

December 19 1928

Major D.H.Gillette,  
Engineer Officer, A.R.C.,  
Juneau Alaska,

Dear Sir;

Enclosed herewith standard report on Snowshoe-Beaver trail,  
Route 23A, submitted by Frank Nash after recent trip by dog team.

Object of the trip was primarily to bring in Chas. Mayben and cook  
from Beaver. Mayben was foreman of project in the Chandalar district during the  
past season and did not get work completed there in time to catch the last boat.

Enroute from Beaver two new shelter cabins were constructed on this ~~the~~  
trail as shown in this report.

This report supercedes a similar report dated December 12 1927.  
My opinion is that no further improvement or even maintenance is justified on this  
trail as long as the present lack of travel continues. This trail was built several  
years ago when it looked as though there would be considerable mining activity in  
the Chandalar,  
the Chandalar, and a mail service, from Fairbanks would be required.

Since the trail was built mining has declined and a monthly sevice  
from Ft. Yukon to Beaver meets the requirements. It is possible that if there is  
a mail sevice to Beaver it will be by airplane.

As Mr. Nash states there has been no travel except a few trappers  
and Road Commission dog teams during the past year, nor is there liable to be  
anything further, during the coming year.

Very truly yours

H.G.Haslem  
Supt.

December 17 1928

Subject; Standard report on Snowshoe Beaver trail;

To H.G.Haslem Supt., Fairbanks Alaska,

1 LENGTH OF TRAIL 117 Miles.

2 DISTANCES BETWEEN SHELTER CABINS OR OTHER SHELTER.

Snow shoe to Bend (Beaver Bluff)	20 miles	
Bend to Trappers cabin	6 "	26
Trappers Cabin to Fossil creek cabin	6 "	32
Fossil creek to Moose Johns	8 "	40
Moose Johns to New cabin (Summit Creek)	9 "	49
New Cabin to Victoria Creek cabin	13 "	62
Victoria Creek cabin to Bull creek cabin	10 "	72
Bull creek to Larsons #1	12 "	84
Larsons #1 to A.R.C. Cabin	17 "	101
A.R.C.Cabin to Larsons #2	5 "	106
Larsons #2 to Beaver	12 "	118

The cabin referred to as trappers cabin is not an A.R.C. cabin. This cabin was built by Billy Gates but is now owned by John Millovitch (Moose John). This cabin is not right on the trail but is about 1000 feet off to the right of the trail at the first crossing of the Beaver River. This cabin is always open and any one desiring to stop is always welcome.

The cabin referred to as Moose Johns is not an A.R.C. Cabin. This cabin was built and is owned and maintained by John Millovitch, a trapper and prospector, who occupies it during both the winter and summer months. This cabin is always open and any one caught out is welcome to stop in it.

The cabin referred to as Larsons #1 is not an A.R.C. Cabin. This cabin was built and is owned by Gus Larson who uses it during thw winter. This cabin is about off of the trail.

At this point only on the opposite side and close to the trail a cabin was erected this winter. For description etc. see item #11.

The cabin referred to as Larsons #2 is not an A.R.C. Cabin. This cabinn also belongs to Gus Larson who occupies it during both the winter and summer months.

3 ARE THERE ANY UNUSUALLY DIFFICULT GRADES ON THE ROUTE No

4 ANY BRIDGE'S REQUIRE RENEWAL

Between Larsons #1 and the A.R.C. Cabin two bridges were washed out last spring and between the A.R.C. Cabin and Beaver One bridge was washed out and another one is in such poor condition that it is not safe to use it. Each of these creeks would require a span

of approximately 30 feet. They are hard creeks to cross especially if one has a long sled as they are about 10 feet wide at the bottom and the banks are rather steep. Estimated cost to replace these four bridges \$500.00. But considering the fact that there is no travel over this trail they do not really need replacing. Last year the only travel over this trail was when Lieut. Itschner and I went to Beaver after Chas. Mayben and his cook and two men who walked over the trail in early November. The first 30 miles North of the Snowshoe is used by one trapper as a trap line and the first 35 miles South from Beaver is used by another trapper as a trap line.

- 5 ANY NEW BRIDGES REQUIRED NO.
- 6 IS GRADING REQUIRED OF STEEP APPROACHES NOT REQUIRING BRIDGING NO.
- 7 IF BRIDGES REQUIRED STATE TYPE, SPAN, DISTANCE TO NEAREST SUITABLE BRIDGE TIMBERS AND ESTIMATED COST OF BRIDGE None required.

8 DOES TRAIL DRIFT OR GLACIER BADLY IN PLACES

Practically three quarters of the entire length of this trail is subject to drifts.

Between snowshoe and the bend cabin on the left limit of Wickersham creek the trail is on the side hill. on this side hill there are four glaciers forming but they will not interfere with what little traffic there is.

The Beaver river, Victoria creek and all lakes on this trail are subject to overflows.

9 IS TRAIL LOCATED IN PART ON A STREAM OR LAKE

Yes. About 5 miles from the bend cabin the trail hits the Beaver river and follows it for about three miles, then takes a portage for about 2 miles, then follows the river again for about a mile to the Fossil creek cabin. There are various trails cut here. One crosses the river and follows the right limit to the Fossil creek cabin. This piece of trail has been abandoned as it was much longer and was very rough.

Since this trail was cut the river has changed its channel in two places and has washed out the trail so that now it is impassable on account of the steep banks of the river it being impossible to get up or down then with a dog sled of any size.

Another trail which crosses the river three times in as many miles is sometimes used. Late in the winter the river is traveled as much as possible, but this is rather indefinite as the Beaver river is full of warm springs which causes much open water and thin ice.

Between the New cabin and the Bull creek cabin the trail follows Victoria creek for about 1 mile.

Between Larsons cabin #1 and the A.R.C. cabin 17 miles South of Beaver the trail the trail crosses three lakes for an entire distance of about one mile.

Between Larsons cabin #2 and Beaver the trail the trail follows lakes and sloughs for about four miles. And crosses and follows up the Yukon river for about three miles.

10 ARE THERE NIGGERHEADS, ROCKS, STUMPS, BRUSH ETC WHICH REQUIRE REMOVAL  
There is a plentiful supply of niggerheads on this trail, the cost of removing same would be prohibitive the amount of travel would not justify spending any money removing them.

There are no rocks.

Stumps are quite numerous especially on the section from Snowshoe to the bend cabin. This piece of trail was evidently cut in the winter time when the snow was deep. The trees were not cut off at the ground as the stumps stand up in places as high as a foot and in places more. This condition makes tough going over this trail especially when there is little snow on the ground. The under brush willows etc are getting pretty thick down in the Yukon flats. In another year or so this brush will have to be removed or else the section of the trail from Larsons #1 will be impassable.

11 WHAT IS CONDITION OF SHELTER CABINS AND STOVES.

Snowshoe (formerly a road house)

Location On top of a ridge at the head of Wickersham Creek. *Wickersham*

Cabin good

Stove "

Pipe " 6"

Bend cabin *Wickersham*

Location Left limit of Beaver river.

Size 12x14 gabled roof

Condition New

Has door cloth window no floor

Bunk room for four.

Stove good

Pipe " 6"

Headroom 6 Feet.

This cabin was built in the spring of 1928 by John Millovitch for the A.R.C. Cost \$150.00. The old cabin located in this vicinity was washed into the river last spring. The new cabin is in a different location so there is no danger of its being washed into the river. It was built about a half mile farther along on the trail and is fully a quarter of a mile from the river.

Trappers cabin.

I was not in this cabin and saw it only in the dark so cannot give any description of it.

Fossil Creek cabin

Location Right limit of the Beaver river about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below the mouth of Fossil creek.

Size 10x12 Gabled roof

Condition good

Has door no windows no floor

Bunk room for two

Stove and Pipe good

Moose Johns (Owned by John millovitch)

Location Right limit of Beaver river about 7 miles below the Fossil creek cabin

Size 12x18 Gabled roof

Condition good

Has door windows and floor

One bunk, plenty of room on floor for travelers.

Stove good

Pipe "

New Cabin. (So called because it is a new cabin which was built two or three years ago by Gus Larson for the A.R.C. To replace a cabin which was close to the summit of Kingston pass which burnt down)

Location Mouth of Summit creek Right limit Left limit of Beaver river

Size 12x14 Gabled roof

Condition good

Has door cloth window no floor.

Bunk room for four

Stove good

Pipe " 6"

Victoria Creek cabin

Location Left limit of Victoria creek about 13 miles from the New cabin

Size 12x12 Gabled roof

Condition New

Has door no window no floor

Bunk room for five

Stove good

Pipe " 6"

This is a new cabin erected in December 1928 by the A.R.C. Estimated cost \$250.00.

Bull Creek Cabin (referred to in past years report as the Victoria creek cabin)

Location Mouth of Bull creek left limit, left limit of Victoria creek.

Size 12x14 Gabled roof

Condition good

Has door cloth window no floor

Bunkroom for two

Stove good

Pipe " 6"

Larsons Cabin #1 (Owned by Gus Larson)

Location Left limit of a small creek in the Yukon flats at the foot of the hills

Size 12x12 Flat roof 5 feet of headroom.

Condition VERY POOR

Has door no windows no floor

Bunk room for two

Stove ROTTEN

Pipe " 5"

A.R.C. Cabin

Location Practically the same as cabin described above.

Size 12x12 Gabled roof

Condition New

Has door no windows no floor.

Bunk room for five

Stove good

Pipe " 6"

This is a new cabin erected in November 1928 by the A.R.C. Estimated cost \$200.00

A.R.C. Cabin #13

Location Right limit of a small creek in the Yukon Flats 17 miles South of Beaver

Size 12x14 Gabled roof

Condition good

Has door windows no floor

Bunkroom for four

Stove good

Pipe " 6"

Larsons Cabin #2 (Owned by Gus Larson)

Location Left limit of the Beaver river about 12 miles from Beaver

Size 12x12 Flat roof

Condition good

Has door windows and floor.

Bunkroom for one

Stove good

Pipe " 5"

- 12 IF ADDITIONAL SHELTER CABINS NEEDED GIVE LOCATION AND ESTIMATE OF COST.  
None required.
- 13 WHAT IS THE CHARACTER AND AMOUNT OF THE TRAFFIC ON THE ROUTE  
This route can be and is occasionally used for a double ender trail from Snowshoe to the bend cabin. From there to Beaver nothing but a sled and foot trail. Through travel is very light.
- 14 CAN ROUTE BE USED AS A SUMMER TRAIL AND IS IT SO USED  
This route can be used as a summer trail from snowshoe to the Bend cabin only.

15 CAN ROUTE BE USED AS A SLED ROAD AND SHOULD IT BE IMPROVED FOR SUCH USE  
No

16 IS ROUTE WELL MARKED AND EASILY FOLLOWED

From Snowshoe to the Fossil creek cabin the route is well marked and easily followed.

From the Fossil creek cabin to the New cabin there are several large open places which are subject to heavy wind storms. Tripods have been erected on these open places but they are too far apart. They range in distance of 300 to 2000 feet apart. IN some instances they are so located that one cannot see from one to another even in broad daylight. If caught out in one of these open places in a wind storm it would be almost impossible to follow the trail.

From the New cabin to the top of Kingston Pass the trail is well blazed and easy to follow.

From the top of Kingston Pass to where the trail crosses Victoria creek a distance of about ten miles the trail is in open country. There are a few tripods on this section but they also are too far apart and the same conditions exist as those described above.

From where the trail crosses Victoria creek to the Bull creek cabin, the trail is mostly in scrobby spruce timber, with an occasional large open place. Where the trail is in the timber it is very poorly blazed and is very hard to follow. In the open places the tripods are poorly located and they are too far apart. This section of trail is in a flat country being in the creek valley for some unknown reason or other the trail zigzags back and forth across the flats, adding considerable to the distance. This was probably done to avoid having to cut too much trail.

From the Bull creek cabin to Beaver the trail is well blazed and marked except in two places. About 9 miles out from Beaver the trail follows a lake for about three miles. This lake is very narrow and crooked. There are no tripods or marks of any kind to guide a person over this section. If one had never been over this piece of trail before it would be impossible for them to follow the trail unless they had a guide. The last three miles of the trail are on the Tukon river. If sled or other tracks are not visible on this section one has to depend upon his own judgement and good luck to end up at Beaver,

Considering the fact that travel is so light over this trail I would suggest that no further work whatever be done upon it.

If such a thing should ever come to pass that travel would get heavy upon this trail or was used as a mail trail considerable work would have to be done to put it in first class condition. There would have to be a lot of new trail cut Niggerheads removed, stumps removed, tripods erected in open places and bridges built.

Yours very truly

Frank Nash  
Jr. Engineer