

Port Dedication Is Scheduled Saturday Morning



Harold Strandberg Heads City's Port Commission

A man who has spent his lifetime in Alaska heads the Port Commission for the city of Anchorage.

Harold Strandberg, member of the commission for more than eight years and its chairman for the past six, was born in Fairbanks. He graduated from Anchorage High School in 1927 and from the University of Alaska in 1931 with majors in mining and geology.

A registered mining engineer in this state, Strandberg has recently been at his gold mines near Manley outside of Fairbanks. He will, however be here Saturday

for the port dedication.

Strandberg's activities include work with the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and previous service on state boards such as the Board of Road Commissioners. His port commission term expires in January, 1965.

A Republican, he is presently a member of the state House of Representatives following election to that body in November of last year.

Strandberg and his wife, the former Barbara Carlquist, reside at 1033 H street in Anchorage. They have three sons.

Port Director Establishes Precedents in His Job

Port Director H. Henry Roloff has his headaches, but headaches are the hazard to someone who is the first director of a new operation.

Since he arrived in Anchorage early in 1960, Roloff has had to make his own path, establish his own precedents in operating the \$8,200,000 Port of Anchorage which opens officially Saturday.

When he first arrived, Roloff was housed in an office in the basement of the Fourth Avenue theatre building. Now his offices and those of his expanding staff are located in the main building at the Port facility.

Roloff's public relations talents and writing ability have proven as vital to his job as his years of experience in port direction.

During his year and a half as director, Roloff has had little time at his desk. He has made several trips to points between Anchorage and Seattle, Washington, D. C., and New York City, preparing for operation of the port and selling its advantages to prospective users.

A "Meet Your Port Director"



HENRY ROLOFF
The first one

article in the April, 1961 issue of the city's Municipal Bulletin says:

"Roloff was hired by the city after a lengthy search conducted by the Port Commission and the City Manager to find the right man."

The City Manager at the time was George Shannon. The Port Commission, on which Roloff is automatically executive secretary, is made up of Chairman Harold Strandberg and members Jack Ferguson, Lyle Anderson, Rodney L. Johnston and C. R. Foss, all of whom serve five year terms.

The six men are bound by a city ordinance authorizing the port operation. Their activities are subject to review by the city manager and the city council.

At the time Roloff was hired, he was assistant director of the San Diego, California, port. He

Director Sees Bright Future for the Port

What is the future of the Port of Anchorage?

The question, on the minds of Anchorageites for many years, was answered this week by Port Director Henry Roloff, who admits he believes in the port's future or he wouldn't continue as its director.

In Roloff's words:

"With the dedication of the new terminal, as indicated on

the bronze plaque to be installed at the base of the flagpole, we commemorate a 'new era' for the citizens of the city of Anchorage.

"A new era — that's exactly what we mean.

"Historically, even though Anchorage now is and probably will continue to be the largest city in the state, it has not had an opportunity to develop import

and export trade . . . not until the construction of this facility, that is.

"Available for export to world markets are the minerals, coal and timber reserves of central Alaska. In the past few months, negotiations have been underway to make these available through the Port of Anchorage as competitive rates.

"What it means to citizens here

is this . . .

"The economy of any town is directly related to its transportation facilities — air, sea, highways and rail. We are particularly referring now to the 'final link, namely the sea.' Most of the major cities of the world are seaport towns, you'll recall.

"Anyway, we feel the seaport and the development of trade here will stabilize the Anchorage area's economy and make it grow, for several reasons:

"(1) More volume of tonnage will move through here for the first time;

"(2) This will create additional transportation needs in terms of both inland and ocean-going carriers;

"(3) In turn this will provide additional employment for everyone in the transportation field, and

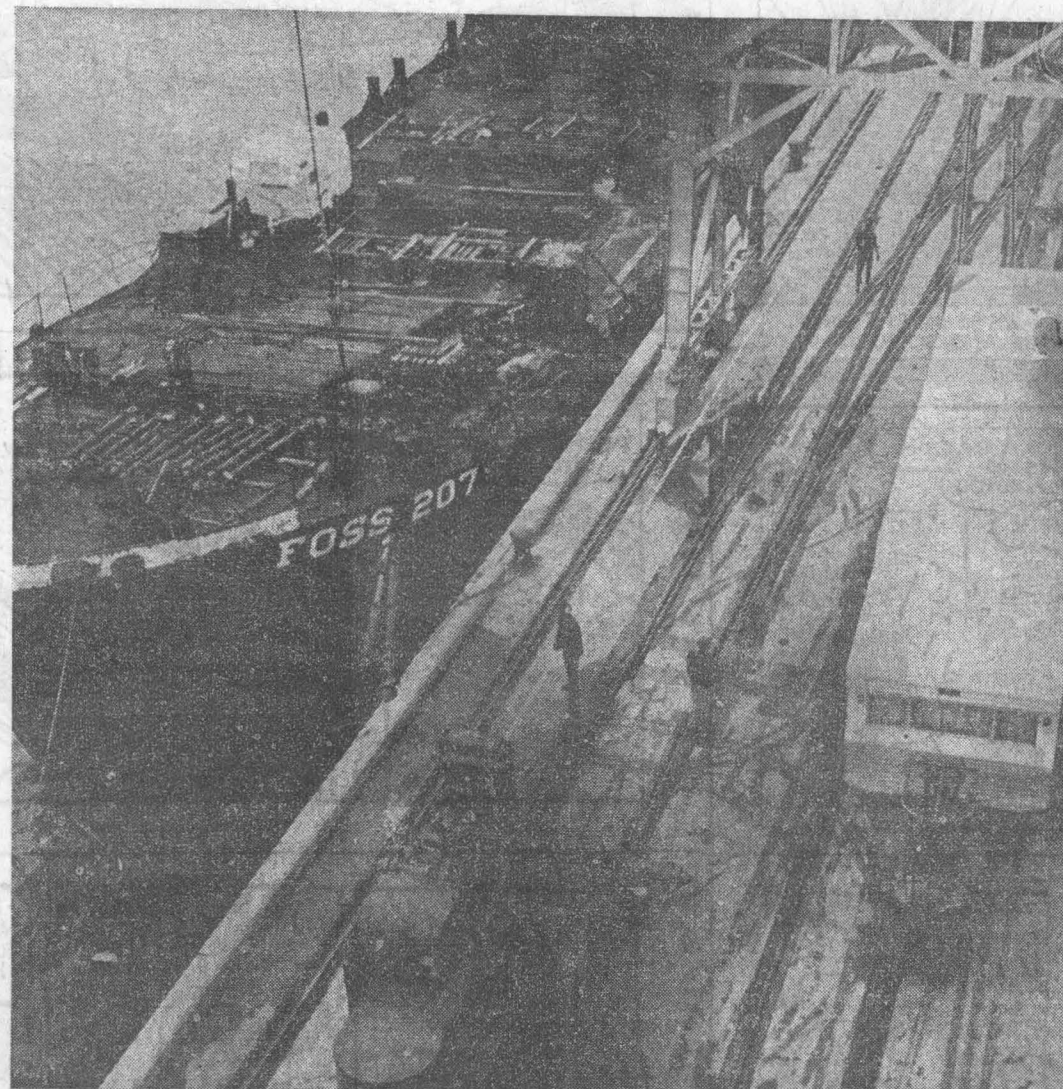
"(4) During the past few months businessmen in the area have shown increased interest in taking advantage of the Port of Anchorage by locating shore side installation on port land. Included in this group are Shell Oil company, an import warehouse firm in Seattle and a Seattle iron and steel firm. The latter is seeking acreage to consolidate scrap steel for export from Alaska.

"Without qualification, I predict that within the next three years Anchorage will be the busiest seaport in Alaska.

"Not only is the port economically justified, but in a few years it will be much too small to meet all the cargo needs. It will return to Anchorage many times the amount invested in it: the \$2 million worth of general obligation bonds and the \$8,800,000 in revenue bonds which port revenues themselves pay off. Eventually the port may even pay off the \$2 million in general bonds, I think.

"Our main objective is to make available direct service from Puget Sound to Anchorage to affect the natural economy which should be inherent between the two areas.

"We are trying," Roloff concludes, "to build a transportation complex rather than just one dock."



A BUSY DAY at Anchorage's port finds a Foss barge being unloaded. This particular barge contained some house trailers, seen at right. Nearly a dozen ships have used the port

since its opening in the spring, one of them coming from as far away as Japan. The Japanese ship, the Kazakawa Maru, is expected to return here again this month.

(Daily News photo)

have met him. He was born June 20, 1919 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He studied a variety of subjects in college ranging from journalism to philosophy, attended a variety of schools including San Diego College, Bryant and Stratton College in Chicago, and the University of Southern California.

A handsome, dark-haired man

married, has six children ages 15 to 3. His wife, Barbara, and the family did not come to Alaska with Roloff when he arrived on March 14, 1960. They waited in California until the end of the school year, then moved north to join their dad. The Roloffs now live at 2409 Lord Baranof boulevard in Turnagain.

Distinguished Speakers Are Named for Event

A special blue and gold Port of Anchorage flag will fly over the dedication ceremonies Saturday.

The ceremonies and open house begin at 11 a.m. and are open to the public. Parking will be available a short distance from the port platform and traffic officers will be on hand to direct those who attend.

The flag, to be raised on the unusual cross-shaped flagpole beside a United States flag, features a white and gold city seal including the words Port of Anchorage on a navy blue background. The banner is a design by Port Director Henry Roloff.

June Bowdish, Miss Port of Anchorage, will present the flag to Harold Strandberg, chairman of the Port Commission.

Also unveiled for the first time will be a large bronze plaque dedicating the new port facility. The plaque reads:

"Port of Anchorage: In commemoration of a new era for the citizens of the city of Anchorage upon the opening of the port to international trade via the seas of the world. Constructed 1958-1961."

Below the dedicatory sentence are listed the names of past and present city and port officials who have been involved in the building of the \$8,200,000 port.

Speakers at Saturday's event are Maj. Gen. John H. Michaelis, USURAL commander; Admiral Knapp, commander of the 17th Coast Guard district; Mayor

George Byer; Chamber of Commerce President Ken Sheppard; Port Commission chairman Harold Strandberg.

Officials planning to attend include Brig. Gen. Jack Gibbs, members of the city council and the port commissioners.

An American Legion color guard and representatives of the Boy and Girl Scouts will participate in the ceremony, as will the Air Force band.

Open house will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday aboard the Coast Guard Cutter "Sledge" as part of the dedication. The port facility itself will hold open house all day both days.

Assistant terminals manager Bill Burnett and port accountant Don Walter, who was in charge of dedication arrangement, plan to be at the facility during the open house. Everyone attending will receive a program giving details on the port and its equipment.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available from the Civil Air Patrol.

Here's Port Schedule for Summer

Barges and ships scheduled to use the Port of Anchorage facility during the next month are:

U. S. S. Mann, July 11, from San Francisco.

Kazukawa Maru, July 13, from Yokohama, Japan.

Northland barge, July 16, from Seattle.

Northland barge, July 26, from Seattle.

Northland barge, August 10, from Seattle.

Henry Roloff, port director, explained that other barges and

ships may request use of the facility during the remainder of the summer. By their nature transportation schedules are seldom planned more than 30 days in advance, he said.

As a prediction for next summer, Roloff said he believes that several major carriers which did not include the Port of Anchorage in their itinerary for this year due to lack of tariffs will make arrangements to use the port here during the next shipping season.

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