

Anchorage, Alaska  
June 26, 1945

H. K. Porter Company, Inc.  
49th & Harrison Streets  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Attention: Mr. H. J. Zukauskas  
Assistant Advertising Manager

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the request contained in your letter of May 1, 1945, I am pleased to set forth below what information we have concerning the small narrow gauge locomotive installed as an exhibit in a small park by The Alaska Railroad Depot at Fairbanks, Alaska. A picture post card of this locomotive is also enclosed.

"Brass plates on each side of smoke boxes have following printed on them:

H. K. Porter & Co.  
Locomotive Works  
E. P. Lord, S U P T  
1972  
Pittsburg, Pa.  
1899

On the side of the cab and front number plate:

A R R - No. 1

This is a 36" gauge locomotive - and was, I have been told, the first locomotive to be shipped to Alaska. It was brought in by the Coal Creek Mining Company and delivered to the said Company at Coal Creek about fifty miles below Dawson, Y. T. by the W. A. T. Co. in the summer of 1899. The little engine was used for hauling coal from the mines to the Yukon River for further shipment.

It was later purchased by the Tanana Miner's Railroad and brought to Fairbanks in the spring of 1905. And for several seasons was operated very successfully in the freight and passenger business. The Tanana Valley Railroad later purchased it and used it in the construction of a narrow gauge railroad from Fairbanks to the Chatanika Mining District - and was replaced by larger locomotives and equipment.

In 1917 the U. S. Government known as the Alaska Engineering Commission purchased the Tanana Valley Railroad and extended the rail line from Fairbanks to Seward. During the early construction days of this road this little No. 1

H. K. Porter Company, Inc.

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June 26, 1945

locomotive was used as a pumping plant at one of the water stations near Fairbanks - it was eventually returned to Fairbanks and mounted in the little Park near the passenger depot at Fairbanks."

Yours very truly,

"Signed" O. F. Ohlson  
O. F. Ohlson  
General Manager

Anchorage, Alaska  
August 1, 1945

H. K. Porter Company, Inc.  
49th & Harrison Streets  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Attention Miss Jo Kaminski

Dear Sirs:

Replying to your letter of July 3, 1945, Cann's of Fairbanks, Alaska, took the small picture of the old Porter locomotive which was sent you with my letter of June 26. When I asked them for a glossy print they were unable to furnish one, as they had misplaced the negative. However Mr. Cann took another picture of the locomotive and I am enclosing a glossy print thereof.

This second picture is not as good as the first picture sent you, but possibly it can be touched up. Owing to the shortage of personnel we have not kept the locomotive's appearance up as it should be, but this will be remedied when help becomes available.

Also enclosed is Cann's permission to reproduce the picture for publication.

Sincerely

O. F. Ohlson  
General Manager

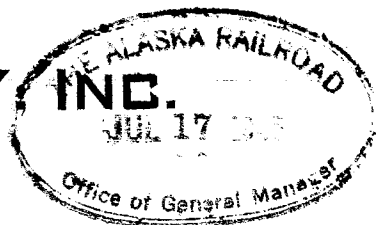
# H. K. PORTER COMPANY, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1866

49TH & HARRISON STREETS

PITTSBURGH, PA.

U. S. A.



ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

July 3, 1945

Mr. C. F. Ohlson  
General Manager  
U.S. Dep't. Interior  
The Alaska Railroad  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Your letter of June 26 to Mr. Zukauskas has been referred to me. We wish to thank you sincerely for the detailed information you furnished with the Fairbanks post-card of the old Porter locomotive.

May we request one more favor? -- We would like to obtain permission to use the picture for publicity and advertising purposes. Can you tell us from whom we might obtain a glossy print of the photograph?

Yours very truly,

H. K. PORTER COMPANY, INC.

*Jo Kaminski*  
Jo Kaminski



LOCOMOTIVES . PROCESS EQUIPMENT . PUMPS

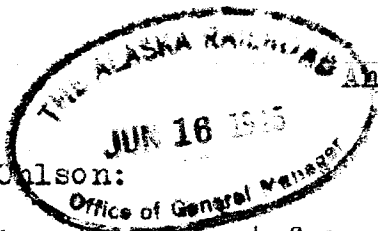
TELEGRAM

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, JUNE 21, 1945

JENNINGS  
FAIRBANKS

WILL YOU KINDLY SECURE AND SEND ME A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SMALL LOCOMOTIVE ON  
DISPLAY AT FAIRBANKS HAVING BILL MADE OUT TO ALASKA RAILROAD

OHLSON



Anchorage - June 16, 1945.

Colonel O. F. Colson:

Referring to request from H. K. Porter Company dated May 1st concerning the small locomotive on display in Fairbanks, Alaska.

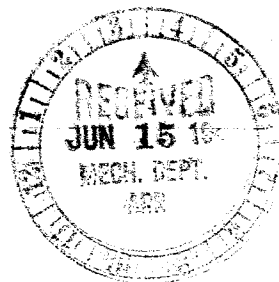
The attached letter from Mr. Gilbert contains this information, as well as some historical references which are interesting, and should give the Porter Company a few interesting facts concerning the narrow gage locomotive that was built by their company in 1899.

WLK:rda  
Encl.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. L. Kinsell".

W. L. Kinsell

Fairbanks, Alaska,  
June 12, 1945.



Mr. Kinsell:

For Your Information:

In compliance with your letter of May 30th, hereto attached- I have secured for you the following information concerning the small narrow gauge locomotive located in the little park near the passenger depot of the Alaska Railroad at Fairbanks:

Brass plates on each side of smoke boxes have following printed on them:

H. K. Porter & Co.  
Locomotive Works  
E. P. Lord, S U P T  
1872  
Pittsburg, Pa.  
1899

On the side of the cab and front number plate

A R R - No 1

This is a 36" gauge locomotive - and was, I have been told, the first locomotive to be shipped to Alaska. It was brought in by the Coal Creek Mining Company and delivered to the said Company at Coal Creek about fifty miles below Dawson, Y. T. by the N. A. T. Co in the summer of 1899. The little engine was used for hauling coal from the mines to the Yukon River for further shipment.

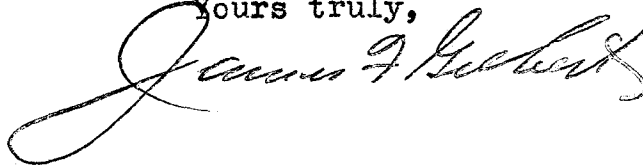
It was later purchased by the Tanana Miner's Railroad and brought to Fairbanks in the spring of 1905. And for several seasons was operated very successfully in the freight and passenger business. The Tanana Valley Railroad later purchased it and used it in the construction of a narrow gauge railroad from Fairbanks to the Chatanika Mining District - and was replaced by larger locomotives and equipment.

In 1917 the U. S. Government known as the Alaska Engineering Commission purchased the Tanana Valley Railroad and extended the rail line from Fairbanks to Seward.

#2.

During the early construction days of this road this little No. 1. locomotive was used as a pumping plant at one of the water stations near Fairbanks- it was eventually returned to Fairbanks and mounted in the little Park near the passenger depot at Fairbanks.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Roberts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours truly,".

P. S. There is quite a history back of this little locomotive since its arrival in Alaska in 1899.



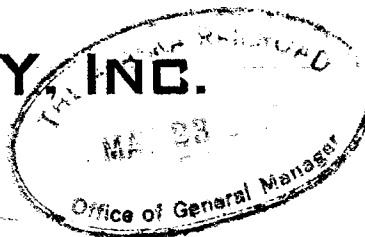
# H. K. PORTER COMPANY, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1866

49TH & HARRISON STREETS

PITTSBURGH, PA.

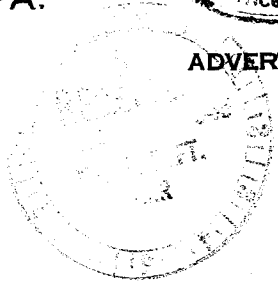
U. S. A.



ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

*Mr. Kinnell  
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jio*

May 1, 1945



Mr. O. F. Ohlson, General Manager  
The Alaska Railroad  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Mr. Ohlson:

Mr. T. M. Evans, President of our company, has passed on to me two post cards received by him which picture an old Porter Steam Locomotive formerly used on your line. I wonder if you can assist us in obtaining additional information on this piece of equipment.

The post card indicates that this is the first locomotive of the Alaska Railroad and it has evidently been established as a monument or park feature in Fairbanks, Alaska.

We are interested in any history which you may have in your files concerning it. Also, it would be of interest to us to have the locomotive number which is usually fastened on the equipment with the name plate or in some other manner.

Any information which you can give us will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

H. K. PORTER COMPANY, INC.

H. J. Zukauskas  
Asst. Adv. Manager

HJZ:vlb



LOCOMOTIVES . PROCESS EQUIPMENT . PUMPS