



Washington State Ferries

SEATTLE FERRY TERMINAL, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104 • MA 4-2700

WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES, 3/11/67

Add One

FOR RELEASE MARCH 11, 1967

The Second of four "super-ferries" being built for the Washington State Ferry System was launched in San Diego this morning. Mrs. Warren G. Magnuson, wife of the U.S. Senator, christened the 382-foot vessel, the M.V. KALEETAN.

The KALEETAN (an Indian word meaning "arrow") will remain in San Diego while her builders, National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, complete the superstructure. The M.V. HYAK, a sister to the KALEETAN, was launched from the same ways last December. Delivery of the HYAK to Puget Sound is scheduled for about mid-June, and the KALEETAN will follow by about two months.

Hull construction on the third and fourth vessels, the ELWHA and the YAKIMA is underway. The last two ferries are being built "one-and-a-half at a time." National's ways are long enough to accommodate one of the giant superferries, but not quite two. Solution: build a complete hull at the "water" end of the ways and half a hull at the "land" end. Then, launch the complete hull, leaving room on the ways to finish the half hull.

The new vessels are larger and faster than any ferries now in operation on Puget Sound. They will carry sixty per cent more automobiles, nearly twice as many passengers and travel nearly thirty per cent faster than the newest ferry now operating.

(More)



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Today's launching is part of the largest improvement project ever undertaken by the Washington State Toll Bridge Authority, which operates the state's ferry system. Construction of the four vessels marks the first time federal funds have been granted to help finance a ferry system improvement project. The KALEETAN, HYAK ("fast"), ELWHA ("elk"), and YAKIMA ("to become peopled") are being financed jointly by a bond resolution authorized by the state legislature and a federal grant from the Department of Housing Urban Development through the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. Federal assistance reflects the ferry system's role as part of Washington State's highway and bridge system.

Total cost of the construction project is \$23.4 million.

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