

Bicentennial project—

Grueling Iditarod

This year's grueling 1,049-mile Iditarod has been designated as an official Bicentennial project by the State Bicentennial Commission and as such will take on a special flavor for the entire state.

In addition to being named a Bicentennial project this year's race will start at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, instead of Mulchahy Park as in the past three races.

Plans for the race have been coordinated by Mary Hale, UAA Bicentennial Committee chairman, and Joe Redington, grandfather of the Iditarod.

Forty-seven mushers are scheduled to participate in the 1976 event according to Redington, the greatest number since 1967 when 58 racers entered in the competition. That race, known as the Sepala Memorial, marked the centennial of Alaska's purchase from the Russians.

The university is making special plans to accommodate the racers and their teams on Saturday, March 6, when the fourth annual Iditarod will be-

gin. The racers will be able to catch a hot breakfast prepared by the UAA Food Service from 7-10 a.m. at the campus Lucy Cuddy Center.

The mushers may be hosted by UAA students, faculty and staff thus involving the entire campus community in the Iditarod experience.

Prior to the 10 a.m. starting time, the mushers, their dogs and equipment will be situated in the school's east parking lot with spaces assigned to each participant by his race number.

The mushers and dog teams will be taking off from the UAA north parking lot, leading straight onto Mallard Lane. The route then will head through the woods and onto Goose Lake, about one-half mile away.

It is hoped that spectators wishing to catch a glimpse of the men and dogs will be able to park at Goose Lake and view all the teams as they cross the lake.

The project not only involves the university people but also the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department.

Volunteers are needed to help with the directing of traffic as well as to assist with the dogs and equipment prior to and during the start of the race.

In keeping with the Bicentennial designation each volunteer will be identified by a large Bicentennial button with ribbon streamers. And each sled will bear a Bicentennial flag.