

# Mrs. Sanders worked as dog handler, film maker

Virginia Carr Sanders, 66, died recently of cancer at her home in Kalispell, Mont.

She was born May 8, 1920, in Juneau, a daughter of Harold and Ella Smith. She lived in numerous Alaska towns and villages from Cordova to Fairbanks. She graduated from high school in Bellingham, Wash., in the class of 1937. She then studied veterinary medicine at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.

She worked for Walt Disney Productions for several years as his animal handler and made the movie, "Nikki: Wild Dog of the North." The dog, Nikki, was her own dog.

Mrs. Sanders taught school in the North Slope and spent many long

hours in the Arctic, filming for Walt Disney.

She mushed dogs in the North American Dogsled Championship and was instrumental in getting the malamute recognized as a distinctive breed. She also bred and raised malamutes for many years.

Mrs. Sanders was an active member and supporter of Alcoholics Anonymous for 36 years. She was instrumental in getting prison groups of AA started throughout Alaska.

She was married to Edward Sanders in Fairbanks on Sept. 4, 1966. He now survives her at the family home. She is also survived by her father, Harold E. Smith, and a sister, Lorene Harsh, both of Berkeley, Calif.