

EDITORIAL *Runner*

FEBRUARY 1981



Photo by Bill Devine

MUSHING TO D.C.

*Joe Redington's dog team on the Capitol lawn, January 18, 1981.
(See Story on Page 6)*

SLED TRACKS

THE IDITAROD RUNNER
Vol. 4, No.5, February 1981
Official Newsletter of the Iditarod
Trail Committee, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

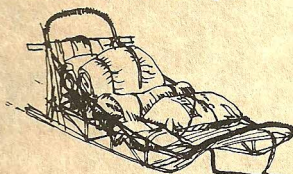
As March 7 draws near and the drivers prepare to retrace and make history on the Iditarod Trail, I'd like to say something about the other people who will be making history. You may never hear their names, more than likely you won't see their pictures in the paper and they will not be collecting any trophies. But they are heroes too.

Every year, a work force of over 500 people from all over Alaska volunteer their time and efforts to make the Iditarod Trail Race happen. Some are professional people who take time off from their practices to act as race veterinarians, pilots,

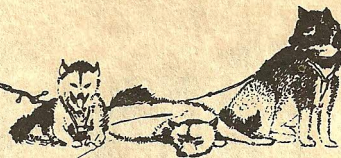
and HAM radio operators. Others take their vacation time and rather than go to sunny Hawaii or Mexico, they opt to be checkers at such lonely places as Don's Cabin, or to answer phones at the Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla, Fairbanks and Nome Headquarters. Still more are housewives, working and retired people who help stuff envelopes, run errands, paint signs, take photos, and keep the office staff on their toes.

Without these people we couldn't have a race. Each and every one of them deserve our thanks. They are the spirit of the Iditarod.

Sincerely,
RAINE HALL



Iditarod Race Schedule



FEBRUARY 20 — Headquarters opens, Sheraton Hotel.

MARCH 2 — Settlers Bay Iditarod Benefit 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 3 — Ham-Vet-Pilot Briefing, Sheraton Hotel, 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 4 — Vet Check, Mulcahy Park, Anchorage 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MARCH 5 — Mushers Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, 1:00 p.m.

MARCH 7 — Race Start, Anchorage, Mulcahy Park, 10:00 a.m.

Race Restart, Settlers Bay in Wasilla, 2:00 p.m.

Pope John Paul II on the Iditarod Trail

On February 26 Pope John Paul II will land in Anchorage for a brief seven-hour visit.

One of the highlights in his tight schedule will be a ride in Norman Vaughan's sled, but not quite on the Iditarod Trail. Vaughan's team, with Bob Crockett, will carry Pope John Paul II down the Park Strip in Anchorage. He will be using the same dogs that trotted down Pennsylvania Avenue in the Inaugural parade last month. Now that's got to be some kind of a record.

Arrangements were made through Norman Vaughan and Dona Agosti, Program Coordinator for the Pope's visit to Alaska.

HEADQUARTERS OPEN

The Anchorage Iditarod Headquarters open February 20 in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel. Hours will be 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the first week. From March 1 through the end of the race the hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Current race information will be available as well as banquet tickets, sweepstakes tickets, Iditarod Trail Annuals, the new '81 T-shirts and other Iditarod paraphernalia. Be sure and stop by for one of the new Iditarod buttons designed by Bill Devine!

Jean Gilman and Priscilla Van Zyle are coordinating the Anchorage headquarters. Give them a call at 688-3116 (Jean), or 349-8288 (Pris) if you are interested in volunteering during the race.

A first! Fairbanks will have a race headquarters this year. Spearheaded by Mary Boily, headquarters opens March 7 at the Bently Mall. Hours will be 9-9, Monday-Sunday. For more information call Mary at 488-3435.

Eagle River headquarters at Carr's Garden Center Mall will open March 2. Diane Hodge will be in charge. Hours Monday-Friday 9-6, Sundays 12-6.

Hill donates Inaugural Sled

Knik sled builder Vernon Hill has donated the sled driven by Joe Redington, Sr. in the 1981 Inaugural Parade to the Iditarod Trail Committee.

Hill built the sled specifically for Redington to drive into history down Pennsylvania Avenue.

The sled will be auctioned to the highest bidder at the Mushers Banquet & Drawing, March 5, 1981, at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. It can be viewed in the Sheraton lobby.

HELMS IDITAROD RACE MARSHAL

A man known for his ability to marshal Alaska's snowmachine racers has been named race marshal for the 1981 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome.

Though his name has been associated with the major snowmachine races across the state for 20 years, Jack Helms knows dogs, too. In fact, Joe Redington, Sr., founder of the 1,049 mile race to Nome, recalls the days when he would race against Helms at Al Hibbard's place on Big Lake. "When snowmachines came in, Jack went on to help organize and marshal their races. He did a real fine job and I'm happy that he'll be working with us this year."

Helms, who lives in Big Lake, has been likened to Anchorage Fur Rendezvous and former Iditarod race marshal, Dick Tozier. Both are regarded as tops in their respective sporting events.

Tozier will be working closely with Helms during these last few weeks before the mushers hit the trail for Nome. Race philosophy, precedents set, pressures of working day and night under rugged conditions, the 46 race rules that must be enforced and the 57 mushers who are competing will be among their topics.

The 1981 Iditarod begins on March 7 in Anchorage.

RAINIER ADDS TO PURSE

During the months of January, February and March Anchorage Cold Storage-Odom Co. will donate 50 cents on every case of RAINIER (in cans!) sold toward the mushers' purse. This offer is statewide. Last year, Anchorage Cold Storage-Odom donated over \$14,000 to the race through this campaign.

Snow or no snow— The Race Goes On

The annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome will start, as scheduled, on March 7. The lack of snow in the Anchorage area has prompted talk that the race may be cancelled, but according to race manager Dick Mackey, "there are several reasons why the Iditarod can go on when sprint races must be cancelled."

"The Iditarod Race calls for a much heavier sled, built to withstand the rough trail conditions. The long distance dogs used in the race are generally a slower dog. The pace is a fast trot rather than a gallop. These dogs are trained on and used to all types of trail conditions. Each driver carries sufficient booties for his or her dogs in order to protect their feet."

The race will begin, weather and trail permitting, at Mulcahy Park in Anchorage. If there is not sufficient snow, there will be a ceremonial start at the park and the teams will travel by motorcade to Eagle River. The Restart will take place at Settlers Bay in Wasilla. Plans are being made to haul in snow for the trail between Settlers Bay and Knik if it is necessary.

Iditarod Benefit

In conjunction with the Iditarod Trail Committee, Settlers Bay is throwing a benefit to help raise the '81 mushers' purse. Come and enjoy a special evening with the Iditarod mushers and friends before they take off on the trail to Nome, on Monday, March 2 at Settlers Bay Village Inn, Mile 8 on Knik Road in Wasilla. \$25.00 per couple, \$15.00 single. Prime Rib Dinner starts at 7 pm, followed at 8:15 with music by Three to Get Ready. At 9:00 pm the audience will be treated to a special showing of "Spirit of the Wind," and the premiere of German TV's production on the 1978 Iditarod.

Four weeks until race countdown

BY DICK MACKEY, '81 Race Manager

For the ninth year in a row, the big moment for veterans and certainly for the rookies when a driver's breath comes in difficult gasps is just around the corner. Nerves are shattered, the command to go, and some fifty-nine mushers start out on what has been correctly billed as "The last great race on earth." The first few seconds from the starting line and the last few miles coming into Nome have to be one of the highest times in a person's life.

Between those two periods mushers will undoubtedly find a range of attitude from high to the lowest of low! One of the lows, if the race were to start today, would be the trail conditions. At a time when the running of the Rondy and other sprint races are in doubt in the Anchorage area, word that the Iditarod will be held regardless of conditions, creates raised eyebrows at best. Iditarod veterans smile and shrug with the usual comment, "bout time we had a tough year like old times." The rookie gulps, remembering similar training runs, while the general public wonders how the hell can the Iditarod make it when none else can. First of all, the ninth running of the Iditarod will begin at Mulcahy Park in Anchorage, March 7, at 10:00 a.m. Depending on snow conditions, the start will be an actual run to Eagle River, the first checkpoint, or a ceremonial start followed by a parade to Eagle River. From that point the dogs will be trucked to Settlers Bay in Wasilla. There the race will get underway, regardless of weather conditions, at 2:00 p.m.

How do we manage to start off on a snowless trail? There are a great many differences between the sprint racing teams most

people in the Anchorage area are used to watching and the Iditarod teams. Seldom are the Iditarod-trained dogs used to running on groomed trails; rather they often are purposely run through the toughest of trail conditions to prepare them for just such surface conditions, the likes of which are often encountered throughout on the trail to Nome.

Our type of dogs are very familiar with wearing booties when deemed necessary to protect their pads from the rough ground or cutting ice, which would stop other teams trained for pure speed. These precautions, along with the fact that long-distance teams are much slower paced, support the opinion of the veterinarians, race officials, and the race committee that we may proceed without undue concern for the safety of the dogs.

The drivers might be another story but for the very nature of the event. Large, heavily laden sleds even the odds considerably on a rough trail. Add a handler riding the first few miles to assist with the controlling of the team plus the additional weight, and the entire event becomes a safe, sane event in spite of the present conditions.

First and foremost is the concern for the well-being of our dogs.

One wonders if the drivers should be informed that but twenty miles out the trail it is just fine, or let everyone just think about it and stay on their toes that much longer? Anyway, the weather man always covers himself with a 50-50 prediction for snow, so why really be that concerned? Here's an invitation for all to come and see the start of another great adventure, Iditarod 1981.

THE JUNIORS!

BY ANNE PATCH

In order to enter the Iditarod Trail Race from Anchorage to Nome, a musher must be 18 years old. We have had several 18-year-olds enter—anxious for the adventure and the challenge of the 1049 mile test of endurance.

With the help of interested parents and supporters, a Junior Iditarod organization was formed in 1978, and a 120 mile race for mushers 14-17 years old was put together. These young mushers train hard and gain invaluable knowledge about distance dog driving and dog care. They are the Iditaroders of tomorrow!

This year the Junior Iditarod race will begin on February 28 from Settlers Bay Resort (Wasilla). The young mushers and their teams of 7-10 dogs run 60 miles out the Iditarod Trail to Rabbit Lake where they are required to take a mandatory 12-hour layover before returning the 60 miles to the finish.

Run as closely as possible to the Iditarod Trail race rules, the junior mushers are required to have their dogs and sleds checked prior to the race. Certain mandatory equipment is required, and the 12-hour layover corresponds to the 24-hour rest required in Iditarod rules.

Gary Baumgartner, McGrath, (Iditarod musher Ernie Baumgartner's son) came home victorious in 1980 and will return in 1981 to defend his title. Each year the field grows as more and more youngsters become interested in this great Alaskan sport.

Trophies are awarded for first through fifth place finishers and this year there's more! Alaska Airlines will take the winner and one parent to Nome for the finish of the 1049 mile Iditarod Trail Race and the awards ceremony. The winner will also receive a five-foot basket sled handcrafted by Al Marple. Alaska Magazine will present second-place winner

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with a \$150 gift certificate. Other prizes for the finishers will come from Rae's Harness Shop, Lolly's Harness Shop, Alaska Mill Feed & Seed, Spada Feed & Seed, and Eagle River Feed & Seed.

Just like the senior race, the winners of the Junior Iditarod will be feted at an awards banquet scheduled for March 1 at Settlers Bay. Joe Redington, "Father of the Iditarod," will be the guest speaker and will entertain the young mushers and their families and supporters with a slide show of his trip via dog team to the top of Mt. McKinley.

Rich Pralle of Wasilla will be race coordinator again in 1981. Joel Kottke will return as race marshal and Phil Meyer, DVM

will be trail veterinarian.

These youngsters, both boys and girls, are the backbone of tomorrow's long distance dog sled racing in Alaska. They come from across the state; Anchorage, Matanuska Valley, Interior. As the Junior Iditarod Race grows with continued support from parents and sponsors, mushers are expected from Outside and Canada. 120 miles of serious competition on the first leg of the historic Iditarod Trail out of Knik—a training ground, a test for these young mushers and an invaluable experience.

For further information contact Rich Pralle, Star Route Box 5433, Wasilla, AK 99687. (907) 376-4175.

AUSTIN WINS KUSKO 300

Can he carry his winning streak to Nome?

Jerry Austin from St. Michael has just come away from Bethel victorious in a rough, warm, Kuskokwim 300—a race across the tundra from Bethel to Aniak and return. In winning the Kusko, Jerry beat out some heavyweight competition. Coming in second was George Atlla and behind him a hard-driving Rick Swenson and Walter Williams from Akiak.

Can Jerry continue his winning streak? Can he beat the impressive field to Nome? The Swensons, Butchers, Nayokpuks and Nordlums?

The 1981 Iditarod Trail Race will be the fourth attempt for the musher from St. Michael and, as in the past, he will carry the colors of Chevron U.S.A. Chevron got behind the Austin team in 1978 and has been a loyal and helpful sponsor ever since. Jerry is the Commission Agent for Chevron in St. Michael—125 miles southeast of Nome.

Chevron is behind more than the Austin team this year. They have donated 10 gallons of Chevron Blazo Fuel per musher. The Blazo, used by the mushers for cooking food for their dog teams as well as themselves, is a very necessary commodity in their trail supplies. Chevron has donated the fuel and the Iditarod Trail Committee will be responsible for disbursing it to strategic checkpoints between Anchorage and Nome.

Jerry, who was born and raised in Seattle and graduated from the University of Washington in 1969, already has an impressive Iditarod record behind him. In 1976, his first race, he was 23rd out of 46 finishers. In 1977 Jerry sat out a year because of illness. In 1978 he improved his finishing position

(cont'd on page 11)

The Case of the Hot Dogs

Reprinted from the
WASHINGTON POST
Editorial

Maybe it didn't rain on Ronald Reagan's big parade, but an off-beat pre-inaugural theft—of Feets, Candy and Joey—nearly put a damper on one class act. The aforementioned are Alaskan husky dogs, renowned in their home state for leadership, manliness (dogliness?) and a fair amount of brute strength that is usually applied with great success to the pulling of heavily laden sleds. It was to these ends that the three dogs—valued at \$5,000 apiece—were hired to perform in the parade and flown here, under contract, to lead a 25-dog team in pulling three sleds (on wheels) down the ceremonial avenue.

But whoa and behold, shortly after midnight on the day before the day, the huskies were nowhere to be found at the Damascus farm where they had been staying. Who on earth would attempt to steal three bold and presumably terrifying Alaskan huskies? A case, surely, for Sgt.

Preston of the Yukon; but, absent the sergeant, enter the Montgomery County police, eschewing bloodhounds and acting on a telephone tip.

As frantic parade-masters sought vainly to buy, rent or leash qualified substitutes for the missing trio, police dogged every lead until they came to a house basement in Gaithersburg. There, listed in good condition, were these allegedly tough creatures, who apparently succumbed silently to two youths who have been charged with the theft. The case of the dogs that didn't bark.

As you may have noticed, the dogs did make their appointed rounds on Tuesday, but you can forget that mighty-husky myth; Feets, Candy and Joey were content to grin meekly, sit, shake hands or roll over as they mushed. Fierce they weren't, adorable they were. Huskies they may be, but pussycats also they surely are.

Mushing to D.C.

BY DICK MACKEY

On January 20, 1981 fourteen very lucky individuals found themselves in Washington, DC to take part in the inaugural festivities for our 40th President, Ronald Reagan. The fourteen were all in some way connected to the Iditarod and were representing the State of Alaska in this great event. Three well-known mushers of Iditarod fame, with their three dog teams, required a great deal of support personnel. Joe Redington, Sr., Norman Vaughan and Herbert Nayokpuk were the three drivers. Joe and his wife Vi, as well as Herbie and wife Elizabeth, were sponsored by the State of Alaska. Norman Vaughan and the rest of the support personnel so necessary for the success of the event, made the trip at their own expense and with the assistance of many business people and individuals along the way.

Norman Vaughan and Dick Mackey departed with all the dogs and equipment on January 14, courtesy of FLYING TIGERS. Arriving at the home of Walter and Nancy Hughes in Frederick, Maryland where the dogs were to live 46 hours later made for a long journey. Transferring and trucking all the gear from the Philadelphia airport to the farm, courtesy of HALL'S TRUCKING must have been quite a sight. Dog boxes, sleds and all the gear were loaded onto a 40-foot flatbed! I'm sure that the Hughes' first impression must have been one of complete invasion.

Don and Jean Montgomery arrived that evening, driving their own dog truck down from Lima, Ohio in order to chauffeur the dogs and sleds around the Washington area. With the arrival of Al Crane, Bill Devine,

Ron and Mrs. Brinker, Evelyn Litvak and Jan Masek on Saturday afternoon the group was complete, and prepared for the wonderful, yet hectic experiences to come. Sunday was a day of rest. Supposedly. It seemed to take forever to get everything squared away, and in our typical fashion got thoroughly lost while trying to find the home of Bill and Irene Hall (Raine Hall's in-laws). Once found, we had a great evening, they being the best of hosts. Returning from the Hall's shortly after midnight, the bottom dropped out of the world as we learned that three of the dogs had been stolen. Joe's leaders, Candy and Feets, and Norman's leader Joey were gone. The next 24 hours were sad ones indeed. With no sleep, having to take the teams to a demonstration on the Capital lawn and smile, was not easy. In spite of our great loss, the photo session and sled rides went well. Alaska Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, Congressman Don Young and a host of others were present, which added to the excitement. The office of Don Young is staffed with the very best of people. They went all out to see that our stay would be memorable. They worked day and night in efforts to find the stolen dogs. When the call came late that night with the good news, most of us just whooped, some cried, and Joe just grinned the biggest of grins. Now we could truly enjoy ourselves without the dark cloud of the theft.

Tuesday morning found us all again, with 2 hours of sleep (nothing new for an Iditarod crew!) and the day of the parade was at hand. It is very difficult to describe our feelings as we stood

watching the swearing-in ceremony, the 21-gun salute and finally the event for which we had worked so hard and come so far. The fact that each of us was dressed in our "Alaskan best" and that we were driving three teams of those "wolf-like" Alaskan huskies would have made our entry from the State of Alaska popular on its own. With the additional media coverage on the loss and return of the dogs we were easily the most popular entry! The governor and people of Alaska can be very proud of their dog team entourage.

With the parade behind us, after bedding down the dogs, it was time for the Inaugural Ball. Seeing a bunch of "dog" people dressed in frilled white shirts, ties and tails and the ladies in long formal gowns was indeed a sight to behold. In fits of laughter, we nearly succumbed to unloading the dogs and posing for a never-to-be-duplicated picture! We opted not to, as we were late as usual. The Ball was a highlight. President and Mrs. Reagan arrived with Vice President and Mrs. Bush. Glen Campbell, Tanya Tucker and Charlie Pride entertained, and Herbie and Elizabeth Nayokpuk talked with Charlton Heston for a television interview. I'm sure that those waiting to greet us back home in Anchorage thought we'd never wind down. We all worked hard, had a great time and are very proud to have had the opportunity to represent this great State of Alaska.



IDITAROD RUNNER



The Iditarod Trail Committee wishes to thank the following people and companies who worked hard to make this trip possible:



Governor Jay Hammond
Mia Spear
Flying Tigers Airline
Doug Shaw
Hall's Trucking
John Strong
Al Crane
Vernon Hill
Walter & Nancy Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. David Wheelwright
Gloria Tokar

Raine Hall
Lolly Medley (Lolly's Harness Shop).
Dave and Donna Olson
Forest Dow (Dow's Welding, Wasilla)
Joe Smith (Arctic Cat, Wasilla)
Major Peter Blake
Dan Kish and the staff of Don Young's office, Washington DC

Jack Reiter of Tigers International
Cathy Thomsen
Dot Frandsen
Don and Jean Montgomery
The Sluice Box (Wasilla)
Jones Leather (Wasilla);
Bill Devine
Montgomery County, Maryland, Sheriff's Department



At the Inaugural Ball are (from left to right): Dick Mackey, Joe Redington, Sr., Vi Redington, Norman Vaughan, Evelyn Litvak, Congressman Don Young,

Elizabeth Nayokpuk, Herbie Nayokpuk, Al Crane, Jean Montgomery, Mrs. Brinker, Don Montgomery, Ron Brinker. (photo by Bill Devine).



HONORARY IDITAROD MUSHER
presented in appreciation
1980 IDITAROD RACE WINNER
JOE MAY TRAPPER CREEK ALASKA
LEAD DOGS: WILBUR & CORA GRAY Time: 14 days 7hrs 11min 51sec •

IDITAROD 1981

The Iditarod Trail Committee is excited to announce the HONORARY IDITAROD MUSHER PLAQUE for 1981. Etched in marble, this limited edition of 500 by Alaskan artist Bill Devine, features 1980 champion Joe May with his two lead dogs Wilbur and Cora Grey.

Individuals and firms wishing to make a tax deductible donation of \$200 or more to the Iditarod Trail Committee will receive one of these beautiful plaques in appreciation.

Each plaque is numbered. You may reserve the same number each year. Matching numbers for the first and second in the series are still available.

If you wish to take part in this great Alaskan event, please fill out the form below, or stop by Iditarod Headquarters above Teeland's Country Store or in the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

____ YES! I want to support Iditarod 1981. My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed. (Plaques are reserved for those contributing \$200 or more.)

My past number(s) is _____.

____ Please have a representative call on me at this address.



IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC

Pouch X
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Name

Address

City

Zip

Telephone

Million dollar business goes to the dogs

Reprinted from
THE VALLEY SUN
By Glen Marden

The next time someone says the Valley is going to the dogs, remind them thousands of these fantastic servants and companions of man have earned their place in Alaska's colorful history as no other could. But today they are earning money and contributing to Alaska's economy.

A little background

The sled dogs of yesteryear bear little resemblance to today's breed of racing dog. His ancestors were generally big, tough, hardworking dogs who transported the people and goods of the time.

Compared to today's racing dog they were ill cared for, overworked and often greatly abused.

The historic trails of early Alaska will forever be the silent witness to the labor and suffering those sled dogs endured.

Respected athlete

These days racing dogs live in most cases as a highly trained athlete. His diet is better than that of a large segment of the world's human population. He is smaller, faster and just as tough as his ancestors.

Not all that long ago, with the widespread use of the snow-machine, the villages of Alaska were almost devoid of dog teams. During this period, sled dog racing provided the main use for the Alaska Husky and the breed was much improved because of it.

Since the Iditarod Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome became an annual event, the village teams have become more numerous every year and are now firmly established.

Tons of food are purchased by mushers and it's not all the stuff that pets are made of. When was the last time your pet dined on

lean ground beef, lamb, seal meat and oil, beaver or chicken, liver, salmon or rice a la halibut meal?

You must remember these dogs are athletes, not house pets and require a totally different diet than Poopse who may be overweight and inactive.

More than \$1 million a year is spent in our area for sled dog food alone!

Add to this the money that goes into veterinarian bills, vitamins, shots, lumber, various hardware, tires, trucks and parts, sleds and harnesses. The economic activity generated by this four-legged beast expands beyond the imagination.

Yes, all this is necessary to keep a good sled dog going.

Veterinarian costs alone for a large racing team can send you home talking to yourself.

Sled dog dollars

Anyone who works for or owns a business in this valley is the recipient of more than a few sled dog dollars. A good part of them are not aware of this.

The sled dog has become to this valley what the automobile has become to Detroit.

The Iditarod Trail Committee's budget for the 1981 race is \$370,000. That's a far cry from the beginnings of that race when Joe Redington Sr. mortgaged his homestead to promote the race.

Senator Jay Kerttula believed it was a sound investment when he introduced a bill to assist Joe with the early financial problems. That gamble has paid off handsomely as the Iditarod has generated millions of dollars in recent years for our economy and drawn worldwide attention to this last great adventure of the far north.

Ambassador dog

Lt. Governor Terry Miller enlisted the services of a small dog team and musher to promote winter tourism for Alaska in New York City. The dog team drew the news media as no other attraction could and the coverage derived was far in excess of expenses.

Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Ron Larson, expressed the view that, "the borough may have been missing the boat by not actively promoting sled dog racing as a means of attracting winter tourism."

Larson also believes in the perpetuation of the Iditarod Trail as a vital interest to the borough and the state.

We have in this valley the largest collection of sled dogs in the world. Of the approximate 3,500 sled dogs kept here, Joe Redington owns about 150. He spends \$15,000 plus a year just operating his dog lot. Add to this another \$8,000 he spends on training for and running in the Iditarod Race.

Those who participate in the many organized sprint racing activities throughout the Valley contribute greatly to this "dog economy." A typical sprint team may run 1,000 miles in harness but will travel up to 20,000 miles in their boxes mounted on pickups or trailered behind. This means money spent from Anchorage, Chugiak, Soldotna, Tok, Valdez, Palmer, Fairbanks and other towns circulates through and between these local economies.

The sport draws an increasing number of spectators who will travel far to witness the World Champion Sled Dog Race of the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous or

(cont'd on page 11)

TRAIL TALK

Well folks, not much talking goes on this time of the year. . . everyone is scrambling to get that last minute detail worked out, get the dog food ready to ship out, sew some extra booties and get some more miles on those dogs!

People ARE talking about Jerry Austin though . . . George Attla reportedly told him in Bethel that Austin was driving the team that could beat him. . . and he did just that.

Things are quiet out Takotna way—could it be that the Flying Andersons (being represented by Eep this year) have been taking advantage of good snow conditions and will be entering a team to reckon with?

Rick Swenson & Sonny Lindner are out at what has been known as the Lettuce Crate cabin and later the Lettuce Creek cabin near Ophir. They are transforming this old fallen down structure into Don's Cabin, courtesy of Don Montgomery, and it will be a checkpoint on that lonely stretch between Ophir and Iditarod. Word is they've both got dog teams out there, too!

Cowboy Smith is due in from the Yukon Territory any minute now—watch for that big black hat—and

smaller dogs this year so we hear.

The weather in the Anchorage-Wasilla area has been warm and raining since New Year's Eve. Trapper Creek, home of '81 champ Joe May has been pretty good though. Iditarod veteran Harry Sutherland resides there and has been training hard. Harry finished third in '76, his first year!

From the Yukon Emmitt Peters says that training is good and he's got a strong team—some younger dogs in with the old pros.

Watch for stories on the Iditarod in March issues of *Sunset*, *Outside*, *Alaska Airlines In-Flight Magazine*, *Wien's In-Flight Magazine*, *Alaska Magazine* . . . and a great spread in the January issue of *National Geographic World*. *Fortune Magazine* may do a story on the '81 race, featuring rookie musher Burt Bomhoff and Iditarod musher Don Montgomery.

Japanese Television NTV will not be covering the '81 race. They plan to enter a Japanese driver in '82 and document that race!

and the race is on . . . **Trail Talk, Pouch X, Wasilla, Alaska, 99687.**

KUSKO 300 RESULTS

SECOND ANNUAL
Kuskokwim 300 Sled Dog Race
Bethel to Aniak and Back

SATURDAY's FINISHERS

- 1) Jerry Austin, St. Michael — 8:35 p.m.; 3 days, 8 hours, 35 minutes; \$4,000.
- 2) George Attla, Fairbanks — 9:06 p.m.; 3 days, 9 hours, 6 minutes; \$3,000.
- 3) Rick Swenson, Eureka — 9:13 p.m.; 3 days, 9 hours, 13 minutes; \$2,500.
- 4) Walter Williams, Akiak — 9:24 p.m.; 3 days, 9 hours, 24 minutes; \$2,000.
- 5) Charlie Fitka, Marshall — 9:27 p.m.; 3 days, 9 hours, 27 minutes; \$1,500.
- 6) Susan Butcher, Eureka — 10:07 p.m.; 3 days, 10 hours, 7 minutes; \$1,000.
- 7) Joe May, Trapper Creek — 10:20 p.m.; 3 days, 10 hours, 20 minutes; \$900.
- 8) Myron Angstman, Bethel — 10:22 p.m.; 3 days, 10 hours, 22 minutes; \$800.
- 9) Morris Tee, Marshall — 10:28 p.m.; 3 days, 10 hours, 28 minutes; \$700.
- 10) Dean Painter, Grayling — 11:05 p.m.; 3 days, 11 hours, 5 minutes; \$600.
- 11) Ken Chase, Anvik — 11:48 p.m.; 3 days, 11 hours, 48 minutes; \$500.

FINISHING SUNDAY

- 12) Ron Kaiser, Bethel — 12:32 a.m.; 3 days, 12 hours, 32 minutes; \$500.
- 13) Moses Owen, Akiak — 12:33 a.m.; 3 days, 12 hours, 33 minutes; \$500.
- 14) Noah Okoviak, Bethel — 12:59 a.m.; 3 days, 12 hours, 59 minutes; \$400.
- 15) Anthony Nick, Pilot Station — 2:40 a.m.; 3 days, 14 hours, 40 minutes; \$500.
- 16) Robert Ivan, Akiak — 3:08 a.m.; 3 days, 15 hours, 8 minutes; \$250.
- 17) Tim Hassinger, Aniak — 5:17 a.m.; 3 days, 17 hours, 17 minutes; \$250.
- 18) Steve Bush, Aniak — 5:22 a.m.; 3 days, 17 hours, 22 minutes; \$250.
- 19) Dee Dee Jonrowe, Bethel — 8:03 a.m.; 3 days, 20 hours, 35 minutes; \$100.
- 20) John Oklasik, Teller — 2:35 p.m.; 4 days, 2 hours, 35 minutes; \$100.
- 21) Paul Alexie, Mountain Village — 6:36 p.m.; 4 days, 6 hours, 36 minutes; \$100 return of entry fee and the Red Lantern.

SCRATCHED — Richard Korb, Lower Kalskag; Ken Hamm, Bethel; Joe Gregory, Upper Kalskag; John MacDonald, Bethel; Gary Guy, Crooked Creek; Bob Swope, Bethel; Buck Bukowski, Chevak; Kriska Evans, Bethel; Jerry Lelila, Aniak; Howard Neimi, Bethel.

AUSTIN — from pg. 5

to 9th. Jerry again sat out a race in 1979 and came back to place 7th in the 1980 race. '81 will be his first trip to Nome on the southern route—a route which actually goes through the village of Iditarod and is used on alternate race years.

Can he improve his 7th place position? He's proven his championship abilities. He came away from the Kusko 300 with the first place trophy. He will draw in the first half of the 58-team field that will leave Anchorage. He was the third musher to enter the 1981 race to Nome.

A lot of big-name dog mushers will be keeping their eyes on Jerry Austin and the colorful Chevron U.S.A. sled banners as they work their way from Anchorage to Nome. He's proven he has the ability to win under adverse weather conditions and among a field of hard-driving mushers.

Chevron will again be pulling for Jerry in the 1981 Iditarod.

TO THE DOGS — from pg. 9

the Iditarod itself. Smaller race circuits are building followings themselves. The result is an ever-expanding circle of economic stimulation.

With the state's growing promotions of winter tourism this area cannot help but benefit even more from our canine friends.

The Valley is going to the dogs you say? You bet it is!



9th Annual Running
of the
LAST GREAT RACE
ON EARTH

\$25.00 each

Mushers' Banquet

Tickets available at the Iditarod office in Wasilla and at Iditarod Headquarters at the Sheraton Anchorage.

Come and get in the Spirit!

1981 Mushers Banquet and Drawing

HOWARD ROCK BALLROOM
SHERATON ANCHORAGE

March 5, 1981

NO HOST COCKTAILS	6:00 PM
DINNER	7:00 PM
DRAWING	8:30 PM

Music for dancing following program



Looking for some "doggy" people to do business with? 16 cents a word puts you in touch with over 1,200 interested consumers. Do it now . . . Iditarod Runner Classified, Pouch X, Wasilla, Alaska 99687, or 907-376-5155.

Free vegetable oil used in chicken broaster. Strained nightly except when changed once a week. Call Wasilla Bar 376-5781 and ask for Jack or Don, or talk to Marge at Teelands. Approx. 5 gallons per week.

Seal Meat Dog Food. Available now at Martin Seafoods' Meat chunks in 25 pound boxes. Some liver, heart and kidneys. Also available 50 lb. boxes. 40 cents per pound. Contact David Monson, 1550 H Street, Anchorage, AK 99501. 276-5837 or Martin Seafoods, 800 Ocean Dock Road, Anchorage. 277-2628.

LOLLY's IDITAROD Harness Shop: Proven by winning teams time and time again. 10 percent off all equipment purchased by official Iditarod '81 entrants. Box 1430, Wasilla, AK 99687. 907-495-6483 or 376-2892.

Sledding Books. How to train your dogs. How to make your equipment. Pricelist 25 cents. Raymond Thompson Company, 15815 2nd Place West, Lynnwood, Washington 98036.

The Key to the Heart of the Race — Iditarod Trail Annuals. Write to Editor, Mrs. Dorothy G. Page, PO Box 202, Wasilla, Alaska 99687. \$5.00 plus \$1.25 postage.

Iditarod sled dogs for sale. Can be seen and tried at Knik. Also puppies from proven Iditarod stock. Write Joe Redington, Sr., SR BOX 5460, Knik Road, Wasilla, AK 99687.

Better booties by Barb in Bethel. Custom made booties with or without Velcro. Write for estimate and samples. Barb Knapp, Box 1027, Bethel, AK 99559.

You shouldn't be without the TUN-DRA catalog! The most complete catalog serving northern dog people. Supporting the "Iditarod" since 1967. TUN-DRA, 16438-96th Ave. Nunica, Michigan 49448.

Seward Fisheries meal and oil is available at Rae's Harness Shop, Alaska Farmers Co-Op Eagle River Feed Store, Alaska Mill & Feed, Alaska Feed Co. Fairbanks, Burnt Paw, Tok, and the Meal Plant in Seward.

Trail Food. Herring 25 cents-pound. Seal 50 cents-pound. Call Ron Brinker 349-7796.

Barve's top Pro-Forming dog Sleds — toboggan sleds, proven on the Iditarod. Call 376-2081, 376-5084 or write Lavon Barve, P.O. Box 656, Wasilla, AK 99687.

Arrive at Nome in Style! Is flying to Nome for the Iditarod becoming too tame? You can mush to Nome with Denali Dog Tours and Wilderness Freighters, arriving from Kotzebue in time for the race finish. Write: Dennis Kogli, Box 1, McKinley Park AK 99755. 683-2314.

Have you renewed your subscription to Team and Trail? If you would like to stay informed year 'round about dog racing all over the world, a subscription to **Team and Trail** is a must! Published and edited by Cynthia Molburg in Center Harbor, New Hampshire, **Team and Trail** is the most comprehensive and informative publication of its kind. **Team and Trail** Center Harbor, NH 03226. 2nd class mailings \$12.50, 1st class mailings \$17.00



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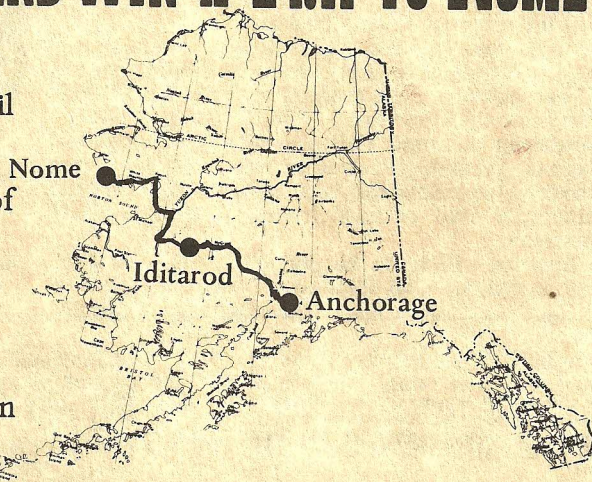
BLAZE THE IDITAROD TRAIL

AND WIN A TRIP TO NOME

If you join the Iditarod Trail Committee before the first musher arrives at the Iditarod checkpoint, you may win a free ticket to Nome for the finish of the 1981 Iditarod Trail Race.

Your name will be tossed into the hat of the first musher into Iditarod and he will draw. If your number comes up, we'll see you in Nome!

(Airfare to Nome from any place in Alaska, not to exceed \$500)



Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race

1,049 Miles from Anchorage to Nome
March 7, 1981

- ☐ I'd like to join the Iditarod Trail Committee. My \$25 donation is enclosed, which entitles me to the award winning newsletter "IDITAROD RUNNER," a patch, membership card and the privilege of voting for the board of directors.
- ☐ I'd like to subscribe to the "IDITAROD RUNNER" only. My \$15 donation is enclosed. Subscribing to the "Runner" does not entitle me to vote. It also does not make me eligible to participate in the drawing for a trip to Nome.



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Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. is located above Teeland's in Wasilla Phone: 376-5155