

THE TRIPOD

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

May 2016

National Trails Day®



American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® is on June 4 this year and the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers is planning on doing a historic waking tour (weather permitting) on the first mile of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The tour will start at the south end of 4th Avenue, in front of the Sealife Center at 7 p.m. and last about an hour. It will cover the building of the *Phoenix* in 1794, the first ship built in Alaska

by the Russians, the first American settlers on Resurrection Bay, the Lowell family in 1884, the founding of Seward in 1903, the history of the Iditarod Trail, the 1964 Earthquake and other important events that took place along the Trail.

Wada statue

The statue of Jujiro Wada, Iditarod Trail pioneer, commissioned by the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, is nearing completion. Pictured below is sculptor Pat Garley of Arctic Fires



Bronze, Palmer, Alaska, with the clay model of the statue.

The finished statue will be erected in Seward, on a knoll along Railway Avenue, facing the Iditarod Trail, in mid-May.

Surgeon General says WALK!

The Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Vivek Murthy, has issued a report, *Step it Up! The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities*.

Increasing peoples' physical activity will significantly reduce



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, developing partnerships that foster stewardship commitments and support from land owners, local communities, organizations and others.

The trail for all seasons



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

their risk of chronic diseases and related risk factors. Because physical activity has numerous health benefits, such as supporting positive mental health and healthy ageing, it is one of the most important actions people



can take to improve overall health. The *Call to Action* includes five strategic goals to promote walking and walkable communities:

- (1) Make walking a national priority
- (2) design communities that make it safe and easy to walk for people of all ages and abilities
- (3) promote program and policies to support walking where people live, learn, work and play
- (4) provide information to encourage walking and improve walkability
- (5) fill research and evaluation gaps related to walking and walkability

From the Past...

“Fairbanks Daily News-Miner” May 15, 1916

AIR MAIL SERVICE

NOT FOR PRESENT

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 12 - Bids for the first aerial mail service in Alaska were opened today at 4:30 o'clock by Postmaster General Burleson.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 13 – There was only one bid received by the Postal department for the aerial mail service in Alaska. Earl I. Byers, of Iditarod, offered to carry 1,000 pounds of mail, twice a week, the year

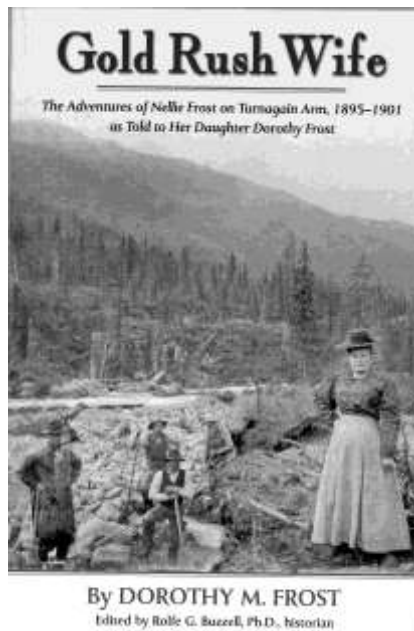
round, for the sum of \$49,000. This offer included the proposal of carrying the thousand pounds of mail each way for the semi-weekly trips. No bond accompanied the bid, but he assured the department he could furnish one and asked for a reasonable time to do so. Guaranties of his reliability as a bidder were furnished by the Merchants & Miners bank of Iditarod and by the Iditarod Commercial Club.

WASHINGTON, D. C. , May 14 – Postmaster General Bueleson, in an interview today with aeroplane manufacturers, announces that the project of transporting mail in Alaska by aeroplane would not be dropped, but the time for handling them in this way would be extended for some time. He also stated that the department considers the bid of Earl I. Byers too high.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 13- At the Postal Department today it was announced that a second call for bids for an aerial mail service in Alaska would be made as soon as the factories indicate that they can build machines capable of handling the business.

New Book

Gold Rush Wife The Adventures of Nellie Frost on Turnagain Arm, 1895-1901 as told by her Daughter Dorothy Frost. Edited by Rolfe G. Buzzell, Ph.D., Ember Press, Eagle River, Alaska, \$26.95.



Gold Rush Wife is a captivating story about the hardships and joys of Nellie Frost's years in Alaska during the Turnagain Arm gold rush that began in 1896. It is a story of love and adventure as Nellie and her husband Jack toil toward their dream of striking it rich. In the end, tragic events and the failure to find a fortune in gold forever changed Nellie and the gold rush community of Sunrise City.

Written and edited from one hundred year old

historic documents and through narratives told to her daughter Dorothy Frost and with many photographs, *Gold Rush Wife* chronicles Nellie's experiences in a gold rush that predated the more famous stampede to the Klondike. Nellie's story provides insight into the rich social life of an isolated, predominately male mining camp. It also captures the important bonds women often formed with each other and with the native community to survive the harsh conditions they endured.