

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Alaska

Introduction

Alaska is a U.S. state situated in the northwest extremity of the North American continent. Bordering the state to the east is Yukon, a Canadian territory, and the Canadian province of British Columbia, the Arctic Ocean to the north, and the Pacific Ocean to the west and south, with Russia (specifically, Chu kot ka Autonomous Okrug and Kamchatka Krai) further west across the Bering Strait. Alaska is the largest state in the United States by area, the 4th least populous and the least densely populated of the 50 United States. Approximately half of Alaska's 735,132^[2] residents live within the Anchorage metropolitan area. Alaska's economy is dominated by the oil, natural gas, and fishing industries, resources which it has in abundance. Tourism is also a significant part of the economy.



Houses

Windows allowed light to enter these semi-subterranean dwellings and made it easier for heat to escape. Many of the missionaries to Alaska felt that the Native people should abandon their communal homes and live in single-family homes. They also felt the semi-subterranean homes of the Native peoples in Western Alaska were not sanitary. Frame houses were introduced. In the Pribilof Islands, the Alaska Commercial Company shipped California lumber to the islands and built frame houses for the people. At Unalaska, competing trading companies offered frame houses to families in exchange for an agreement to hunt or to fish exclusively with that company. The frame houses were not always well received. Many people could not afford to heat the houses. The houses were frequently poorly insulated. Over the years, however, the single-family frame houses replaced the traditional Native structures. Although a wide variety of forces affected Alaskan architecture, it was always pragmatic. Initially, buildings were hastily constructed in response to an immediate need for shelter. At mining camps, buildings were erected to get a business underway or to provide cover before the cold, long winter arrived.



Food

Fresh meat was one of the most expensive food items in Alaska. The costs to hunt, trap, and fish for fresh meat continued to increase. Equipment costs, license fees, and butchering fees increased. Because the costs to bring fresh meat from outside Alaska declined, many local producers went out of business. Studies to compare the nutritional values of traditional and imported convenience foods were conducted. Traditional foods, moose and salmon particularly, were richer in protein and fats. Foods that have replaced them were rich in carbohydrates. Cereal was more frequently eaten for breakfast. Desserts were added to meals. Foods with artificial preservatives and ingredients appealed to many, however.



Clothes

One of the major trade items in Alaska was cotton cloth. Increasingly, Alaska Natives used cotton for summer parkas. One reason for this was that the furs they had formerly used could be sold for money, food, or other items. Cotton and wool garments were more comfortable to wear. The fabric was easier to sew. It was more colorful. Skin clothing continued to be made and worn by Alaska Natives. During the 1940s, the Skin Sewers Cooperative formed at Nome. Eskimo women made skin parkas, pants, hats, and mukluks for many of the military service personnel in Alaska. As had the Russians, the early American fur traders living at isolated locations frequently adopted Native clothing styles. In the few communities, people wore clothing styles of the period. Although interested in fashion, most Alaskans were more concerned with warmth. Prior to parcel mail service and ready-made clothes, Alaskans--like others elsewhere--had to sew their own clothes or have them tailor-made. In the north, where wages were higher than other places and where there was less competition, having clothes made was expensive. As with food, the numbers of people who came north seeking gold increased the availability of materials to make clothing and the number of tailors and seamstresses. Competition lowered the prices, although they continued to be high. After the inauguration of parcel mail service in the early 1900s, many people in Alaska began to order clothing from catalogs such as Sears, Roebuck and Company. Ready-made clothing increasingly replaced hand-made clothing. When this happened, clothing stores opened in the larger Alaskan communities. A few nation-wide department and catalog order businesses opened stores in Alaska after World War II. J.C. Penney, Montgomery Ward, and Sears, Roebuck were among them. The Northern Commercial Company was one of Alaska's first independent department stores. Still, in 1984 Alaska lacked the numbers of people required to attract many of the large national department stores.



Source:Wikipaidia

Οι μαθήτριες του 5^{ου} γυμνάσιου Θήβας:

- Γιάννου Αναστασία
- Δαδιώτη Κατερίνα
- Καρρά Μαρία
- Κασκάνη Αριστέα