

# Tanana Chiefs' DNH Corp, Launches Riverboat 'Tanana Chief'

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Staff Writer

In the early days of Alaska, the arrival of the riverboat in a community meant supplies, news of the outside world, excitement, and often, survival.

The great rivers of Alaska were a major means of transportation and it is no accident that most of the inland cities and villages sprang up along riverbanks.

Along came the airplane and the great days of the riverboats waned. They became, by and large, tourist attractions.

A new company of the DNH Corporation, a profit-making branch of the Tanana Chiefs' organization is reviving the old but practical tradition of riverboat trade.

Yukon Transportation, Inc. operates a freight venture along the Yukon River, hauling bulk cargo between Galena, Nenana, Tanana, Nulato, and points along the way.

The TANANA CHIEF, bought in Juneau, formerly carried passengers up the Stikine River. The Boat is 65 feet long and about 30 feet wide. It pushes a large barge ahead of it, loaded with freight.

Captain Ted Dietrich was born in Tanana and is no stranger to the river. Tim Wallis calls him the "Huck Finn of the Yukon."

The crew of seven is all Native with the exception of the engineer. The hauling season is 120 days and the primary cargo is bulk fuel. However, the TANANA CHIEF can haul a variety of products and is presently on its way to Galena

with a large house trailer on the barge.

Wallis says that rates are lower than air freight and he

believes the company has a great potential, as it will be some time before roads go into many of the villages.



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