

Iditarod Trail Race Lottery—

Statewide Potential Purse of \$195,000 Organized

ANCHORAGE — A statewide lottery, with a potential purse of \$195,000, has been organized by the Iditarod Trail Race Committee, sponsors of the Iditarod Trail 1,000 mile sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome.

Lottery ticket sales will begin immediately in the entire state according to Tom Johnson, Treasurer of the Iditarod Trail Committee.

"This lottery will, in all probability, be another big first along with the race itself," states Johnson. "We anticipate that the winner, or winners, will take home a record amount of money ever won in an Alaskan lottery."

To insure a record purse, the organizers have put half a million tickets on sale in virtually every city, town and village in the state.

According to Johnson the

winner will be the ticket holder who correctly guesses the exact number of days, hours, minutes, and seconds it will take the winning musher and his team to complete the entire race.

In the event of a tie, the pot will be split among similar guesses. If no exact guess is made, the closest time guessed will be declared the winner.

Tickets are \$1.00 each and the winner or winners will be declared within 72 hours of the completion of the race.

"We decided to have this race and the lottery to raise money for the Committee so that it can begin the work of preserving the trail, restoring some of the historic road houses and portions of many gold rush towns that have begun to deteriorate with time.

We also plan to lobby to

make the Iditarod Trail a part of the National Historic Trail system. After all, the Iditarod Trail was one of the last existing and functional trails in North America . . . and still is in many areas," says Johnson.

To help potential winners make an educated guess, the organizers have prepared a poster which lists the winning times of the historic Nome-Candle-Nome races of the early 1900's.

"It's really anybody's guess as to the winning time," says Johnson, "the posters will probably give some idea as to an educated guess, but since this race has never been run before the entire \$195,000 is up for grabs with everybody having an even chance to be the winner."