

HJR

56

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATION CHECKLIST

IDENTIFICATION:

BILL NUMBER: *HSR 54*

BILL NAME: *Relating to the 1984 Yukon Quest Sled Race*

SPONSOR(S): *Davis, Bettinorck*

RELATED BILLS PENDING:

DATE INTRODUCED: *Senate 1-19-84*

REFERRALS: *State affairs - univ. Resources*

INITIAL RESEARCH:

BILL SUMMARY COMPLETED:

SUMMARY BY LEGAL DIVISION:

SPONSOR CONTACTED FOR
BACKUP MATERIALS:

DEPT. OF LAW SUMMARY:

FISCAL NOTE:

AGENCY RESPONSE:

OTHER INTERESTED SENATORS OR
REPS. NOTIFIED:

BACKGROUND RESEARCH:

SIMILAR BILLS INTRODUCED IN PREVIOUS LEGISLATURES:

RESPONSES FROM INTERESTED PERSONS/GROUPS:

OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL PRECEDENTS, REGULATIONS, LAWS:

HEARING PREPARATION:

CHAIRMAN BRIEFED:

DATE AND PLACE SET:

STAFF MEMO TO COMMITTEE:

TELECONFERENCE:

BACKGROUND MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED:

PSA/PRESS RELEASE:

LIST OF WITNESSES:

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTES DRAFTED:

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



POUCH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

Senate

Committee on Resources

MINUTES

February 8, 1984
3:05 pm

Beltz Room
Room 211, Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Ziegler, Vice Chair
Senator Eliason
Senator P. Fischer
Senator V. Fischer
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski

CALENDAR

HJR 55, Relating to the 1984 Yukon Quest sled dog race.
Briefing by Kelly Ross on land management and planning.

HJR 56

Representative Mike Davis, sponsor of the resolution, spoke in support, explaining that it commends and encourages this 1000 mile sled dog race from Fairbanks to Whitehorse that begins February 24, 1984.

Senator Sturgulewski moved that the resolution be passed out with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

James Jenks, Deputy Director, Resource Development Council, introduced Kelly Ross.

Kelly Ross, County Commissioner, Curry County, Oregon, compared Oregon's comprehensive land use plan to the proposed Bristol Bay Cooperative Management Plan. He cautioned that the Bristol Bay plan be made flexible enough to allow development of other resources in the event that the fish and wildlife resources are naturally depleted.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

BILL SUMMARY

HJR 56 - Relating to the 1984 Yukon Quest sled dog race.
SPONSORS: Davis, Bettisworth, Shultz, Ringstad,
Koponen and M.W. Miller

Resolves that the Legislature recognize, commend, and encourage the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association as it stages the Yukon Quest, an epic 1,000 mile sled dog race between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, beginning February 25, 1984. The dog race takes place in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Alaska Statehood.

B.F. - 4:50 pm - Beths Norton -
Alaska State Legislature w/ Oue Harbour

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



POUGH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

Senate

Committee on Resources

14-0
y
MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Resources Committee Members

FROM: Senate Resources Committee Staff

RE: Committee Meeting, February 8, 1984

DATE: February 7, 1984

At the request of the Resources Development Council, the Senate Resources Committee has invited Kelly Ross, a former aide to Mark Hatfield and now a county commissioner in Curry County, Oregon, to share his views on land management with committee members. Mr. Ross has had extensive experience with the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission, an entity charged with developing statewide goals and guidelines for land use planning. Based on this experience, he will brief the Senate Resources Committee and the Senate Special Agriculture Committee on agriculture and land planning issues. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, at 3:00 pm in the Beltz Room. Attached are two articles written by Mr. Ross.

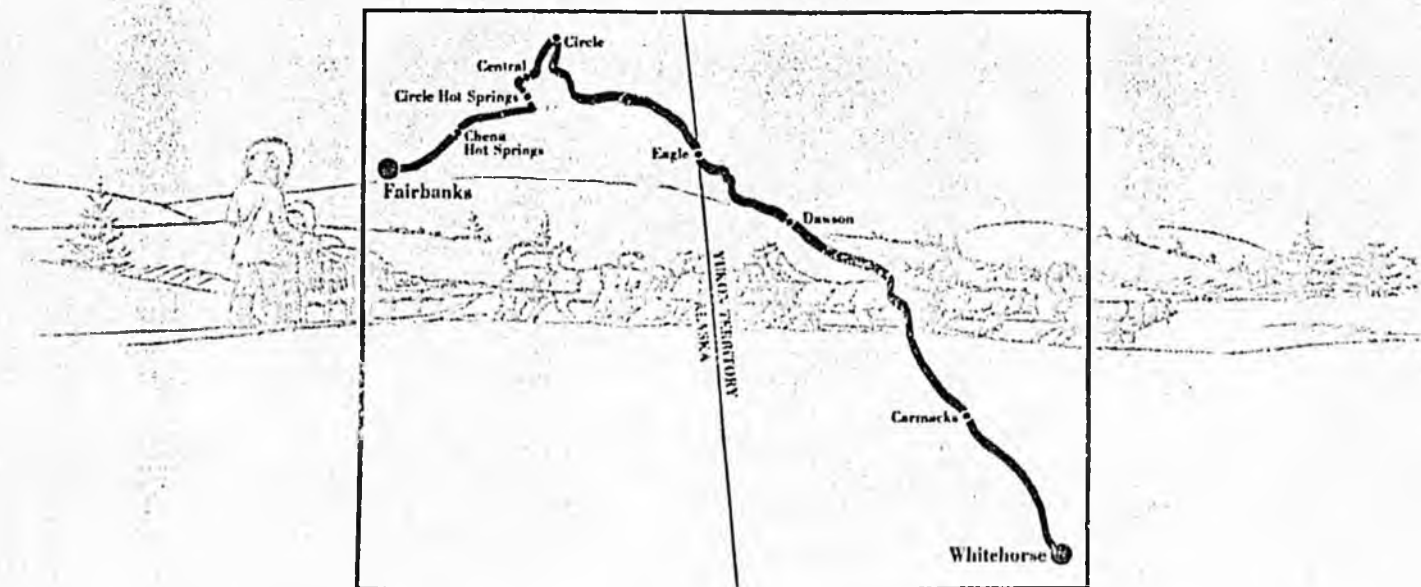
Prior to the briefing by Kelly Ross, the Committee will consider HJR 56, which commends and encourages the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association as it stages the Yukon Quest. The first annual Yukon Quest, a 1000 mile sled dog race over the Gold Rush Era route from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, will begin February 25, 1984.

SLED DOG RACE

1,000 MILES over the GOLD RUSH TRAIL

FAIRBANKS to WHITEHORSE

FEBRUARY 25, 1984



\$50,000 Projected Prize Money

Inexpensive to run — Easy logistics

Road Access to most checkpoints — 600 miles of pavement, Fairbanks to Whitehorse

Standard long distance rules with a few notable exceptions as follows:

- 1) Twelve dogs starting maximum, eight dogs starting minimum.**
- 2) Three dogs drop limit.**
- 3) Same sled or toboggan, start to finish.**
- 4) Food pickup and dog drops at only six points.**
- 5) Mandatory 36-hour layover at Dawson.**
- 6) Small parcel of promotional freight mandatory load.**

Be a part of History! Sign up now to enter this 1st Annual Race!

For information write:

ALASKA-YUKON TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

**P.O. Box 10315
Fairbanks, Alaska 99710
(907) 452-7954**

Inc.

1000 MILES over the GOLD RUSH TRAIL

1st Annual FAIRBANKS—WHITEHORSE SLED DOG RACE February 25th, 1984



On February 25th, 1984 the Gold Rush Era route from Fairbanks to Whitehorse will once again know the footfall of sled dogs and the near silent hiss of runners over snow. Reliving history, intrepid drivers will hit the trail in quest of adventure and wealth much the same as did turn-of-the-century gold seekers.

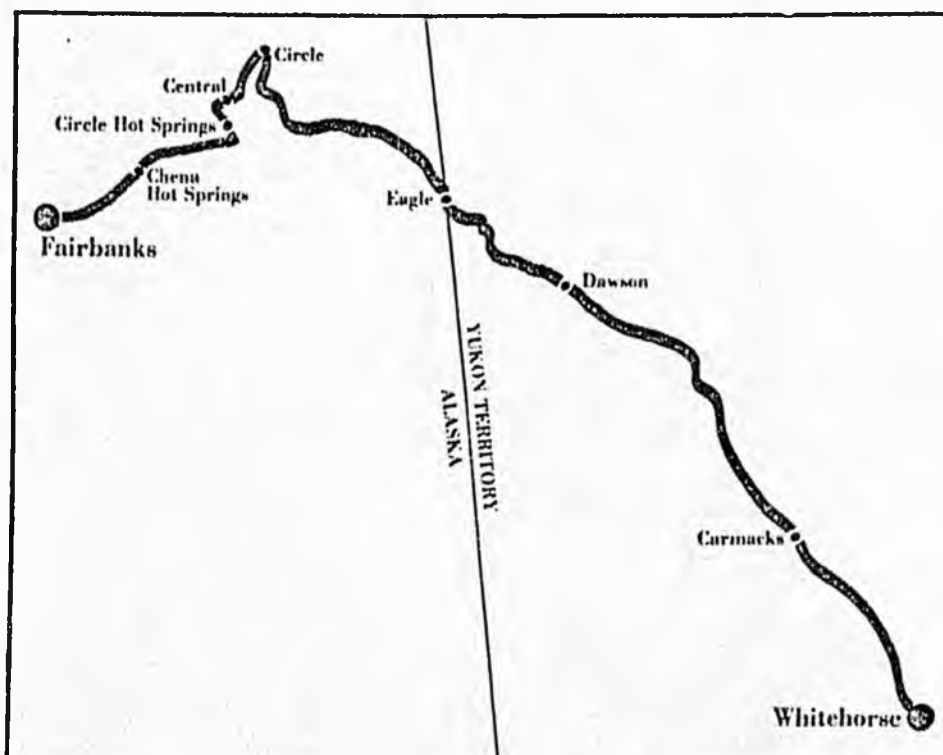
POTENTIAL

This event can become the richest, most internationally famous yearly spectacle for Fairbanks, Dawson, Whitehorse and other towns between. A decade of long distance sled dog racing has dramatically demonstrated the wealth of dollars and attention that such a happening can bring to involved communities. It has become a multi-million dollar industry upon which the eyes of the world focus each winter. Newspapers, magazines, radio and television networks from around the globe vie to cover the one existing race. This feeds community pride. It also provides what amounts to fabulous, free advertising for the community and event the like of which no money could buy.

The value of tourism to Interior Alaska and the Yukon hardly needs comment. The Fairbanks to Whitehorse Race could give the towns a vital economic boost during normally slow winter months. But to realize this economic potential a turn-about from the normal limits of thinking and involvement concerning sled dog races is required. Thought and action must now take on a grand dimension to fit the event and its unquestioned possibilities.

The Iditarod became a success in spite of Anchorage apathy and skepticism, not because of its support. It took ten years to really come of age. However, this Fairbanks to Whitehorse Race can enjoy success immediately if the towns will push it from the outset. There must be investment to gain return. The pump must be primed.

No less valuable than economic gain are the following: 1) enhancement of community pride, spirit and energy; 2) rejuvenation of winter moral during race festivities and competition; 3) creation of local folk heroes with whom one may identify and follow during the contest; 4) strengthening of the fraternal spirit that has always bound the people of Interior Alaska and those of the Yukon Territory.



THE RACE

The route shown on the map on the previous page will start in Fairbanks and Whitehorse on alternate years. Established long distance rules will be followed in general. However, a few important differences do exist both within the rules and with the course which makes this race interesting and unique.

- ★ Teams are limited to twelve dogs starting maximum.
- ★ No more than three dogs may be dropped per team.
- ★ A mandatory 36 hour layover will be taken by all teams at Dawson.
- ★ The same sled must be driven from start to finish.
- ★ Food pickups and dog drops at only six points along the route, four of which are well over 100 miles apart, one being over 200. (This could enhance the chances of a driver long on bush skills but short on space age equipment and technology.)
- ★ A small load of promotional freight will be mandatory.

WHAT IS NEEDED

Mushers and teams are poised and ready. What is needed in addition for the Fairbanks to Whitehorse Race to become a recognized major sporting spectacle and a revenue producer is the following:

- 1) Fairbanks and Whitehorse government officials and businesses must make the start and finish of the race not only well run but as colorful and big time as possible. Show the towns off to best advantage for visitors and media.
- 2) A budget must be acquired sufficient to fund the organizing, officiating, trail work, checkpoints, logistics, transportation, communications, promotion and advertising, fuel, supplies and equipment, veterinarians, drawing and awards banquets, start and finish lines organizations, wages and fees, etc.
- 3) Prize money equal to the magnitude of the race must be available in order to give the contest prestige necessary to attract top name teams.
- 4) Talent from the communities must step forward to give of their time and energy to serve in various positions and committees below.

Executive Director

Race Manager

Race Marshall

Trail Managers, trail workers, checkers for Alaska and Yukon

Food Drops Managers for Alaska and Yukon

Dog Drops Managers for Alaska and Yukon

Fairbanks Banquet and Drawing Chairman/Whitehorse Banquet and Awards Chairman

Fairbanks Race Start Manager/Whitehorse Race Finish Manager

Race Communications Headquarters Managers for Alaska and Yukon

Race Central Office Managers for Alaska and Yukon year round offices

Hams for Alaska and Yukon

Publicity and Promotions Managers for Alaska and Yukon

Finance Managers for Alaska and Yukon

Veterinarians for Alaska and Yukon

Musher housing pre and post race for Alaska and Yukon

Typing and Printing for Alaska and Yukon

THE MECHANISM

Limited stock is being sold which entitles the stockholder to vote for the board of directors. Inquiries are welcomed. General corporation meetings and board meetings are held as needed (which is often nowadays).

For more information call LeRoy Shank at 488-9763.

FAIRBANKS-WHITEHORSE SLED DOG RACE

SOME THOUGHTS ON DOING YOUR SHARE

There's no reason our race can't be as successful as the Iditarod. If so, checkpoint villages and businesses along the way will benefit in many ways. Two ways are: 1) an influx of people - hoardes in the more accessible places - that can make slow winter business erupt into a beehive of activity. 2) advertising you could never buy with any amount of money as media from around the globe zeroes in.

Bringing off the first race will be the hardest. Along the Iditarod Trail before the first race, a few had vision and faith in the new idea and threw their weight behind the effort. Some entered eagerly and generously into preparations and staging of the event.

On the other hand, skeptics and the apathetic stood back and took a "show me" attitude. Others lay back and watched workers give of themselves to put the race on then reaped the fruits of the workers' labors after the race became successful.

Bringing off the Iditarod was and still is a gigantic undertaking. Over 800 volunteers in "the Iditarod family" annually make it possible. Our new race too will require a banding together of all of us to make it successful.

When organizers, workers, and officials come to your area on race missions, please support and encourage them in any way you can. Remember, they are volunteers. They're giving unselfishly of their personal resources to make it all work. What they're doing will probably never do anything for them monetarily. But if you have a business, what these people are doing will make you money down the road. Please go out of your way to give to them, not just profit from their need for transportation, lodging and food. Make your money later from race followers, media and from the increase of awareness race media coverage will generate.

Like any good team, we must all pull together.

Three more mushers sign on

Purse for Yukon Quest grows

Organizers of the Yukon Quest sled dog race say they have reached the halfway point in raising the \$50,000 purse for the Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse race.

Jim Bennett, chairman of the board of the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association, said Tuesday that the association has raised nearly half of the purse through sponsor donations, musher fees, association membership fees and the sale of race memorabilia.

Bennett said that by the end of the week he hopes to be able to guarantee the entire purse.

The association picked up its second major sponsor on Friday when Leo Schlotfeldt of Sourdough Fuel Inc. donated \$5,000. A week earlier Samson Hardware donated \$10,000. Bennett said that the Alaska Feed Company has donated \$1,000 toward the purse.

Bennett also announced Tuesday that the starting field for the Feb. 25 race has increased to eight.

Sonny Lindner of Johnson River, a veteran of four Iditarod races, officially registered for the event Friday, and Chris Whaley of College paid his \$500 entry fee Tuesday.

Tuesday night the association re-

ceived word from Whitehorse that musher Senley Yuill of Whitehorse had registered.

Jan. 31 is the entry deadline for the race.

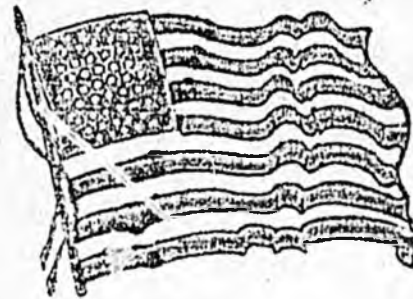
Murray Clayton of Haines was the first musher to sign up for the 1,000-mile race. Other registered mushers are David Klumb of Fairbanks. Bruce

Johnson of British Columbia, Joe Rynan of Tanana and Steve Haver of Nenana.

Bennett said that he expected several more mushers to register this week and more Canadian mushers also are expected to sign up with the Yukon-Alaska Trail Association before the end of the year.

Alaska-Yukon Trail Association will hold an open house reception starting at noon Friday at its headquarters at 552½ Second Ave.

Bennett encouraged anyone interested in finding out about the race and the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association to attend.



Vol. LXXXI, No. 303

Inside

Fairbanks

Yukon Quest promoters report purse nearly half full, several more racers signed. Page 3

Rev. Jesse Jackson slated to visit Fairbanks on presidential campaign swing late next month. Page 3

Alaska

Northwest company gets permit to continue importing Canadian natural gas through already-constructed portions of gas line. Page 2

Dog race to Whitehorse

By BOB ELEY
Sports Editor

The 1,000-mile Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race was officially named the "Yukon Quest" today at an Alaska-Yukon Trail Association press conference here.

A contest involving elementary school children in Alaska and the Yukon Territory was held to determine the name with association board member LeRoy Shank given the choice of making the final decision.

In explaining the name Shank said, "Quest—to seek or search for. This

fits right in with the gold rush era."

The theme of the Yukon Quest is to commemorate the turn-of-the-century gold rush days.

"The pioneers came to this great Northland seeking and searching and just look at what they found," Shank said. "And the Yukon River ties us all together."

In addition to announcing the name of the race, Alaska-Yukon Trail Association Board Chairman Jim Bennett announced the logo and slogan for the initial race, which will start on Feb. 25.

"The logo combines the Alaska and Yukon flags with a dog team pulling its sled from one flag to the other," said Bennett.

The logo idea came from an entry submitted by Sirion Mohamed, a sixth grader in Haines Junction, Yukon Territory, and has been submitted to a professional artist for final draft. Mohamed will receive a parka donated by Big Ray's of Fairbanks for his winning entry.

"I put the Alaskan and Yukon flags together, it is a race between them," Mohamed wrote on his entry form.

Daily News-Miner, Fairbanks, Alaska, Thursday, December 22, 1983—3

christened 'Yukon Quest'

Bennett said that the official race slogan is "Challenge of the North."

"I think that slogan not only applies to the mushers, but also to the many volunteers that have taken on this large project," Bennett said.

Race organizers are preparing race headquarters at 552½ Second Ave. for an open house slated for Dec. 30. The open house will start at noon.

"We get a lot of traffic through here every day—mushers, sponsors, volunteers," said Bennett. "We'd like to open up the office and have everyone in town come down and see what's

going on."

Last week the association announced its first major race sponsor when Samson's hardware donated \$10,000 to the association, half of which will go toward the projected \$50,000 purse and half of which will go toward trail preparation.

Since then several other businesses have stepped forward to donate time and money to make the race a success.

They include: Air North, Alaska Feed and Fams Co., 1019 Enterprises,

Yukon Office Supply, Chena Hot Springs, Arctic Circle Hot Springs, Eagle Commercial Co., Arctic Circle General Store, Yukon Trading Post, Sunshine Copters, Donnybrook Lumber, Eagle Store, Fairbanks Kiwanis, Pastime Cafe, Travelers Inn, Coop Drug Store, Big Ray's, Superior Coffee, Star of the North Bakery, Arctic Travelers, and Circle Utility.

Alaska-Yukon Trail Association memberships, race T-shirts and information regarding the race is available at the Second Avenue office or by calling 452-7954.

Samson's donates \$10,000 to big race

By BOB ELEY
Sports Editor

Samson Hardware became the first major sponsor of the 1,000-mile Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race today when the store's general manager, Mark Weber, presented Alaska-Yukon Trail Committee representative LeRoy Shank with \$10,000.

The sponsorship includes \$5,000 in cash which will go toward what race organizers say will be a purse of at least \$50,000. The other \$5,000 was a gift certificate for supplies to insure that the trail is in proper condition.

The race will start Feb. 25 in Fairbanks.

In addition to the donation, Weber said that all mushers in the race will get a 25 percent discount on all musher-related supplies purchased at the store.

"We became interested in the race because we're one of the oldest stores in the Interior and we used to sell a lot of equipment to miners who traveled between Fairbanks and Whitehorse," Weber said.

The trail for the race will approximate the route miners used to travel between the two cities during the gold rush at the turn of the century.

Samson's is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year and the Alaska-Yukon Trail Committee will present Weber with the No. 80 membership card in honor of the occasion.

"We're one of the few businesses that have been around since the early days of Fairbanks," Weber said. "Considering the history of the store and the history of the gold rush, we want to do our part in promoting the race and helping make sure that it is a success.

"This is going to be a great event for

Fairbanks and if everyone in the community gets behind it like I know they can, it can become as big as the Iditarod someday," Weber said. "The way things are going right now, I'm sure it will be a big success from day one.

"I'm impressed with the dedication people in race organization have shown," he added.

The race is also beginning to pick up support from mushers throughout Canada and Alaska.

The Whitehorse Star in Wednesday's edition that Iditarod veterans Larry "Cowboy" Smith and Susan Butcher have given support to the race, although they both still plan to run the Iditarod this year.

Smith said that that the Iditarod will always be the king of the long distance races, but he added that many mushers would compete in the Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race every couple of years "if for no other reason than to get a change of scenery."

The newspaper article also said that Butcher, who finished second in the 1982 Iditarod, may enter the 1985 Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse race.

The Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse race received its fourth official entry Wednesday night when Nenana's Steve Haver paid his \$500 entry fee. Murray Clayton of Haines was the first musher to register for the inaugural running of the race.

David Klumb of Fairbanks was the second musher to sign up, and Bruce Johnson of British Columbia was the first Canadian entrant.

Delta Junction's Sonny Lindner, who finished second in the 1981 Iditarod, said this week that he plans to enter the race.

Iditarod veteran to enter Fairbanks-Whitehorse race

The 1,000-mile Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race will pick up its first "Name" musher when Delta Junction's Sonny Lindner signs up for the first race later this week.

Lindner, who has run the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome four times, said Monday he intends to run the Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse race and that he will take care of his entry fee and other race registration details while in town this week.

Lindner finished second in the 1981 Iditarod and had a third-place finish in 1979. He finished 11th in his first Iditarod in 1978.

Lindner lives north of Delta Junction on the Johnson River.

Last year Lindner was among the top 10 finishers in the Iditarod.

"I want to support a race that starts in Fairbanks and this is the first opportunity I've had to do it," Lindner said in a telephone interview.

Lindner said that the new race, slated to start Feb. 24, will be a lot different than the Iditarod.

There are now only seven checkpoints along the trail, which will approximate the historic trail that miners used to get from Whitehorse to Fairbanks during the gold rush days at the turn of the century.



SONNY LINDNER

To support Fairbanks race

Lindner said that despite the lack of snow, he's been able to train his dogs. He said he would probably start the event with 10 dogs.

Three mushers have officially signed up for the race. Murray Clayton of Haines was the first musher to pay the \$500 entry fee. David Klumb of Fairbanks has also signed up, and, last week, Bruce Johnson of British Columbia became the first Canadian musher to enter.

Fairbanks-Whitehorse sled dog race sets Feb. 25, 1984 for inaugural

By BOB ELEY
Sports Editor

With each day, the proposed Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race is looking more like a sure thing.

Last weekend several members of the newly created Sourdough Trail International, Inc., the corporation responsible for administering the race, travelled to Whitehorse to discuss race guidelines. The two groups agreed upon several key items at a meeting last Saturday.

Most important is the setting of Feb. 25, 1984, as the starting date for the approximately 1,000-mile race that should last from two to three weeks.

The 1985 race will start in Whitehorse and finish in Fairbanks.

"We're all very pleased with how enthusiastic everyone in Whitehorse was during the meeting," said Jim Bennett, chairman of the board of Sourdough Trail International Inc., after being filled in on the Whitehorse meeting at a board of directors meeting Tuesday night.

Other points agreed on are:

- Putting a 12-dog limit on all entries.
- If a musher has to drop more than three dogs from his team, he'll be out of the race.
- Musher's will only be allowed to use one sled.
- There will be a 30-plus-hour layover in Dawson City.

"We feel we need to have these

rules in order to give everyone a better chance to compete," said LeRoy Shank, one of the board members who went to Whitehorse.

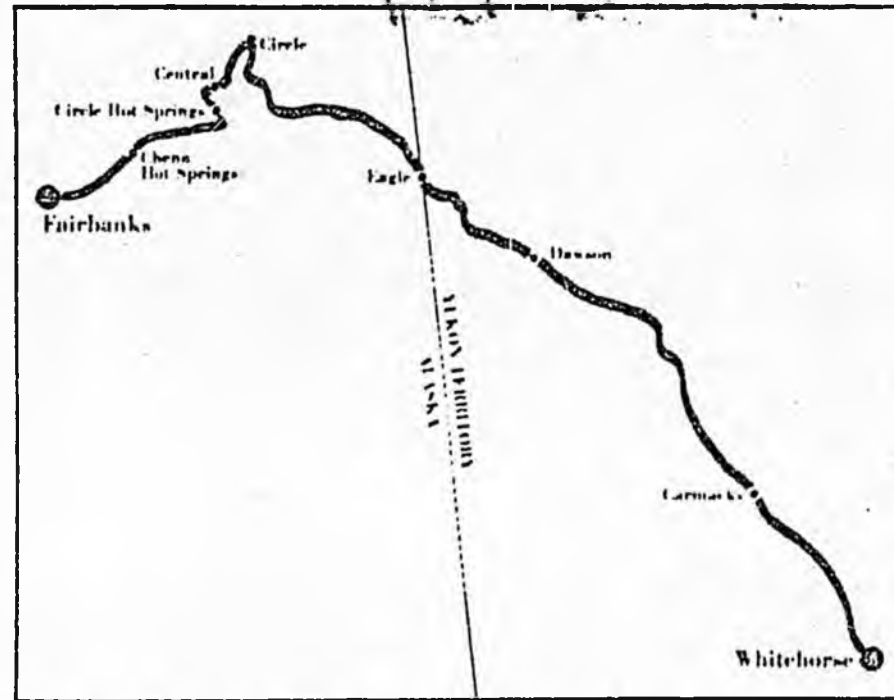
The race will start in Fairbanks, go up the Chena River along the historic Chena Hot Springs Trail and beyond to Arctic Circle Hot Springs, Central and Circle City. From there, the mushers would travel along the Yukon River to Eagle, Dawson, Yukon Territory, and on to Whitehorse via the historic Dawson Trail.

Another agreement is that there will only be seven checkpoints along the route. That means the mushers will have to be capable woodsmen in addition to capable dog-handlers.

Over the next month race organizers will attempt to refine the final regulations governing the race, but Bennett said the next step in getting the race off the ground is getting the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association organized.

On Thursday night the association—which is responsible for making sure the trail is ready for the event—will hold a general meeting at 7:30 at Ryan Junior High. All those interested in the race are encouraged to attend.

The Alaska-Yukon Trail Association is a nonprofit organization independent of Sourdough Trail International, Inc. The main responsibility of the Trail Association is to prepare the race route.



Proposed route of Fairbanks to Whitehorse race.

A similar organization, the Yukon-Alaska Trail Association, has been started in Whitehorse under the direction of Lorrina and Gord Mitchell.

Rod Perry, who has competed in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome on several occasions, has proposed that a memorial to the sled dog be built in front of the visitor's center in the cities at both ends of the trail, with race partici-

pants carrying a piece of the monument's base with them during the race.

The top of the monument would feature a sled dog, and as each musher arrived at the finish line another piece of the base would be put in place around a cement floor.

"It would take several years to complete," Perry said of the proposed monument. "But it would be a tourist attraction and something that both communities could be proud of."



FAIRBANKS TO WHITEHORSE—Several people involved in planning for the 1984 sled dog race to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, met in the Canadian city last week to talk about guidelines for the race and set a date. At the top from left to right are LeRoy Shank of Fairbanks, Rod Perry of Anchorage, Wendy Waters of Whitehorse; below from the left are Bud Smyth of Fairbanks, Lorraine Mitchell and Gord Mitchell of Whitehorse and Rodger Williams of Fairbanks.

(Whitehorse Star photo)

Perry said a monument such as the one he is proposing is important to show the people the "role the sled dog has played in the development of the Great North Land," and to demonstrate the philosophy behind the race.

"The idea of the race is to bring back the spirit of the Great North Land when there were no real boundaries between the two countries," he said. "The sled dog played a very important role in creating the image of those times."

Perry, who was involved in starting the Iditarod, said he felt the race will be a success, but its true success will depend on the participation of the people in Fairbanks, Whitehorse and the communities along the race route.

"The mushers and dogs can go the distance, that's already been proven," Perry said Tuesday night. "But for the race to reach its full potential the people of Fairbanks and Whitehorse have to become involved."

"The Iditarod experienced about a decade of frustration before Anchorage really got involved," he added. "Hopefully the people of Fairbanks and Whitehorse will jump right in from the start because an event like this can be a real boost to the winter economy—and I think both places need that."

ALASKA-YUKON TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 10315
Fairbanks, Alaska 99710
(907) 452-7954

December 19, 1983

THE RACE IS ON!

Seasons Greetings and Congratulations,

You are a charter member in what is rapidly becoming a "World Class" event. Several mushers have signed up and many more are expected to enter soon.

Our race organization is formed and is working out of Race Headquarters. (552½ Second Avenue, upstairs in Carousel building) phone 452-7954.

A race name has been chosen and a logo has been selected from a school child's entry. The official name is Yukon Quest. Much consideration was given to many suggested names.

As is defined in dictionaries, quest is to search or seek for. Pioneers came for specifically that reason - to search and seek gold and adventure along the Yukon River - the great highway of the north. This race is truly a quest; a quest for adventure and gold at the end of the trail.

Membership is progressing nicely, thanks to people like you. Now that people know this race is definitely taking place, they want to support a major international event taking place in their own backyard. Any requests for membership can be directed to our office.

Many sponsors have stepped forward already and we are working on collecting many more. We will take this opportunity to thank the sponsors that have helped us to this day. Give'em a big hand folks, without them we wouldn't be anywhere close to where we are now.

Samson's Hardware
Air North
Alaska Feed and Iams Co.
1049 Enterprises
Yukon Office Supply
Chena Hot Springs
Arctic Circle Hot Springs
Eagle Commercial Co.
Arctic Circle General Store
Yukon Trading Post
Sunshine Copters

Donnybrook Lumber
Eagle Store
Fairbanks Kiwanis
Pastime Cafe
Traveler's Inn
Co-op Drug Store
Big Ray's
Superior Coffee
Star of the North Bakery
Arctic Travelers
Circle Utility

Alaska-Yukon Trail Association realizes it takes money to put on a race of this magnitude. For that reason we have hired Mr. Ron Nord as our Director of Sales and Advertising. Mr. Nord is very enthusiastic and is approaching his job with an all-out effort. We are very pleased to have him on board.

A special thanks goes out to all those volunteers who are working tirelessly day and night to help Yukon Quest become a reality.

Much more is happening as the race date draws closer. If you would like first-hand information please feel free to come by your race headquarters and talk with the staff.

Merry Christmas
ALASKA-YUKON TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Alaska-Yukon Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10315
Fairbanks, Alaska 99710

December 1, 1983

Dear Musher:

The Fairbanks-Whitehorse Race is on! This winter the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association of Alaska and the Yukon-Alaska Trail Association of Yukon Territory, Canada, are presenting an International Sled Dog Race of approximately 1,000 miles. The race will start February 25, 1984, in Fairbanks, Alaska and will end in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. It is designed to provide an authentically historical experience that will more thoroughly test the abilities of dogs and mushers in the skills actually used in former days. This race commemorates the do-or-die races for riches that took place between the Klondike and the gold fields of Interior Alaska near the turn of the century and the mutual cooperation between Yukon and Alaska. Since the pioneer racers on the trails of old were required to be somewhat self-sufficient, our race, in the interest of historical accuracy, has been designed to test that quality in the teams which compete. This design has produced a race that is and should continue to be unique due to a greater distance between checkpoints, limits on dogs and dog drops, limits on technological advantage, and more affordability and accessibility to the competitors.

In general we have endeavored to use established long distance racing rules but due to the unique nature of the race there are the following distinctive differences:

(1) Since there are fewer checkpoints at which to receive dog food and make dog drops and since some of the checkpoints are over 200 miles apart, there will generally be a larger dog food minimum hauling requirement.

(2) To enhance the accessibility and attainability of this race and since dog teams have traditionally been somewhat in competition with their masters for food, necessitating limits on team size, we have established an upper limit of twelve (12) dogs, which is commensurate with the number of dogs used by the winners of most of the recent races of this magnitude.

(3) To test and improve the self-reliance and sufficiency skills pertaining to care and use of dogs and gear we have instituted a three (3) dog maximum drop limit and mandatory use of one (1) sled only throughout the race.

(4) In the interest of authenticity, a small volume of promotional freight may be required baggage.

(5) In the interest of dog care and humane treatment, we have set an eight (8) dog starting minimum and a physiologically realistic recuperation period of 36 hours at Dawson, Y.T.

Our projected purse is \$50,000, broken down as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. \$15,000 | 6. \$2,400 | 11. \$900 |
| 2. 10,000 | 7. 1,900 | 12. 800 |
| 3. 5,800 | 8. 1,500 | 13. 700 |
| 4. 4,400 | 9. 1,200 | 14. 600 |
| 5. 3,300 | 10. 1,000 | 15. 500 |

The Vet Check is scheduled for February 22, 1984 and will tentatively be held at the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds. You should have your dogs or their health certificates available in Fairbanks at this date. The Musers' Meeting and drawing banquet will be held the following day. You must be present to compete. Entrants will be further advised of this and of coordination of food shipment procedures.

As stated in General Race Procedure Rule #3, the course should be fairly well marked and broken, depending on weather. To compensate for possible trail deviations, maximum distances between checkpoints have been approximated as stated below:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Fairbanks - Chena Hot Springs | 90 miles |
| Chena Hot Springs - Circle Hot Springs | 90 miles |
| Circle Hot Springs - Circle City | 50 miles |
| Circle City - Eagle | 190 miles |
| Eagle - Dawson | 120 miles |
| Dawson - Carmacks | 290 miles |
| Carmacks - Whitehorse, Y.T. | 120 miles |

Due to the fact that the start and finish of this race are connected by paved highway and that all but three checkpoints can be reached by year-round road, it promises to be a highly visible event, attractive to sponsors and logistically economical to mushers.

You may expect a more detailed explanation and discussion of the rules at the Musers' Meeting. You may also expect that the rules will be equitably enforced and that the race officials will also be bound by these rules.

What will be expected of you is summed up in Rule #36 as follows:

"Sportmanship:

"The Code of the North dictates that all travelers be courteous, helpful, generous and honorable to a degree that will inspire and ensure enduring concern for their welfare in the minds of their hosts. Conduct yourself well enough so that the next musher will be welcomed with equal hospitality.

"Any competitor or athlete worthy of the name realizes that all people—officials, volunteers, media, and fans—are equally participants in this event and that it is the musher's responsibility to define the upper limits of human performance. A true Sportsman is an inspiration to all witnesses!"

If you wish to enter this race, fill out the enclosed entry form and send with it a \$500.00 check or money order to:

Alaska-Yukon Trail Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10315
Fairbanks, Alaska 99710

If you require additional entry forms, send your request (and entry fee if you wish) to the above address or call 452-7954.

Upon receipt of your entry we will forward a copy of the rules, names and addresses of checkers, locations of food consolidation points, etc.

You are hereby invited and welcomed to this race.

Sincerely,

ALASKA-YUKON TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC.

AYTA SPONSORSHIP CATEGORIES

BENEFACTOR

\$10,000 and Up:

1. Become benefactor
2. Speaking time at banquet
3. Higher listing place on all publications
4. Larger banner space available
5. Large plaque stating "benefactor"
6. Name and logo through September 30th.
7. Name in all official publications (use)
8. Banquet (start and finish)
 - a. Name on program
 - b. Sign space available
 - c. Recognition at podium
9. Possible news coverage
 - a. T.V.
 - b. Radio
10. Official newspaper recognition
11. Place in annual
12. Official letter of recognition from Board
13. Plaque for office stating sponsorship

SPONSOR

\$5,000 - \$9,999:

1. Name and logo through September 30th.
2. Name in all official publication (use)
3. Banquet (start and finish)
 - a. Name on program
 - b. Sign space available
 - c. Recognition at podium
4. Possible news coverage
 - a. T.V.
 - b. Radio
5. Official newspaper recognition
6. Place in annual
7. Official letter of recognition from Board
8. Plaque for office stating sponsorship

RACE SUPPORTER

\$1,000 - \$4,999:

1. List name in banquet publication
(Fairbanks & Whitehorse)
2. Official "thank you" in paper
3. Official certificate for wall

CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| \$1,000 - Lifetime membership: | Newsletters, patch, year-end annual, & plaque. |
| 250 - Sustaining membership: | Newsletters, patch, year-end annual, & plaque. |
| 100 - Business: | Newsletters (4 copies each), patches (4), year-end annual, certificate. |
| 50 - Family: | Newsletters, patches (2), year-end annual. |
| 25 - Individual | Newsletters, patch, year-end annual. |

A race to watch

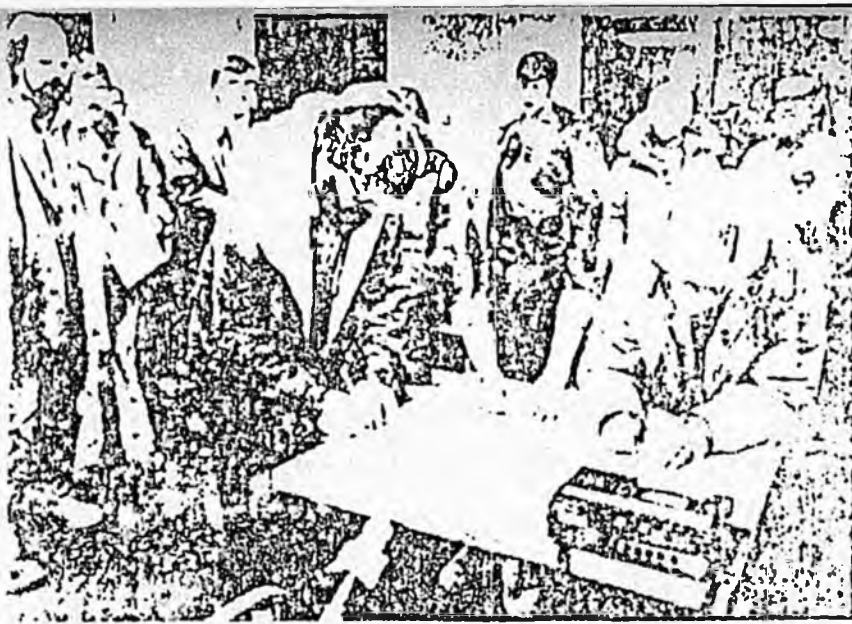
The new sled dog race between Fairbanks and Whitehorse to be run for the first time in February 1964 is shaping up as a race to watch.

Mushers are beginning to drop their names in the hat now to join the race, which will begin Feb. 25 in Fairbanks.

The trail for the race will follow roughly along the route hikers used to travel between Fairbanks and Whitehorse during gold rush days. Mushers will find conditions not so different from the turn of the century. With the checkpoints few and far between, there will be many nights camped out along the trail. The race will become a test of a musher's outdoors skills as well as the speed and endurance of his dogs.

This is what Alaska is all about. Most of us will admit to taking at least a little pride in our triumphs over the adversity that's built into life in Alaska. Along the trail, man meets nature head on. For the mushers it's an exciting challenge. For those of us at home keeping track of their progress, it's a reminder of how strong is our dependence upon nature.

We were pleased to learn that one local business--Samson's Hardware--has made a \$10,000 donation to the Alaska-Yukon Trail Committee to support the race. We hope others will join in providing the backing necessary to undertake this exciting new project.



ACE PLANNERS—Members of Sourdough Trail International, Inc. sign papers of incorporation at the Chamber of Commerce Thursday. From left to right are, dog musher Bud Smyth, David Klumb and Glen Craig.

(Staff photo by Joe Correa)

Group moves ahead in Whitehorse dog race

The group that has proposed a sled dog race from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, took a step toward seeing their goal become reality Thursday afternoon when they officially formed Sourdough Trail International, Inc.

"This race is definitely for real," said Leroy Shank, one of the seven board members who took part in the current signing ceremony in the offices of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.

About 25 people, including Fairbanks Mayor Bill Walley, Borough Mayor Bill Allen and Chamber of Commerce President Buki Wright, witnessed the event.

In addition to Shank, the six other board members—Glen Craig, David Klumb, Roger Williams, Bud Smyth, board chairman Jim Bennett and Dr. Ron Gould—signed the legal documents necessary to form the corporation.

Sourdough Trail International's goal is to "promote the spirit that compels one to live in the Great North Land, an international spirit that knows no governmental boundaries, to bring public attention to the historic role of the north country, and the people and animals that strove to meet its challenge."

The proposed course for the race would travel up the Chena River along the Chena Hot Springs Trail and beyond to Arctic Circle Hot Springs, Central and Circle City.

From there the mushers would follow the Yukon River to Eagle and Dawson, YT, and on to Whitehorse via the historic Dawson Trail.

The course approximates the trail which goldseekers traveled at the turn of the century.

Following the ceremony several members of the organization left for Whitehorse where they were to meet Canadian mushers and other groups so that specific guidelines for the race can be drawn up as soon as possible.

**ATTENTION
ALL MUSHERS!!!**
First annual Fairbanks to
Whitehorse Sled Dog Race!
1000 miles over the Gold
Rush Trail! Enter Now!!!
Race Feb. 25, 1984! For
more details call Leroy
Shank 488-9763. 1/17/84

Mushers group sets signing ceremony

The organizing group of the proposed Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race will sign formal incorporation papers Thursday afternoon.

A ceremony establishing Sourdough Trail International Inc. will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Visitors Information Center log cabin on Second Avenue.

The public is invited to attend. Several trail committee members are going to Whitehorse to meet with Canadian mushers. The cross-country sled dog race is tentatively scheduled for late February or early March of 1984.

Musher files for Whitehorse race

Murray Clayton of Haines is the first musher to register for the Fairbanks-to-Whitehorse sled dog race slated for its first running next February.

Clayton, who is training his team at a site off Chena Hot Springs Road, paid his \$500 entry at the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association meeting Thursday night at Ryan Junior High.

About 35 people attended the meeting at which various committees were formed to deal with trail preparation for the race, which is slated to start in Fairbanks next Feb. 25. Race organizers figure it will take mushers about two weeks to cover the approximately 1,000 miles of trail between the two cities.

Mushers interested in participating in the event should contact Leroy Shank at 488-9763. Shank is a member of the board of directors of Sourdough Trail International, Inc., the corporation that will organize the race.

The entry fee has been set at \$500.

Pets & Animals

1st ANNUAL Fairbanks to Whitehorse Sled Dog Race

Run 1000 miles over The
Gold Rush Trail! Enter
Now!!! Race February 25,
1984. Mushers get your
dogs ready, then call Leroy
Shank, 488-9763 for more
information. 1/17/84

Personals

BE A SPONSOR,
organizer, volunteer and
supporter of the First An-
nual Fairbanks to
Whitehorse Dog Sled Race!
On Feb. 25, 1984, the Gold
Rush Era route from Fair-
banks to Whitehorse will
once again know the foot-
fall of sled dogs and the
silent hiss of runners over
the snow! Sign up now to
be a part of the very first
race. Call 488-9763, Leroy
Shank. 1/17/84

HJR 56

Alaska-Yukon Trail Association, Inc.

Yukon Quest

Fairbanks to Whitehorse 1000 Miles

MAKE IT HAPPEN

We present you with a unique chance to take part in something truly Alaskan.

An exciting opportunity is now available to a select few companies and individuals who would like to pioneer in the creation of an epic, thousand-mile-class sled dog race between Fairbanks and Whitehorse. Bringing the Gold Rush era back to life, this contest has potential to go down in Northland history as the richest, most internationally famous sporting event ever held in Interior Alaska and the Yukon Territory!

Some watch it happen — Some make it happen!

We are soliciting investors of vision and spirit who realize what such a great race can do for the North Country and will throw their financial shoulders behind the wheel to assure that the dream becomes reality. We seek the involvement of these intrepid visionaries who will demonstrate the same faith and dedication as the pioneer giants who settled and developed this country.

Sponsors are considered partners in the enterprise and we are ready to work to further their interests. We are prepared to present our sponsors maximum opportunity for advertising visibility. We have a market of intriguing ideas.

CONTRIBUTE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING

PRIZE MONEY

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. \$15,000 | 6. \$2,400 | 11. \$900 |
| 2. 10,000 | 7. 1,900 | 12. 800 |
| 3. 5,800 | 8. 1,500 | 13. 700 |
| 4. 4,400 | 9. 1,200 | 14. 600 |
| 5. 3,300 | 10. 1,000 | 15. 500 |

START/FINISH BANNERS/BIBS \$20,000.00

OFFICIAL OUTFITTER \$ 5,000.00

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER \$10,000.00

OFFICIAL SPONSORS

\$ 5,000.00 and UP —

1. Name and logo through September 30th
2. Name in all official publications (use)
3. Banquet (start and finish)
 - a. name on program
 - b. sign space available
 - c. recognition at podium
4. News coverage
 - a. T.V.
 - b. Radio
5. Official newspaper recognition
6. Place in annual
7. Official letter of recognition from board
8. Plaque for their office stating sponsorship

\$10,000.00 and UP —

ALL OF THE ABOVE

1. Becomes benefactor
2. Speaking time at banquets
3. Higher listing place on all publications
4. Larger banner space available
5. Large plaque stating "benefactor"
6. Annual

RACE SUPPORTER

\$ 1,000.00
for 1000 miles —

1. List name in banquet publication (Fairbanks & Whitehorse)
2. Official thank you in paper
3. Official certificate on wall
4. T.V. recognition

T.V. COVERAGE

Start-Finish of Race
February 25th — Fairbanks to Whitehorse

FAIRBANKS - ANCHORAGE COVERAGE

| | | |
|------------------|--------|-------|
| 30-40 min. daily | Update | Prime |
| A.M. | P.M. | Late |

NEWSPAPER RECOGNITION

BANQUET RECOGNITION

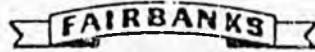
BANQUET PROGRAM

RADIO COVERAGE

BUDGET

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Alaska-Yukon Trail Association, Inc. | \$115,000.00 |
| Encompassing the Following: | |
| Airfare/Fuel | |
| Trail Expense | |
| Checkpoints | |
| Communications | |
| Office and Administration | |
| Hospitality | |
| Promotions/Printing | |
| Equipment/Miscellaneous | |
| Prize Money | |
| | \$115,000.00 |

Editorial Opinion and Comment of



Daily News - Miner

"Independent in All Things . . . Neutral in None"

Other opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily News-Miner.

Special year; special race

The year 1984 promises to be a special one in Alaska. We're glad to offer encouragement to yet another exciting event whose inaugural year hopefully will coincide with the celebration of Alaska's 25th anniversary of statehood.

A group of Fairbanks dogmushers has been working with their counterparts in Whitehorse, Canada, to organize a 1,000-mile sled dog race between our two cities; one year beginning in Fairbanks and the next year beginning in Whitehorse.

Starting date for 1984 has been set for Feb. 25, with Fairbanks to be the starting point. Two to three weeks later, the mushers, who will be limited to no more than 12 dogs, should reach Whitehorse.

We urge Fairbanksans to enthusiastically support this new race. As one of the organizers noted, the participation of Fairbanks and Whitehorse, as well as the communities along the route, may determine whether efforts to undertake the race will prove successful or not.

Three organizations have been formed to see the race through. Sourdough Trail International Inc. is the corporation that will administer the race. From the Fairbanks end, the Alaska-Yukon Trail Association will be responsible for getting the trail ready; from the Whitehorse end the Yukon-Alaska Trail Association will do the same job.

The route from Fairbanks will follow the historic Chena Hot Springs Trail along the Chena River, then head to Arctic Circle Hot Springs, Central and Circle City. From there, the mushers will follow the Yukon River to Eagle, Dawson and then to Whitehorse along the historic Dawson Trail. They'll take a 30-hour layover in Dawson.

No other sport is as uniquely Alaskan as dogmushing. We think it's most appropriate that part of our statehood anniversary celebration will be the first running of a race that we hope becomes an annual event.

Yukon Quest gets more sponsors

The Alaska Yukon Trail Association has received three more major donations totaling \$12,500 for the "Yukon Quest" sled dog race from Fairbanks to Whitehorse.

Trail association officials said this morning that the donations have put them within 90 percent of their goal of \$50,000, which is needed to guarantee the purse for the 1,000-plus-mile race.

Tuesday night Carpenter's Union Local 1245 voted to donate \$5,000 to the association. Union officials presented the donation Wednesday morning.

Other major donations received this week include \$5,000 from NERCO Mineral Company and \$2,500 from MAPCO Petroleum in North Pole.

Four more mushers have entered the race since Tuesday and there are now 21 mushers officially entered. The entry deadline is Jan. 31.
