

Allakaket People on dogs

Steve Bergman

Q When start dogs? - 1968 - 19 years old

Q How many dogs? - 8

Q Train yourself? - yes How? Trap 1st couple years, then race

Q Long line? - 20-30 miles

Q Train to stay - Long time to learn

Q Other uses - haul wood, rides, trap

Race in Allakaket - 16 dogs now - more every year

Harness from California

Races this year? Just fun races - no leader

1971 - Fairbanks North American - came in 12th - Not enough experience

Start out fast, get good speed Training - drove too far, dogs took off slow, save for long haul - Not good to train long distance just before race

Q Used for now? - haul wood, etc. Maybe trapping later

Dogs like hauling wood, don't like racing

Q Food? - Fish, cornmeal, meat, anything

Q Sleds? - Make own out of birch - 8' long Basket 3-4 feet

Haul wood in 10 foot sled; After bend runners - dry 3-4 weeks

Race this weekend - will run 10 dogs - Passenger race 6 miles, drive out to 3 miles, change over, women drive back

Course upriver around island

Lydie good driver - leader 2 years old - Snowball, good dog - Lab Husky given by someone in Fbks

Spring Races - 6 miles - twice \$1000 purse

2

Dog driving - go out for fun

Snow goes too much trouble w/ muffler - Prefers dogs

Train pups at first by running after snow go but not any more - start chasing all snow gos

Q Fast? Average dogs - dogs young now

Q Where dogs from - Siberian from Anchorage, 1/2 lab from Fbks

Beattus & Beulah Moses

How many? 40? 33 most in past

When train dogs? Fall, Oct, 1st snow

How train? 4 miles

How long run? 20 minutes longest - 8 minutes another time

Dogs like it? Yes Whip? Not unless have to

Races - 5 mile work - 10 mile second 1 1/2 mile 5th

Good team? -

Other races maybe next year

Advice to others - Good leader 2-3 others to start with

Feed? Commercial and fish cooked good sometimes

Go out often - 3 miles today

Dogs to work E hauling

Drove dogs ever since can remember around Allakakat

3 dogs for him at 4-5 years old - Good leader, took off alone

Brothers told him commands

Loan out some dogs

Slow down dogs with brake or drag feet

Dogs understand if you tell them commands right

Wife won race at Hughes, usually comes in in money

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Runs 8-10 dogs

Husband gets better time from same dogs - they know him ^{better}

Sometimes they don't listen to her

No dogs last year - races puppies 7 mos old

Husband started wife racing

Go out together, husband drives, wife rides

Wife can handle 10 dogs easy -

Number to drive depends on good leader - no matter how many dogs

Like to see kids race dogs - many not interested

11 year old son taught his own 3 dogs 2 years racing

Used chains instead of harness

Feelings to race? Always times self to check time

Pollack Simon

Dog Musters Assoc - 1 year ago started in Allakaket since Village Council hasn't time

Handles races - Christmas 6 days of races (dogs, snogs, snowshoes)

Sell patches, jackets

Other races - every week & ~~set~~ Saturday. Little prizes

Spring Carnival in April - 10 dog teams in ~~at~~ Allakaket

Dogs self - 8 dogs, & loaned 3 to George Atla for 1000 mi race

Raised own dogs has 7 puppies month & half

Sleds - makes own, last 2-3 years, make another

birch w/ hickory runners

Warm - use steam Cold - use ski wax

Passenger race - man & woman, man races out, woman back

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Course - 4½ miles

Longer races - ^{Christmas-} 14 miles for men, 4½ miles for women

Spring race - 16 miles men & 8 miles women

Competition - some from Bettles & Hughes (tough)

Go to other villages - to Hughes, North American in Fbks

Colder here in Allakaket, don't do good in warmer places

Keep only dogs you need to work

People more interested in dogs again

How big dogs? 25-50 pounds

Young people interested? Yes - and races for youngsters - 3-5 year old
race with one dog

Money for prizes raised by bake sales 2 times a month
Form dog mushers assoc - committee to organize bake sales - Lots of work at carnival time

Most people used dogs all their lives, but like snowgogs to haul wood & water Some quit mushing

Feed? - Fish from summer, Purina dog chow

Train for races? - Fall training - little ways to build up strength to 16 miles 2½ - 3 months training

Take out 4-5 times a day - Later 2-3 times a week

No summer training w/ carts or anything - no time

for that, not that interested to work in summer

Train to harness at 7 weeks old - Race after ^{9 months -} one year
Harnesses not made at home anymore (from Washington)

Make own tow lines

Like to run 12 dogs - ran 7 dogs before - hard to find that many good dogs - double lead used