

HCR

35

STATE OF ALASKA
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: HCR 35
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Commending the Alaska Marine Highway System for 25 years of service.
Sponsor: Rep. Taylor
Requestor: Chairman Bette Cato

Agency Affected: DOT/PF
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CAPITAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
REVENUE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Rep. Bette Cato, Chairman
Division: House Transportation Committee

Phone: 465-4858
Date: 2/8/88

Approved by Commissioner: *Bette Cato*
Agency: Chairman, House Transportation Committee

Date: 2/8/88

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

NEWS RELEASE

INFORMATION CONTACT: GINGER JOHNSON, INFORMATION OFFICER (907) 465-3900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#481/ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM MARKS 25TH YEAR OF SERVICE

January 22, 1988

Juneau--The Alaska Marine Highway System begins capping off a quarter century of operation this month. The first state ferry, the M/V Malaspina, sailed its maiden voyage 25 years ago on January 23, 1963.

To mark the occasion, Governor Steve Cowper is proclaiming a mid-year observance with May as Alaska Marine Highway Month.

In addition, there will be special observances through the year affording Alaskans statewide the opportunity to participate, said Commissioner Mark Hickey of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, which operates the Alaska Marine Highway System.

It really is a milestone of solid service by a vital public agency when you look back at it," Hickey said. "Along with providing basic transportation, the Marine Highway system is a boon to tourism and a definite plus for other areas of commerce as well.

"And, then, there's the very human side of this. Ferry personnel over the years have assisted in search and rescue efforts,

(More)

Alaska Marine Highway System Marks 25th Year of Service...add one

medical emergencies, and on-board contingencies large and small, including the delivery of babies and collecting donations for passengers in emergency situations. It all adds up to much more than just operating a ferry system."

Alaska Marine Highway System Director George Davidson said the special year "serves to keep us on our toes. We naturally look back with pride at the record of service behind us, but also with recharged determination to the challenges ahead."

Following the M/V Malaspina's maiden voyage in 1963, the M/V Taku and the M/V Matanuska were added to the fleet that same year.

The ferry system opened to Alaskans and visitors a means of regularly scheduled public transportation connecting the highway system at Prince Rupert, B.C. and Haines, to southeast communities not reachable by land routes.

The system before long, added a lower 48 link to Seattle. It now operates nine vessels, serving southeast, Prince William Sound, Aleutian Chain communities, and southcentral Alaska as well. The system serves 3,500 route miles and carries more than 360,000 passengers and 90,000 vehicles annually, along with freight and other goods of Alaskan commerce.

In total, the system has carried six million passengers and one-and one-half million vehicles since 1963.

###

25 years

Ferries sail by silver anniversary

By JUNE ALLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

The inaugural sailing of the Alaska state ferry Malaspina was front page news in Ketchikan long before the new vessel sailed north from the Seattle yards for Alaska.

The date of her first call in Ketchikan was Jan. 23, 1963 — a quarter century ago this weekend.

The Malaspina's prow cut the ribbon on the Alaska Marine Highway System as the first of three sister ships to be built at a cost of \$10,445,000, designed by naval architect Philip F. Spaulding and built by Puget Sound Bridge and Dry Dock Co.

Alaska Gov. William A. Egan headed a list of dignitaries aboard the vessel as it awaited a Seattle departure after a series of short shakedown cruises in Puget Sound. A delay in sailing north was caused by repairs to a crack which developed on an engine supercharger casing.

Capt. Reuben Jacobsen ran what he called his "little luxury liner" at speeds above the 18-knot, cruising range to make up time, but the Malaspina sailed into Ketchikan almost 10 hours late.

She was greeted with what Daily News headlines called "New York-Type Welcome."

Scheduled events included performances by both the Metlakatla and Kayhi bands, a fly-over of small planes (probably canceled since the ferry arrived at night), and a boat parade led by the city's fireboat H.V. Newell, skippered by Bud Beck, crewed by Roy Selfridge, Glare Stigan and Walter Fitzgibbon with engineer Mike Kouni.

Ketchikan Daily News editor Albino Gregory was along for the inaugural sailing, doing a series of stories for the Associated Press in Seattle and taking scores of pictures which were featured on page one well into February.

Richard Downing, commissioner of public works, was photographed barefoot, pant legs rolled up as he scrubbed decks — not enough stewards had yet been hired. Fairbanks entrepreneur Chris Palzer had the contract for food service aboard the Malaspina and was

attired in a uniform which an eyewitness said looked like it had been borrowed from a South American Navy.

The whole concept of being the first Alaska stop on Southeastern's marine highway was being addressed by the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's banker president, Jack Reekie Jr., was requesting weekly reports from ferry committees. One was investigating ferry refueling stops in the First City; another was encouraging crews to live in Ketchikan; and still another was called the Ferry Arch committee. It was charged with designing and funding a grand, if rustic, laminated arch to rival the downtown All Alaska City arch on Mission Street. The ferry arch would be supported by logs, later to be replaced with totem poles.

The Matanuska and Taku were due to be finished the end of April 1963 and already the Chamber was studying future ferry extensions, supporting a terminal at Tolstoi Bay on Thorne Arm. However, district Ser. W.O. (Bo) Smith said he supported a future terminal at Hollis.

The entire community was caught up in the excitement of the Malaspina's arrival and significance. When she was tied up here, an agent sold tickets for the continuing voyage north from a cigar box in a borrowed trailer.

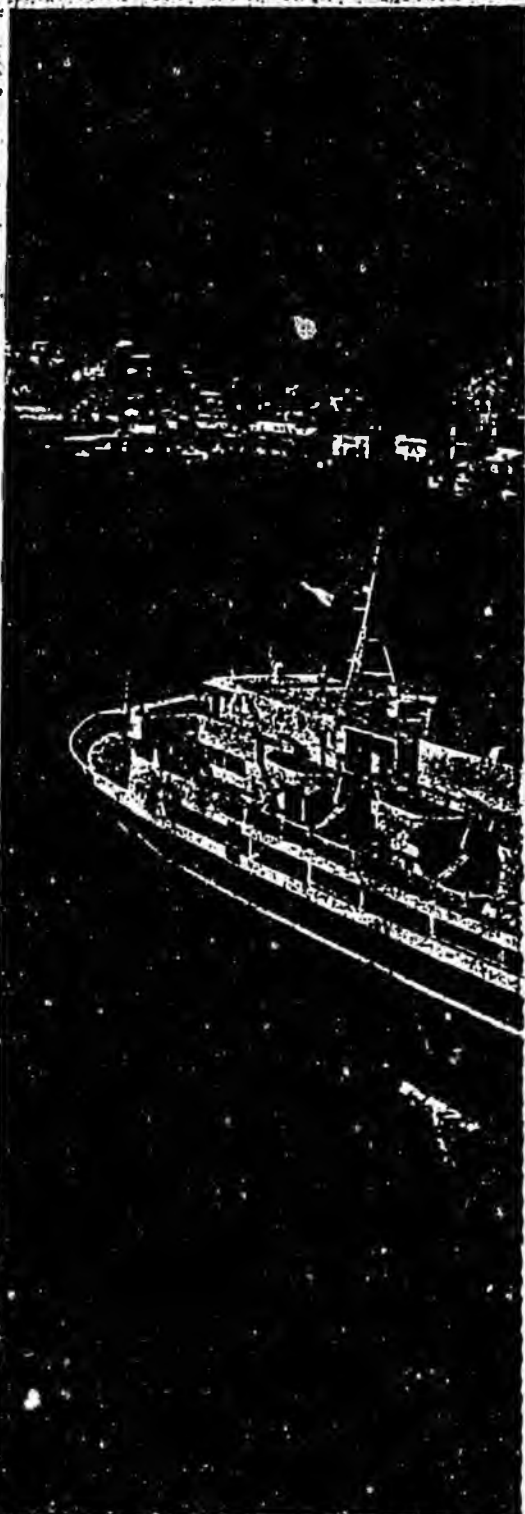
Then the Malaspina sailed north to carry Gov. Egan to his inaugural ceremonies. Along the route each passing fishing boat tooted a greeting which the Malaspina returned with a blast from her whistle.

It was an important event in 1963, the year that was the last for President John F. Kennedy, the year in which people were doing the Twist and Thistle Dew was plotting the death of Dick Tracy's sidekick Junior.

The opening of the marine highway was the culmination of many, many years of planning and preparation.

On the front page of the Jan. 23, 1963, edition of the Ketchikan Daily News was an old 1919 photo of a Fourth of July parade float, built to resemble a ferry. On its side was a sign which said, "Car Ferry No. 1."

It had finally arrived.



This photo was taken 20 years ago. Matanuska and Taku had joined the Malaspina to create the state's mainland ferry system. Photographer Steve McCutcheon captured the scene.

Familiar infant se

Editor's note: Many present and former Ketchikan residents remember the years during which the idea of a marine highway for Southeastern Alaska finally became reality.

Oral Freeman

Oral Freeman was one of Ketchikan's representatives in the first Alaska State Legislature after Statehood in 1959. He says he has no idea who first came up with the concept of a marine highway. It was an old and cherished idea, but during his years in that first Legislature the ferry concept was mostly a dream — there was no money to implement it.

But somehow along the line a study was begun and the idea of

On the bridge

The Malaspina captains:

Capt. Harold Payne has been of 1963. He was among the throng

placing the U.S. by the through ay. ll look t the .m. in lanned st site Area. Pass sensive of the e con- Island l. De- second nission e Navy reeable eration cement sphere ie eco- are esday's sensive Clover : area- d uses- ch uses- ourism lanning es not- sm and raction planner to the runs of the ment's eaffirm com- alterna- greatest project ds and unity," out artment rom car chorage ce new ds to be \$5,000, etchikan vo 1982 lymouth said the 1985, has miles;

ment was a the bil remen "We those c Wall and R repres Legislat genera around Spring: well th accomp ferries. He s

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

H. TRANS.

2-8-88

1:30 p.m.



Official Business

COMMITTEE:

House Transportation Committee

DATE: February 8, 1988

SIGN-IN

Subject of meeting:

- *HCR 34: Relating to tourist-oriented signs
- *HB 401: Rebates for Motor Fuel Taxes
- *HCR 35: Commending the Alaska Marine Highway

NAME Please include **ADDRESS** Please use full address. **PHONE** **REPRESENTING** **DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?**
 title Please include zip.

Carl Meyer	P.O. Box 5A Juneau	465-2343	Dept. of Revenue	Yes HB 401
Dale Lindsey	P.O. Box 389 Sitka	224-2190	Harbor Enterprises Inc	HB 401 Yes
DAVIN McCLUNE	2033 SIXTH AVE. #770 ? SEATTLE WA 98121	(206) 448-7588	DEPT. OF REVENUE	NO
KEITH GERKEN	Box 2 JUNEAU	465-3900	DOT + PF	YES
Rep. Ron Larson	Box V Juneau		will be in the room as finance has a govt room	HJR 34 Yes
Greg Robin	Hire for 3 more mos			HCR 35

* indicates first public hearing