



## It's Our History, Our Country

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# The Alaska Highway

The year 1942 was a year that most people, who lived through it, will never forget. The average automobile cost \$ 1,100, gas ran for 19 cents a gallon, you could purchase a house for \$7,000, bread was 9 cents a loaf, the minimum wage was 30 cent an hour and the average salary was \$2,400. It was also the year the United States entered the Second World War under the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933 To 1945).

On the home front, The Alaska Highway (Alcan Highway) connecting the contiguous U.S. to Alaska through Canada is completed through Canada to Richardson Highway in Delta Junction Alaska (coined as The Friendly Frontier).

The name "Alaska" is derived from the Aleut word "Alyeska," meaning "great land." The Alaskan highway was built for war material and equipment to Alaska from the Canadian provinces and American States, the Alaska Highway punched through more than 1,680 miles of mountains, muskeg and mosquitoes.

Adventure seekers will appreciate this part. Heading north to Alaska and Canada's Yukon, you will follow the same roads (prior to turning into the Alaskan Highway) taken by Jack London, (author of many adventure novels such as Call of the Wild, and Sea Wolf) legendary gun slinger, Wyatt Earp, poet Robert Service (The Shooting of Dan McGrew and The Cremation of Sam McGee) and the literary charac-

ter Sgt. Preston of the Yukon.

The work on this immense project started in March 1942. The men of the seven Army regiments along with 77 contractors and the Public Roads Administration started and finished the Alaskan Highway. At the peak of construction, in addition to the military men, 77 contractors working on the Alaska Highway employed over 15,000 men and utilized more than 11,000 pieces of equipment. Total construction cost for the 1,680 miles was \$115 million.

When the crew south from Delta Junction met the crew north from Dawson Creek the highway was completed on Oct 28, 1942.

### Other Facts of 1942

Top movies were Bambi and Casablanca Movies stars born in 1942 were David Ogden Stiers (best known as Charles of MASH), singer and actor Barbra Streisand, Harrison Ford a.k.a Indian Jones.

### Events of October 28

Gulliver's Travels is published in 1726, Christopher Columbus discovers Cuba in 1492; Harvard College is founded in Massachusetts in 1683. The first coast-to-coast radio broadcast of a football game in 1922; Bud Grant of Winnipeg Blue Bombers intercepts five passes (record) in 1953.

<http://www.ci.delta-junction.ak.us/>  
<http://www.alaska-highway.org/>  
<http://www.outwestnewspaper.com/akhwy.html>  
[http://www.bellsalaska.com/myalaska/richardson\\_highway.html](http://www.bellsalaska.com/myalaska/richardson_highway.html)



*In English, Doc!*  
Daniel McBain, MD, MA

Some pains are dreadful experiences, others are more worrisome. "Headaches" can be both. *My head's a pounding drum! Why?*

There are several causes and types of headaches, some running in families.

"Tension" headaches are caused by tension in the neck or the thin muscles wrapping the skull. Stress and concentrating are common triggers.

"Migraines" occur when blood vessels widen in the brain. Triggers include stress, menstruation, red wine, foods, and flashing lights.

"Cluster" headaches, recurring for weeks or months before going back into hiding, happen when blood vessels widen in the face. Alcohol is a common trigger.

Head injuries can cause short- or long-term pain.

"Thunderclap" headaches can signal a burst blood vessel.

Tumours may cause progressively worsening headaches or affect the senses.

Other causes include various infections or inflammation of an artery in the temple, while overuse of painkillers—even Tylenol—can cause "rebound" headaches.

### Should I get a brain scan?

Doctors occasionally order CT or MRI scans, sometimes injecting dye to light up blood vessels. The history and physical exam are key. Blood tests may be ordered.

See a doctor for unusual, persistent headaches, or pain worsened by activity or bending over.

Go to the ER for any sudden, severe headache, or tag-along symptoms such as seizures, confusion, fainting, personality changes, fever, stiff neck, weakness, numbness, or nausea.

### How are headaches treated?

Treatment ranges from rest-