

Hudson's Bay Company seeking Alaskan furs

Alaska Commercial Company will be marketing its raw furs through the Hudson's Bay Company in Toronto, Canada.

An agreement was reached between Allan Gallant, President of A.C. and Duane Byer, General Manager, Hudson's Bay Company Fur Division at meetings held in Anchorage and Toronto.

The Hudson's Bay Company auctions, which are held six times per year emphasize wild fur from all over Canada, the Lower 48 and Alaska. Buyers from all over the world converge on the suburban Toronto fur center at auction times to vie for the many varieties of wild fur offered.

With the addition of more than \$1 million of A.C. wild fur, the Hudson's Bay collection will be one of the premier auctions of wild fur in the world and will contain the finest collection of Alaska fur in the world.

As part of the agreement reached between Byer and Gallant, Hudson's Bay will provide extensive training for A.C.'s fur buying coordinator, Ted Baud, as well as for A.C.'s 15 store managers to improve the selection and grading of furs in the Bush.

In addition, Hudson's Bay has agreed to provide regional seminars throughout the state to keep trappers informed of the latest techniques and trends of the fur industry to enable trappers to enhance the value of their fur.

Alaska Commercial buys furs direct from the trappers in all of their locations including Aniak, Bethel, Cordova, Dutch Harbor, Emmonak, Ft. Yukon, Kotlik, Kotzebue, McGrath, Naknek, Nome, St. Mary's, St. Michael, Tanana, and Unalakleet.

Over the past three years A.C. has annually purchased an average of \$1 million in fur directly from trappers in rural Alaska. This year A.C. again plans to be aggressively involved in purchasing raw furs from trappers.