

The Tripod



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The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



The Trail for all Seasons

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes public awareness of the Iditarod Trail and its gold rush and Alaska Native heritage by encouraging education programs and historical research, assisting in the protection, improvement, maintenance and marking of the trail and developing partnerships that foster stewardship commitments and support.



2018 Statewide Trails Conference

The annual Statewide Trails Conference will be held on April 26-28 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. The conference keynote this year is "The Power of Volunteers on Trails" by Steven Moore, volunteer program coordinator, Washington Trails Association.



The conference provides trail users and the wider public a statewide opportunity for training and networking with trail professionals. Government agencies, trail builders and non-profits will be able to share what they have learned and engage in conversations with others to share best practices and new ideas. There are many ways to enjoy Alaska's trails and the conference brings them all together under one roof. Trails and outdoor recreation are a public health asset and an economic engine for the state and the trails conference seeks to raise the profile of trails and their importance to Alaska.

Highlights for 2018:

- Active Transportation Track on Friday
- Mountain Bike Trails on Saturday

For registration information go to: [www Alaska Trails.org](http://www.AlaskaTrails.org)

News notes:

*In 2017 the non-profit partners of the 30 national scenic and historic trails contributed over 1,046,194 volunteer hours, worth over \$25,255,118 toward stewardship of our nation's public lands, ecosystems and cultural heritage.

*To learn more about the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act go to www.trails50.org

*The 2018 National Trails System Conference will be in Vancouver, Washington, October 22-25.

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From the past...

"Iditarod Pioneer" March 23, 1918

PIONEERS' BIG DANCE

It was a large and happy crowd of masqueraders that gathered in the Arctic Brotherhood Hall Saturday night to attend the Pioneers' Red Cross dance and entertainment. Some very original and humorous characters made their appearance on the floor, and quite a number of handsomely-gowned ladies were in evidence, in costumes appropriate for the occasion. The various booths at convenient places about the hall did a thriving business throughout the evening, and the donations made by merchants and citizens were placed on sale by an enterprising auctioneer. All the articles brought good prices. The supper arrangements for the big crowd seemed to have worked smoothly, as there were no complaints either of the fare or the service.

The gross receipts amounted to \$771.75, the expenses totaled \$233.75, leaving the sum of \$538 for the Red Cross fund.

"Iditarod Pioneer" March 23, 1918

TILL ROBBED AT FLAT

Last Saturday night while A. L. Currie was patriotically contributing to the financial success of the Pioneers' Red Cross function in Iditarod, some undesirable biped broke into his place of business in Flat City and robbed the till of it contests, amounting to \$65 or more. The theft occurred some time after midnight.

More information on William Dikeman

"The Seattle Times", December 25, 1942

Funeral services were to be held today at the residence, 301 Kinnear Pl., for William A. Dikeman, former Seattle resident and Alaska miner, who made the original gold strike in the Iditarod country in the Alaska interior in 1908. He died December 13 in Sutherland, Neb., where he had retired to live on a ranch.

Mr. Dikeman was born 80 years ago in Bradford, Pa. He traveled by prairie schooner to Wood River, Neb., with his family when he was 12 years old. As a young man he roamed as a cowboy through many of the Western states.

He later prospected in Canada and Alaska 15 years before he and a partner, John Beaton, made the important strike.

The town of Dikeman, in Alaska was named after him. After selling out his interests in Alaska, he retired, making his home for some time in Seattle. He bought a ranch north of Sutherland, Neb., 19 years ago, moving there to live, although he frequently returned to Seattle to visit.

Mr. Dikeman is survived by his widow, Marguerite, Seattle; two daughters, Miss. Lydia Dikeman and Mrs. Inez Paulman, Seattle; and a son, Claude Dikeman; Sutherland, Neb. Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Note: The Mount Pleasant Cemetery is located at 700 West Raye Street in Seattle.



Alaska Long Trails

In the February 18, 2018 issue of the "Anchorage Daily News" there was an interesting commentary by former Alaska governor Tony Knowles about how long trails, such as the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails, benefit local economies through lodging, meals, logistics and side trips and says the Alaska economy could also benefit from the development of long trails.

He lists three possible Alaska Long Trails: (1) to use the current Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor for a 900 mile Trans-Alaska Trail from the Beaufort Sea to Valdez (2) a 129 mile trail connecting the Anchorage Coastal Trail with the southern trek of the Iditarod Trail on the Kenai Peninsula and (3) the 179 mile route from Glennallen to Cordova, making use of the abandoned railroad route of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad.

He suggests that the state legislature pass a resolution to the governor to appoint a team to work with the Alaska Trails organization to develop a feasibility study.