

The Tripod

December 2013



Thank you for renewing your membership in the Alliance.

Annual meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance took place on November 20 and 21 at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage.

The 20th was a workshop day for the board. Continued support was expressed for securing funding to continue the Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (iTREC!) Program, for the completion of the southern track of the trail on the Kenai Peninsula, a presence at the State Fair, the Iditarod Trail Easement Project, working with the Iditarod Trail Committee on trail clearing, exploring grant opportunities, increasing membership and taking every opportunities to publicize the Alliance and the Historic Trail.

On the 21st the winners of the election for board members were announced: Seat E Cook Inlet/Susitna Region- Judy Bittner, Seat F Kuskokwim Region- Mike Tierney, Seat G At Large #2- Dan Seavey and Seat H At Large #3- Debby Retherford.

There were also reports by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, trail organizations, the Iditarod Trail Committee and reports on the



iTREC! Program and the Trail Easement Project. Representatives of the Donlin Gold project and the Chugach Electric Transmission Line project talked about the impact of their projects on the Trail.

Kevin Keeler, BLM Iditarod Historic Trail Administrator, gave a report on BLM Iditarod Trail activities, among which were: 258 miles of trail were signed this year, the Alliance providing \$22,000 of the total cost of \$35,000, safety cabins were maintained and the BLM provided refreshments and activities at the end of the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race at the Campbell Creek Science Center.

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes public awareness of the Iditarod Trail and its gold rush and Alaska Native heritage, encouraging education programs and historical research, working to protect, improve, maintain and mark the trail and developing partnerships that foster stewardship commitments and support from land owners, local communities and other organizations.

The trail for all seasons



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Leslie Schick, Dept. of Natural Resources, in charge of the Easement Project, reported on that Project, which has secured easements and rights of way for all but about 300 miles of the Trail.



Alliance officers for 2014 elected at the annual meeting, left to right: Jules Mead, Treasurer, Wasilla, Leo Rasmussen, Secretary, Nome, Jonathan Sewall, Vice President, Seward, and Judy Bittner, President, Anchorage.

From the past...

"Iditarod Pioneer" December 28, 1917

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AFFAIR

In spite of the inclement weather which has prevailed in this district for the past two weeks, the attendance at the big Christmas entertainment was exceptionally large. Practically every child in the camp was present, and there were many visitors from the creeks.

The proceedings opened with a few remarks by the chairman of the entertainment committee, Mayor J. D. Barnes, after which the big Christmas tree, loaded with toys and other seasonable presents for young and old, was illuminated. Next came the entertainment given by the children. There were recitations by girls and boys, and Aileen Lowell sang to the accompaniment of the pianoforte. All did well, Sigrid McDonald in particular making a great hit with the audience. Following is the

PROGRAM.

RECITATION—"The Childhood of Santa Claus".....	HERBERT STRANBERG
RECITATION—"O, Little Town of Bethlehem".....	FLORENCE MCGIBNEY
RECITATION—"What I Would Like".....	WILLIAM BLODGETT
RECITATION—"How Does He Know?".....	ARTHUR STRANBERG
SONG—"When Mamma Rocks Her Little Pickle to Sleep".....	AILEEN LOWELL
RECITATION—"Haug Up the Baby's Stocking".....	BOB ACHESON
RECITATION—"The Little Christmas Tree".....	DONALD McDONALD
RECITATION—"Santa Claus' Visit".....	ESTHER STRANBERG
RECITATION—"A Letter to Santa Claus".....	PETER BAGGOY
RECITATION—"Christmas Eve".....	SIGRID McDONALD
RECITATION—"The Legend of the Angels".....	AILEEN LOWELL

At the conclusion of the program Santa Claus appeared on the scene in full regalia, and the distribution of gifts commenced. There were toys and books galore for every child, and many for the grownups as well.

An enjoyable dance followed the Christmas tree, the music being furnished by Mrs. Maher and Prof. Frank Hudson.

Great praise is due the A. B. entertainment committee for the enjoyable evening provided, and to the ladies' committee which so ably assisted to make the affair the great success it was.

Atla promotes mushing

Alaska Native musher George Atla says he wants to see a revival of his sport among young people in villages.

"Years ago, there was a lot of pride in our dog mushing." Atla said at the first Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference on October 22.

Atla won the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous World Championship title eight times and the Open North American Championship 10 times.

Atla teaches mushing to students in the village of Huslia through the Frank Atla Youth and Sled Dog Care Mushing Program. The program, which is named for his son, started last year and is run with volunteers and with dog food donated by a manufacturer.

Atla hopes to persuade the state to add the program to the school curriculum in Huslia. He also hopes to see competitive youth dog mushing programs take off around Alaska.

Trail Centennial

In January 1914 the first mail contract for mail delivery between Seward and Iditarod was granted. It called for weekly deliveries between November 1 and April 1.