

Bicentennial project—

Grueling Iditarod

This year's grueling 1,049-mile Iditarod has been designated as an official Bicentennial project by the State Bicentennial Commission and as such will take on a special flavor for the entire state.

In addition to being named a Bicentennial project this year's race will start at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, instead of Mulchahy Park as in the past three races.

Plans for the race have been coordinated by Mary Hale, UAA Bicentennial Committee chairman, and Joe Redington, grandfather of the Iditarod.

Forty-seven mushers are scheduled to participate in the 1976 event according to Redington, the greatest number since 1967 when 58 racers entered in the competition. That race, known as the Sepala Memorial, marked the centennial of Alaska's purchase from the Russians.

The university is making special plans to accommodate the racers and their teams on Saturday, March 6, when the fourth annual Iditarod will be-

gin. The racers will be able to catch a hot breakfast prepared by the UAA Food Service from 7-10 a.m. at the campus Lucy Cuddy Center.

The mushers may be hosted by UAA students, faculty and staff thus involving the entire campus community in the Iditarod experience.

Prior to the 10 a.m. starting time, the mushers, their dogs and equipment will be situated in the school's east parking lot with spaces assigned to each participant by his race number.

The mushers and dog teams will be taking off from the UAA north parking lot, leading straight onto Mallard Lane. The route then will head through the woods and onto Goose Lake, about one-half mile away.

It is hoped that spectators wishing to catch a glimpse of the men and dogs will be able to park at Goose Lake and view all the teams as they cross the lake.

The project not only involves the university people but also the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department.

Volunteers are needed to help with the directing of traffic as well as to assist with the dogs and equipment prior to and during the start of the race.

In keeping with the Bicentennial designation each volunteer will be identified by a large Bicentennial button with ribbon streamers. And each sled will bear a Bicentennial flag.



REFLECTING on the practical uses of baskets, visitors discover the arts and crafts of a distant culture. The different sizes, shapes and colors of basketry help tell the story of a people whose descendants continue old traditions. Exxon USA's Arizona Indian basketry exhibit is presently on tour nationwide.

Exxon sponsors minority arts

HOUSTON—The country has a number of cultural groups which turn everyday items of life into their media of expression. The Indians use baskets, pottery and masks, among other things. Blacks and Chicanos are known for their street art.

But unless a person happens to be a member of the group that produces them, chances are these "everyday" items seem as unfamiliar as Alaskan ceremonial masks. Neither have they always been recognized for their artistic value.

Now, museums across the country are demonstrating that something as practical as a Pueblo bean pot or as unlikely as a mural on a back alley wall can also be a work of art.

"Except for street art, which is notable for its size and relative immovability, actual works are shown," explains Exxon USA Public Relations Manager Dick Howe. "Street art is represented in photography." Exxon presently has five exhibits on tour nationwide.

It's all an outgrowth of grants by the company to foster a greater appreciation of minority art. Subjects include Pueblo pottery, Arizona Indian basketry, Tlingit ceremonial masks and Black street art.

The company also sponsored a contest for Alaskan artists to focus attention on the works of all races in the nation's northernmost state.

"Over the last several years, the art from each of the grants has been featured in, 'Exxon USA,' the company's quarterly magazine," Howe says. "But so those who had not seen the magazine could see the actual art, the company prepared the exhibits and offered them to museums."

Since 1972, company exhibits have appeared in museums and art galleries from New York to Los Angeles and 30 cities in between.

Twenty-five major showings are scheduled this year. Two of the exhibits, the pottery and basketry displays, already are committed through the latter part of 1976.

An ongoing project, the murals of Chicano neighborhoods are being considered for an additional display. A collection of Puerto Rican art is also on tour.

"Museum directors find out about the exhibits through our magazine articles," explains Otto Glade, a staff coordinator in public relations. "We include the curators on our mailing lists whenever there is an article on one of our displays."

That's how the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, Texas, learned of the company's basketmakers exhibit. "Subject of an Exxon USA article in the fall of 1972, the display appeared in Midland late last year because of a high number of requests from museums around the country."

Midland Museum Director Samuel Grove explains the factors which make basketry a good exhibit. "We brought out some

of our own collections of historic basketry for comparison with these current-day baskets.

The Indians were able to take materials at hand and fashion them into usable items. First of all, they were problem solvers. When they not only solved problems but also considered the item's beauty, they created an aesthetic culture.

"There aren't many companies doing this kind of thing, especially at no charge. We're like most museums in that there's never enough money. An exhibit like Exxon's is a real gem."

Filmstrip series on presidents

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—The Bible and the Presidents, a series of four color/sound filmstrips on George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt has just been released by the American Bible Society.

The series lifts up the role of the Bible and its influence in the lives and actions of the four presidents.

"The purpose of these filmstrips," according to Dr. James Z. Nettinga, Director of Advance Programs for the American Bible Society, "is to show the impact of the Bible on the lives of these four presidents."

"All of them were human like everyone else, but on many different occasions during times of challenge and change, the inspiration of the Scriptures undergirded their actions and writings."

Produced for the American Bible Society by Cathedral Films, The Bible and the Presidents is appropriate for all ages. Study and discussion guides accompany the four filmstrips and 33 1/3 rpm records. The filmstrips and records are packaged in a special Bicentennial edition for use during this year of national celebration.

They can be ordered directly from the American Bible Society, Order No. 19030, 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023 or from Cathedral Films, Inc., 2921 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, California 91595. The cost for the entire set is \$45.00 or \$15.00 per individual subject.

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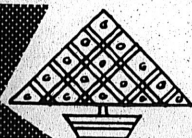
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"HOW HAVE LONG LIFE"

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