

Alaska Journal

Just how directly the health and vigor of a community's newspapers reflect the conditions of the community itself is the underlying theme of a lead article in THE ALASKA JOURNAL, a quarterly publication on the history and arts of the North, released this week.

Alaska's interior city of Iditarod, scene of one of the last great gold rushes, quickly spawned two competing newspapers and other marks of civilization promptly followed.

In addition to the newspapers, there were eventually 2 banks, 12 saloons, 2 wholesale liquor houses, a hospital and a population approaching 6,000 early in the century.

But gold production did not live up to expectations, business indicators began to slip, people drifted away and one of the newspapers died. The surviving paper struggled on, finally giving up in 1919. It was one of the first and one of the last business enterprises in the community.

Other features of the Spring issue of the JOURNAL, published by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, cover the remarkable photography of Clarence Leroy Andrews, who was among the first to capture frontier Alaska on glass plates, the wreck of the Revenue Cutter

"Tahoma," pride of the Bering sea patrol fleet, and a bright article on the history of samovars, the traditional Russian beverage urns.

Two Alaska artists, Mary Henrikson and Gary Lyons, and their contrasting styles and subjects, are covered in separate articles in the publication that is now available at fine bookstores and newsstands. Single copies, at \$2 each, may be ordered directly from the publisher at Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509.