



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PENGUIN II SAILS PRIBILOF ISLANDS RUN

For twenty years a doughty 130-foot motor vessel, the U. S. FWS Penguin, has sailed the hazardous waters of the North Pacific and Bering Sea. Carrying supplies and personnel of the Fish and Wildlife Service from Seattle to the fur-sealing stations on the Pribilof Islands, the Penguin was a familiar sight to Alaska's coastal residents...who occasionally hailed the vessel during emergencies, when a quick trip to the hospital was needed.

Aside from an annual trip of a Navy supply vessel to the islands, the Penguin was the major link between the mainland and the isolated Pribilofs. On the night of June 3, 1950, this important little supply tender burned at its moorings in Seattle.

"The goodwill built up for 20 years in the name of the Penguin will not be lost," Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman has announced. "The vessel's successor has been named Penguin II."

The replacement for the burned Pribilof supply tender is an FS-type motor vessel, transferred from the Army Transportation Corps. On June 17, the hastily drafted vessel loaded cargo and personnel for the fur-seal islands and pointed its bow northward—only four days after the original Penguin's scheduled departure. Still without a name, however, the replacement ship was viewed without curiosity by coastal citizens watching expectantly for the well-known Penguin.

By next spring, the 148-foot Penguin II will have more cabin space and other facilities required for the 2,000-mile Pribilof run. With cargo capacity twice that of the old tender's 175 tons...and 10 times the capacity for refrigerated cargo...the vessel will serve much better as the tender of the fur-seal islands. During this Christmas-season trip, however,...even before being renovated...the U. S. FWS Penguin II will be truly initiated.

The last trip of the year to the Government-administered fur-seal islands has always been given over largely to mail-order packages, Christmas mail, and a supply of Christmas trees from southeastern Alaska (the Pribilofs are treeless). The islanders—native Aleuts—do most of their shopping from mail-order houses...making use of cash earned during the summer fur-sealing operations. On these orders—including heavy items like bicycles, washing machines and outboard motors—transportation charges are paid by the natives only as far as Seattle.

On the winter run southward, especially...but on each of the vessel's five round-trips a year, as well...natives of the Pribilofs who wish to visit relatives or friends on other islands, or on the mainland, are carried by the Penguin. The only charge the Government makes to the natives is for the actual cost of carrying additional passengers—usually a small sum for meals.