



o celebrate 225 years of Lancaster newspapers, we present this weekly series of 52 front pages from throughout our history. Many feature events that would shape the course of world history. Some feature events of great local importance. Still others simply provide windows into the long-ago lives of Lancaster County residents. Make sure to check in every week, and enjoy this trip through time with LNP.



WEATHER

Intelligender



165th Year .- No. 291.

LANCASTER, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 1959.

1959

By Close Vote

Jut Rate Housing Bill

42 PAGES. 42c PER WEEK-7c Per Copy

# Russia Hints Need CENTRAL WAGE For Secret Talks, IS ORGANIZED Reaffirms Stand

GENEVA (AP) — The Soviet Union has told the West again that it wants to negotiate a four-point agreement to ease tension in Europe, Western diplomats reported Wednesday night.

They said Soviet Foreign Minis-

on of Rev. and Mrs. How-rnhard, Fred is also trea-f the Red Rose 4-H Baby nd Lamb Club. presidents have long of wins in 4-H competi-

along with another 4-H took top honors at the read-making contest at ania State University





Betle, along with another 4-H member, took lop honors at the state bread-making contest at Pennsylvania State Luniversity last year.

She also was awarded one of Turn To Page 37 For More Of FARM CORNER

be seen trudging, one by one, through the basement, left to right, Johnny Kucks, Marv Throneberry, Tony Kubek and Yogi Berra. How's the headache, Casey? (AP Wirephoto by Photofax)

**COVER 36 OF 52** 

Inside Today's Intell Journal



717 is the big number for Lancaster in the Bell uses from the job x x one is Telephone Company's rapidly expanding Direct Disorman Company's rapidly expanding the several years before residents the regional code number of the Section of the Section Company's representation of the Pittsburgh Commission of the Pittsbur



Intell Journal

NEWS — Dulles awarded Med. al. of Freedom (P28). Souther Med. and of the Pittsburgh Commission of the Pittsburgh Commission (P28). Med. and of Freedom (P28). Souther Med. and of the Pittsburgh Commission (P28). Med. and of Freedom (P28). A party in Lancaster simply by dialing a spokersman said, but the code number, 717, the exchange (P194). Lange (P194). Lange (P194). Lange (P194). Earset P194). Lange (P194). Earset P194). Lange (P194). Present Med. and the mumber desired. A telephone of cold mumber, 1871, the exchange (P194). Lange with DDD can by passing the operator to call Lancaster only if he knows the Lancaster phone number he wants, is willing to a lange with DDD can by passing the portation (P194). The P194 (P194) Med. P194 (P194). Med. P1



Though it's not represented on this particular front page from May 21, 1959, a significant change was

happening in the United States at this time. Prior to 1959, it had been nearly a half-century since the most recent state, Arizona, formally joined the United States of America. Within the span of a year, the "Really great 48" officially become the "Nifty 50" states with the admission of Alaska and Hawaii on Jan. 3 and Aug. 21, respectively.

In Alaska's case, statehood was a long time coming. The territory was sold from Russia to the United States on Oct. 18, 1867, for \$7.2 million — or roughly two cents an acre. Over the next century, Alaska would make the transition from

a department to a district and finally to a territory owned by the U.S. During World War II, Alaska gained new prominence as a key military base, leading to an influx of Americans. In the decade after the war ended, bills finally began to circulate through Congress to make Alaska the 49th state of the Union. Detractors on both sides of the aisle had their doubts about Alaska's chances at statehood because of the distant and sparse population, but nevertheless, President Dwight Eisenhower signed the Alaska Statehood Act on July 7, 1958.

Hawaii's path to statehood ended up being a little more complicated. As with Alaska, Hawaii existed as a territory of the United States for many years, in this case, since

1898. As Hawaii entered the 20th century, the approval rate for statehood grew to 93% of island residents. However, as Hawaii was still only a territory, it was allowed only one, nonvoting member in the House of Representatives. Because of this, American landowners worked to keep labor cheap and tariffs low. Numerous bills would reach congressional desks in the 50 years following Hawaii attaining territory status, but it would take allowing the Democratic-majority Alaska into the Union to convince the rest of Congress to bring the Republicanleaning Aloha State into the fold. By the end of 1959, the continental United States would have two new, officially recognized additions.

## 717



On the bottom right-hand side of this front page, a short article describes the growing pains of Lancaster's

Direct Distance Dialing system, or DDD. When the concept of telephone area codes was established in 1947, "717" was one of the original area codes given to South-central Pennsylvania. However, even over a decade later, phone systems still relied on being connected with an operator who would then connect you to the person you were trying to reach. As of May 1959, phone users in 1,400 cities could make direct calls to other phones, but it would be nearly a full decade before all Lancaster County residents could make outgoing calls without an operator's assistance.



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