

Midnight Sun 600

Scheduled Jan. 9

ANCHORAGE—"You will be competing in the world's longest and richest snowmobile race." This is the way the official racers' rulebook and handbook describes the "Midnight Sun 600." This race, covering three grueling days and 600 manhandling, rig-mauling miles between Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, will get underway here Jan. 9, 1969.

Tough race or not, more than 300 Alaskan, "Lower 48," and foreign entrants have already plunked down \$100 each in advance registrations. At least 200 more are forecasted—each racer fully expecting to cop a big share of \$20,000 offered in prize monies.

Grand winner of the event will earn more than \$2,300 in cash. In addition he will receive a free trip to Sweden where he will compete in a Scandinavian snowmobile contest.

Sponsor of the first annual "600" is Midnight Sun Broadcasters, a network of Alaska radio and TV stations. In honor of the race, Governor Walter J. Hickel has proclaimed the week of January 5 "Snowmobile

Week" in Alaska.

Several thousand Alaska visitors and residents are expected to line the route at various points along the raceway.

The course can only be called "varied." Utilizing highway shoulders and right-of-way, racers will climb hills to alpine meadows, zoom down and through forested valleys, skim along beside frozen muskeg bogs and lakes, and pass within a snowball's throw of Mt. McKinley, North America's highest peak.

The contest will begin near Anchorage International Airport. It will take racers through Palmer, Wasilla, Sutton, Eureka, and on to Glennallen for a total of 223 miles the first day. On the second and third days the motorized mushers will travel on to Tok (169.6 miles) and then Fairbanks (207.6 miles)—end of the line.

Eligibility requirements, entry blanks, housing information for visiting racers and other details can be obtained from the sponsors at Box 1160, Anchorage, 99501.