



Raine Hall, Assistant Secretary for the Iditarod Trail Committee and Fund Raising Coordinator, and Ann Matthews, Chairperson for the Iditarod Membership drive, unveil the new brochure which will be used to aid the committee in soliciting donations to help with the race efforts for 1978. The Committee is seeking support from businesses and organizations across the state.

Iditarod needs money

The Iditarod Trail Race Committee has begun to solicit donations and support for the 1978 sled dog race which will begin March 4 and carry 40-50 mushers from Anchorage to Nome.

Ann Matthews, a lifetime Alaskan, has been appointed membership chairperson for the drive. Ann, originally from Nome, has lived in Anchorage since 1964. She says she has a real feel for the Iditarod efforts. Her mother was just a baby in Golovin in 1924 when the diphtheria epidemic threatened the Nome and western Alaskan areas. Because of the heroic run of the mushers from Nenana to Nome, 300,000 units of the anti-diphtheria serum were delivered and saved thousands of lives including Ann's mother's. This historic run is but a part of the Iditarod legend that the present day race is patterned after.

Ms. Matthews unveiled the Iditarod brochure which has been designed by Graphix West, Inc. for the committee to aid them in their solicitation of donations from businessmen and organizations across the state. Matthews said that it is estimated that it costs at least \$80,000 to stage the race each year. This guarantees a purse of \$50,000. The additional monies are needed for expenses and transportation. The race has gained worldwide coverage and each year more and more mushers participate and more and more Alaskans become involved. The brochure tells a little of the history of the race, describes the route, the mushers and the dogs. The Trail Committee is in the process of mailing these statewide and Ann stressed that if anyone is interested in receiving one they can contact the committee at 2307 Roosevelt Dr., Anchorage, Ak. 99503.

Ten-dollar memberships as as Iditarod Trail Blazer will also be sold to the general public between now and the race date of March 4. This membership not only aids the Trail Committee with their expenses, it entitles the purchaser to a monthly newsletter, the Iditarod Runner, and a chance to win a round trip for two to Nome for the finish of the 1978 race.