

State Senator To Push Trapline Bill

Senator Grant Pearson of Nenana is planning to push the trapline bill No. 142 introduced in the Senate last year by himself and Senators Hopson, Walsh, Foster, and Butrovich. The bill is now pigeon-holed in the House of Representatives.

"Minto, Tanana, and especially Anvik, among others, are anxious to have the trapline bill passed," said Sen. Pearson.

The bill hinges on the House Resources Committee chaired by Rep. Ray Christensen.

"There are nine members in that committee and it would take five members to jar it loose," said Pearson.

Pearson said that another thing that makes it hard for the bill to pass was that the State Fish and Game Department was against it. That agency said it would be too much work to implement it once it was passed.

He said that Roscoe Bell, Director of State Lands Division, was for the bill and has been working for it.

"I think the bill, once it becomes law, would be workable and it would protect the Native people from encroachment—and this has happened. Yukon Territory in Canada has one that's been working perfectly," Pearson stated. "I will work hard to get this bill through this next legislature."

On another matter, the Senator said he was going to introduce a bill to reactivate a trail between Lower Kalskag on the Kuskokwim River and Russian Mission on the Yukon River.

"This used to be a mail route in the old mining days," he said.

The distance between the two points is 30 miles. However, traveling was done by boat in summer by following streams and numerous lakes in the area and by portaging them at three places by means of rails but these are now in disrepair.

Sen. Pearson made the trip last summer across the old trail with his boat that weighed a ton.

"I made the trip with two Eskimos from Russian Mission and managed to portage the boat across two short stretches but I had to hire 18 Eskimos from Lower Kalskag

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to get from a lake to the Kuskokwim River, a distance of about a mile," Pearson said.

He said the people in the area would like to see the old trail reactivated.

"It would take only about \$20,000 to do it. New railing could be shipped by riverboats that run up and down both the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers. The men could make the railroad ties from the spruce in the area.

"This would give the people around there work and accomplish something that would be for a useful purpose," Sen. Pearson said.