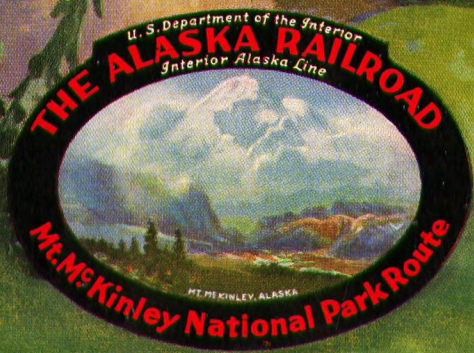


# BIG GAME HUNTING

ALONG THE

## ALASKA RAILROAD







**T**HE ALASKA RAILROAD might well be termed an “iron trail to the hunting grounds” for it cuts squarely through the choicest big game fields of Central Alaska. From the rail-head at the beautiful seaport of Seward, on world-famous Kenai Peninsula, twin ribbons of steel wind their way northward, skirting the glaciated Chugach Mountains only a little above tide water, then gradually ascending to pass through the Alaska Range and drop down into the terminus at Fairbanks, in the Tanana Valley, four hundred and seventy miles from the sea. On nearly every mile of the Railroad, including the spur line from Matanuska to Chickaloon, one is “in the game”. In the broad lowland valleys frequent glimpses of Moose and Black Bear lend thrills to the traveler, while from the high crags of the ranges white Mountain Sheep and Mountain Goats gaze serenely down at the passing trains. Across the mountain passes herds of Caribou, alternately fleeing, then standing still to stare curiously at the long iron monster invading their domain before swinging away in flight again, quicken the pulses of the passengers. Occasionally a mighty Grizzly is seen from the car windows. It truly can be said that if The Alaska Railroad had been built for the one and express purpose of making the big game accessible it could not have been more fortunately situated.





# The Big Game of Alaska . . .

## Brown and Grizzly Bear:

In speaking of big game along the Railroad one is privileged to deal in superlatives. The Alaska Brown Bear, for example, is the largest carnivorous animal on earth. This huge beast and its close cousin, the Grizzly, is represented in Alaska by no less than eleven species. Nowhere else is this most highly prized of all American game trophies so plentiful or so diversified in form.

## Moose:

The Alaska Moose (*Alces Gigas*) is much larger and blacker than the common Moose. A hunter encountering his first Alaska Moose stands awed by its superb dimensions, for a full-grown bull will stand seven feet high at the shoulders and its weight is likely to exceed three-quarters of a ton. Its wide palmated antlers develop maximum spreads of six feet or more and are so heavy that when attached to skull and cape a man can scarcely lift them. To see a giant bull toss these mighty antlers back over its shoulders and go crashing through the brush in powerful strides is a sight that no sportsman will ever forget.

## Mountain Sheep:

The pure white Mountain Sheep (*Ovis Dalli*) is one of the most strikingly beautiful of all Alaska big game animals—a splendid sovereign of the high peaks which it inhabits. Although often plainly visible as it stands limned against the cerulean skies, a wary old ram demands the utmost skill of the hunter who would



A Big Billy

approach within rifle shot distance; a fitting test of the sportsman's worth to take one of these fine trophies from the Territory.

## Mountain Goat:

Amid the glacier slashed fastnesses of the coastal ranges in Alaska, the Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos Kennedyi*) finds its supreme home. In the Chugach Mountains adjacent to the Railroad its range overlaps that of the white sheep, but as a rule the Alaska Mountain Goat prefers the saline airs near the sea and does not range far into the dry interior. As befitting the rough terrain where it is found, this white-bearded patriarch is a rugged, robust fellow, some of the larger billies exceeding three hundred pounds in weight.

## Caribou:

There are two rather distinct types of Caribou in Alaska; the Mountain Caribou and the Barren Ground Caribou. The first type is represented by two sub-varieties. The McGuire Caribou is one of the largest, if not the largest, of all Rangifer, specimens having been taken weighing as much as seven hundred pounds. Nearer the Yukon boundary the animal generally encountered is the Osborne variety, a Caribou of huge



Lord of the Kenai





size, bearing massive, many-pointed antlers. A full-grown bull of the Osborne type will stand five feet high at the shoulders, and with its rich clove-brown upper parts and silvery flanks it presents a striking picture against its native background of lichen covered rolling hills. The Barren Ground Caribou, of which the Old World Reindeer is a member, differs from the Mountain Caribou in its somewhat smaller size, lighter antlers, and pale color. Alaska boasts three varieties of this group; *Rangifer stonei*, *granti*, and *excelsifrons*.

The Caribou is by far the most abundant big game animal in the Territory, numbering into the hundreds of thousands. Both sexes bear antlers. They are the vagabonds of the Deer family, and during the Fall season wander in enormous bands over the interior hills, swimming lakes and rivers with apparent delight, crossing and recrossing The Alaska Railroad tracks in many places.

### Black Bear:

The Black Bear in Alaska is represented by three subspecies, and various color phases. On Kenai Peninsula an extremely large, intensely black animal is found which has been accorded the name Kenai Black

*A Representative of the Huge Bear Family*



*A Herd of Caribou Bulls — Every One an Excellent Trophy*



Bear (*Euarctos Americanus Perniger*). Skins of this bear exceeding eight feet in length have been taken. Throughout the Territory the commoner form of the Black Bear (*Euarctos Americanus Americanus*) with its many shaded brown and cinnamon colored individuals occurring in the same family is plentiful, while in the shadows of the great ice masses a sportsman may have the good fortune to pick up the rare Blue Glacier Bear (*Euarctos Americanus Emmonsii*), an odd looking beast, indeed, but declared by scientists to be but a unique and handsome color phase of the Black Bear.



### Timber Wolves:

At one time or another during the course of a big game hunt along The Alaska Railroad, Timber Wolves are likely to be seen. These swift, wide ranging killers are terribly destructive of game, and the sportsman who succeeds in bagging one has more than made up for the trophies taken by himself or party. The Mt. McKinley Timber Wolf (*Canis Pambasileus*) is one of the largest in America. They are variously colored, from grizzled white to coal black, the gray form about midway in coloration between the two extremes being predominant.

*Typical Camp in Alaska's Big Game Country — Along The Alaska Railroad*







# The Game Fields . . .

*The game fields described in the following paragraphs may be found readily on the map appearing on last page of this booklet. Use the number and letter, in italics, after the name of each field in the following story in connection with the marginal number and letter on map. The approximate location on the map will be at a point where a line, if drawn from numeral on the sides crosses a line if drawn from letter top and bottom.*

## **Kenai Peninsula: (4-C)**

The Moose paradise of America! Excellent for Mountain sheep, and for Black, Brown and Grizzly Bear.

From the station of Lawing on Kenai Lake, Mile 23 from Seward, all parts of the Kenai Peninsula may be reached quickly and comfortably. Travel from here is by small gas boats across Kenai Lake to Kenai River, past the famous Rainbow Trout fishing stream, Russian River, and on down to Skilak Lake. Skilak Lake



*The Limit in Ovis Dalli*

is but a few hours' ride from The Alaska Railroad, yet it is in the center of the game; in fact, a hunter may bag his Moose, Sheep or Bear along the Kenai River en route—the same day he has disembarked from his steamer at Seward! From Skilak Lake one may hike eight miles to Lake Tustumena over the far-famed Moose Horn Trail, so named because of the great number of shed antlers along the way.



To secure game on Kenai is not difficult. The remarkable feature of the trip is the incredible number of Moose to be seen; the unbelievable privilege of selecting one set of massive antlers from a score or

more of giants; to witness the cool judgment of your Guide in passing up head after head, finally to show you the trophy of your dreams!

The Kenai Mountains, a picturesque, isolated range, rise abruptly from the "Moose pastures" along the southern rim of the Peninsula, and it is here that a close-curved variety of the white Mountain Sheep, which has been given the special name Kenai Bighorn (*Ovis Dalli Kenaiensis*) is found. On the slopes of these Mountains is where the hunter may find his Kenai Giant Bear (*Ursus Kenaiensis*), similar to the neighboring Kodiak species, or the Alexander Grizzly (*Ursus Alexandrae*), largest of its kind on earth, not even exceeded by the huge *magister* of California, now believed to be extinct.



## **Anchorage District: (4-D)**

A circle of one hundred miles radius drawn around the City of Anchorage at the head of Cook Inlet, Mile 114 from Seward, would embrace some of the best big game hunting on the North American Continent. Owing to its central location in this respect a nationally advertised Guide Association, as well as many individual Registered Guides, make their headquarters here.



*The End of a Perfect Bear Hunt*





The Kenai is served from Anchorage by means of power boats down Cook Inlet to the mouth of Kenai River, and to Kusilof River draining out of Lake Tustumena. Excellent airplane service is also maintained between Anchorage and several well organized camps in the very heart of the Peninsula where guides, cooks, wranglers and pack horses are waiting to give the hunter action for every hour he is in the game fields.

The little known Rainy Pass section is reached from Anchorage by gas boat to Beluga on the west side of Cook Inlet, and thence by pack train up the Skwentna watershed. The Rainy Pass is rugged, virgin country, necessitating a certain amount of "roughing it" on the part of the hunter, but offering ample compensation in the abundance of game to be seen on all sides and in the knowledge that one is sojourning in one of the wildest, remotest regions of the Territory. The two largest Moose heads ever taken out of Alaska came from this section. One of them had a spread of  $74\frac{1}{4}$  inches, 32 points, while the other spread  $71\frac{1}{2}$  inches and had 43 points. Mountain Sheep, Caribou, the Alaska Grizzly (*Ursus Alascensis*), and various color phases of the Black Bear ranging plentifully all through this region make of Rainy Pass a well nigh perfect big game field.

The west shore of Cook Inlet stretching far westward past Katmai of the Ten Thousand Smokes, the Kodiak-Afognak Group, and on to the treeless tip of the Alaska Peninsula may also be reached from Anchorage. This portion of the Territory is the home of the big Brown Bear. The Kodiak Bear (*Ursus Middendorfi*), Peninsula Giant Bear (*Ursus Gyas*), and the Kidder Bear (*Ursus Kidderi Kidderi*) are here represented, together with intermingling subvarieties so diversified in form as to puzzle the scientists attempting to classify them. Such a galaxy of hairy monsters to delight the most thrill-seeking sportsman! The dense foliage of early Autumn shooting at this season places the hunter at a handicap in taking these Bear; consequently the best time of the year to stage a hunt for Brownies is in the Spring between the first of May and the middle of June, although some good results have been had in late Fall just before denning time.



*Just As He Fell, A Mighty Brownie Killed on a Spring Hunt*

### **Matanuska: (4-D)**

Matanuska, Mile 150, at the junction of the Chickaloon branch line, offers a close approach to the western end of the Chugach Mountains. The route into the game fields from here is up the Knik River to Knik Glacier and Lake, part of the distance for which horses may be used. Here in this straight-up-and-down, heavily glaciated picture-land is the finest Mountain Goat hunting in all of Alaska, the billies developing to extremely large size. Particularly fine specimens of

the white Dall Sheep are also plentiful in the Chugach Mountains, as well as a fair sprinkling of Grizzlies, Black Bear, including the rare blue phase, and an occasional Moose.

### **Chickaloon: (3-D)**

Situated at the end of the branch line extending 37 miles to the eastward of the main line of The Alaska Railroad from Matanuska, Chickaloon is the gateway to the splendors of Nelchina, Upper Talkeetna, and the central part of the Chugach Mountains. A peerless game land, indeed! Rarely hunted, a trip into the sections tapped by the Chickaloon

branch assumes all characteristics of an adventurous expedition of discovery. Not less than thirty days with pack train should be spent in this enthralling region if it is to be fully appreciated. Every variety of big game in Alaska, with the possible exception of the Moose, should be seen during the course of a hunt through this stretch of wilderness.



### **Broad Pass-Cantwell: (3-D)**

At Broad Pass, Mile 304, and Cantwell, Mile 319, The Alaska Railroad tops out on the Alaska Range Divide, traversing for twenty miles or more a series of high, open table lands surrounded on all sides by towering mountains. This is Caribou Land! From the very car windows may be witnessed the greatest of Alaska wild life reviews—the annual Fall migration of the "Antlered Legion" as they cut forth and back across the Railroad at the whims of their leaders. Aimless as may appear the wanderings of the Caribou hosts at this season, there is a purpose behind it; a purpose that had its origin countless generations ago, for it



signifies the yearly meeting of cows and bulls from the far-flung corners of their summer feeding grounds; the age-long clashes between mighty bulls for supremacy in the herds, and finally after many days the orderly trek to the wind-swept-clear-of-snow wintering pastures on the lichen-carpeted plateaus. There is afforded ample opportunity for photography, and, of course, most exceptional choices of trophies.

Other game is nearby, too. Grizzlies are commonly seen in this vicinity and are said to be on the increase. Mountain Sheep are available within ten or fifteen miles. Bull Moose cross the open plateaus during Fall rutting season, at which time they are in perfect condition for trophy taking. Timber Wolves, in gray, black, and an occasional nearly all-white specimen, are likely to be encountered; huge brutes attaining a length of seven to eight feet, often ranging in packs.

### **Healy: (2-D)**

Healy at Mile 358 on the Railroad is the logical point for entering the charming Wood River country on the interior slope of the Alaska Range, where the streams flow northward into the Yukon drainage and on down to Bering Sea. A spur line runs four miles from Healy into the Suntrana coal mines, from which point most of the hunts are actually started. The big game fields here are wonderfully scenic, highly mountainous in character, yet well adapted to the use of pack trains in the early half of the Fall season. Several deviating routes may be followed ranging all the way from a short trip into the Moody River canyons to a trip of several weeks' duration to the seldom-visited Mt. Hays section.

The big game in the vicinity of Healy is varied and not hard to find. The Tundra Brown Bear (*Ursus Kidderi Tundrensis*) and the beautifully furred Toklat Grizzly (*Ursus Toklat*) roam all through this part of Alaska. Moose, Caribou, Mountain Sheep, Black Bear, and Timber Wolves are all present in such numbers that a hunter is likely to view them through the sights of his rifle before the trip is over. By reason of having penetrated to the north side of the Alaska Range a sharp climatic change is noted. The weather is crisp and bracing. Snow is likely to come any day after the first of October, or even in late September in the high passes; therefore the hunt should be planned for the early part of the season.

### **Fairbanks: (2-D)**

Fairbanks, terminus of The Alaska Railroad at Mile 470, is situated in the Tanana Valley in the very heart of the Territory. Excellent automobile roads lead to adjoining game fields. The Steese Auto Trail, continuing 160 miles in a northerly direction to the mining camp of Circle on the banks of the Yukon River, enables the hunter to witness the remarkable migration of Caribou occurring each Fall in this region and to select his trophies from scores of antlered monarchs. Moose, Mountain Sheep, Grizzly and Black Bear are also found to some extent in the section opened up by this road. The Richardson Auto Trail heads southwest from Fairbanks up the Tanana River watershed, crossing the Tanana River ninety-one miles away at Big Delta by means of a ferry. At this place pack train trips may be initiated into the Mt. Hays country,

or combination river boat and pack train expeditions into the famed Little Gerstle and the great Upper Tanana game fields where every variety of big game, with the exception of the Mountain Goat, may be taken. Hunts into this distant land must be carefully, somewhat elaborately planned, and are generally productive of full bag limits. The Richardson Highway parallels Big Delta River to its source in the Alaska Range, passing through unexcelled Caribou country and bordering steep, snow-covered mountains where Mountain Sheep may be seen from the highway with the aid of binoculars.

After surmounting the Alaska Range, approximately one hundred fifty miles east of The Alaska Railroad, the Richardson Auto Trail continues on to Valdez on the coast.

### **Miscellaneous Game Fields:**

In addition to the major big game fields already described there are numerous other sections where hunters may enjoy very good shooting. Briefly, such sections may be reached from the following stations on The Alaska Railroad: Moose Pass at Mile 29, Eklutna at Mile 141, Carlo at Mile 334, Yanert at Mile 341, Ferry at Mile 371, Kobe at Mile 387, and from many other stations along the main line of The Alaska Railroad, and the Chickaloon branch.



*Out in the Open Country—Near Mt. McKinley National Park*





*Pack Train Leaving The Alaska Railroad at McKinley Park Station  
for a Trip into the Park*

## *Licenses, Registered Guides, etc. . . .*

### **Licenses:**

All Nonresident and Alien Hunters are required to have a license in order to take big game in Alaska. The Nonresident General Hunting License is \$50.00; the Alien License, \$100.00. There is no additional charge for trophies taken or transported out of the Territory under such licenses.

### **Registered Guide Service:**

The Alaska Game Law requires each Nonresident or Alien Hunter to be accompanied by a Registered Guide while taking big game in Alaska. A current list of Registered Guides, together with up-to-date copies of the Alaska Game Law may be obtained free of charge by writing to the Alaska Game Commission, Juneau, Alaska.

Upon determination of the section where he desires to hunt, the sportsman should get in touch with one of the Registered Guides or Guide Associations serving such section and agree upon rates, length of hunt, trophies desired, and such other matters as may come up. It is well to do this in plenty of time ahead so that the Guide or Guide Association may make proper arrangements. Many of the hunts require expert preparation if the hunter is to make every day in the field count. The more notice a hunter can give his Guide the better should be the hunt.

Registered Guides, in addition to arranging the hunt, heading the party in the field, locating the game and lending advice in the selection of suitable trophies, must also be experts in skinning out, preparing and curing the trophies under field conditions. At the close of the hunt it usually devolves upon them to properly pack and attend to the shipment of the skins, capes and antlers. Registered Guide service in Alaska is a carefully studied, permanently established profession in which high class outdoorsmen are engaged. Every means is taken to insure the nonresident a pleasing, successful hunt, and to leave with him a desire to return again and again to the great game fields of the Territory.

### **Open Seasons and Bag Limits:**

The open season for Mountain Sheep, Caribou and Mountain Goat is from August 20th to December 31st; for Moose, September 1st to December 31st. The open season for Bear (Large Brown and Grizzly), for non-resident hunters, is from September 1st to June 20th. There is no closed season on Black Bear.

Bag limits for non-residents of the Territory of Alaska are as follows: one Moose; two Caribou; two Mountain sheep; two Mountain Goat; Large Brown and Grizzly Bear, two in the aggregate.







*Caribou During Migration*

# **B**ig Game Photography . . .

## **McKinley Park:**

McKinley Park Station at Mile 348 of The Alaska Railroad is the point of entry to Mount McKinley National Park, without doubt one of the greatest wild life sanctuaries of the world. Here in the indescribable grandeur surrounding the highest peak on the continent the big game hunter who shoots with a camera will find a paradise, for there are no less than 26 varieties of mammals and 86 varieties of birds within the boundaries of the Park. The Mountain Sheep, of which it is estimated that there are at least 15,000 in the Park, may be approached within a few yards. In Sable and Polychrome Passes they hardly move out of the road when a car comes along. Caribou in great numbers, Moose, Brown and Grizzly Bear, as well as numerous varieties of fur-bearing animals, are commonly seen, and having overcome much of their natural timidity

through the absolute protection afforded within the Park are splendid subjects for either still or motion picture photography. There are approximately sixty miles of automobile road within Mount McKinley National Park, as well as numerous saddle horse trails. Automobiles meet all trains at the Station. Facilities within the Park for sightseeing and camping are of a high order. The season is from June 10th to September 15th.

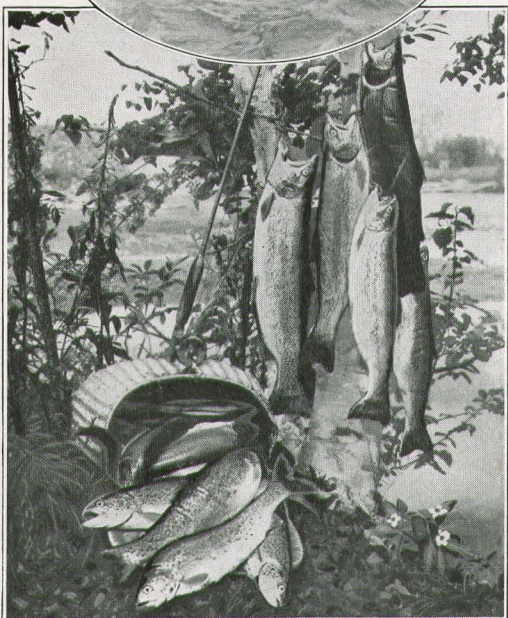
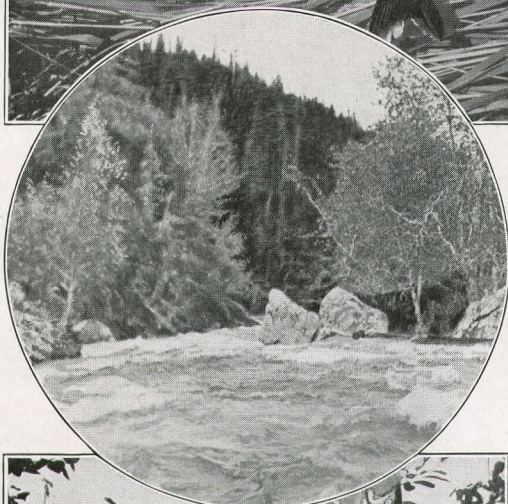
## **Photography in General:**

Practically every big game field in Alaska lends itself well to photography. Many of the better known big game enthusiasts who return to the Territory year after year find their greatest thrills in stalking game with a camera, killing few, if any, specimens. All hunters are urged to bring their cameras for the added pleasure they are sure to contribute to every trip.



*What a Thrill to the Sharp Shooter — Camera or Rifle*





# Fishing



Although excellent fly rod fishing may be had in nearly all the streams adjacent to The Alaska Railroad, particular attention is invited to Russian River below Kenai Lake, and to Willow River over which the Railroad is bridged at Mile 187. Both streams fairly teem with giant Rainbow Trout, while to add variety are the Spring and Midsummer runs of King and Silver Salmon, both species of which strike savagely at lures. Alaska Grayling and Dolly Varden Trout further supplement the wonderful fishing in these streams.

No fishing license is required in Alaska.





*A Limit Bag of Alaska Mountain Goats*



*A Massive Brown Bear from Alaska Peninsula*

## Short List of Best Trophies in Each Class Taken Along The Alaska Railroad in 1930

### MOOSE

Spread	Palm		Points		Hunter	Guide	District
	Right	Left	Right	Left			
70 1/2"	13"	18"	25	23	J. F. Lidral	F. E. Towle	Kenai
67 1/2"	15"	16"	13	11	F. C. Scruggs, Jr.	T. M. O'dale	Kenai
67 "	15"	18"	21	21	Dr. V. C. Reynolds	F. Revell	Kenai

### MOUNTAIN SHEEP

Spread	Base		Length		Hunter	Guide	District
	Right	Left	Right	Left			
27"	14 1/2"	14 1/2"	40 1/2"	40"	Jerym Downie	H. A. Anderson	Kenai
27"	14 "	14 "	37 1/2"	35"	J. E. Hare	Alex Bolam	Chickaloon
31"	14 "	13 3/4"	41 "	41"	Gotham Reed	Chas. Clark	Upper Tanana

### CARIBOU

Spread	Beam		Brow Tines		Points		Hunter	Guide	District
	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left			
41 1/2"	44"	45"	15 1/2	14 1/2	22	17	W. Lloyd Smith	Geo. B. Nelson	Broad Pass
41 "	53"	51"	18	17	21	19	J. E. Hare	Alex Bolam	Broad Pass
38 1/2"	51"	52"	25	24	32	28	W. Lloyd Smith	Geo. B. Nelson	Broad Pass

### MOUNTAIN GOAT

Spread	Base	Length		Hunter	Guide	District
		Right	Left			
6 1/2"	5 1/2"	10 "	9 3/4"	J. B. Duncan	Chas. A. Davis	Anchorage
7 "	4 1/2"	9 3/4"	9 1/4"	J. E. Hare	Alex Bolam	Chickaloon
6 "	5 1/2"	9 "	9 "	J. E. Hare	Alex Bolam	Chickaloon

### BROWN BEAR

Skin (over all)	Skull		Hunter	Guide	District
	Length	Breadth			
9' 3"	17 1/2"	10 1/2"	W. S. Jerym	Henry Lucas	Kenai
	17 1/2"		Dr. V. C. Reynolds	Frank Revell	Snug Harbor

### GRIZZLY BEAR

Skin (over all)	Skull		Hunter	Guide	District
	Length	Breadth			
8' 6"	18 1/2"	10 "	T. E. Shillenburgh	Carl Anderson	Broad Pass
8' 6"	14 1/2"	8 1/2"	J. B. Duncan	Chas. A. Davis	Kenai

### BLACK BEAR

Skin (over all)	Skull		Hunter	Guide	District
	Length	Breadth			
7' 7"	14"	6 3/4"	W. Lloyd Smith	E. Olmstead	Kenai
7'			J. E. Hare	Alex Bolam	Chickaloon

*This Booklet Issued by  
U. S. Department of the Interior*

## THE ALASKA RAILROAD

*(Mt. McKinley Park Route)*

*For Further Information, etc., Write*

### CHICAGO OFFICE

Suite 321-22—333 North Michigan Ave., Telephone: STate 5798  
G. C. Dickens, General Freight, Passenger and Immigration Agent

O. F. Ohlson  
General Manager  
The Alaska Railroad

SEATTLE OFFICE  
422 Bell St. Terminal

GENERAL OFFICES  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur  
Secretary  
U. S. Dept. of the Interior

Harold W. Snell



