The Port of Anchorage
A MASTERPIECE OF ENGINEERING

They said the Port of Anchorage could never be built, but it was. Major credit for this achievement goes to a small and select group of engineers who over the years refused to believe the Port of Anchorage could not be built.

The new port facility at Anchorage was designed by Tippett-Albott-McCarthy-Stranor, New York engineers and was constructed at a cost of $2,900,000. The facility consists of a 600-foot long marginal wharf with a transit shed covering 50,000 square feet. The new terminal uses four dock side travelling gantry cranes for cargo discharge. The dock is reinforced concrete deck supported on steel pilings, with two rail tracks serving the 46-foot span and another double track located inboard of the transit shed to expedite rapid movement of inbound-outbound freight.

Several tidal conditions in Cook Inlet, surpassed only by such places as the Bay of Fundy and several others, posed unusual design and construction problems in completing what is rated to be one of the most modern terminals along the Pacific Coast.

To meet present day requirements for rapid and efficient transfer of cargo, two 40-ton cranes with 5-ton level lifting jibs were installed on the wharf. Supplementing the heavy lift equipment at Anchorage are two additional high speed lifting cranes of 75-ton capacity. This modern equipment cuts ship turn-around time to about one-half that of most United States ports where high speed electric cranes are not generally available. The fully mechanized terminal is capable of handling over 2,000 tons of general cargo per day. Original engineering and feasibility surveys indicated only an eight month per operation because of winter ice conditions, however recent success with icebreaking vessels proves conclusively that the new terminal can operate year round around.

Serving Alaska's Largest City, The Port of Anchorage was designed to meet the ever growing needs of people of Anchorage and Central Alaska in developing America's Last Frontier.

The Port of Anchorage stands as a permanent monument to the imagination and ability of America's professional engineers.