectors...Originally, we sent a tape to Folkways Records back in 1979—a tape patch-worked from Donald Duck cassettes in pirated production studios. Moses Asch rejected it, saying it wasn't folk music.

We wrote back and told him that the difference between what he wanted in a record and the master tape we sent him was the same as the difference between the United States and Alaska: "The songs that we sent on the original cassette that you did not consider "authentic" are all first generation songs about our hardship, love and experiences...your statement that you "bet those young punks never knew hardship" is bullshit, I assure you. These young people risk their lives in the forests and on the seas DAILY, some of them. Not everyone is a prospector in Alaska, contrary to popular opinion; boredom claims more bureaucrat lives than brown bear. Yes; much of our music is "polished"; all of us musicians perform to each other and often supplement our income with saloon shows. The "rougher" material is not "more authentic" than the "polished" material—it's all first generation music, by first generation people. "We are a New Country."

Native and Russian music have been around up here for over a century but the only "old" Anglo music lies in the Alaska Historical Library. One is to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." Some are sheet music of commemorative pieces commissioned in Pittsburgh, New York, and occasionally Juneau—tunes like the "Alaska Mazurka" and the "Lights of Thane Waltz". Some collections of folk poetry do exist; especially after the successive waves of gold rushes in 1880, 1898, 1903, etc. These poems might have been songs at one time, but their music is now missing. The children of the homesteaders, loggers, prospectors, fishers, farmers, clerks, and miners who settled Southeast Alaska at the turn of this century sing Hank Williams. The few original songs that these old-timers sing are songs they have written themselves—first generation songs by first generation settlers.

A culture is forming here. It is distinct from Mainstream America, distinct, even from Mainstream Alaska. Southeast is different. Our stories, our history and our music encourage this diverging and emerging culture. Give up your present ideas of what folk-music in Southeast should be. Southeast Alaska is not Harlan County and Billy Horner is not Woody Guthrie. Alaska and Southeast are new.

We have a record format we think you will like. It is a cultural history of Southeast Alaska in music and song and conversation spanning the Native migration from the Ice age to the problems of the pipeline and land ownership today. We swam through reports of the Territorial Governor on rum-running, the Socialist Party of Alaska's platforms supporting Eugene Debs, linguistic monographs on proto-Tlingit phonemes...we visited priests, fisherwomen and sundry drunks with good yarns. We had to

Photo by Vincent Soboleff

Courtesy of Alaska State Historical Library



Killisnoo Seiners

## Important Dates

- 1942 - The Canadian constructed Oil Line (CANOL) provided fuel to both the ALSIB airfields and the ALCAN highway. Crude oil went from both the oil fields of Norman Wells in the Northwest Territories and from the port of Skaguay in Southeast Alaska to a refinery at Whitehorse in the Yukon Territories. The refinery then pumped the fuel north and south to the airfield and highway depots.
- 1942 German Prisoners-of-War helped build a military installation at the head of Excursion Inlet. War exigencies curtailed the project in mid-stride. Little restriction of the POW was needed — the only attempted escapees returned in terror from the mosquitos, bears and "savagely Indians". Reportedly, the U.S. Navy gathered shellfish from the Porpoise Islands at the mouth of Excursion Inlet for use in biological warfare. Shellfish from these islands supposedly contain the highest content of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) in the United States.
- 1944 Alaskan voters elected the first Native legislators since 1924 — Andrew Hope, Sitka and Frank Peratrovich, Klawock.
- 1946 The Alaska Territorial Legislature passed the first human rights, anti-discrimination law in the United States since the Civil War. As with the voting rights and public school attendance of Native Alaskans, the law followed direct action and public acceptance.
- 1940 Alaska's population increased by 77%.
- 1950
- 1947 The Statehood bills for Alaska and Hawaii waxed and waned together in Congress.
- 1948 First aerial photo survey of Southeast Alaska flown by the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Forest Service used it to develop their timber sales.

1949 The Territorial Legislature instituted the first property and income taxes in Alaska. Until this time airlines, trucking companies, the oil industry, steamship companies, newspapers and logging operations paid no tax. The companies contested these taxes in court.

Juneau put up parking meters.

1952 Gordy Knauss opened the Red Dog Saloon in Juneau.

1945 The Cold War and the Korean War initiated an expense of over \$1 billion in the Territory for missile, missile warning, and surveillance systems. The growing view that ground warfare is obsolete lead to the financing of:

1. Nike-Hercules missile sites aimed towards the Soviet Union over the North Pole, as well as Distant Early Warning (DEW) radar sites.

2. White Alice communications network both linked these sites and joined them "rearward" to the State-side headquarters.

Microwave stations and the Alaska Communications System composed a part of the rearward communications through Southeast Alaska — microwave to Annette Island and ACS on to Seattle.

1953 The Corps of Engineers built the Alaska-Canada Gas-Oil (ALCANGO) pipeline — an 8" pipeline carried fuel to Fairbanks from tankers at the depot in Haines. It cost \$40 million to build and saved \$3.5 million in trucking costs per year.

1953 President Eisenhower declared Alaskan fisheries a disaster area.

1954 The Statehood Bill still hung-up in Congress due to party politics. Southern Democrats and Republicans blocked a democratic Alaska from entering the Union. Two alternatives suggested separate statehood for Southeast Alaska or commonwealth status for the whole Territory. The statehood of Southeast hearkened back to the days of the Klondike, but the commonwealth concept came about only in 1952 as regarding Puerto Rico. Neither idea got anywhere.

1955 Alaskan voters and the Territorial Legislature approved the meeting of a Statehood Convention and elected delegates.

The Ketchikan Pulp Mill began operation. Its operational base came from a 50-year contract guaranteeing 1.56 billion cubic feet of spruce and hemlock from Prince of Wales and Kuiu Islands. The Tlingit/Haida land claims still lay in the U.S. Court of Claims. To allow this sale of timber rights on contested land to proceed, Congress passed the Tongass Timber Act of 1947 — placing the sale money in an escrow account until the court settled the land claims.

1956 In a Territorial Ballot Alaska voters elected:

yes — Statehood and the drafted constitution  
yes — Tennessee Plan for Statehood  
no — Fish traps

The Tennessee Plan was the method Tennessee used to become a state in 1796 — They wrote their own constitution, elected their own congressional representatives, went to Congress, and took their seats. They didn't wait.

continually remind ourselves that this was a record not a Ph.D. thesis. It was inspirational discovering hushed up history: we found, for instance, that the revered discoverer of the Treadwell gold near Juneau also ran an opium smuggling racket out of Taku Inlet and Karta Bay. History is what you make it. So are songs. Maybe these notes will inspire some new songs. Neither the songs nor the notes in this collection are the definitive edition, just a gathering of what was around.

We hope to put together a folk history of Southeast Alaska in the near future, a history, in the words of the people living it, you and we. If anyone has old photos, diaries, songs, ideas, criticisms, words of encouragement, etc. please send them along to us:

Archipelago  
Box 748  
Douglas, Alaska 99824

For now, just listen to the records and hear Southeast.

John Ingalls & Barry Roderick

*Southeast Alaska is about the size of Maine:*

*35,527 sq. miles*

*or*

*22,737,280 acres*

*9,000 miles of shoreline.*

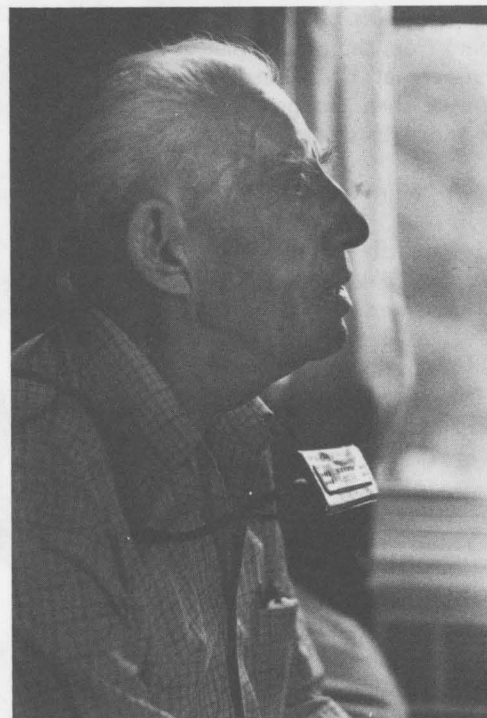
*400 miles long x 120 miles wide.*

*44% mainland*

*30% islands*

*26% water*

*Annual precipitation 40-220 inches*



### Dedicated to "Lonesome Pete," Arnt Pederson

If you walk down the hall at the Pioneers Home in Sitka and find the name "Lonesome" Pete on one of the doors, don't be alarmed. Behind this door is a charming old man with a great sense of humor. "Lonesome" came from his homeland in Norway with his guitar years ago. A true pioneer, he has done everything from running a boatyard to prospecting to being the mayor of Meyers Chuck.



1957 Two Alaskan elected senators and one representative arrived in Washington D.C. and asked for seats in Congress (The method used by Tennessee in 1796 to get admitted to the Union). Congress refused. The Alaskan Congressional Delegation then began lobbying.

1958 Congress passed the Alaska Statehood Act.

An earthquake dislodged 90 million tons of rock cliff at the head of Lituya Bay, generating a splash wave 1720 feet high. A 100 foot wave — from the shore — swept three fishing vessels out to sea; one sank, one disappeared totally, and one still fishes salmon in Southeast.

1959 The Alaska Lumber and Pulp mill began operation in Sitka, subsequent to their two subsidiary lumber/chipping operations in Wrangell. Their base of operations came from another 50-year contract with the U.S. Forest Service guaranteeing them 5.25 billion board feet of spruce and hemlock from Baranof and Chichagof Islands.

The U.S. Court of Claims in Washington D.C. decided in favor of the Tlingit/Haida land claims. However, the exact nature and amount of the settlement waited another nine years; the debate lay in whether to compensate the Natives at the rates when the forest reserves began (pre-1925) or at the time of the timber sales (1950's). In 1968 the Tlingit/Haida's received \$7.5 million for compensation at the pre-1925 rates.

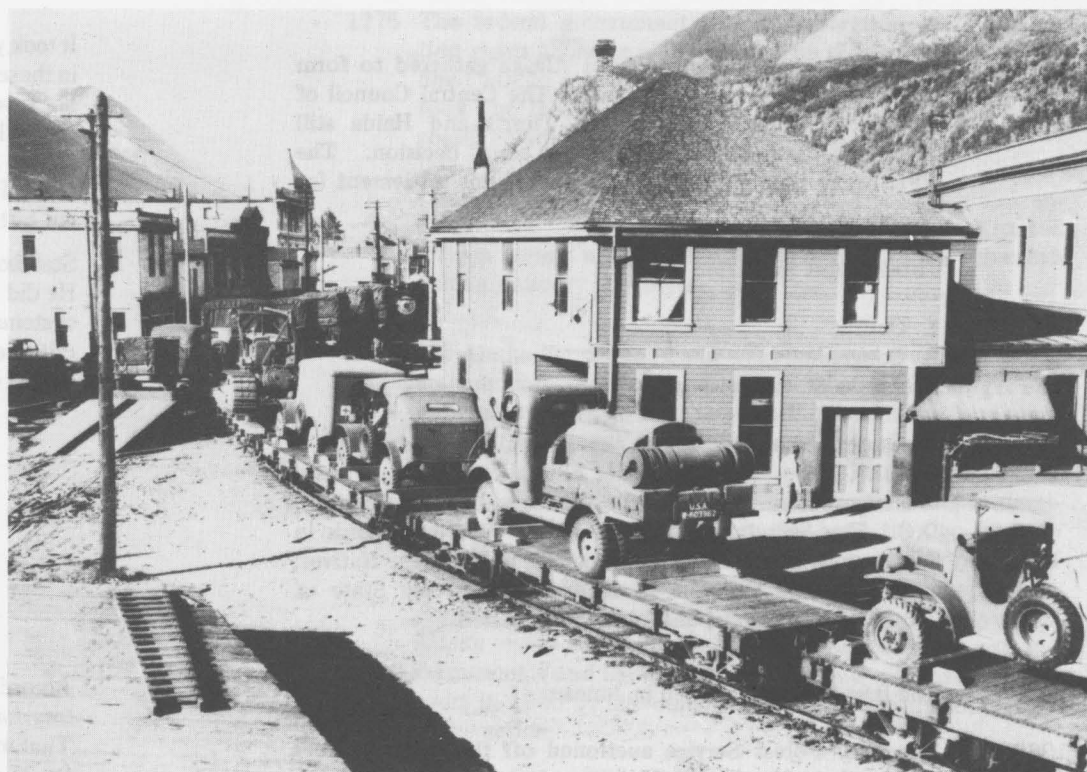
President Eisenhower's signature on the Alaska Statehood Act made Alaska the 49th State. Federal appropriations ran Alaska during territorial days, along with sporadic local revenues. As a "state" Alaska now had to foot its own bill, pay its own way. Except for minimal taxes and an oil strike on the Kenai Moose Range, Alaska had no visible means of support. To help the new state, the federal government gave Alaska:

1. 104 million acres of the land
2. \$28.5 million
3. 90% of oil/gas/mineral revenues and taxes on federal land.

1963 The Legislature started the Alaska Marine Highway connecting the major communities of Southeast with each other and with the Outside highway systems at Haines, Alaska — Prince Rupert, British Columbia — Seattle, Washington. Four ferry/ships connected seven Southeast towns.

1964 Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska valiantly protested America's involvement in Southeast Asia. Only Gruening and Morse voted against the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in the U.S. Senate.

Congress passed the Wilderness Bill, which provided for the federal reservation of lands for wildlife refuges, scenic rivers, etc.



Skagway During Wartime, 1942

Courtesy of Alaska State Historical Library U.S. Army Signal Corps

#### WESTERN LANDS, FEDERAL RESERVES AND STATEHOOD

When the 13 original colonies joined in confederation they each brought their own land with them into the union. However, as the United States of America acquired the areas of Louisiana in 1803 and Oregon in 1844, a system of admitting these western "territories" as "states" arose. The newly acquired land would become a "territory." As the territory developed and Americans populated it, the territory would be broken up into states and be admitted to the Union as each section attained an arbitrary level of "civilization." A certain percentage of each territory's land would be retained in the possession of the federal government as payment for the trouble of acquisition and administration.

By this same method The United States purchased Russian America in 1867 and Alaska came under the following jurisdictions:

- 1867-1877 U.S. Army administration
- 1877-1879 U.S. Treasury administration enforced by the Revenue Cutter Service.
- 1879-1884 U.S. Navy administration
- 1884-1912 Federal Civil Administration governed by 12 federal agents
- 1912-1959 Self governing territory with federal veto
- 1959- Statehood

#### STATEHOOD

The Alaska delegate introduced the first Statehood Bill in 1915. Vested interests opposed the Statehood Movement. Canneries and steamship companies paid no taxes and gave only lip service to federal policies created 4000 miles away in Washington, D.C. As late as the 1950's, various arguments against statehood were raised: Alaska had a small population that would lead to disproportionate representation in the U.S. Senate; It's income was too small to support the new state; It was not connected to the continental U.S.A. and would create problems of communication and transportation, setting a dubious precedent for other U.S. possessions like Guam and Okinawa; It did not have enough industry to support and provide for the population; It was too liberal, especially the block of voters associated with the International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union; Being highly strategic in the Cold War the loss of strong federal control would be dangerous to national security; The natives held unsettled land claims and they made up too large a proportion of the population.



1966

Native organizations throughout Alaska gathered to form the Alaska Federation of Natives. The Central Council of the Tlingit/Haida joined. The Tlingit and Haida still awaited settlement from the 1959 court decision. The AFN began their demands for a land claims settlement for all Alaskan Natives.

Three routes for action existed:

1. Courts
2. Congress
3. Alaska State Legislature

Court procedure had taken the Tlingit and Haida over 30 years . . . too long. The State of Alaska claimed it was a federal problem. The Alaskan Natives went to Washington, D.C. The Secretary of Interior froze all federal lands in Alaska until a settlement could be reached with the Natives; all conveyance and sale of federal land to the State of Alaska, corporations, and individuals halted.

1967

The first go-go girl arrived in Juneau.

1968

The U.S. Forest Service auctioned off the largest timber sale in their history. 8.75 billion board feet sold to U.S. Plywood—Champion International Papers, Inc. Clear-cutting of the Tongass National Forest on Admiralty Island and near Yakutat would provide the spruce and hemlock for a pulp mill on Berners Bay, just north of Juneau. The pulp would go to a Japanese paper company. The Sierra Club and the Sitka Conservation Society protested the timber sale in court in 1970 as a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and of the U.S. Department of the Interior's administrative procedure. After six years of litigation. U.S. Plywood—Champion International Papers, Inc. withdrew from the contract.

Electrical needs of this mill led to the miscalculation of the Snettisham Hydro-electric Project's needed out-put, which began in 1973.

The Tlingit and Haida finally received settlement from the 1959 court decision. They got \$7.5 million as compensation for lands and timber taken from them and placed in federal reserves. However, the settlement used land and timber values at the time of withdrawal — 1891, 1902, 1908, and 1925...

Major oil deposits discovered near Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope.

1969

The State of Alaska received \$900 million from sealed bids for oil leases by competing oil companies. Alaska auctioned these oil leases off from lands selected from the federal domain (part of their 104 million acre Statehood allotment) before the 1966 land freeze.

A consortium of oil companies conceived the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) — 800 miles of 48" diameter stainless steel pipe running from Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope . . . south to the Port of Valdez on Prince William Sound.

Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act, which provided for Environmental Impact Statements for projects on federal land.

It took years to explode the fallacy of these and other objections. The problem lay not in these "problems" but in national politics. Republicans and Southern Democrats did not favor admitting a state with such liberal Democratic leanings. The Republicans controlled the House of Representatives and the Republican president Eisenhower balked at Alaskan Statehood. But Alaskans approved statehood 40,452 to 8,010 in 1958. Partisan politics fell apart under such overwhelming opposition, but not without bitterness:

Statehood was achieved—almost. President Eisenhower still had to sign the measure. He did so on July 7, 1958. But instead of signing the admission bill in public, as was customary, the Chief Executive decided to do so privately. This action was severely criticized by Senator James E. Murray, Democrat of Montana, who complained to Ernest Gruening:

Rather than to have had pictures taken in the presence of yourself and all those other fine Democrats who played such instrumental roles in bringing about the admission of the 49th State into the Union, he chose to handle this momentous matter as though he were merely signing a private bill for the relief of Mr. "X." Lord knows where he's going to find two Republicans who were sufficiently important in bringing about statehood for Alaska to whom to present the two pens he used in the signing.<sup>53</sup>

Murray, James, in *An Interpretive History of Alaskan Statehood*  
by Claus-M. Naske, Alaska Northwest Publishing Co., Anchorage,  
1973

According to the Statehood Act, Alaska could select 104.5 million acres in the Territory for their new state's land. The new State had 25 years to make this selection. That meant choosing an area slightly larger than the State of Connecticut every year for 25 years. The choosing went slowly. At first the land was a liability. For every township that the State selected they lost highway funds for that area and were assessed fire protection by the federal government; each township that the State selected cost them \$15,000. Until oil became apparent, there was no reason for Alaska to choose their Statehood Allotment. The total area of Alaska is about 375 million acres. The State received about 1/4 of the total. 40 million acres were given to the native population in return for land taken from them and the federal government kept the remaining 230,000,000 acres. The federal government has possession of nearly 2/3 of Alaskan land. The breakdown of land seems straightforward but the diverse geography makes implementation of the plan a nightmare.

## SOUTHEAST NAMES

Vancouver distributed all the names of English nobility and of his friends among a thousand islands, promontories, etc. that he sighted; finally, not knowing how to name the rest, he started naming them after the foreign envoys stationed in London at that time.

Lisianski, circa. 1808

### TLINGIT NAMES FOR PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENTS & WILDLIFE PRESERVES IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

American Name	Tlingit Name
Russell Fiord	Was'itá
Endicott Arm	Jilkáat
Admiralty Island	Xootsnoowú (Bear Fort)
Tracy Arm—Ford's Terror	S'aawdaán
Tebenkoff Bay	Kooyú
South Etolin Island	?
Petersburg Creek	Waas'héeni
Stikine River	Shtax'héen
Karta Bay	Kasa.aan (Pretty Bay)
Nutkwa	Nut'ká
Coronation Island	Deikí noow (Far outside fort)
Misty Fiord	Náas (Name for Portland inlet area)
Southern Baranof Island	Shee sáank (South outside coast)
	Shee Yar'ák (South inside coast)
Northern West End Baranof Island	Shee Káak
Northern East End Baranof Island	Shee t'éik
Portage Bay—Petersburg	Naaxdik'
West Chichagof Island	X áas yá



- 1970 Natives and conservationists took the TAPS to U.S. District Court in Washington D.C., as a violation of the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Court issued an injunction against TAPS.
- 1969 - 1971 With everyone anxious to unfreeze the lands and the pipeline in order to get the bucks flowing, the oil companies and the Nixon administration supported the Alaska Native land claims.
- Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. It provided for:
1. 40 million acres of land in outright ownership.
  2. \$462.5 million in cash from the U.S. Treasury.
  3. \$500 million from state and federal mineral revenues.
- One-ninth of Alaska and \$1 billion went to the Alaskan Natives as restitution and compensation for lands taken from them by the federal government. The land and money is administered through 12 regional and 208 village corporations organized under American corporate structure and Alaskan Native traditions. In Southeast, 11 village corporations work with the regional corporation — Sealaska, Inc.
- Section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act allowed federal withdrawals of an additional 120 million acres for national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic river systems.
- The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) purchased the Alaska Communications System for \$31.5 million from the U.S. Air Force. A monopoly.
- 1972 The Alaska Legislature passed the Equal Rights Amendment.
- The first use of helium balloon logging in Alaska; Clear Creek Logging Company on Kupreanof Island.
- 1973 The Snettisham Power Project began providing Juneau with only 47,000 KW. Full potential output was delayed because the Berners Bay Pulp Mill and the Admiralty Island timber sale sat in litigation.
- The Alaska Legislature passed the Limited Entry Law in an attempt to stabilize the declining salmon fishery. A point system limited the number of permits and the permits limited the number of fishers.
- 1974 Legislature passed the Alaska Private Non-Profit Hatchery Act — allowing private, non-profit corporations to set up aquaculture programs to aid the declining salmon fishery.
- Alaskans voted to move the Capitol from Juneau. In 1976 they voted to move it to Willow, northeast of Anchorage. However, voters also approved the FRANK (frustrated responsible Alaskans needing knowledge) Initiative in 1978, which gave voters final say on the cost of the Capitol Move in one lump sum; Alaskans became wary after the estimated \$900 million Trans-Alaska Pipeline ended up costing \$ 7.7 billion.
- 1975 Legislature legalized marijuana for use in your home.

- 1976 The federal government leased exploration and exploitation rights to major oil companies on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the Gulf of Alaska. The State of Alaska took the federal government to court because of adverse social, environmental, and fisheries impact.

Congress passed the Fisheries Conservation Act which included the 200 mile limit. However, the act permitted foreign vessels within the 200 mile limit until the American fishing industry developed.

The Alaska Permanent Fund was created by a constitutional amendment. A minimum of 25% of Alaskan oil, gas and mineral revenues go into this fund. The Alaska Permanent Fund is permanent; the money is only for income producing investments. The Fund's projected balance by the year 1981 is \$1.8 billion — making it the world's largest development bank. Dividends from this bank then go into the General Fund (the state budget), back to the people of Alaska, or into special projects. In 1980 the Legislature provided for each resident to get \$50 for every year in Alaska — up to 25 years, with provisions. This was the Permanent Fund Dividend. The Dividend was challenged in court in 1980 by late-comers who didn't qualify for a piece of the action.

- 1977 Legislature attempted to decriminalize cocaine.

The U.S. Coast Guard moved their Southeast base from Annette Island to Sitka for closer proximity to the action-packed Gulf of Alaska: home of the 200 mile limit, the OCS oil leases, the oil tanker traffic, earthquakes, and tidal waves.

- 1980 Voters approved the creation of a Statehood Review Commission to reconsider Statehood and its alternatives.

Congress passed the d-2 Bill.

## Legal Drugs

The Alaska legislature legalized marijuana in 1975. Some political wizards concluded it to be self-defense.

*The usual epigram is "I've got important friends in high places"; in Juneau it's "I've got high friends in important places"*

—Anubis, *Friend of the People*,  
1978, Juneau.

The attempt two years later to decriminalize cocaine by legislature was seen in the same light:

*The day they tried to decriminalize coke, there were more runny noses than crying eyes in the legislative halls.*

—Anubis, *op cit.*

## Harpoons, Dip-nets, and Alaska's Food Stamp Program

*Thanks to a waiver in the Food Stamp Law for Alaska, some of the critters in our food chain have a bit more to worry about these days; and a lot of folks who would rather pick it, grow it, shoot it or catch it themselves can use food stamps just like Mo and Ethyl in Cleveland at the Supershop.... If you're eligible for food stamps you can now use them to buy gasoline and oil for outboard motors and snowmobiles, foul weather gear (a nice touch), hunting knives, harpoons, fishing gear, dip nets, and other types of equipment for subsistence hunting and fishing.*

Brad Matsen  
Archipelago, February, 1977



# TOO LATE FOR THE GOLD

Courtesy of Alaska State Historical Library



Yakutat Loggers

## Side 1

Band 1 (5:05)

### The Basket Bay Blowdown Blues (4:07)

Written by John Schnabel, Haines.

Arranged and sung by John Jamieson, Guitar, Juneau/Aurora Basin.

John Schnabel runs a logging/lumber operation in the Chilkat Valley. He wrote this song at the peak of his professional frustration and it shows a seldom sung concern — that of the logger/contractor. Jameo and Billy Horner moved his folk song into the realm of the blues one night with a little help from the Ranier Brewing Company.

*I've got the Basket Bay Blowdown Blues.  
The trees are broken in two.  
The tower is shot,  
The wood is full of rot  
And the torredos have started to chew.*

*Chorus:  
Oh, woe is me,  
I wish to God I'd never bought a tree.  
Oh, woe is me,  
Oh, woe is me,  
I wish to God I'd never bought a tree.*

*I've got the Basket Bay Blowdown Blues  
'Cause the department sent me the news—  
The show's been reappraised  
And the stumpage has been raised;  
Seems Uncle Sam is programmed not to lose.*

*Chorus.*

*I've got the Basket Bay Blowdown Blues—  
The stumpage is 60 times 2,  
The ranger is mad  
'Cause the show looks so sad  
And the liquor is into the crew.*

*Chorus.*

*I've got the Basket Bay Blowdown Blues—  
I wish someone else was in my shoes  
'Cause we can't build a dump,  
Got to measure every stump,  
And preservationists are giving us the screw.*

*Chorus.*

John Jamieson

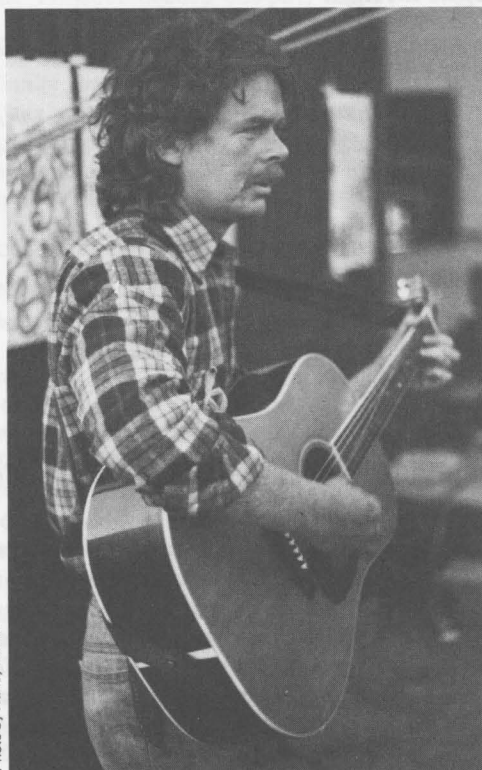


Photo by Nancy Rainer

Sometimes (0:57)

Katherine Smith, piano, Haines

Katherine developed her skills as a composer and pianist in Moose Valley, out at 27 Mile in Haines, when she was 6 years old. As a matter of fact, we hid a hind quarter of moose from the game warden in her piano bench one June day in 1974. A true Alaskan flavor. Sometimes.

Band 2 (2:19)

### License Song (2:19)

Lonesome Pete, guitar/mouth harp, Sitka/Meyers Chuck.

Lonesome Pete is a rugged Norwegian who came to Alaska in Territorial days. He became a fisherman, boat-builder, professional singer and Mayor of Meyers Chuck until a prospecting accident landed him in the Sitka Pioneer's Home. This song expresses his frustration of trying to survive in a receding frontier and in a growing bureaucracy.

*The License Song*

*To catch a king and coho you need a license,  
Have you ever heard of such bunk?  
Any day in the nearest future,  
You need a license to come in skunked.*

*You need a license when you get married,  
Why not another one when you part?  
Any day in the nearest future  
You'll need a license to . . . ah, don't be so smart.*

*Don't make a fuss when you buy that license.  
To climb the hill to get your buck,  
Any day in the nearest future  
You'll need a license to . . . shoot a duck.*

*Don't make a fuss when you buy that license,  
If you figure on to go and trap.  
Pretty soon in the nearest future  
You'll need a license to take a . . . nap.*

*At last you get tired of license,  
And for that reason commit suicide;  
The undertaker will ask this question:  
"Did he have a suicide license before he died?"*

*Then you arrive at the gates of Heaven  
Without your license—"Holy Smelt!"  
Saint Peter, He'll say, "Ah, just keep going;  
You don't need a license to go to Hell!"*

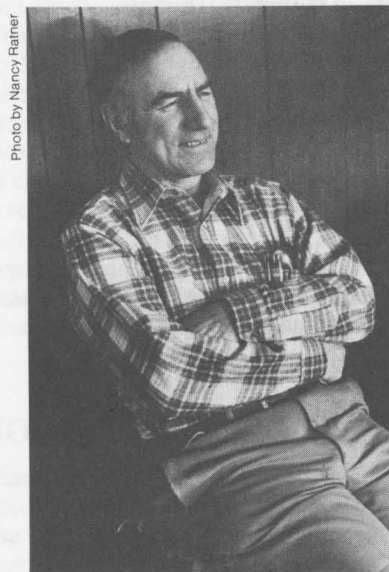


Photo by Nancy Rainer

John Schnabel

Band 3 (7:03)

### Billy Biggs Conversation (0:54)

Billy Biggs was born in Juneau during the Klondike Gold Rush. He went to work at the Hirst-Chichagof Mine during Prohibition where they never seemed at a loss for good times and good liquor brought in by rum runners from British Columbia.

### Rum Runners of Southeast (3:12)

Written by Barry Roderick, Southeast.

Sung by John Osnes, guitar/fiddle, Sitka/Anchorage.

Smuggling is the second oldest occupation in Alaska since the Whites came. Alcohol was legalized only in 1899. During Prohibition, liquor came from Prince Rupert in British Columbia where it was legal. Today, many Alaskan communities are still dry, but the gaff rigged schooner has been replaced by the Cessna 180, and the second oldest profession still flourishes. This is the story of an earlier rum running expedition.



## Alaskan Runners of Rum

Come all you hardy smugglers who run the rum thru snows,  
Who brave the sea and dodge the law thru winter winds and blows;  
And you who love hard driven', come listen to my song,  
Of the run we made from Prince Rupert on the Nancy H. DeLong.

Oh, we hung the muslin on her and the wind began to hum,  
10 brave Alaskan fishermen, chock-full of Hudson Bay Rum;  
The mains'l and the fores'l lay un-reefed on that wild December Day,  
As we passed by Dundas Island and slugged for Glacier Bay.

We slammed by Forester Island as the gale began to scream,  
Our vessel took to dancin' in a way that was no dream;  
A howler o'er the toprail, we steered No'thwest away,  
But a Revenue Cutter hove in sight abaft of Cape Ommaney.

Storm along and drive along and punch her thru the ribs,  
Don't mind them boardin' combers as our distance slowly gives;  
'Just mind yer eye and watch that wheel', our skipper he did say,  
'We gotta lose that god-damn cutter 'fore we head down Glacier Bay!'

We jibed her 'round Biorka and the skipper hauled the log,  
'15 knots, b' Jesus!—ain't she just the gal to jog!'  
The half-canned wheelsman shouted, as the cutter gained 2 furlongs,  
'Just watch me tear the mains'l off the Nancy H. DeLong!'

The rum was passing merrily and the crew was feeling grand,  
We kept just out of cannon shot as we rushed by Katlian;  
The skipper, he kept sober, for he knew how things did stand,  
And he made us reef the mains'l as we drove out Salisbury Sound.

We laced the wheelsman to his box as he steered us thru the gloom,  
But a cannon shot blew his dorymate across the straining boom,  
It shredded the oil-skins off his back and you could hear him yell,  
'Oh, cross the eyes of that gunner and sink 'im straight t' hell!'

Another shell flew past our bows and exploded in the surf,  
It blew a hemlock clean to hell and 2 eagles from their perch;  
A rattlin' round of twin Vickers guns tore our dory right in two  
—It scattered the pieces across the deck and scared hell out of the crew.

Our skipper didn't care to make his wife a widow yet,  
He spun the wheel towards Chichagof, with all our sails full set;  
We passed close by the Geary Rocks and left some paint and plank  
—But that cutter in tryin' to cut us off, forgot her keel and sank.

We swang down from Cape Spencer and roared thru Icy Strait,  
We found our waitin' trollersmen with thirsts we could not slake;  
In brailin' out our cargo of Jim Beam and Cutty Sark,  
We sang and danced and drank a health to bad weather, wind and dark.

(Chant):  
From Canada to Glacier Bay, twice 200 miles we sailed,  
In just 4 days, my jolly crew, thru gunshots thick as hail;  
The crew, they said: 't'was seamanship', the skipper: he kept dumb,  
(Sing):  
But the force that drove our vessel was the power of Hudson Bay Rummmmm.



Photo by Kris Haight

Billy Biggs

## Billy Biggs Conversation (0:43)

## Three for a Dollar Blues (1:18)

Paul Disdier, dobro, Douglas Island; with John Jamieson, guitar, Juneau/Aurora Basin.

Paul plays steel string guitar but says, "The only way I ever want to make a living is by painting". He occasionally gets under-bid on a contract, but never gets out-done on a job. He is called Renoir for more than his painting of sewage plants in Skaguay; he is a fine artist with canvas and oils. He composed this tune in Hoonah on a painting job for the school district. Jameo is the master of the squid schooner, "Cinnabar" and gives Paul an able hand on occasion with paint brush or A-string.

Band 4 (2:37)

## Billy Biggs Conversation (0:41)

## Annie Fair (1:56)

Bruce Horowitz, guitar, Juneau.

As a surveyor in the jungles of Ecuador and as an Alaska Legal Services attorney, Bruce keeps track of his experiences in song, which is no small task. He got evicted last year because his roommate insisted on playing bagpipes at 2 A.M. trying to conjure the plumbing into working. Nonetheless, Bruce keeps singing through it all.

Photo by Nancy Ratner



John Osnes

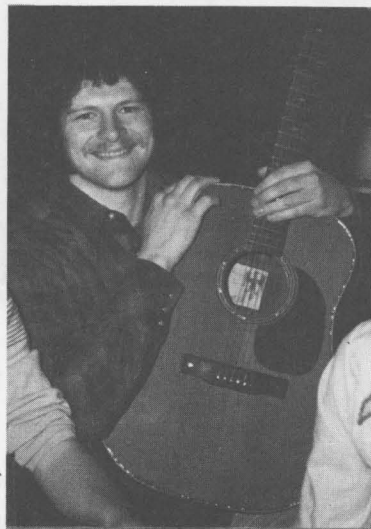


Photo by Richard Keller

Band 5 (6:32)

## Tales of the Raven (0:54)

Written by John Ross.  
Spoken by Shirley Walkush.

We recorded this monologue during a performance of the play, Tales of the Raven by John Ross in Douglas. The play is about an Indian family that is forced to give up its traditional way of life and move into the city.

## Lament for the Eyak (5:38)

Anna Nelson Harry, Yakutat.

Anna Nelson Harry is one of the last native speakers of her language. This lament is the only song of the Eyak we know that was recorded. The difficulty of this linguistic field recording is more than offset by the intense feeling for a culture, a people and a way of life that has all but passed in a few decades.

"The reason for Anna's Lament is surely clear to you (Barry Roderick), for the general public the tragedy definitely needs some explanation (see history). Also, Anna's Lament—singing style is practically all that has been recorded of Eyak music. How much it has been influenced by Yakutat Tlingit I cannot say, probably a lot. I am afraid we shall never know what most Eyak music was like; however it is tragically appropriate that this lament is what we know."

Michael Krauss,  
Alaska Native Language Center,  
University of Alaska,  
Fairbanks, Alaska

We appreciate Anna Nelson Harry's contribution to Alaska's music and her kind permission, obtained through Elaine Abraham, allowing us to share her song with people everywhere. Michael Krauss, director of the Alaska Native Language center at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, greatly helped us by producing the recording of "Lament of the Eyak", as well as the transcription and translation.

Annie Fair

Bruce Horowitz

Go light my Annie Fair  
And dance away the gloom.  
Go light my Annie Fair,  
stay light my Annie Fair.

I looked down at my hands  
And think of touching you.  
I looked down at my hands,  
I looked down at my hands.

When I awoke today,  
The sun was just arising.  
I love you more than life.  
I love you more than life.

And I tried to let you know,  
But the words they came too slowly.  
I tried to let you know.  
I tried to let you know.

But life goes on around,  
We dance and our hands are high.  
Go light my Annie Fair,  
Stay light my Annie Fair,

Stay light my Annie Fair,  
Go light my Annie Fair.





The "Salty" in South Pass

## Lament of the Eyak

My poor aunt (akh aat).

I can't believe you're going to die.

How will I hear you?

I wish this, to go back to you there.

You are no more.

My child speaks to me that way.

I just break out crying:

All alone here I'll go around.

Like Ravens I'll live alone.

My aunts are dying out on me and alone I'll be living.

Why, I wonder, are these things happening to me?

My uncles (akh kaak has) also have all died out on me and I can't forget them.

After my uncles all died out, my aunts are dying out next.

I'm all alone.

Some children survive with me, on this earth.

Only I keep bursting into tears.

I think about where my aunts are.

She is my aunt and my last aunt is gone.

Where will I go next?

Where ever will I go next?

They are already all extinct.

They have been wiped out.

Maybe me, I wonder, maybe Our Father wants it this way for me,

That I should live alone.

I only pray for it and my spirits recover.

Around here, that's why this — church, I walk around.

I try to go there.

Alone, alone around here I walk around on the beach at low tide.

I just break into tears.

I sit down on a rock.

Only the Eyaks, the Eyaks, they are all dying off.

Just a very few at Eyak there.

They survived from Eyak (escaped the fate of Eyak),

But they too are becoming extinct.

Useless to go back there.

My uncles (akh sanee has) too have all died out on me.

After my uncles all died out my aunts next fell, to die.

Yes, why is it I alone, just I alone have survived?

I survive.

ayanh si'ah't.

dik'wakh qiiix+aleeq qi'yisinh.

k'eet ikh k'uqu'diix+ch'aaq'?

al wakh i'xlee, uut ich' q'e' iqe'x+a'ee. (daakh q'aw d-)

daqiikih sale'l.

anh siyahsh wakh silt' txin'dalee.

ahh ts'itwakh kiinkh sixa' sale'l daakh aw (sh-) q'aw:

da'aant dlaggaxuu yakh qu'xdaa.

ch'iilehyuuga' dlaggaxuu qu'ggaliixtaa.

siahtggayuu sikha' laggada'aal daakh dlaggaxuu (s-) q'al qu'galiixtaa.

aant alaa deileht shdal wakhyuu ggaxleel?

sigaaqggayuidik sikha' li'q' iinsdi'ahl daakh dik' uk'ah laxstahlgginuu.

ahnoo sigaaqggayuu sikha' lisd'i'ahich'ah't q'u'hnuu,

si'ah'tggayuu sikha' (lagg-) q'e' laggada'aal.

daxuu dlaggaxuu.

saqeeeggayuu sikha' atggaxalaa, al anhq'ach'a'.

chi'itwakh kiinkh sikha' a'leek'.

aw ulah yakh adiilixla'yaakh daat ahnuu si'ah'tggayuu.

(si-)

si'ah't q'a'anh daakh anh ggal'ih'tyaa si'ah't sikha' k'aadih

sale'l.

daachiidal q'e' qu'xdaa?

dadaachiidal g'ee qu'xdaa?

datlii dali'q' ahnuu iinsdi'ahl.

ahnuu (iin) sdi'ahl. (qa-)

daxuush k'ee'shuw (ggi- da- shuw) da'al qaataa' k'ee'shuw wakh sikha' [i] leh,

dlaggaxuu ggalaggaxtaakh.

[ts'] itwakh awaa atq' daaxdadzaants' daakh k'udzuu sidaggalee siyaa q'e' daleek'.

aandakh, awieht q'aw al anh, qi' atk'udadadzaants', yakh axdaak'.

a'x'q'ee'k', awch'ixiyah (d-).

dlaggaxuu [q']aw, dlaggaxuukih aanda[kh] luudii'dakhyuu ya[kh] axdaa[k'].

ts'itwakh keenkh sikha' lee[k'].

tsaadliina'q' yaan'axdaak'.

ts'it[w] akhyuu Iiyaa q dalahggayuu, Iiyaa q dalahggayuu,

dali'q' laggada'aalinnuu.

ts'itwakh dakhk'nuushduw uut Iiyaaq daat.

Iiyaaq ch'ah't adiilahl, ahnuudik daqiikih ggale'l.

k'aadih ulah uuch' q'e' iinki'ee.

sitinhggayuidik sikha' iinsdi'ahl. (sitinhgga-)

sitinhggayuu sikha' lisd'i'ahich'ah't q'al ahnuu si'ah'tggayuu q'uh yaan'q'e' distiqahq,

al iisinh.

aan, deilehtdal dlaggaxuu, ts'it dlaggaxuu atxsilahl.

atggaxalaa.

## The Sun Comes Out (2:32)

Written by Bob Sylvester, Juneau.

Sung by Jack Cannon, guitar, Juneau.

We found these lyrics under an empty McNaughton's bottle in the barracks of Fort William Henry Seward. The handwriting we traced to Robert Sylvester, one of the reporters working that fall at the Chilkat Press in Port Chilkoot. Originally sung to the Scottish Border Ballad, "Bonnie George Campbell", Jack Cannon took a fancy to it three years later, added a chorus and tacked on a new melody.

Band 2 (2:06)

Southeast Weather Song

## Southeast Weather Song

South wind's rain and west wind's clearing,  
Cold old northwest winds the fog brings in.

Ward Eldridge, Juneau/Elfin Cove. (0:10)

Kathy Hazard, a whale researcher, asked Ward Eldridge, a commercial fisher, if he could fit Southeast Alaska weather conditions to the wind like what Gordon Bok had done for the Gulf of Maine. So, Ward did. Soon after, Ward sold his salmon vessel and drove to Florida. There he's refitting the gaff schooner "Idler", the oldest documented yacht on the East Coast (1888), to bring back to Southeast to bottom-fish.

The Sun Comes Out

The sun comes out ten minutes a week,  
This is no place for the frail or the meek;  
There are wolves and bears and businessmen, too,  
The former won't hurt you, but the latter sure do!

Chorus:

And you say no, no, hey, hey,  
There must be some reason that I came and I stayed;  
Too early for the oil and too late for the gold,  
But you can't judge a book by the cover, oh,  
No you cannot judge a book by the cover, oh.

Well, the wind and the snows will chill to the toes,  
The outrageous bills will bring deeper woes;  
The oil and the garbage and the lights and the water,  
Will come to so much you have to sell your own daughter.

Chorus.

Well, the cost of it all will cause you to wonder,  
Why not be a pirate and live off the plunder?  
So, buy you a business, raise price to the rafter,  
You can claim it's the transport, that "This is Alaska".

Coda:

Spit on the poor and live ever after,  
You can claim it's the transport, that "This is Alaska."

Chorus.



Jack Cannon



## Bottomfish Come All Ye (1:55)

Written by Kris Krestensen, Juneau/Elfin Cove

Sung by Mark Wittow, Juneau/Homer and Bev Rawson, Douglas/Hoktaheen.

This was the product of "anger and alcohol" as Kris sat at our kitchen table one flat broke and soaking wet winter day just before the eviction. Kris is a handsome lad, considering he is an ex-prize-fighter, a walking encyclopedia of knots, and has worked a time rigging ships for 20th Century Fox.

*Tis advertised in Hoonah, in Oslo and Tokyo,  
"Ten thousand brave Alaskans a-bottom fishing go,"*

*Singing blow ye winds in the morning and blow ye winds, hi-ho!  
Clear away your running gear and blow, boys, blow!*

*You go down to the banker's place to get a little loan,  
Say you'll get ten thousand tons before the season's out.*

*The banker lives in a big fine house that's always dry and warm,  
Too bad he can't be out to sea, freezin' in a storm.*

*Don't think about your homes, my boys, or for your sweethearts hanker,  
Just freeze to death way out here, making money for the banker.*

*Fram Adak to Zarembo and all the points between,  
We'll drag the bottom with our nets and sweep the ocean clean.*

*If the season's bad, my boys, and we can't pay the bill,  
The banker, like a landshark, will close in for the kill.*

*Marry a banker's daughter, son, don't ever go to sea;  
You can do to her, my boy, what her father did to me.*



Photo by Nancy Ratner

Kris Krestensen

## Band 3 (3:43)

### Ketchikan (3:42)

Cris Kennedy and Eric Michaels, guitar, Whale Bay.

We met Chris and Eric while they played at the legendary Crystal Saloon and Ballroom in Juneau. Later we met them in Petersburg, Lynn Canal and Wrangell . . . we still get cards from them in Mexico City, Denali Park and Detroit.

#### Ketchikan

*A walk in the past,  
Through weathered old doors,  
Relying on rusty old hinges;  
To a smoky saloon,  
Where a young logger swoons  
O'er a barmaid in satin and fringes.*

*Then over the din  
And clinking of glass,  
A fisherman signals a waiter  
To set up a round,  
We're toasting the town,  
And we'll we drink to each other later.*

*Chorus:  
And young lovers romance,  
While the northern lights dance,  
And the sky never touches down;  
She lives on the land,  
And belongs to the sea,  
This foggy old Ketchikan town.*

*Then out in the streets  
The rivers of rain  
Are cascading down the gutters;  
And the clarion call,  
Of an October squall,  
Is the slamming of gates and shutters.*

*And at the Union Hotel,  
With its sourdough smell,  
The occupants change like the weather;  
And when the sun shines down  
She lights up the town;  
Makes a stranger want to stay forever.*

#### Chorus.

*And north up the coast,  
Asleep in the pines,  
The dreams of the Tlingit lie fallow;  
And totems remind us  
Of the days far behind us  
While the fog settles thick and fallow.*

*Then back in the town,  
The nite closes in,  
And trollers return from fishing;  
And the moon's icy stare  
Brings a chill to the air  
When the lights of the harbor glisten.*

#### Chorus.

## Band 4 (4:45)

### The Lament of the Lonesome Wolf (2:05) Gooch xa.sheeyée

Yaan Yaan eesh (Olaf Abraham), Yakutat/Antlein.

Olaf Abraham composed the Lament of the Lonesome Wolf in 1939 in honor of his wife Jinnaa.tlaa (Suzie Bremner Abraham). Every winter he left her to go trapping for many months. And every time he left she cried.

*Cries of sorrow I hear from you;  
Cries from the child of Kog waan taan.  
Cries cannot bring back your loved one  
From the Wolf Clan,  
Oh, Child of Kog waan taan.*

*Why are you feeling such sorrow,  
Oh, Child of Kog waan taan?  
Do you not know,  
because of loneliness for you,  
This Wolf Clan cries in sorrow.*

*This wolf cries,  
This wolf cries,  
This wolf cries.*

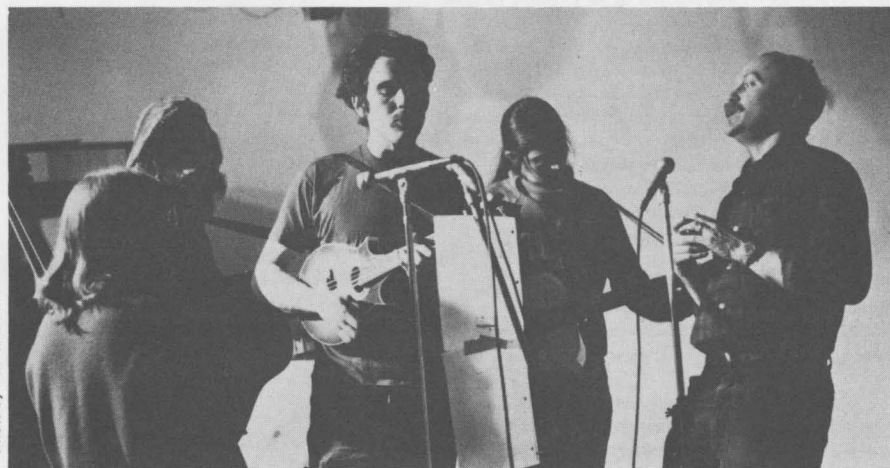


A detailed transcription and translation of both poetic and scientific quality remains to be done for these songs. Elaine Abraham is working on them at this time. These songs are used with the permission and kind encouragement of Elaine Abraham of Yakutat, a dedicated and sensitive scholar of her traditions. Further information or questions should be directed to Ms. Abraham in care of Archipelago. For bibliographic reference one may look to de Laguna (in our bibliography).

### Rainforest Reel (2:39)

Assembled by Bob Banghart, Douglas Island and Dan Hopson, Juneau.  
Played by the Chicken Ridge Rowdies, Juneau, 1976.

Bob and Dan recollected a tune they heard once called the "Utah Trails March". They also knew a colorful fragment or two from "The Boys of Wexford". This patchwork they called "The Mad Muffin Mountain Rangers". Their fellow bandmembers then twisted the whole concoction into something resembling a sub-Arctic Rainforest; hence the present title.



Chicken Ridge Rowdies



Band 5 (0:55)

### Nip/Tuck (0:55)

Written by Governor Jay Hammond, Juneau.

Arranged and sung by Jay Hammond and John Jamieson, guitar, Juneau.

Our governor won his first election by the narrowest margin in Alaskan history and then won his second election by the greatest landslide in our history. However, in the last Republican Primary, Jay Hammond and Wally Hickel tied. Jay went on a hunting trip. When he returned, he found himself 39 votes ahead. He was heard to remark, "Guess I'd better go out for another moose!" This song tells the story with Jameo backing the Governor all the way on guitar.

*Now, the crucial point in all campaigns  
Is the moment when one "peaks";  
And every candidate's objective,  
Which he diligently seeks,  
Is to do so on election day,  
And not one day before or after:  
For if you miss that target date  
You'll win naught but caustic laughter.  
To "peak" one should climb a mountain,  
But nothing's quite that simple;  
We labor long and work like mad,  
But instead of peaking we just pimple.*

*Yes, thirty-seven grains of sand don't pile very high,  
but all it takes is one of them to beat the other guy.  
So, my thanks to all of you "sand persons",  
Who piled each and every grain,  
Then lugged my carcass up to the top;  
Without you I'd've gone down the drain.*

Photo by Jackie Lenz



Jay Hammond John Jamieson

Band 6 (2:55)

### Ballad of the White Pass and Yukon Route (1:45)

Written by Tim Morrissey, Skaguay.

Sung by Steve Hites, guitar, Skaguay.

Tim Morrissey worked as a customs agent in Skaguay a few years ago. We ran into him at the Red Dog several months ago, but he could not remember having written this song. Fortunately, Steve remembered how it went. Thank God for the oral tradition.

#### *Ballad of the Yukon and White Pass Route*

*From out of the Yukon Country, o'er the White Pass Trail,  
Y' see the green and yellow, riding the crooked rail;  
They're screamin' down thru Utah, past Carcross and the Lake,  
And maybe they'll make Bennett, if the engineer's awake.*

*And then they leave Lake Bennett, and it's U.S. all the way,  
Past Fraser, then at Glacier you're lookin' at Lind Bay;  
But they don't see the derail that's blockin' up the line,  
And just 'cause cars are on the ground, it's only overtime.*

*Old 101 by Clifton, just listen to that sound,  
And they dump the air in Skaguay, 'cause the whole thing's on the ground;  
Well, Number 2's a little late, which means she's right on time,  
And if the cars stay on the rail, she might be in by 9.*

*Old Hisman's in a motor car that Hamme just b.o.'d,  
'Cause the windshield wiper 're leavin' streaks and he can't see the road.  
Well, the baggage boys are loadin' freight, which makes the Union frown;  
But the Company says, 'We got good men—it's hard to keep them down.'*

*Well, now you've heard my story all about the White Pass;  
They're hauling freight and passengers and wastin' lots of gas.  
My story has no moral, and certainly no rhyme,  
But quite unlike the White Pass Route, it's runnin' right on time.*

Band 7 (4:52)

### Busted in Alaska (2:10)

Banjo Jim Erkiletian, banjo, Whitehorse.

Banjo Jim dodged from Missouri to Canada when the draft got his number during Vietnam. He ended up in Whitehorse, settled and raised a family. Years after the draft ended and before it started up again, customs agents arrested him crossing the border at Tok Junction while helping a friend move furniture. He wrote this story in an Anchorage jail cell.

*Drove up to Alaska, drivin' a panel truck,  
Up the icy Alcan, trustin' guts and luck;  
I was busted at the border  
By a guy that said he'd break my knees:  
Howard the Duck, you got nothin' on me.*

*Took me to a courtroom; I said, 'Whatchya gonna do to me?'  
—'Put you in the jailhouse and throw away the key!'  
I said, 'How y' gonna tell all the people what's going down?  
Give me a lawyer and a newsman—I'll turn this courtroom 'round!'*

*The lawyers and the newsmen thought the case deserved some play,  
They got me on the airwaves and I got to have my say;  
Now the people can decide if what I did was right or wrong,  
And I can go on playing and writin' and singin' my songs.*

*Gonna keep on dancin' and dreaming of a time,  
When we will all be free to decide what is a crime,  
When we will all be fighting to put a final end to war;  
We're not a soldier nation, but we're warriors to the very core.*

### Conversation with Lonesome Pete (0:22)

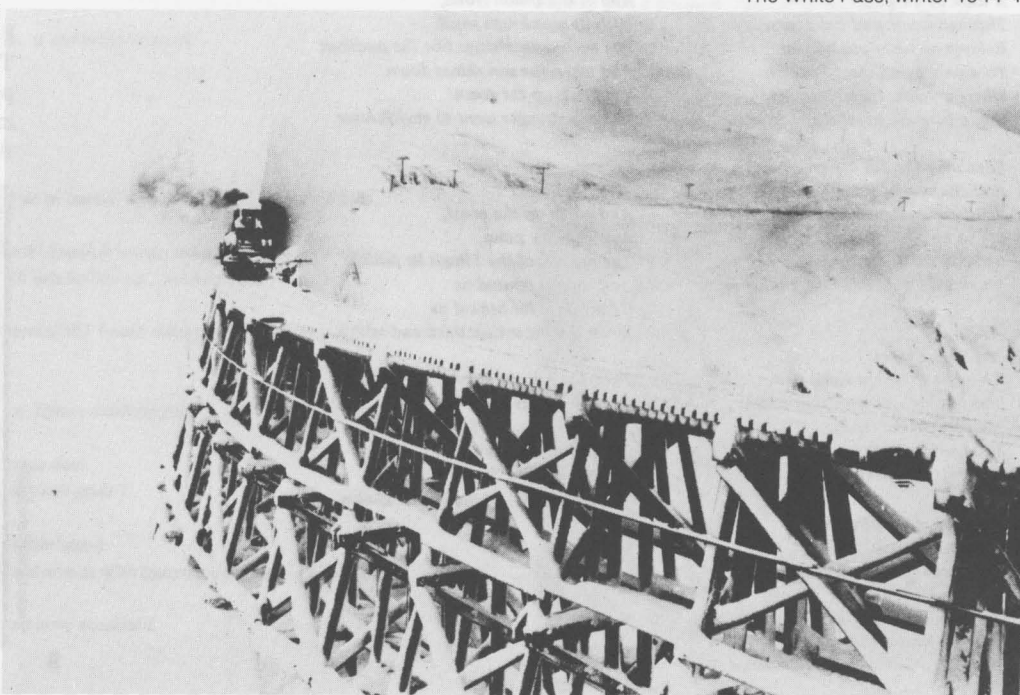
### Technology (2:20)

Bev Rawson, guitar, Pelican

The topic of this song originally centered on the Pelican fish house and Rosie's Bar. This winter brought Iran and Afganistan. Bev survived the shootout between Canadian and Alaskan longliners last June by being in Hoktaheen . . . and the topics of the song grew.

The White Pass, winter 1944-45

Courtesy of Alaska State Historical Library





### Tech-nol-o-gy

The energy crunch is upon us,  
Iran don't give a damn;  
For all that we've done you'd think they'd give us some;  
If they get the cards they could have a grand slam.

And now the big search is on for more oil,  
The Gulf of Alaska's the plan.  
Yakutat's first, it can only get worse,  
The shit's in the process of hitting the fan.

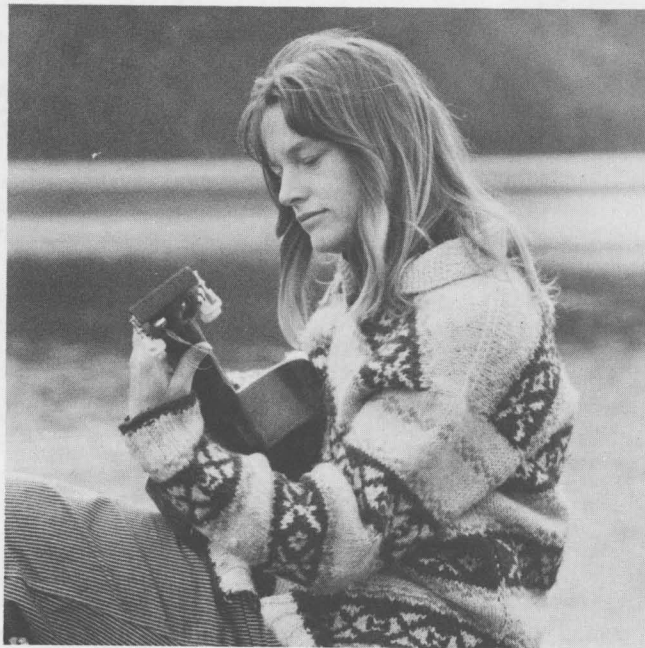
Chorus:  
So, get out of the way here comes progress.  
Only believe what you read.  
Highways are fun just so's I'm not the one.  
We're in the hands of a monster called tech-nol-o-gy.

In August they closed west of Spencer,  
You don't get nothin' for free;  
Next year there seem to be even more schemes,  
To safeguard the salmon and our fishery.

But appearances are often deceiving,  
We're just in the way don't you see;  
How can they drill when waters are filled up,  
With old wooden boats and related debris.

Chorus.

Coda:  
Well Fish and Game's just a pawn for what's going on  
We're in the hands of a monster called tech-nol-o-gy.



Bev Rawson

Photo by Ira Rosen

### The Tlingit Market

I'm from the Tlingit market  
Did someone say the Aztecs came here by boat when the ice  
melted?  
Here so long  
We got beaches  
We got tides  
We got rain  
We got water  
Here so long  
We had gold, it slipped, someone shipped it away  
Lost  
We got tourists  
We got hotels  
We got recreation  
Give me a tour  
We got leisure  
We got trees  
We chop wood  
We carve wood  
We burn it  
We got poles  
We got clans  
We got old living  
Here so long  
We got spirit  
Look me in the eye when I talk and you'll remember what I say

Andrew Hope III

### Band 8 (2:35)

### This Wonderful Land (2:35)

Written by Wesley Lewis, Three Way Pass/Wrangell.

Arranged and sung by Hobo Dan Neff, guitar, Harris Harbor/Elfin Cove.

Our songbook came out in June 1979 — in September a package arrived thru five forwarded addresses.. It contained about 10 songs scratched in pencil on damp paper. These songs and poems Wesley composed and sang to his dog at the oyster farm he tends at Three Way Pass outside of Wrangell. Hobo Dan took a shine to this poem and set it to music aboard his troller the "Hobo".

#### THIS WONDERFUL LAND

This wonderful land, to the last  
grain of sand,  
Is beautiful to see; I keep it in my  
memory.

These wonderful hills, where we used  
to find stills,  
And when you are hungry, there's a  
deer to kill.

It makes you, it takes you or it  
breaks you.

This wonderful land, this wonderful  
land.

This wonderful water, where we see  
live otter,  
And fish by the school in the water  
blue;

Bears in the crick and they look  
real slick,  
A big trout or two being caught  
by you;

It makes you, it takes you or it  
breaks you.

This wonderful land, this wonderful  
land

This wonderful beach, where the wild  
mink screech,  
An eagle or two flying up in the blue;  
A lonely wolf walks along the shore,  
He's already eaten and he's lookin'  
for more;

It makes you, it takes you or it  
breaks you.

This wonderful land, this wonderful  
land.

These wonderful trees, that sing in  
the breeze,  
Are slowly dying because we are  
crying;

For progress we stand while we tear  
up the land,  
May it last forever, this wonderful  
land;

It makes you, it takes you or it  
breaks you.

This wonderful land, this wonderful  
land.

The Boys of the Crystal Saloon, 1977



Photo by Peter Metcalfe

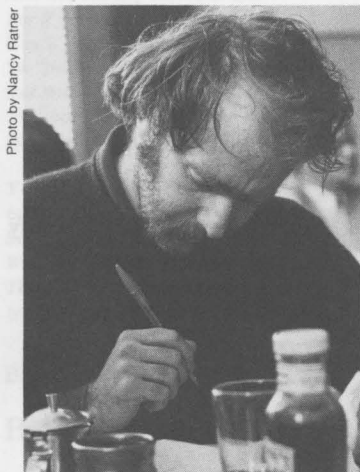


# The Southeast Alaska Folk Tradition 1942-1981

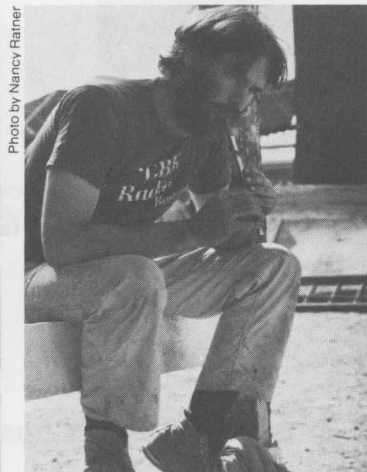
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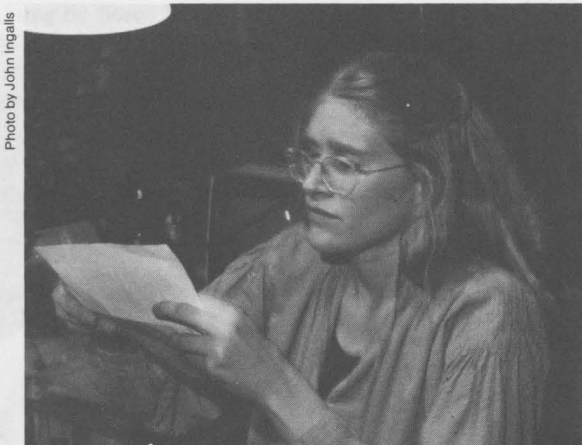
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Barry Roderick



John Ingalls



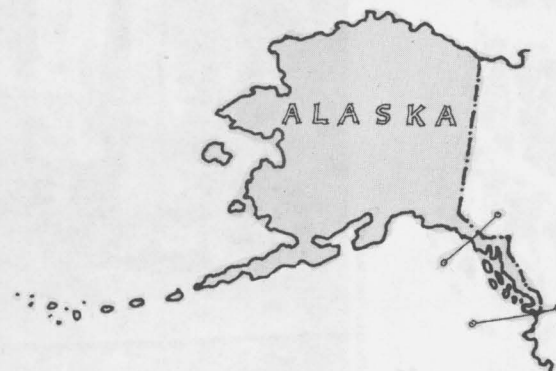
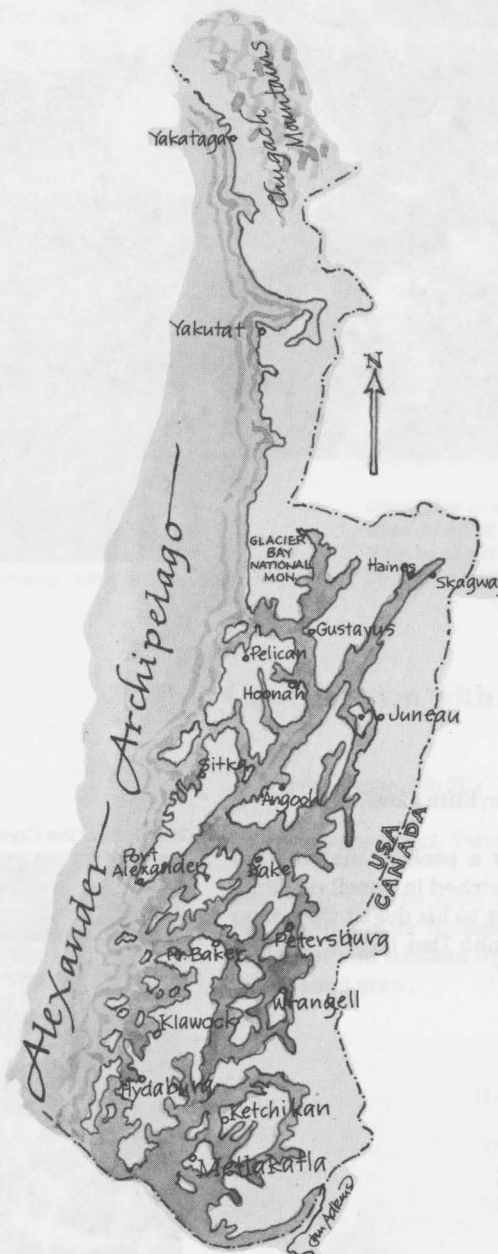
Patti Hauke



Byron Mallot

Cover photo by: Vincent Soboleff

This great local photographer was the son of Ivan Soboleff who moved from San Francisco in the 1890's to serve the Russian Orthodox Church in Killisnoo. Vincent Soboleff operated the Kootznahoo Store in Angoon until his death in 1950. Several hundred glass plate negatives were discovered in his attic and donated to the Alaska State Historical Library by his sister, Vera Soboleff Bayers. A great contribution to our community.



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Sol Casidsid, Juneau  
Al Eagle, Juneau  
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Bill Hudson, Juneau  
Asia Ingalls, Whale Bay  
Robert Johnson, Sitka  
Bob Jamey and Josh Chevalier, Sitka  
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Patti Hauke, Juneau, Typesetting & drawing  
Ron Klein, Juneau, Historical photo printing  
Ken Melville, Juneau, Typesetting

## PLACES

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5% of the profits from this project will be contributed to the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood Educational funds.

Special thanks for changing this project from a dream into a reality.



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