

Commemorative Serum Relay

Race to start next week

Joe Redington, Sr. has joined forces with the statewide "Shots for Tots" program by promoting infant immunization in rural Alaska as part of the Commemorative Serum Relay Race slated to take place January 27, 1995, the seventieth year anniversary of the 1925 run.

The CSRR will draw attention to the original, historical serum run from Nenana to Nome. Edgar Nollner, Sr. of Galena is the last surviving musher who participated in the original serum relay.

Another significant objective of the relay race is to reintroduce working dogs into villages which have seen mushing fade from the rural lifestyle.

Checkpoints will be set up in Nenana, Tolovana, Old Minto, Manley, Tanana, Ruby, Galena, Nulato, Kaltag, Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain, and Nome. Concurrent with the race will be the immunization of children by local health aides.

"In the spirit of the original serum relay in 1925 which carried lifesaving diphtheria serum to Nome, we intend to highlight the needs of rural children to be fully vaccinated against life-threatening diseases," said Redington. "The natural link between our relay race and the symbolic transport of serum vials through several Alaskan villages is obvious."

