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ALASKA TRAILS DATABASE

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This database was assembled for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities under a Reimbursable Services Agreement with the University of Alaska Fairbanks History Department. Copies of the indexed material are on file in the Northern Region offices of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Planning Section, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

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ACCESSING THE DATABASE

The enclosed three discs, containing nearly 14,000 individual citations, represent a compendium of verifiable historic data pertaining to use of and public expenditures to Alaskan trail right-of-ways over a period of approximately fifty years, 1905-1955. Three primary sources of information have been exhaustively surveyed. These include:

- 1.) The (usually) Annual Reports of the Alaska Road Commission, listed here under the DB filename of Ak.Road.Comm.:
- 2.) Applicable reports, memos and letters from the Federal Record Center - Seattle's Record Group 30 (Alaska Road Commission and Bureau of Public Roads), listed here under the DB filename of Fed.Rec.Ctr.; and
- 3.) Applicable reports, articles, memos, maps and letters from both the stack and archival collections of the University of Alaska's Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, listed here under the DB filename of Rasm.Lib. Included within this file are bulletins issued by the United States Geological Survey (USGS Bull), as well as a representative selection of articles culled from the pages of over forty Alaskan newspapers (see Appendix A).

Accessing information from these database files is a simple process. Utilizing the enclosed listing (Appendix B), identify the appropriate route name or names. Call any one of the three files to memory. Using the previously determined route name together with your computer's search command, pull all relevant entries. If your computer is so equipped, print screen. Repeat process for second and third files. This will result in a hard copy listing of all relevant entries.

In some cases it is possible to access a particular route by utilizing the place names of both ends (ie. Seward-Iditarod). In most cases, however, it may be preferable to pull entries from each end separately (ie. Iditarod; Seward), as routes are frequently listed under the name of a sub-route (ie. a sub-route such as Iditarod-McGrath contained within a greater Seward-Iditarod). Selecting the search command 'Iditarod' would pull references to both.

Exclusive use of the hard copy will prove far less satisfactory. Due to the limitations imposed by the paper width, much of the information contained in the database does not appear in the printed copy. Hard copy is included with this report only to demonstrate the depth of the information contained within the file as a whole.

An attempt has been made for the sake of simplicity to standardize the spelling of all place names, in their original sources very inconsistent, and to list alternative

names where applicable. Donald J. Orth's Dictionary of Alaska Place Names (Geological Survey Professional Paper 567: Washington D.C., 1967) served as final authority.