

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Alaska Committee

Alaska Capital Move Records, 1959-1983

MS 4-21

1 box (8 folders)
0.2 linear ft.

Processed By: Staff
Revised: S. Lanksbury, March 2008

ACQUISITION: Clippings, reports, newspaper and magazine articles documenting the capital move issue in Alaska from 1959 to 2002 and ongoing. Items are added as they are received. Folder 8 added from Accession # 2014-039.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: Folders are arranged chronologically.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1900, Congress moved Alaska's territorial legislature from Sitka to Juneau which became the official capital in 1912. In 1913, the Legislature debated moving the capital to a more central location in the Territory. Referendums and other measures to move the capital continued to surface until 1929, when the state began constructing a capitol building in Juneau. After that time, talk of moving the capital did not resurface until the 1940s. Attempts to relocate state government to Palmer were defeated in 1947 and 1956. A ballot measure was rejected in 1960 and again in 1962, but in 1974, Alaskans voted to move the capital from Juneau to Willow, Alaska. However, in 1978, the FRANK Commission [Fiscally Responsible Alaskans Needing Knowledge] was created, which required that voters know and approve the cost of such a move and in 1982 voters rejected by 77% the estimated \$2.8 billion a capital move would cost. [From: "Capital grab then and now," *Juneau Empire*, Oct. 20, 2002, by Timothy Inklebarger. Folder 6.]

The debate continues and as of the November 2002 election, the issue has been brought before the voters and rejected six times.

INVENTORY

Folder 1 Capital move overview 1960-1981.

- The Western Political Quarterly Vol. XVII, No. 2 (June 1964) "The Capital Relocation Issue In Alaska" by C. Ralph Swap, University of Alaska (reprint) - 2 copies
- Facts About "The Capital Move" by Legislative Affairs Agency (Timeline spanning 1960-1981)
- Articles on SB86 subsequently vetoed by Governor (Newspaper clipping photocopies, plus news release from Governor Hammond's office.)

Folder 2 Capital move 1959-1960s.

- Statements and reprints from Alaskans United.
- Resolution Proposing the Alaska State Capitol Should be Moved and Indicating A Location, attested to by "Sourdough Sam" [George Gilson] ca 1959.
- Supreme Court of the State of Alaska, File No. 246 opinion [No. 98 - August 16th, 1962.]
- "Where Will The Capital Of Alaska Be When It Is Removed From Juneau?" Quoted from: All Around Alaska, by Bob Bedereck, Times Staff Writer Anchorage Daily Times, January 2, 1960.
- Sample Primary Election Ballot, August 9, 1960 and Sample Initiative Ballot, November 6, 1962 (photocopy).
- Memorandum to: Professional Engineers and Architects of Alaska, From: A Committee representing Juneau Branch of the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Juneau Chapter of the Alaska Society of

Professional Engineers, and local membership of the American Institute of Architects. Subject: Report upon a Proposal to Relocate the State Capital. Dated October 10, 1962. Two Copies.

- Letter dated October 10, 1962. To: Honorable A.W. Boddy, Acting Mayor...Juneau, AK, from: Leonard Hanauer, Ira Haupt & Co. ...New York, NY. [Subject: effects on the removal of the State Capitol from Juneau.]
- Memorandum, undated [ca. January-April, 1960.] Subject: Formation of a community-wide committee to actively support and campaign for Juneau's position as the Capital City of Alaska. To: All interested individuals, organizations and public bodies.
- Capital Debate - April 30, 1960 [outline summary of debate, 9 pages.]
- Various newspaper clipping photocopies.

Folder 3 Capital move 1974.

- Dollars and Sense say don't move the Capital [Alaskans United brochure - 1974.]
- Letter, dated July 10, 1974. To: Richard B. Engen, Director Division of Libraries, from: David Freer, State Chairman, Alaskans United. Subject: Pledge card against the Capital Move Initiative.
- Form letter, dated July 23, 1974: Alaskans United. Subject: Contribution solicitation. 2 copies (2nd copy has list of questions attached)
- Prominent Alaskans Say Vote "No" on the Capital Move Initiative (List of names, with credentials, sorted by community.)
- Informational Brochure, dated 1974: "Don't get your pocket picked by the Capital Move. Vote NO on the Capital Move Initiative." Alaskans United. 2 Copies.
- Pledge Card. Alaskans United
- Copy of questions regarding the Capital Move Initiative, Alaskans United, dated 1974.
- Reprint of Capital Move Initiative. Reprint made by Alaskans United.
- Sample Primary Election Ballot, dated August 27, 1974.

Folder 4 Capital move 1975-1978.

- Our New Capital City: A Report to the People of Alaska [newspaper supplement], by the New Capital Site Planning Commission.
- An Alaskan Capital for Alaskans [brochure], by the Capital Site Selection Committee.
- Northwest: The Sunday Oregonian Magazine (June 19, 1977) Alaska Is Moving Its Capital -- Or Is It?
- What is the Capital Site Selection Study? [newspaper supplement] by Capital Site Selection Committee.
- The selection of a capital site will soon be in your hands [newspaper supplement], by Capital Site Selection Committee.
- Newsletter - September Issue (1976)/Capital Site Selection Committee.
- Newsletter - November Issue (1976)/Capital Site Selection Committee.
- Newsletter - January Issue (1976)/ Capital Site Selection Committee.

- "Relocating Alaska's State Capital," by Robert E. Newton. Excerpted from State Government: The Journal Of State Affairs, published by The Council of State Government, Volume 30, No. 3, (Summer, 1977)
- "Locating Alaska's New Capital: Accessibility is the Key Word," by Robert E. Newton, Ph.D. Excerpted from Alaska Construction & Oil, Vol. 16, No. 8, August, 1975.
- "State Capital Relocation Decision Nearing," by Robert E. Newton, Ph.D. Excerpted from Alaska Construction & Oil, Vol. 17, No. 8, August, 1976.
- "Sitting Alaska's New Capital City on a Developmental Base: Exploring Some of the Prospects and Problems." Article by Robert E. Newton, Ph.D. December, 1975.
- "It's Not Easy to Carve a Capital from Wilderness." Peterson, John. The National Observer, November 15, 1975, pg 15.
- "Is Alaska really going to move capital?" Patty, Stanton H. The Seattle Times, Sunday November 30, 1975, pg D(5?)
- "From Ketchikan to Barrow." Alaska Magazine (March 1976) pg 7.
- Official General Election Ballot. General Election, November 7, 1978.

Folder 5 Capital move 1982.

- Move/No Move: A Decision for All Alaskans [brochure.] Questions and Answers from the New Capital Site Planning Commission, State of Alaska. Circa 1982.
- "Vote No On Willow, Say Yes To The NFL." Paid for by the NFL Access Committee [ticket.]
- Alaskan Leaders United Against (Ballot Measure No.) 7 [brochure.]
- Juneau: Alaska's Capital [brochure.] 2 copies.
- Willow: Why? / The Alaska Committee. [Brochure urging voters to vote no to Proposition 8. Circa 1982.]
- Newsletter - undated (ca 1982) / Anchorage Rejects the Move (ARM)
- [Poster instructing voters on ballot process for General Election, November 2, 1982.]
- The money is yours, the choice is yours! / The Alaska Committee [Brochure soliciting contributions and/or encouraging voter registration, ca 1982.]
- Take 12 minutes to read this...to help you make a decision that affects you for the next 12 years. / FRANK Committee [Brochure discussing the cost estimates of a capital move.] 2 copies.
- State of Alaska General Election - Statewide. November 2, 1982 [Election results.]

Folder 6 Capital move 1982-

- Form letter, dated August 22, 2002. [Invitation to purchase Rie Munoz art print "Chess Game" as a fundraiser for FRANK Committee.] Signed Jamie Parsons, Deputy Director, FRANK Committee.
- Letter copy, dated July 21, 1983. To: Honorable Bill Sheffield, Governor of Alaska, from: Robert E. Newton, Senior Government Intern. Subject: Capital move issues and introducing report, "Making Juneau a More Efficient State Capital."

- Making Juneau a More Efficient State Capital: An Examination of the Functions of a State Governmental Center in the Decade of the Eighties, by Robert E. Newton [report dated as submitted to University of Alaska, Juneau, July 15, 1983.]
- Online article printouts: "Pro-movers turn to court for support" and "Capital grab then and now" by Timothy Inklebarger, Juneau Empire, Sunday October 20, 2002.

Folder 7 Clippings, documents elsewhere in the collection; Correspondence.

- Various original newspaper clippings
- Memorandum to the Alaska News Media and Public Officials from the American Society for Public Administration, re: republication of Robert E. Newton Articles, dated December 7, 1975. Articles attached.
- News Release, dated March 31, 1976. State of Alaska Office of the Governor, Jay S. Hammond, Governor. Subject: Possible Energy Systems contract awarded to Alaska State Energy Office for new State Capital.
- A New Capital City...The Process / Capital Site Planning Commission. 1977. contains the following documents:
 - Letter, dated July 29, 1977. To: Representative Charlie Parr, from: Representative Bob Bradley, re: CSPC process initiation.
 - Memorandum, dated July 20, 1977. To: Capital Planning Commission, from: Rep. Bob Bradley, Senator Ed Willis, re: Analysis of key statutory provisions contained in Capital Relocation Legislation.
 - Letter, dated November 28, 1977. To: Rep. Charles H. Parr, from: Charles Behlke, Chairman, and Morton Hoppenfeld, Executive Director, Capital Site Planning Commission. Subject: Project Report.
 - Summary: Work Program Tasks & Objectives / Capital Site Planning Commission. 1977
- Letter, dated February 16, 1978. To: Hugh Malone, Speaker of the House and John Rader, President of the Senate, Tenth Alaska State Legislature, from: Avrum M. Gross, Attorney General, State of Alaska, Re: Capital Move Initiative Petition.
- Report o Alaska House and Senate Finance Committees on Relocation of the State Capital, dated April 3, 1978. Signed, Theodore P. Swick, First Vice-President, White, Weld & Co., Inc.
- Note to "Charlie" {Charles Parr?} re: letter from "Elstun L" [suggesting legislative work be performed in little wood cabins heated by fire.] Signed by Pat [Vaughn?], undated.
- "A Reporter At Large: What They Were Hunting For - [part] I" New Yorker Magazine, September 27, 1976.

Folder 8 Capital Site Cost Information, Prepared by Legislative Finance Division

Scope note: Capital Site Cost Information, Legislative Finance Division, is a report prepared by Jay Hogan for the House and Senate Finance Committees of the Alaska State Legislature. It contains an independent estimate of the capital construction costs for a new State capital in Willow,

prepared by Wm. Blanchard Co., as well as other documents related to those costs. The Blanchard estimates are based in part on the assumptions used by the Capital Site Planning Commission in planning the new capital at Willow.

The document was prepared for the Legislature's consideration of legislation authorizing the issuance of State debt for the new capital's bondable costs.

The FRANK initiative was on the ballot that fall (1978). The initiative would have required that all bondable costs be approved by the voters before any money could be spent on a new State capital.