

# *Talk focuses on Interior's trapping, trading*

"Indians, Traders and the U.S. Army in the Heartland of the Interior Athapaskans" will be the subject of a lecture Sept. 17 in the first of a new series of programs sponsored by the the Cook Inlet Historical Society.

Dr. William S. Schneider, creator and current curator of the Oral Language Program at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, will present the

lecture at 8 p.m. at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

Two great themes dominate the history of Interior Alaska: development of a trapping and trading economy and the onset of the Gold Rush. These two events brought even the most remote Athapaskan groups into contact with western traders, missionaries, military explorers and

prospectors.

Schneider will share his search to understand life in the Interior by recounting stories about a varied and fascinating collection of people: pioneering Church of England clergy; Chief Secui of Telida who performed an astonishing rescue; Capt. Ray of the U.S. Army, a senior officer who engineered a major series of explora-

tions that charted new transportation routes to the Interior; and the soudough traders, Arthur Harper and Francois Mercier, who could rightfully claim more knowledge of Interior Alaska than any other white men of their day.

Schneider provided the first systematic statewide access to oral history collections.

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