

## 1960 And 1961 Merit Your Toasts Tonight

IN A LITTLE WHILE we'll be saying goodbye to the old year and hello to the new.

As the toasts are made tonight, Alaskans will reflect for a moment or two on what happened in 1960, then they'll greet 1961 with the enthusiasm that has become typical of Alaskans embarking on a new adventure.

The past merits our attention and respect for it is from the past that we learn. The valuable experience of years gone by do much to shape our judgment concerning events and actions to come. The various heritages we have are drawn from the past. So it is that reflection now and then on the accomplishments and failures of yesterday is worthwhile.

But it is the future, tomorrow, next week, next year, that Alaskans must look to, with the spirit of adventure, dedication to a purpose and the faith that they are building a state that one day will be the greatest in the nation.

**A BRIEF FLASHBACK** on 1960 turns up many things to stimulate optimism for 1961.

The oil industry's advances during the year do much to provide a good outlook for the coming year. It was in 1960 that the crude oil pipeline and dock terminal were installed on the Kenai Peninsula, making possible the transportation of a great natural resource to a deep water port and, subsequently, to the refineries in California.

Significant new discoveries on the Kenai were made during the year, both in oil and gas.

One immediate result of this progress in the oil fields has been the spectacular growth of the nearby communities, such as Kenai and Soldotna. Population and business have increased substantially in both communities.

Anchorage's new port made significant progress during the year and this advancement brings it closer to the day it will be in operation as a proud new facility capable of handling big ocean-going vessels.

Alaska came into her own on the national political scene during the year, casting her Electoral College votes for President of the United States for the first time. It was the year when both major candidates for the presidency came to the new state to seek support from Alaskan voters.

**PERHAPS ALASKANS** have grown too familiar with the old saw of "wait until next year."

Skeptics might point out that this is an old song in Alaska and that it has become tiresome.

Nevertheless, 1961 has great promise.

In the oil industry, there is the promise of increased exploration and the knowledge that big strides will be taken toward finding new oil fields in other sections of the state.

Already there have been preliminary efforts launched toward building a refinery to break down the crude petroleum and manufacture it for use in Alaska.

Completion of the Port of Anchorage will tie down with certainty the new trade route that has been established between Japan and Alaska.

Anchorage will mature as an educational center during the year, with the progress made by the Alaska Methodist University.

In many fields of endeavor, Anchorage and Alaska have much to look forward to in 1961. There is profit to be made from the mistakes and experiences of 1960. The plus far outweighs the minus for the year. The new year merits a hearty toast tonight.