

Chapter 29

The End of a Pleasant Era

The Huntsville Division, Corps of Engineers had requested my transfer as soon as possible. This was a new office established primarily to construct the North Dakota Antibalistic Missile Site. (I later applied for, and was accepted to be the head of the Administrative Branch at the construction office site in North Dakota.) The Huntsville Division later designed and constructed the automated mail system now in use in the post offices throughout the nation.

But this is not a story of the Huntsville Division.

I had a car in Alaska, and chose to drive from Anchorage to Huntsville, Alabama — a choice I am very happy to have made. Over 4,000 miles — including over a thousand miles of graveled roads — in late October. (I understand they now have these roads paved.) Much of the drive was on ice.

But this is also not a story about the Alaska Highway — though that would make a good one also.

I had known and worked with several people in Alaska for some three years now — with only short breaks in between. I have missed many of them, and most of all, I have missed Alaska. I hope even now, at my age — to return again. I'm sure there have been many

changes, but I hope not too many. I hope the concern for other people is still there — how the traffic would stop to allow a car in from a side street to move into the line of traffic. I hope their residents still help newcomers get settled — loaning them furniture and even cars — or at least picking them up for work and taking care of their needs until they get settled — as they did for me.

I could go on with this, but you might not understand it unless you had spent some time there, so let me just add one more thought.

Not everyone likes Alaska, but everyone should at least see it — spend some time there — then determine individually how they feel about it.

See you there. . . sometime. . . maybe. . . hopefully. . .

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