

HB

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Sen. Abood:

586-1584

114 E.6<sup>th</sup>

~~99801~~

My Mother thought it  
might be timely and appropos  
to distribute these books (en-  
closed) to your constituents  
for home study, as they tell  
the true story of the background  
of The AK. Flag Song. Thank you  
(S. Davis) Carol Davis

*Carol B. Davis*



*Alaska's  
Flag*

## FOREWORD

Juneau was my home during all the years covered by this story of Alaska's flag. Thanks is due to ex-Governor George Parks for the use of the flag presentation pictures, taken in Washington, D.C., and to Belle Simpson for her data on the flag's trip to Paris.

Benny Benson gave me his story in person which is augmented by bits of material from the office of the Jesse Lee Home in Seward and the Governor's office in Juneau. Credit is extended to the *Alaska Sportsman* magazine for the use of Benny Benson's picture as a youth with the home-made flag of his design.

Marie Drake, author of the lovely Alaska Flag poem for the school-children, was a long-time friend of mine, as is Elinor Dusenbury who composed its appropriate music. They have both given me intimate accounts of their efforts.

Howard Thompson, Tom Petrich, Warren A. Taylor and Harriet Rossiter all contributed information. The *American Legion Journals* were fruitful sources of interesting accounts of the contest and results.

Since my husband, Trevor Davis, was one of the committee of seven to choose the design, the flag has always been my pride.

This is a beautiful flag which unfurls just the right meaning over a mighty and wonderful land.

Carol Beery Davis

## DEDICATION

This booklet is dedicated to the American Legion of Alaska, parent of Alaska's Flag.

C.B.D.



TREVOR M. DAVIS

The only living member of the Final Awards Committee of the American Legion on the selection of Alaska's Flag.

## ALASKA'S FLAG

*"Eight stars of gold in a field of blue,  
Alaska's flag . . ."*

Alaska's beautiful flag, with its magnificent symbolism, had its debut in Paris, France, in September of 1927, when it was scarcely six months old. Designed by a thirteen-year old school boy, it won the contest sponsored by Alaska's American Legion and the first flag went to Paris for an American Legion convention.

Early in 1926, Gov. George Parks of Alaska was making a call in Washington, D.C. on Postmaster General New. The rotunda of the old Post Office Building was lined with flags of the states and territories. The Postmaster General explained: "The only reason that Alaska is not up there with the others is that you have no flag."

Upon his return to Alaska, Gov. Parks brought this to the attention of the Territorial Commissioner of Education, Lester D. Henderson, and suggested that it would be a fine idea to put on a contest among the Alaskan children for the purpose of securing a design for the Territorial flag.

Himself a member of the American Legion, Gov. Parks said: "The American Legion is probably in a better position than any other organization to promote such a contest in the schools. I think the designs should be submitted and adjudged before the convening of the Territorial Legislature in March 1927. If the legislature saw fit, it could adopt the design chosen at that time."

The Department Adjutant, Tom Petrich, immediately dispatched this information to all Legion Posts in Alaska. The Legion opened the contest to all schools in Alaska—public, private and parochial—both native and white, to seventh and eighth grade and high school students. But

where to get ideas? The *National Geographic Magazine* of October, 1917, contained copies of official flags of the various states and territories. The contestants were encouraged to study these for helpful suggestions for designs.

By January of 1927, the rules of the contest had been formulated and sent out. In each town a local board of judges was to be set up. One member of the American Legion Post, the school superintendent (principal or teacher) and one other citizen, preferably a P-TA member, comprised it. This group was to choose the ten best designs and forward them to Tom Petrich, at Juneau, Alaska, for submission to the Final Awards Committee. In towns where there was no American Legion Post, the school superintendent, (principal or teacher) acted as chairman and selected the two other citizens for this committee, who chose the ten best.

Presenting the designs was made as easy as possible. They were to be on plain paper, cardboard or drawing paper, 8½ x 11 inches; to be done in ink, observing such proportions as to length and width as would apply to the proposed flag when enlarged. Designs could be submitted in color, or, if desired, the contestant could write the color proposed in the proper places in the design. In case the seal of the Territory was made part of the design, it could be indicated by a circle, labeled as such. The name, age and address of the contestant must appear in pencil on the reverse or back side of the design. The Juneau deadline for the designs was March 1, 1927.

The Department Executive Committee of the American Legion in Alaska selected the Final Awards Committee. This committee was not to take into account the excellence of the art work, but rather the idea conveyed for suitability of the design for use in an official flag of Alaska.

The winner of the contest was to receive a gold watch, on the back of which would be enameled his or her design with an appropriately engraved case. Second prize was \$15

and third, \$10. Should a design be accepted by the Territorial Legislature in 1927, the American Legion was to send the winner to Washington, D.C. to present the first flag to the then President, Calvin Coolidge. This would be an interesting and fruitful experience for the winner.

And what a splendid response! Designs came in from all over the Territory. The Legislature was invited to choose or appoint two members from each House to sit with the three members of the Final Awards Committee. The House of Representatives chose Charles Benjamin from Wrangell and Walter Fisher from Fairbanks. The Senate appointed Thomas Jensen from Nome and John Dunn from Ruby. With them on the Final Awards Committee were Florence (Sally) Shafer, Mrs. Geo. Simpkins and Trevor Davis, all of Juneau.

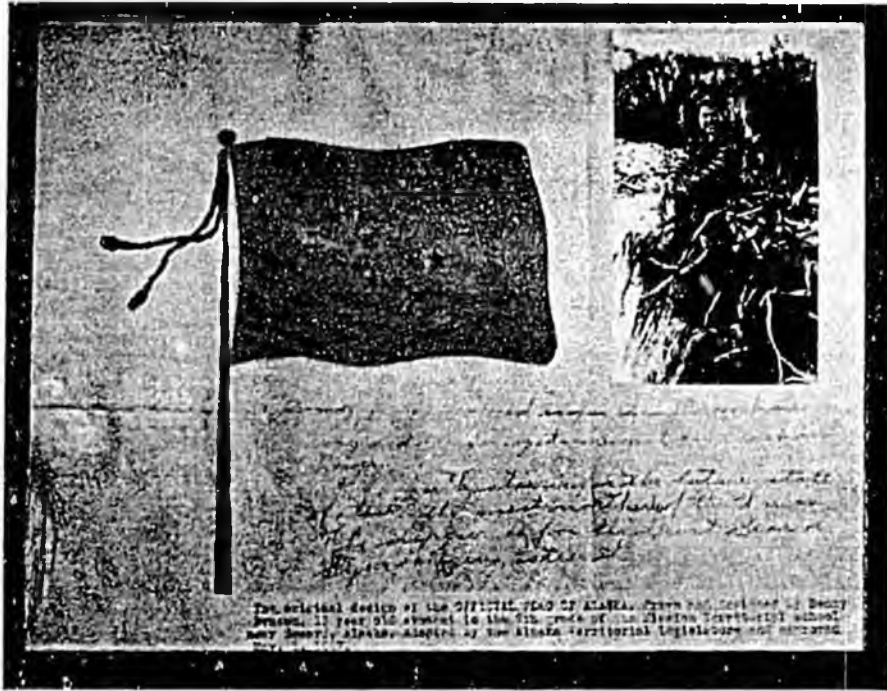
And what trends of creativity did these pioneer children show? From the 142 designs submitted, about one-third used the Seal of Alaska with accompanying features; six centralized a polar bear on an iceberg; many incorporated the North Star, and several, the midnight sun, the gold pan or northern lights.

"At one point in our deliberations," says Trevor Davis, one of the committee members, "we almost voted to select a polar bear on an ice-cream. But one of the ladies, another gentleman and myself protested so strongly on the grounds that it was not representative of all of Alaska, that a second vote was taken and the flag we now have was chosen." (Mrs. Geo. Simpkins and Trevor Davis are the only committee members still living at this writing.)

The award was given to that design drawn by Benny Benson, 13 years old, a seventh grade pupil in the Territorial School at Seward, residing in the Jesse Lee Mission Home. The second prize was won by Juanita Lewis, 16, of Wrangell, and the third was presented to Victor Wacker, 17, of Ketchikan.

Benny Benson's design consisted of the now familiar field of blue, with its eight gold stars, with these words written beneath:

"The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaskan flower. The North Star is for the future state of Alaska, the most northerly in the union. The Dipper is for the Great Bear—symbolizing strength."



Benny Benson's original design for the Alaska flag.

The committee's report to the Legislature said: "Your committee,, appointed to act with the committee appointed by the American Legion to select an official Territorial flag, begs to report as follows:

"There were 142 designs submitted from the schools all over the Territory. Many of them were beautiful and works of art. The one selected, however, was the most original and significant of Alaska. We respectfully recommend that this be adopted as our official Territorial flag."

Both Houses of the Territorial Legislature unanimously adopted the design of Benny Benson and their Act read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Section 1. That the winning design of the flag contest held in 1927 by the American Legion, Department of Alaska, in the public, private and Native schools of the Territory, be, and the same is, hereby adopted as the official flag of Alaska.

Section 2. That the design of the official flag is eight gold stars in a field of blue, so selected for its simplicity, its originality and its symbolism. The blue, one of our National colors, typifies the evening sky, the blue of the sea and of mountain lakes, and of wild flowers that grow in Alaskan soil, the gold being significant of the wealth that lies hidden in Alaska's hills and streams.

The stars, seven of which form the constellation Ursa Major, the Great Bear, the most conspicuous constellation in the Northern sky, contains the stars which for the 'Dipper,' including the 'Pointers' which point toward the eighth star in the flag. "Polaris," the North Star, the ever constant star for the mariner, the explorer, the hunter, trapper, prospector, woodsman, and the surveyor. For Alaska the Northernmost star in the galaxy of stars and which at some future time will take its place as the Forty-ninth star in our National Emblem.

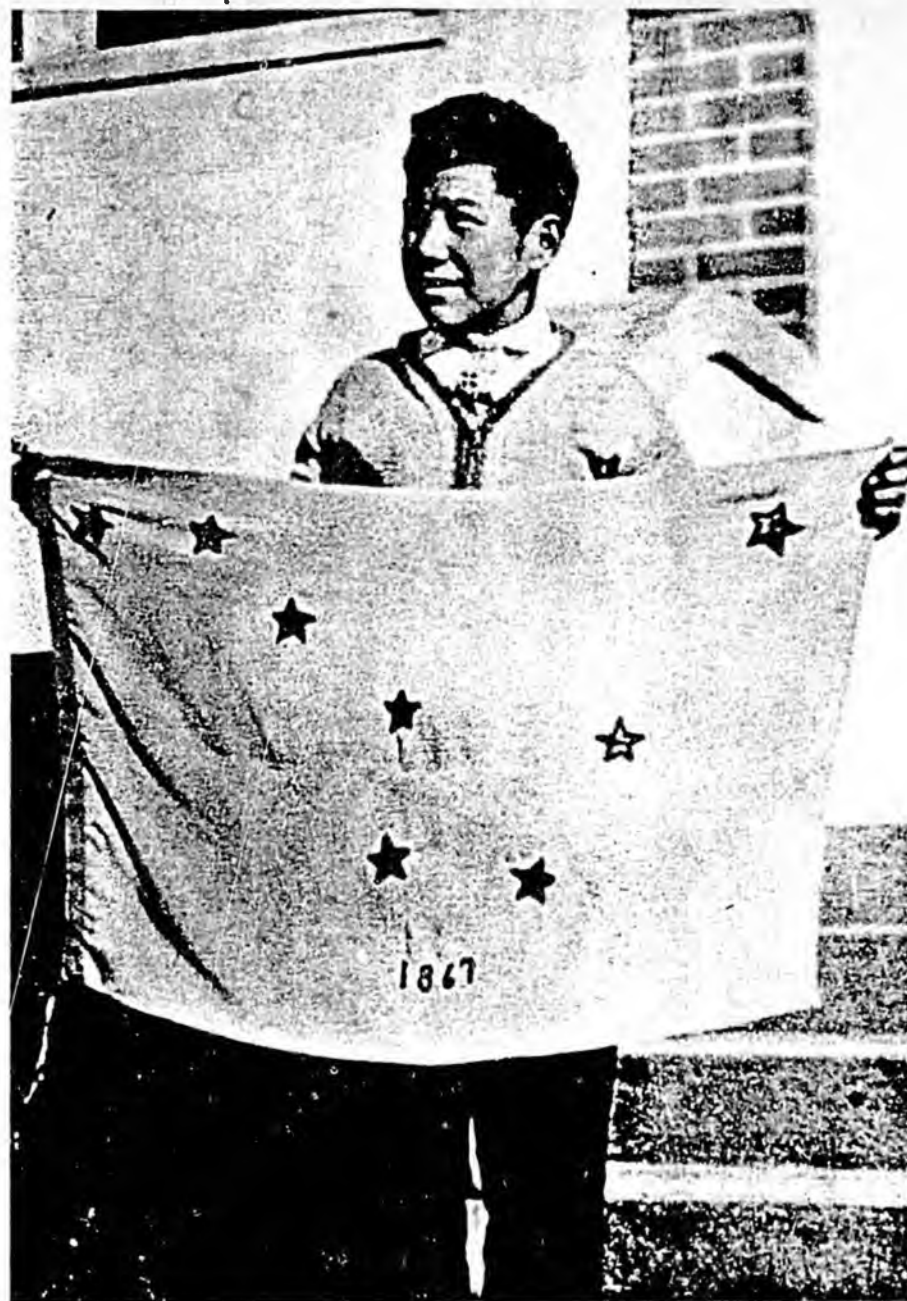
Section 3. That the Governor shall cause the original design to be properly encased and placed in the Alaska Historical Museum, and that due credit be given to Benny Benson, aged thirteen years, a student in the seventh grade of the Territorial School, near Seward, Alaska, the designer of the flag herein described and adopted as the official flag of Alaska.

Since the design of the 13-year old school boy was crude and needed modification, Florence (Sally) I. Shafer, Forest Service draftsman, was appointed as a member of the Final Awards Committee, because of her high artistic ability. She made many drawings to perfect and make applicable Benny's design for the actual making of the flag. The Legislature had appropriated \$250 for the making of the first flag.

Arrangements were made by Howard Thompson, Department Finance Convention Officer, for Benny Benson to present the first flag of the Territory to President Coolidge, in company with a delegation of Legionnaires and their wives en route to Paris for the convention. The Legislature had approved \$1000 for this, along with his beautiful gold watch of Howard movement, purchased at the Nugget Shop in Juneau, which also attended to the work of enameling his flag on its back. In the early part of September, however, President Coolidge was visiting in the Black Hills of South Dakota, so Benny's presentation had to be postponed. The watch was awarded him by the Legion Post at Seward.

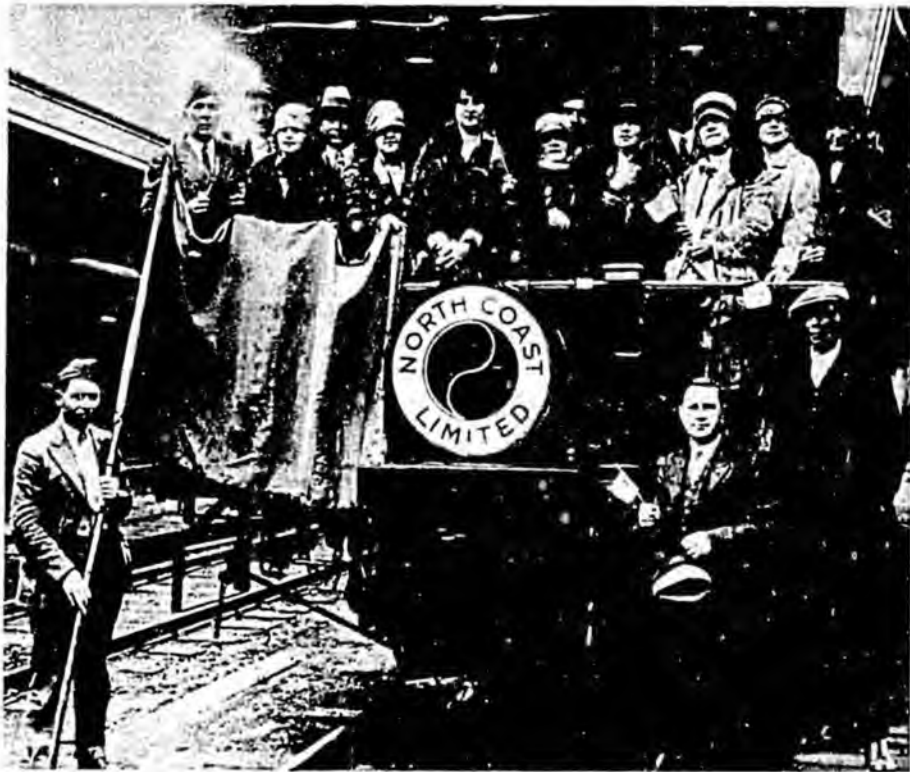


Benny Benson's watch, actual size, presented by the Seward Post of the American Legion.



Benny holding his own home made design.

For a few days the first flag was on display in the Territorial Museum in Juneau. Loaned by Governor George Parks, it left Alaska on the steamer, YUKON, accompanying the Alaskan Legionnaires to Seattle. There it was exhibited prominently in the main lobby of the Olympic Hotel. It then boarded a special car, chartered to Chicago, and attached to the North Coast Limited train of the Northern Pacific Railroad by courtesy of Karl Katz, representative of the Northern Pacific Railroad, who was a member of the Fairbanks Post.



The first Alaskan flag was displayed at the North Coast Limited just before it pulled out for the East from Seattle, Washington, in September, 1927, enroute to Paris, France to the American Legion Convention, where it was in the parade through the Arc d' Triomphe.  
 Top row; left to right: Past Department Commander Warren A. Taylor of Cordova; E. C. Dromnes, Sitka; Mrs. Warren A. Taylor, Cordova; Peter Kostrominoff and wife, Sitka; Belle Simpson, National Executive Committeewoman of the Auxiliary, Juneau; Mrs. Marion McKinney, Wrangell; Howard Thompson, Department Finance Convention Officer, Juneau; Mrs. Howard Thompson, Mrs. J. C. Grant, Wrangell; Mr. N. Nussbaumer, National Executive Committeeman from Wrangell, Alaska; Mrs. N. Nussbaumer, Wrangell, Mrs. Mae Gartley, Wrangell.  
 Bottom row: Holding the flag is J. R. Brabazon, Cordova; the man standing by the rail is Karl Katz, representative of the Northern Pacific Railroad Standing to the right on platform is J. Wilks from Little Squaw Mine, Chandalar District out of Fairbanks. (Mr. Wilks never returned, as he died of a brain tumor in London, England.)

Railroad publicity was built around Wilks, in connection with the party that traveled East in the latest style Pullman car, which they had all to themselves. Comrade Katz accompanied the party as far as Chicago. The delegation had stories in all the papers, along the railroad route, and often made the front pages. From Washington, D.C. the Legionnaires went to Paris on the S.S. LEVIATHAN. Again the flag was unfurled on the balcony in the main dining-salon, there being no other flags except the United States' and General Pershing's. Its symbolic meaning was explained in an article printed in the American Legion daily news sheet.

The Governor's office had also given the delegation a supply of small souvenir flags, with a description of the flag, for distribution while en route.

In Paris, the flag was honored with prominence in the Trocadero—the Convention Hall of the American Legion there. September 19th saw the convention parade of 20,000 Legionnaires. Gen. John J. Pershing, Marshal Foch and Commander Howard Savage headed it. According to Belle Simpson of Juneau, who participated: "Feeling was running high among the thousands of spectators and rampant anarchists, as Sacco and Vanzetti had just been executed. Regardless of our own opinions in the case, 31 of us from Alaska marched proudly behind our new flag down the Champ Elysees, through the Arc d' Triomphe. The women of the Auxiliary had been warned by the police that they might be snatched out of the parade. Bombs and assault were anticipated from the incited populace. So a French detective walked beside each Auxiliary member, there being 10,000 extra police drafted for protection duty.

"At the opening of the convention, one fellow shouted 'Vive Sacco et Vanzetti!' That is as far as he got. He was immediately arrested and placed in jail. Instead of the expected trouble, the parade was greeted with 'Vive l'Amérique!' and 'Vive l'Alaska!' all along the lines and 'enough kisses were thrown from the sidelines to smother us,'" wrote Bell Simpson.

# Alaska's Flag

Words by  
MARIE DRAKE

Music by  
ELINOR DUSENBURY

*Marcia moderato*

PIANO

*rall.* Eight stars of gold on a  
*a tempo*  
*mf*

field of blue, A - LAS - KA'S FLAG, may it mean to you, The  
blue of the sea, the eve - ning sky, The moun - tain lakes and the  
flow'rs near - by, The gold of the ear - ly sour - doughs dreams, The

pre - cious gold of the hills and streams; The bril - liant stars in the  
north - ern sky, The "Bear," the "Dip - per," and shin - ing high, The  
great North star with its stead - y light, O'er land and sea a bea - con bright, A -  
LAS - KA'S FLAG to A - las - kans dear, The sim - ple flag of a last fron - tier.

*vall. molto*

Alaskans bound for Paris were Miss Ruth and Glow Williams from Anchorage; J. R. Brabazon and Mr. and Mrs. Warren A. Taylor from Cordova; J. Wilks from Fairbanks—the Chandalar region; Mrs. S. L. Botsford, Mrs. Ella Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roden, A. McClanahan (Mrs. Sheelor's father), Mrs. Edith Sheelor, Belle Simpson, Louis Simon, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Thompson from Juneau; Amy Barlow, Mrs. Edwin Dillon, and Miss Harriet Rossiter from Ketchikan; Mr. and Mrs. Eiler Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kostrominoff and E. C. Dromnes from Sitka; Irene Coulter, L. C. Scribner, Mrs. O. B. McLaughlin, Mrs. Mae Gartly and Mr. and Mrs. N. Nussbaumer from Wrangell.

Since many of the Alaskans were taking the European side tours, Howard Thompson returned the flag to Juneau by express, and it was placed again in the Museum, where it is still on display. The Alaska Flag, however, received much attention and favorable comment throughout the trip.



Ex-Gov. Geo. Parks and Belle Simpson holding Alaska's first flag at the Alaska State Museum, where it is on display. George Parks instituted the flag contest and Belle Simpson accompanied the first flag to Paris.

At the next session of the Territorial Legislature, the Flag Act was amended to provide that Benny's \$1,000 appropriation (originally intended for his trip to Washington D.C.) be used for his education, after he left the Territorial School. Since the University did not then have the courses he desired, he chose to go to Hemphill Diesel School in Seattle, Washington.

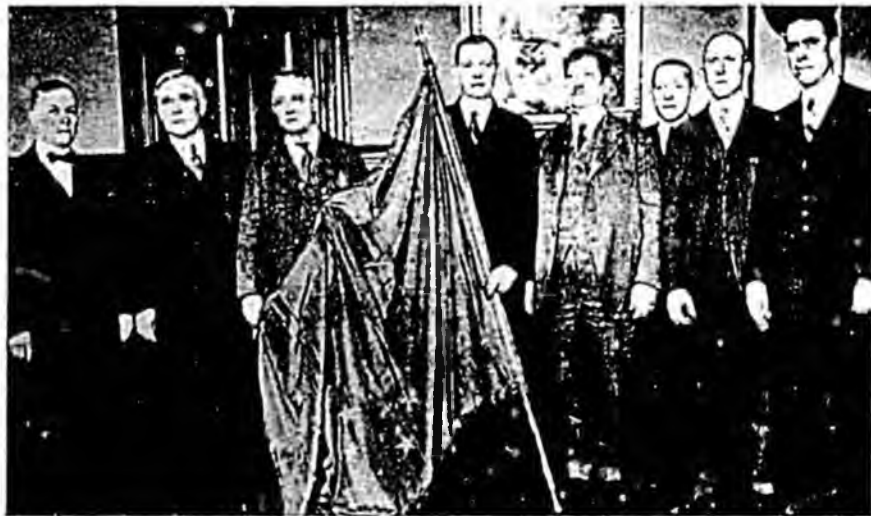
Benny was born in Chignik, a small settlement on the Alaska Peninsula, Oct. 12, 1913. He lost his mother when he was four years old after which his father sent him to the Methodist Jesse Lee Memorial Home, then located at Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands. Later the Home was moved to Seward, where Benny stayed until he was 20 years old. Benny was in the seventh grade at the Jesse Lee Home when he designed the flag.

Kodiak named a street for Benny. He fished later in Southeastern Alaska, then made his home in Seattle for a time before World War II. Since that time he has lived in Kodiak, among other Alaskan towns, making his living as an airplane mechanic.



Ben Benson at Alaska Statehood Commemoration exercises July 4, 1959, in Juneau, Alaska

In color and design, Alaska's flag blends well with and complements the Stars and Stripes, when the two flags are used together. Sometime later, another Alaska flag was officially presented to Postmaster New and accepted by him to take its place among the other flags of the states and territories in the Post Office Building in Washington, D.C. Present at this occasion, besides the Postmaster General and George Parks, who made the presentation, were; Hon. Dan Sutherland, then Congressional Delegate from Alaska; E. K. Burley, then Administration Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior; Colonel Malcolm Elliott, then Chief Engineer of the Alaska Road Commission; Charles Flory, then Regional Forester of the Alaska Forest Service; Dr. Charles Bunnell, President of the University and General Richardson, General U.S. Army Engineers.



Presentation of the Alaska Flag to Postmaster New. Left to right: Chas. Bunnell, Dan Sutherland, Postmaster New, Gov. Parks, Gen. Richardson, E. K. Burley, Chas Flory and Maj. Elliot.

The office of the Territorial Commissioner of Education wished to acquaint the school children of Alaska with the new flag and prepared to send each child a small flag with a copy of the Act which authorized the adoption. But Marie Drake, the intuitive Secretary to the Commissioner, felt something else was necessary. The Act was simply over their heads.

"It ought to be a jingle, which the children can easily read and understand, or they won't remember what it's all about," she contended.

"All right, go ahead and write one!" the Commissioner challenged.

"I will!" she declared stoutly, for already the lines had been forming themselves in her mind, as she worked at her mimeograph throughout the flag's initiation.

And so these lovely words of her poem fairly sprang from the pen of Marie Drake:

### ALASKA'S FLAG

*Eight Stars of Gold on a Field of Blue—  
Alaska's Flag. May it Mean to You  
The Blue of the Sea, the Evening Sky,  
The Mountain Lakes, and the Flow'rs Nearby;  
The Gold of the Early Sourdough's Dreams,  
The Precious Gold of the Hills and Streams;  
The Brilliant Stars in the Northern Sky,  
The "Bear"—the "Dipper"—and, Shining High,  
The Great North Star with its Steady Light,  
Over Land and Sea a Beacon Bright.  
Alaska's Flag—to Alaskan's Dear,  
The Simple Flag of a Last Frontier.*

—MARIE DRAKE

Alaska school children have come to love those words.

Born and raised in Van Wert, Ohio, Marie Drake and her husband, Jim, arrived in Seattle, during World War I, headed for Overseas duty in Red Cross work, in which they had been trained. Soon after their arrival in Seattle, however, the war ended. "We had said our 'goodbyes' in the East, so we decided to come on to Alaska which had always been our dream. . . . So Jim came to work in the Post Office and I, for the Commissioner of Education," laughed Marie. They remained for life, which for Marie lasted until March 5, 1963, when she passed away at St. Ann's Hospital in Juneau.



Marie Drake, author of the words ALASKA'S FLAG. She was Secretary to the Commissioner of Education, Lester D. Henderson.



Elinor Dusenbury, composer of ALASKA'S FLAG, taken at the time she was working on the accompaniment.

Recognizing the song possibilities of the poem, Elinor Dusenbury was stirred to write music for the words. She was the wife of the Commanding Officer at Chilkoot Barracks at Haines, Alaska, where they resided for three and a half years. She was a public school choral director and singer, herself, and was well qualified to compose the pleasing melody and hymn-like accompaniment so fitting for a State song.

In her own words: "I wrote the music for Marie's beautiful poetry from pure, unadulterated homesickness for Alaska! I shed more tears on the boat going out than I ever have, before or since. I had a book on Alaska with the picture of the flag and Marie's poem. That did it!" When she reached her new home in Omaha, Nebraska, she wrote the melody, but struggled with the harmony in her accompaniment of ALASKA'S FLAG for several months.

"Marie and I had no arrangements about the song until I got to Juneau the next summer—1938. She met me in the Baranof Hotel and we went to the piano and I played it for her. When I finished there were tears on her face. Fortunately for me, she loved it." She continued: "I was lucky to secure a publisher in the fall. Soon after publication, the NBC radio station, WOW in Omaha, sent the music to Fred Waring. Two weeks later, his Glee Club sang it on the Chesterfield Hour. It was a surprise to us both, though, when the Legislature passed its adoption as the official song of the Territory in 1955."

ALASKA'S FLAG immediately caught fire in the schools of Alaska and at general public gatherings. The Alaska Railroad advertised it and the Alaska Steamship Company publicized it. Its popularity spread rapidly through different choral arrangements and recordings. The University of Alaska now has full ownership of the Alaska Flag Song and all proceeds derived from its sale are placed in a special scholarship fund at the University for a worthy student.

Wm. A. Egan, Alaska's first Governor, was one of the Alaska Senators on the "Tennessee Plan" residing in Washington, D.C. who participated in debates and arguments on the Alaska Statehood Bill, prior to its passage.

"I was in the gallery when the Alaska Statehood Bill passed both the House and the Senate. It was a tremendous thrill!" said Neva Egan, Bill's wife who soon after became

Alaska's First Lady. But in her modesty, this she did not tell. Immediately after passage of the Bill by the Senate, a group—among them about thirty Alaskans—withdrawed into the little Chapel of the Senate. Ada Wien, of Fairbanks, offered a prayer of humility and gratitude, then Neva Egan sang the hymn-like "Alaska's Flag" song, unaccompanied. She has a lovely voice and she never sang better. It was so quiet that participants could hear their own breathing. The ceremony was short and extremely impressive. "It was the most touching experience I've ever had!" said Bernie Vaille, who was present.

The U.S. Congress voted statehood for Alaska on June 30, 1958. The people of the Territory voted approval of this on August 26th, 1958, and on January 3rd, 1959, President Eisenhower signed the Proclamation admitting Alaska as the 49th State. It was the climax of 50 years of perseverance on the part of Territory residents. Statehood was commemorated on July 4th in Juneau, Alaska's Capital.

On that day there were grand float displays of Alaska's flag in innumerable flowers. Musical renditions of the "Flag Song" poured from the floats. Ben Benson rode as Grand Marshal of the huge parade, and both he and Marie Drake were introduced at the main exercises at the Juneau Memorial Library. After the new 49-star flag of Stars and Stripes had been raised, the audience stood in silence while a 49-shot aerial bomb volley saluted the new flag. The hush was broken by the beautiful strain "Eight stars of gold in a field of blue—" of the ALASKA FLAG song, hauntingly rendered by the unaccompanied voices of the Harmonette Trio. In this very impressive moment, the Alaska flag rose above the spellbound crowd, while the Fourth of July Queen and her attendants saluted.

So, at long last, the flag and the song and the unforgettable poem have helped Benny Benson achieve his vision of Statehood for Alaska—"The North Star is for the future State of Alaska, the most northerly of the Union."

The winter of 1962-63 Benny Benson was quite ill in a Seattle hospital. During the 1963 session the Alaska State Legislature, it was voted to award him \$2,500 to help defray his expenses.

Chapter 68 — SLA 1963:

Appropriating \$2,500 to Benny Benson as an award for designing the Alaska flag; and providing for an effective date.

Section 1. The sum of \$2,500 is appropriated from the general fund to Benny Benson, designer of Alaska's flag, as an award for designing the flag.

Section 2. The amount appropriated by this act shall be paid on vouchers certified by the governor.

Section 3. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.

Approved April 15, 1963.

En route to his home in Kodiak, Benny Benson presented his historical watch to Mr. Ed Keithahn, curator of the Museum in Juneau for safekeeping for posterity. Several times his watch was stolen, but always recovered and Benny Benson prized it above everything.

The watch is inscribed "Awarded in 1927 to Bennie Benson, Seward, Alaska, as first prize in the American Legion Flag contest, whose design was adopted by Alaska as its official flag."



Governor William A. Egan looks on as Benny Benson hands to E. L. Keithahn, curator of the Alaska State Historical Museum, the watch which the American Legion presented Benny in 1927 in recognition of his winning the contest for an official Alaska flag design. Benson, who lives in Kodiak, made a special trip to Juneau to present the watch to the State so that it may become part of the historic record of Alaska, available for public display to the thousands who each year visit the State Museum in the Capitol building. Benny's original flag design is already on display there.

Benny Benson, recognized as one of the finest airplane mechanics in the whole state, now lives in Kodiak, Alaska, alone, as his two daughters, Anna Mae and Charlotte, reside in the lower states.

May "*the simple flag of the last frontier*" fulfill its destiny with honor to the meaning it embodies.



Thanks to Alaskans United and Bob DeArmond for the use of the picture of the two flags—"The wedding of the United States and Alaska's Flags.

# Sour notes sound about Flag Song flap

## Pioneers upheld racial stupidity

In regard to the article printed on May 27 about a second verse pertaining to the Alaska flag song, I would like to clarify for "Pioneer" Dalton and members of auxiliary #8 of Fairbanks the difference between Sourdoughs and Pioneers.

Both groups came to this great land long before statehood. The Sourdoughs trapped and mined and lived among the Natives, most of whom married into various families and raised lots of kids, of whom I'm one. Whereas the ones who call themselves Pioneers came and opened up their business establishments. They put up signs saying "No Natives Allowed" — that was here in this city. I understand it was worse in Fairbanks.

If "Pioneer" Dalton remembers, the signs there read "No Eskimos or dogs allowed." So if anyone brings up this racial stupidity, it's Pioneer Dalton and the members of the Fairbanks auxiliary #8 who so thoughtfully wrote to our legislators about this trivial matter.

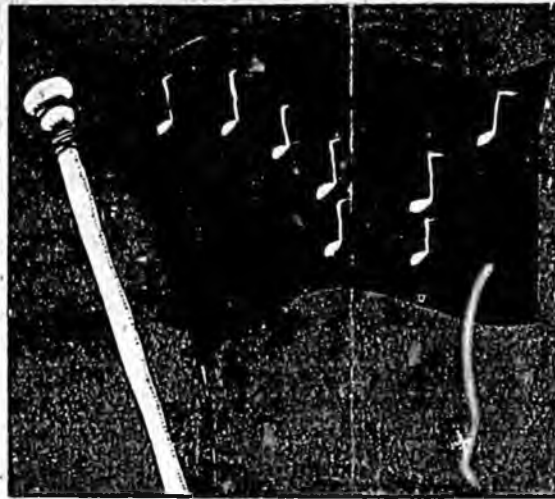
I bet my old friend Benny Benson is turning over in his grave.

— C.E. Johnson

## Vigilance stops social progress

The Fairbanks Pioneers have spoken up in defense of the alpha-numeric integrity of the Alaska Flag Song. They should be complimented. It is only by such ceaseless vigilance that social progress can be stopped.

Who knows what might be next? The rumors we hear in Juneau are terrible. Some say that after rewriting the flag song, the legislators started thinking about changing



the state fossil from the mastodon to Bucky the Moose. Is nothing sacred anymore?

— Dick Monkman  
Juneau

## Natives get sentimental, too

I am a proud Alaska Native, and I believe the proposed second verse to our state song should be added. I believe we are the true Alaskans. Why shouldn't we be mentioned in our own state song?

Mike Dalton said that people get sentimental about things that are important to them. Fact is Natives are people too. We get sentimental just like everybody else. I believe our state song is important. I agree with Richard Stitt, there may be a bit of racial prejudice involved.

— Marlene Bartlam

## A Native child designed our flag

In regards to the article headed "Second verse to flag song draws opposition" (May 27), there is something indeed ironic about the protestations of Mike Dalton (female of species Mike) about "sanctity" etc. The local poet emeritus, Carol Beery Davis, is aware that the designer of that flag was a Native Alaskan by the name of Benny Benson.

The flag he designed was chosen in a contest sponsored by the American Legion (which has no racial barriers). He was an orphan who later worked for a number of years as a mechanic for a "pioneer" airline.

If I remember correctly, Benny Benson was only 13 when he won the contest and was awarded a watch by then Gov. George Parks.

I would also remind Mike Dalton that she can join the Alaska Native Sisterhood since they don't require a blood quantum for enlistment. I know that because, in addition to being a member of Igloo Six, I'm also a member of Camp No. 2 of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. And that our flag song will be even more "precious and beautiful" with the addition of a second verse.

Incidentally, I think Mike Dalton should be reminded that a real hero of hers once offended the Daughters of the American Revolution when he opened his remarks to their national convention (circa 1937) by saying, "Fellow Immigrants." That was Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mike. Mike? Or as Will Rogers (a Native American in part) once replied when asked if his ancestors arrived on the Mayflower: "Nope, they met it."

— Vern Metcalfe

Juneau

# New verse for the Alaska Flag Song creates controversy

Carol Berry Davis, 96, is as sour a dough as you will find. She came to Alaska for three months "to relieve a man at the theater playing silent pictures."

That was in 1920 and she hasn't gone back to Washington yet.

These days, Davis is still providing music for Southeast dramas; she wrote what has become the controversial proposed second stanza of the Alaska Flag Song:

*A Native lad chose the dipper's stars  
for Alaska's Flag that there be no bars  
among our cultures. Be it known  
through years the Natives' past has grown  
to share life's treasures, hand in hand,  
to keep Alaska our Great Land;  
we love the northern, midnight sky,  
the mountains, lakes, and streams nearby.  
The great North Star with its steady light  
will guide all cultures, clear and bright,  
With nature's flag to Alaskans dear,  
the simple flag of the last frontier.*

It's as unabashedly sentimental as the first verse written by Davis' friend, Marie Drake, all those years ago. But in conversation, Davis is no sentimentalist — as you'll find if you ask her about the controversy brewing over her lyrics, written at the suggestion of a committee from the Alaska Native Brotherhood. Some people don't want the song expanded at all, and some object to singling out a particular ethnic group — Natives — for mention.

"I hate to see it used as a political football in the legislature," says Davis. "I think the



**suzan nightingale**

whole situation boils down to the fact that the Pioneers (of Alaska) as a society would never have any Natives in it — and I'm a strong Pioneer myself, I've been president and everything. So the Pioneers wrote in that they didn't want anyone tampering with the first verse."

For the record, Auxiliary No. 8 of the Pioneers of Alaska in Fairbanks, which says racism doesn't enter into it, has sent a letter to every legislator that reads in part: "Why tamper with an already beautiful composition that is held in such respect? To alter the official state song by adding another verse (which salutes only one ethnic group out of many ethnic groups in our great state) violates the song's serenity."

"When Marie wrote it, she didn't mention anyone but the Sourdoughs," counters Davis. "We have a lot of other cultures mixed up

with ours — you know there is a lot of Russian heritage in Wrangell, and Norwegians in Petersburg, and we have a lot of Filipinos here in Juneau — I tried to make it for everybody. That's why I used the word, 'cultures,' plural."

Davis thinks Drake would be "very happy" with her new verse, "so would Elinor" Dusenbury, who wrote the music. "It's really quite a historic thing, and I think I feel closer to that flag than any other Pioneer could possibly feel."

Davis' husband, Trevor, 93, is the last surviving member of the seven-member committee that selected Alaska's flag.

"Gov. Parks was territorial governor and he came back from a big festival in Washington where all the states' flags were flying," she recalls. "He said the only reason Alaska didn't have one up was because we didn't have a flag. There were only a couple or three working organizations then and he thought the American Legion was the logical one to run the contest."

"They had 143 designs sent in. On the first vote, a polar bear on an iceberg won. My husband got up and said it wouldn't be consistent with all of Alaska, and several people agreed and said the same. So they decided to vote over, and on the second vote they were unanimous for the great dipper. I think that's the amazing part."

"When Trevor told Marie they had selected a flag," she said, "Someone should write a

jingle.' Like so many things in the olden days, it just happened like that.

"The song became part of the law that same spring. They kind of hurried it so it would be ready for the legislature, because they only met every two years. There was no controversy at all about it — everybody was thrilled with it. I thought it turned out very nicely."

Davis, who told the story in her book, "Alaska's Flag," says she's surprised at the contrasting reception her verse has received — especially in light of its easy 35-5 passage by the House this session. "I thought it would all be over in two weeks."

Instead, the proposed second verse of the Alaska Flag Song is now in the Senate State Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Mitch Abood, who has said he will hold a hearing on it. Because the Alaska Flag Song's lyrics were included in the statute making it official, any official change in the lyrics means an amendment to the statute.

Still, the University of Alaska — not the Senate — owns the copyright on the song, and Davis has already copyrighted her stanza and sent it on to the university.

"Even if the Senate should turn it down, I think it still belongs to the university. And even with all the ifs and ands, I think it's the best flag of the 50 — and the best music of the 50."

Suzan Nightingale is a Daily News columnist.

# Alaska State Legislature

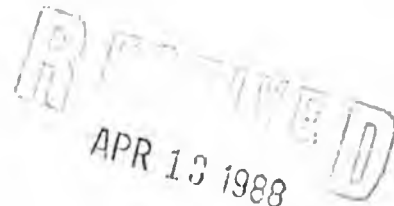
## Committees:

Chair-State Affairs  
V. Chair-Judiciary  
Telecommunications  
Special Ethics  
Legislative Council  
Finance Subcommittee  
for the University of Alaska  
Joint Committee  
on Economic Recovery



PO. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4947

**REPRESENTATIVE FRAN ULMER**



**TO: Senator Mitch Abood, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee**

**FROM: Representative Fran Ulmer**

**RE: House Bill 117, 2nd Verse of "Alaska's Flag"**

**DATE: April 13, 1988**

---

Attached is a copy of a letter from Richard Stitt, Grand President of the Grand Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, and Resolution #51 of the Grand Camp which urges the Governor, the State Legislature and the University of Alaska to adopt the second verse of the Alaska Flag Song.

Last year I introduced House Bill 117, which would officially add a second verse to the Alaska Flag Song. This second verse, written by Past Poet Laureate Carol Beery Davis, gives long overdue recognition to the role of Alaska's Natives in our heritage. Special recognition is given to Benny Benson, the designer of our state flag. What is more fitting than having the creator of our flag be recognized in the song which celebrates that flag?

House Bill 117 has been in the Senate State Affairs Committee since February 1987. I would appreciate a hearing at an early date on this bill. Thank you.



*Grand Camp  
Alaska Native Brotherhood*

April 6, 1988

Representative Fran Ulmer  
Alaska State Legislature  
P O Box V  
Juneau AK 99811


Dear Representative Ulmer:

Enclosed is the ANB Grand Camp Resolution #51 Titled: "Alaska Flag Song Second Verse Adoption".

This resolution supports the intent to expand the Alaska Flag Anthem to include the proposed second verse.

Sincerely,

GRAND CAMP ANB

  
Richard Stitt  
Grand President

encl.

RS:cne

# PIONEER WOMEN OF ALASKA

AUXILIARY NO. 1  
NOME, ALASKA

Box 1175  
May 11, 1987

Senator Mitch Abood  
Chairman, State Affairs Committee  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Abood,

Pioneer Igloo No. 1 and Pioneer Auxiliary No. 1, Nome, are opposed to the adoption of House Bill No. 117, "An Act Relating to the State Song".

We believe that the "Alaska's Flag" song should remain as it presently is written and sung. The words and song are beautiful as is and represent all Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Pioneer Igloo No. 1  
Pioneer Auxiliary No. 1

*Linda E. Conley*

Linda E. Conley  
Secretary, Aux. #1

RECEIVED  
MAY 13 1987

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

*Handwritten signature*

NAME: JAMES 'HOTAI' WILLIAMS  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: BOX 1289  
CITY: VALDEZ  
PHONE: 835-4508  
BILL NO: SB 3  
SUBJECT:

ZIP: 99686

MESSAGE: MR. ABOOD: IT IS FAR BETTER TO BE THOUGHT A FOOL THAN TRY TO REMOVE ALL DOUBT BY SUPPORTING SUCH RIDICULOUS CLAPTRAP. GROW UP!

POMID: 17165434  
DATE: 04/14/87  
TIME: 16:54:34

LOCATION: VALDEZ INFORMATION OFFICE

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| ADAMS | KERTTULA  |
| CATO  | FAIKS     |
|       | HENSLEY   |
|       | JOSEPHSON |
|       | UEHLING   |

RECEIVED  
APR 28 1987

*Mr. Williams*  
*If you sent that ridiculous POM to me on SB 3,*  
*I can accept that, but if you didn't I'd*  
*sure try to find the damn fool that used*  
*your name.*

*(Small news feed)*  
*m*

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

HB 117

NAME: DOROTHY I. CLIFTON (ON BEHALF OF)  
TITLE: PIONEERS OF ALASKA, AUX. #2  
ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 6  
CITY: VALDEZ  
PHONE: 835-4367  
BILL NO: HB 117

ZIP: 99686

SUBJECT: STATE SONG; 2ND VERSE OF "ALASKA'S FLAG"  
MESSAGE: WE, THE PIONEERS OF ALASKA AUXILIARY NO. 2-VALDEZ, ALASKA, SUPPORT LEAVING THE OFFICIAL ALASKA FLAG SONG AS IT HAS BEEN PRIOR TO HB 117. THE ALASKA FLAG SONG AS FIRSTLY WRITTEN COVERS THE SUBJECT WITHOUT NEED FOR ANY CHANGE OR ADDITION.

POMID: 17170505  
DATE: 04/14/87  
TIME: 17:05:05

LOCATION: VALDEZ INFORMATION OFFICE

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| BOUCHER     | KERTTULA     |
| BROWN       | SZYMANSKI    |
| CATO        | COGHILL      |
| COLLINS     | DURCAN       |
| COTTEN      | ELIASCH      |
| DAVIDSON    | FISCHER      |
| DAVIS       | JONES        |
| ELLIS       | STURGULEWSKI |
| GRUEBERG    | ZHAROFF      |
| HUDSON      | FAIKS        |
| MENARD      | HENSLEY      |
| NAVARRE     | JOSEPHSON    |
| SPRINGER    | UEHLING      |
| SWACKHAMMER |              |
| ULMER       |              |
| WALLIS      |              |

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED



*Grand Camp*  
*Alaska Native Brotherhood*

RESOLUTION # 51

**TITLE:** ALASKA FLAG SONG SECOND VERSE ADOPTION

**WHEREAS:** the Alaska Flag Song is presented as a State of Alaska song,  
and

**WHEREAS:** the Alaska Flag Song only addresses Sourdoughs as its  
people, and

**WHEREAS:** a new second verse has been requested and written by  
long term resident and member of the original Alaska song  
ceremony in Juneau, Alaska, Carol Barry Davis to honor  
the first Alaskans, Alaska Natives and all of the people of  
Alaska, and

**WHEREAS:** Dorothy Wallace, Alaska Native Sisterhood, Camp #2  
member testified at the Alaska State House Committee  
hearings on the support of the second verse of the Alaska  
Flag Song, and

**WHEREAS:** Camp #2 voted and passed support of the adoption of the  
second verse of the Alaska Flag Song, written by Carol  
Barry Davis, Juneau, Alaska, and

**WHEREAS:** the second verse reads: A native lad chose the Dipper's  
stars for Alaska's flag that there  
be no bars among our cultures.  
Be it know through years the  
natives' past has grown to share  
our treasures, hand in hand, to  
keep Alaska our Great Land... We  
love the northern, midnight sky,  
the mountains, lakes, and streams  
nearby. The great North star with  
steady light will guide all cultures,  
clear and bright, With Nature's  
flag to Alaskans dear, the simple  
flag of the last frontier.



*Grand Camp*  
*Alaska Native Brotherhood*

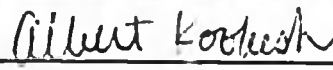
**BE IT RESOLVED:** by the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood in Convention, Sitka, Alaska, November 9, 1987 urge the Governor of Alaska and the State Legislature, and the University of Alaska, owner of the

donated song by Carol Barry Davis to adopt the second verse of the Alaska Flag Song.

**ATTEST:**

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB-ANS Grand Camp in convention at Sitka, Alaska, during the week of November 9-12, 1987.

  
Richard Stitt, Grand President

  
Albert Kookesh, Grand Secretary

# PIONEER WOMEN OF ALASKA

AUXILIARY NO. 1  
NOME, ALASKA

Box 1175  
May 11, 1987

Senator Mitch Abood  
Chairman, State Affairs Committee  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Abood,

Pioneer Igloo No. 1 and Pioneer Auxiliary No. 1, Nome, are opposed to the adoption of House Bill No. 117, "An Act Relating to the State Song".

We believe that the "Alaska's Flag" song should remain as it presently is written and sung. The words and song are beautiful as is and represent all Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Pioneer Igloo No. 1  
Pioneer Auxiliary No. 1

*Linda E. Conley*

Linda E. Conley  
Secretary, Aux. #1

RECEIVED  
MAY 13 1987

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: JAMES 'HOTAI' WILLIAMS  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: BOX 1289  
CITY: VALDEZ  
PHONE: 835-4508  
BILL NO: SB 3  
SUBJECT:

*Handwritten signature*

ZIP: 99686

MESSAGE: MR. ABOOD: IT IS FAR BETTER TO BE THOUGHT A FOOL THAN TRY TO REMOVE ALL DOUBT BY SUPPORTING SUCH RIDICULOUS CLAPTRAP. GROW UP!

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COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS  
CATO  
KERTTULA  
FAIKS  
HENSLEY  
JOSEPHSON  
UEHLING

RECEIVED  
APR 28 1987

*Mr. Williams*  
*If you sent that ridiculous poem to me on SB 3,*  
*I can accept that, but if you didn't I'd*  
*sure try to find the damn fool that used*  
*your name.*

*(Small news feed)*  
*27*

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

HB 117

NAME: DOROTHY I. CLIFTON (ON BEHALF OF)  
TITLE: PIONEERS OF ALASKA, AUX. #2  
ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 6  
CITY: VALDEZ  
PHONE: 835-4367  
BILL NO: HB 117

ZIP: 99686

SUBJECT: STATE SONG; 2ND VERSE OF "ALASKA'S FLAG"  
MESSAGE: WE, THE PIONEERS OF ALASKA AUXILIARY NO. 2-VALDEZ, ALASKA, SUPPORT LEAVING THE OFFICIAL ALASKA FLAG SONG AS IT HAS BEEN PRIOR TO HB 117. THE ALASKA FLAG SONG AS FIRSTLY WRITTEN COVERS THE SUBJECT WITHOUT NEED FOR ANY CHANGE OR ADDITION.

POMID: 17170505  
DATE: 04/14/87  
TIME: 17:05:05  
LIONAME: VALDEZ INFORMATION OFFICE

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BOUCHER  
BROWN  
CATO  
COLLINS  
COTTEN  
DAVIDSON  
DAVIS  
ELLIS  
GRUENBERG  
HUDSON  
HENARD  
HAVARRE  
SPRINGER  
SWACKHAMMER  
ULMER  
WALLIS  
KERTTULA  
SZYMANSKI  
COGHILL  
DUNCAN  
ELIASON  
FISCHER  
JONES  
STURGULEWSKI  
ZHAROFF  
FAIKS  
HENSLEY  
JOSEPHSON  
UEHLING

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED



*Pioneers of Alaska*

IGLOO NO. 4

*Fairbanks, Alaska 99707*

①

April 21, 1987

Senator Mitch Abood  
Alaska State Legislature  
Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Abood:


At our regular meeting last night, Igloo No. 4, Pioneers of Alaska, considered House Bill 117 and passed a motion, without a single dissenting vote, opposing the addition of a second verse to the Alaska Flag Song.

One reason that the Alaska Flag Song is so moving and appealing to us is because of its brevity. And, if we add a second verse today, who is to say that verses three, four and five will not eventually follow?

We have great admiration and respect for Carol Beery Davis and her husband, Trevor. Some of our members are long time friends of theirs'. We, therefore, want to clarify that the action we took at last night's meeting is not a reflection of our feelings toward Carol but that we simply oppose any addition to our beautiful state song.

We urge you to vote "No" on this legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald Bohms, President

RECEIVED  
APR 28 1987

# PIONEERS OF ALASKA

IGLOO NO. 31 - INSTITUTED MARCH 11, 1962  
PALMER, ALASKA



C  
HB 117

April 10, 1987

Mitch Abood  
Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Sen. Abood:

We are writing to advise you that at the most recent meeting of Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #31, of Palmer, our Igloo voted unanimously to vigorously oppose any change in our Alaska State Flag Song, as mandated by HB117.

Any violation of the sanctity of this State Song will also receive future vigorous opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Carson".

Michael A. Carson, Secretary  
Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #31  
Box 870303  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

RECEIVED  
APR 13 1987

# PIONEERS OF ALASKA

IGLOO NO. 31 - INSTITUTED MARCH 11, 1962  
PALMER, ALASKA



April 10, 1987

James E. (Jim) Zawacki  
Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Rep. Zawacki:

We are writing to advise you that at the most recent meeting of Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #31, of Palmer, our Igloo voted unanimously to vigorously oppose any change in our Alaska State Flag Song, as mandated by HB117.

Any violation of the sanctity of this State Song will also receive future vigorous opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael A. Carson'.

Michael A. Carson, Secretary  
Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #31  
Box 870303  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

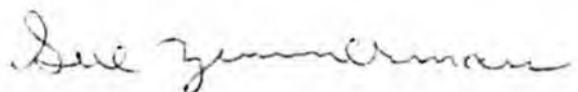
8832 Gail Ave.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
March 2, 1987

Dear Senator Abood,

The history of the creation of the flag of Alaska and of the song, "Alaska's Flag," is steeped in the tradition of children as a source of inspiration for the growth of our state. Winning a contest sponsored by the American Legion in 1927, student Benny Benson designed our symbolic flag. When Territorial Commissioner of Education, Lester D. Henderson, wanted to acquaint school children with the new flag, Marie Drake wrote the poem, "Alaska's Flag," with children in mind. Elinor Dusenbury, composer of the melody for Marie Drake's words, served as a public school teacher.

If a second verse is added to "Alaska's Flag," children should be at the center of the process, sustaining the tradition. An alternative to the passage of **HB. 117** lies in the minds and pens of today's children. Please allow them the chance to submit suggestions for a second verse. I would be pleased to offer suggestions for a contest to you and your committee.

Sincerely,



Sue Zimmerman

• Sue Cairncross

Home 789-5851

Work 586-3911

notify when bill is scheduled

PRESIDENT

SECRET '7

Auxiliary

Number 8

PIONEERS OF ALASKA

P.O. Box 656  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

HB 117

27

March 27, 1987

Senator Mitch Abood  
Alaska State Legislature  
Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Abood:

Our Alaska Flag Song is precious and beautiful in its current form.

It is now so moving and so touchingly Alaskan that some of us believe it approaches "sanctity."

We ask, why tamper with an already beautiful composition that is held in such respect?

To alter the official state song by adding another verse (which salutes only one ethnic group out of many ethnic groups in our great state) violates this song's serenity. Such a proposal causes us to wonder why any legislator would want to single out one group of Alaskans over other citizens of this land.

Auxiliary No. 8, Pioneers of Alaska, in Fairbanks, expressed the above sentiments at its meeting earlier this month, and the Auxiliary asked that these sentiments be passed on to our 60 lawmakers in Juneau. Our organization opposes House Bill 117 and asks you to vote against the measure.

Sincerely yours,

RECEIVED  
MAR 30 1987

Betty Kjera

Betty Kjera, Secretary  
Auxiliary No. 8  
Pioneers of Alaska

Betty:

Igloo No. 9  
PIONEERS of ALASKA



Seward, Alaska

RECEIVED  
APR 15 1987

April 5, 1987

HB 117  
M

Legislators, State Of Alaska

Dear Members:

The Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 9, are unanimously opposed, by vote at our last meeting, to the addition of another verse to our Alaska Flag Song.

The citizens of Alaska are composed of many Ethnic groups and this added verse, as proposed in the Legislature (House Bill 117) is directed at one only Ethnic group.

Our Alaska Flag Song, in its present form, has been memorized by a large number of Alaskans and to add another verse makes the song Too long.

We ask that you please kill (House Bill 117)

Sincerely yours,

Harold W. Davis  
Secretary

PIONEERS OF ALASKA

AUXILIARY NO. 11  
PALMER, ALASKA

HB 117  
74

April 13, 1987

Mitch Abood  
Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Sen. Abood:

During our monthly business meeting of April 6, 1987 members of Auxiliary #11, Pioneers of Alaska, discussed the subject of adopting a second verse for the Alaska State Song, as proposed by House Bill 117. The members present, representing a total membership of 270, voted unanimously to oppose the legislation.

We feel that the original composition, as created by Marie Drake and Elinor Dusenbury, is, in itself, a complete and compatible work of art. For years the familiar and unique combination of words and music have generated a very personal emotional response to the mind and heart of every Alaska resident, no where in the world he heard it. To tamper with that now by adding the words of another, no matter how well-meaning her intentions, would constitute an unnecessary and unethical violation of the touching beauty of the original pasage.

In addition, this group opposes the selection of words in the proposed verse which draw attention to one culture or ethnic group to the exclusion of others, and finds no reason to intrude upon the dignity of the original text which includes all members of our Great Land.

Please consider the desires of this membership, to oppose any and all changes to the Alaska Flag Song, when you cast your vote on this measure.

Sincerely yours,

*Sally V. Harris*

Sally V. Harris, Secretary  
Pioneers of Alaska, Auxiliary #11  
P.O. Box 3362  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

RECEIVED  
APR 15 1987

Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives

PO BOX 783  
GIRDWOOD, ALASKA 99587  
(907) 783-2905

WHILE IN JUNEAU  
POUCH V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-2693/2719

RECEIVED  
APR 15 1987

REPRESENTATIVE  
JIM ZAWACKI  
DISTRICT 7

MEMBER  
COMMUNITY & REGIONAL  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET &  
AUDIT COMMITTEE  
FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Dear Mitch,  
I'm told this is in your  
committee. HB 117

Maybe we should have asked all  
our pioneers their opinions before we  
made our "Flag song" a specific song  
singling out specific class of people.

What happened to all of us being  
Alaskans.

You may quote my displeasure  
at this bill if you wish.

Thanks  
Jim

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**

No. 1

**REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: An Act relating to the state  
           song  
 Sponsor: Ulmer  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: HB 117  
 Publish Date: HOUSE 2/18/87

Agency Affected: N/A  
 BRJ: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Components: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

| OPERATING              | FY 87      | FY 88      | FY 89      | FY 90      | FY 91      | FY 92      |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES      | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| TRAVEL                 | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| CONTRACTUAL            | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| SUPPLIES               | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| EQUIPMENT              | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| LAND & STRUCTURES      | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS         | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| MISCELLANEOUS          | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> |

|                |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>CAPITAL</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

|                |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

|               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| GENERAL FUND  | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| OTHER         | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        | -0-        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> | <b>-0-</b> |

**POSITIONS:**

|           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FULL-TIME | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| PART-TIME | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| TEMPORARY | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Fran Ulmer, Chair  
 Division: House State Affairs Committee

Phone: 465-4963  
 Date: February 16, 1987

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
  - Legislative Sponsor
  - Requestor
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - Impacted Agency(ies)
  - Senate Secretary



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## House

P.O. BOX V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

### MEMORANDUM

March 2, 1987

TO: Senator Mitch Alcod  
Chairman of Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Fran Oimer

SUBJECT: State Song/Second Verse

House Bill 117, "An Act relating to the State song," has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee. I would sincerely appreciate it if you could schedule a hearing on this bill in the near future. I have attached a brief memo which I shared with House members explaining the background of the bill.

I am available to testify at your convenience. Thank you very much.

Attachment

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Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## House

P.O. BOX V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 20, 1987

To: Representative !name!  
From: Representative Fran Ulmer  
Re: State Song/Second Verse Bill

This bill adds an additional verse to the State Song in AS 44.09.040. The addition of a second verse has been discussed for many years to give recognition to the Native peoples of Alaska.

Carol Beery Davis, a renowned poet and musician of Juneau, has written this second verse to Alaska's Flag Song. Mrs. Davis was a personal friend of both Marie Drake and Elinor Dusenbury, the original writer and composer of this song. Her husband, Trevor, was a member of the Selection Committee for the contest to design Alaska's flag.

The Alaska Flag Song is owned by the University of Alaska. Mrs. Davis would like to give this verse and the copyright for it to the Univeristy as a gift. The University has indicated their acceptance.

I have attached a copy of the booklet, "Alaska's Flag", for further information. I would appreciate your support for House Bill 117 today.

Attachment