

Attla to "Catch the Wind" on screen

George Attla, world champion dog musher for many years, is to be featured in the forthcoming full-length movie, "Catch the Wind." The picture is a dramatic recreation of

Attla's life from the time he was a boy in Huslia, crippled by tuberculosis of the bone, until he won his first championship race. The story focuses on the day-to-day life of an

Indian family in Alaska during the 1940s, the sport of dog racing, and the eventual triumph of overcoming a handicap of which the doctors said: "He will never walk again."

"Catch the Wind" is being financed by Alaskan investors, including Doyon Ltd., of Fairbanks, and produced by Raven Pictures of Juneau. The film is being shot in wide-screen format and is budgeted at \$650,000. The production crew is composed of professionals from many parts of the country who are attracted by the opportunity of working in Alaska's beautiful wilderness settings.

Ralph Liddle and John Logue, both of Juneau, wrote the screenplay. Liddle will direct the motion picture and Logue is production designer. Both men will be traveling extensively throughout Alaska in September looking for actors. The picture calls for a cast of over 35 persons. Canadian Indian actors George Clutesi (I Heard

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the Owl Call My Name) and Chief Dan George (Little Big Man) have already been approached but Liddle and Logue hope to discover some unknown Alaska talent as well.

George Attla, who again this year won the overall point total in the North American Sled Dog Association circuit, owns a percentage of the film and has worked closely with Liddle and Logue on the story development. Most of the research for the script was done at Attla's fish camp on the

Yukon River. At one point, Attla remarked: "If these guys can make movies as good as they sack fish, we'll do alright!"

Production is scheduled to begin in January and the film will be released nationally prior to Christmas of next year.