

En Voyage On Board the Northwestern

The National Editorial Association,¹ a delegated body composed of editorial writers of the United States, held its twenty-fourth annual convention in Seattle, July 1926. Several hundred men and women were in attendance, almost every state in the union being represented. California sent thirteen delegates. The business meetings were held in the administration building on the exposition grounds. Most of the afternoons and all of the evenings were devoted to side trips and sightseeing.

A banquet in the New York building one evening was an enjoyable feature; a trip on the Sound to the Bremerton Navy Yard; a “seeing Seattle” by the automobile route; receptions for the women, smokers for the men; a day at that quaint old British city, Victoria; theatre parties and Pay Streak parties; a day at Tacoma and, by the way, there’s quite a friendly rivalry between Seattle and Tacoma. The Tacomans have a slogan which they use everywhere – on sign boards, on letter heads, etc. It is “You’ll like Tacoma.” The Seattleans point to it and say, “that’s a new kind of breakfast food.”

* *

1 The National Newspaper Association is a Columbia, Missouri based non-profit newspaper trade association founded in 1885 as the National Editorial Association.



The Daily Alaskan
announces sailing.

“Editors Sail for Cordova” *The Daily Alaskan*, [Skagway, Alaska] July 23, 1909. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. Nov. 29, 2019. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82014189/1909-07-23/ed-1/seq-1/>>.

20 – Alaska Cruise 1909

A fitting finale to one of the most interesting meetings ever held in the history of the National Editorial Association was the Alaska excursion arranged by W. A. Steele, of Seattle, treasurer of the association. The steamer Northwestern of the Alaska Steamship Company's line, was selected for the trip. It is the best steamship on the Alaska run, capable of accommodating 150 salon passengers, has a crew of 80 men with Capt. A. Croskey, master. The ship sailed July 24 for a twenty days' cruise and carried newspaper representatives from twenty-five states – one hundred and thirty in all – about one-third of the attendance at the Seattle convention.

* *



Steamship Minnesota and passengers at the Seattle dock in 1907. Underwood & Underwood. *Passengers landing from the Minnesota, largest steamship on Pacific, Seattle, Wash.* Jul. 5, 1907. Photograph. Lib. of Cong. Washington, D.C. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. Nov. 27, 2019. <<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2019630820/>>.

Coast Tour

The Glaciers, Aurora Borealis, Etc.

“Seward’s Folly”¹ away up there in the frozen northwest is producing every year, many times the amount paid for it – seven million of dollars. One gold mine alone, the Treadwell Mine, on Douglas Island, has produced gold valued at five times the purchase price of Alaska. And gold is not the only mineral found in paying quantities. The copper mines are only waiting means of transportation, and that gigantic engineering scheme, the Copper River Railroad, has already pushed its way fifty-three miles into seemingly inaccessible wilderness toward the famous Bonanza Copper Mines in the Chitina district.

The newspaper people paid a visit to Cordova, the terminus of this railway, and were taken for a trip over the shining new rails to the “railway king’s” camp. The “king,” Michael J. Heney, won fame as the builder of the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, and the Copper River Company lost no time in securing him to direct the building of their road.

Mr. Heney, who is a handsome bachelor – tall, athletic and picturesquely garbed – lives like a prince in his camp. He entertained thirty of the newspaper party at luncheon

Editors Arrive in Alaska
CORDONA, Alaska, July 31.—One hundred and fifty members of the National Editorial association arrived here today on the steamer Northwestern and were met by a delegation of business men headed by the mayor. The visitors left immediately on a special train for a trip over the Copper river and Northwestern railroad. A reception and ball was given the visitors tonight upon their return from the trip over the new railroad line.

Cordova Arrival.

“Editors Arrive in Cordova. The Evening Statesman. (Walla Walla, Wash.), Aug. 1, 1909. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88085421/1909-08-01/ed-1/seq-2/>>

1 U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward signed a treaty with Russia to purchase Alaska for \$7 million. Despite the bargain price of roughly two cents an acre, the Alaskan purchase in 1867 was ridiculed as “Seward’s folly.”



Valdez, Alaska, in the early 1900s.

Hegg, Eric A. *Street scene*. ca. 1906-1915. Photograph. Lib. of Cong. Washington, D.C. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. Nov. 27, 2019. <<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/99614944/>>.



Seward, Alaska, from the bridge in the early 1900s.

View of Seward from bridge. ca. 1900-1930. Photograph. Lib. of Cong. Washington, D.C. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. Nov. 27, 2019. <<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/99614572/>>.



The sea was as smooth as the mill pond you used to swim in back in Illinois, the surf, a narrow strip of foamy lace, stretched lazily and noiselessly on the pebbly beach; the dense woods on the mountain side beckoned alluringly and the California bunch with the Chief in tow spent several happy hours browsing about on the native heath of the moose and bear. The sun, glancing through the wooded aisles, wove fantastic patterns of enchantment; the moss-covered earth sank under the feet like a velvet rug; gleaming pink salmonberries intermingling with green bracken and slender fern made a picture so fairy-like that one instinctively peered about for the tiny creatures.

There was something majestic in the all-pervading, solemn hush of the woods and when through a break in the thick screen of forest, a glimpse was given of a broad expanse of sea, rippling and sparkling in the sunlight; of the magnificent mountain peaks clothed in glistening raiment, one thought – as Orno Strong of Portland expressed it – of the city of the New Jerusalem which St. John described so vividly in the book of the Revelation. It seemed very near to nature's heart away off there in the quiet solemnity of that isolated spot. Cowper said, "God made the country and man made the town," and, truly, God seems more manifest in the silent places than in the busy man-made metropolis. His voice is heard in the rush of the waves, in the whisper of the wind. His presence is felt in the dim groves of trees – His first temples – and everywhere the evidences of His work.

Valdez at the head of Port Valdez, Alaska, in 1915.

Sheelor, F.W. *Valdez, Alaska, 1915*. 1915. Photograph. Lib. of Cong. Washington, D.C. *Lib. of Cong.* Web. Nov. 27, 2019. <<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2007661316/>>.



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