

IDITAROD TRAIL INTERVIEW - EDGAR NOLLNER

September 12, 1980
Galena, Alaska

BLM Interviewer:

Tom Beck

SEPTEMBER 12, 1980 - EDGAR NOLLNER

INTRODUCTION

INTERVIEWER:Trail interview with Edgar Nollner of Galena, Alaska. The interview was conducted at Edgar's home in Galena on September 12th, 1980. The interview was conducted for the Bureau of Land Management by Tom Beck.

Edgar was born near Louden, Alaska, in a small village called Old Village in 1904. Edgar's father, who came over the Chilkoot Pass in 1898, had a small store at Louden. His father also cut wood for steamboats and carried mail from Old Village to Kaltag, both during the summer and during the winters.

Edgar also cut wood for the steamboats, and in 1921, he hauled out over 250 cords of wood by dog sled. Edgar worked summers for the CAA as a riverboat pilot for many years. As a dog musher, Edgar participated in both serum runs from Nenana to Nome in 1925. Edgar ran from Whiskey Creek to Galena in the first diphtheria run, and in the second run, Edgar ran from Galena to Bishop Mountain.

(Off record at Log No. 0126)

(On record at Log No. 0172)

INTERVIEW

Q We're up from the Iditarod Trail Project, and we're trying to get some information about some of the trails and some of the history of some of the dog carriers (sic) and mushers and things like that. And one of the things we're dealing with, too, is the serum run. I know there's.....

A Yeah.

Q You've talked to a lot of people about that before.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah, and I've been over that trail. I never been no place else.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Uh-huh (affirmative). One year (indiscernible) go airplane from here to Anchorage. That's all.

Q Yeah. Okay. Let me get -- if you don't mind, let me sit a little closer to you. There we go. This doesn't pick up unless you're real close, so I hope you don't mind this.

A Okay. Yeah. Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Where were you born?

A I was born up here about 14 miles up here, in Louden Slough.

Q Oh, Louden Slough?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Is that what they call Old Village?

A Old Village there, yeah, uh-huh (affirmative). 1904.

Q How did you -- were your parents.....

A Yeah. My old man had the store there.

Q Did he?

A Yeah, he came over the Chilkoot Pass in '98, and then he -- one winter he stayed up at 40-mile for one winter, and then he came down here, and then he started the trading post there.

