

Alpine Publications
 P.O. Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537

Then add this informative new guide to your gear!
Hardbound 392 pgs. \$26.95
 \$2.00 postage per order

MIKI AND IURE COLLINS



A GUIDE FOR THE SERIOUS MUSHER

Dog Driver

Team? Serious About Your

We are again pleased to offer **Champion Quality Meat Feeds** at Reasonable Prices for this winter's race season, with the Same Proven Quality and Dependable Supply

A composition of Ground Beef, Chicken, Eggs and Liver, with Corn Oil, Wheat Germ Oil and Steamed Bone Meal added. (This is the exact diet Charlie and Roxie feed their champion teams.) Product is prepared and frozen in Seattle and then shipped to Alaska. Just add a little dry feed and you're ready to go.

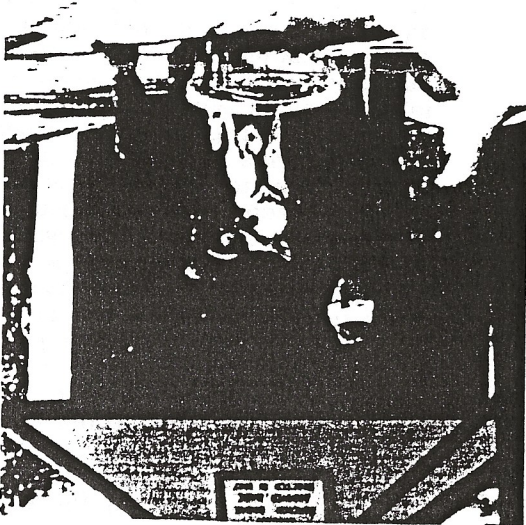
Peter's Creek Supply
 ACE Hardware
 18950 Old Glenn Hwy.
 Chugiak, AK 99567
 (800)478-2549

Charlie Champagne
 5300 Stipes Ave.
 Salcha, AK 99714
 (907)488-3087

Delivery to your door in Fairbanks!

TREKKING

DOWN EAST



Harry E. Gray and his son, Gene, at the Loufjog covered bridge in Andover, Maine.

BY BRIAN W. SWINN

Ask Harry Gray and he'll tell you that Maine is the closest thing to heaven for East Coast mushers. He should know—he's mushed through most of it. At age 54, Harry is no stranger to the sport. Several years behind a team of sled dogs coupled with more than two decades of millitary service makes him a perfect fit for his recent mushing adventure. In February 1990 Harry undertook and completed a 325-mile run that began in Greenville, Maine, and terminated in Wonalancet in the northeastern corner of New Hampshire.


The seven-day trek had a twofold purpose. First, it was an unparalleled opportunity to test his team for long distances over various types of terrain and trail conditions. For more than six years, Harry has been spearheading a movement to rescue from the brink of extinction a breed of sled dog called the chinook. The first chinook (part St. Bernard, part Greenland husky) arrived in a litter born in the kennels of Arthur Walden of Wonalancet. New Hampshire in 1917. The breed was favored by Admiral Byrd for his Antarctic expeditions in the late 1920s but languished and nearly disappeared over the ensuing years. Harry Gray picked up the gauntlet to revive the breed and now is running the only team of chinooks in the world. Harry's 325-mile expedition—The Trek for Life—also provided a public service by promoting the work of the Kidney Foundations of Maine and New Hampshire. By mushing his team through town and countryside alike,

Harry sought to spread the word about the Kidney Foundation's Organ Donor Program. Harry's interest in this particular charity is fired by events in his own life. His father died of a kidney-related illness in 1953. One of Harry's kennel hands spent years on dialysis before receiving a kidney for which Harry's efforts were largely responsible. Preparations for the trek had their roots in several years of training, including a run of similar length across northern Maine in December 1987. Prior to the Trek for Life, Harry spent seven months near Finger Lake in Alaska to acclimate himself and the dogs to severe climates and long trails. Once he returned to his kennels in Waldoboro, Maine, he mushed 10 miles each day on trails near his home. This enabled him to pick the 10 best dogs from 18 starters.

According to Harry, coordinating trail use was the most time-consuming part of his preparations, even though most of his requests drew an enthusiastic response. Although the average musher might not need 300-plus miles of clearance on a tight schedule, Harry did. As is the case in many northeastern states, trail systems see much more traffic from snowmobiles than dogsleds. Anyone contemplating mushing through Maine should contact the local snowmobile club in advance.

Maine and New Hampshire are heirs to strong mushing traditions, making the populace very receptive to dog teams on their trails. Each winter,

OLD FRIENDLY DOG FARM
 Long Distance Dogs
 available for lease



Individual or Full Teams
 Equipment and Training Provided

MYRON ANGSTMAN
 P.O. Box 758
 Bethel, AK 99559 (907) 543-2972

RISDON
 CLYDE & PAT RISDON
 P.O. BOX 127
 Laingsburg, Michigan 48848
 Telephone (517) 651-6960

Complete Line of Sled Dog Equipment
 WRITE FOR FREE BROCHURE

BUTCHER DOGS FOR SALE OR LEASE


Trained long-distance racing dogs for sale or lease. Consistent heavy training started July 1st. Some are race veterans and some are two-year-olds ready for their first racing season. Also a few top one-year-olds from my best bloodlines. \$500 to \$3,000.

Write: SUSAN BUTCHER "Dog Sale"
 Trail Breaker Kennel
 Eureka, Manley, Alaska 99756
 (Please include your phone number.)

1991 SLED DOG CALENDAR
 CLOSE-OUT SALE
 Reduced to \$15.00,
 including postage,
 12 X 12, full color
 photographs by Vladimir Vinitzki,
 suitable for framing,
 order from
 Leader Productions/Tyroia Publishing
 Post Office Box 80434 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Climb Up In DOWN


Baffled Body Parka With
 White Polish Goose Down
 Weather Resistant
 Gore-Tex
 Made to Your
 Measurements
 Proven Everest Experience



Send \$1 For Color
 Fabric Samples & Catalog
 \$425 Prepaid
 MC or VISA
 Customers Call
 CRESCENT DOWN WORKS
 A Proud Family Business
 1005 East Pike
 Seattle, WA 98122
 (206) 328-3696

STAY WARM IN OUR SHARP BAFFLED BODY DESIGN
 Good for outdoor adventures in Arctic conditions.

NOOKSACK KENNEL
 GREY & KATHY PICKETT



HARNESSES ONLY \$8.50

DEALER IN NATIONAL DOG FOOD

RFD No. 1, Box 3261
 MECHANIC FALLS, MAINE 04256
 (207) 539-4324

RACING SLED DOGS
 SLEDDING EQUIPMENT
 AKC STUD SERVICE

placed hills periodically blocked the north wind.

A small town outside of the bustle of eastern Maine, Andover retains much of the storybook charm of old-time New England villages. Before reaching his overnight stop, Harry drove the team across the Lovjoy covered bridge, a local monument that has stood since 1867.

The next day forced an unexpected change in Harry's itinerary. The deteriorating weather conditions had closed the trail from Andover to Berlin, New Hampshire. With a region of 3,000-foot peaks separating him from his next goal, the wise choice was taken: they would turn northwest to Upton, on the border of Maine and New Hampshire. This short stretch of trail proved interesting because of its constant diversity and occasional sightings of wildlife. Harry saw two deer and a disinterested moose on the way up. Without doubt, their presence was prompted by the absence of hunters during the depths of winter.

For a time, Harry pondered adding two extra dogs to his 8-dog team in order to gain an advantage over the steady upward tilt of the land, but the possibility of encountering icy patches on his way down the slope into Milan, New Hampshire, made him reconsider. After a brief stay in Milan, Harry pressed onward to his scheduled overnight stop in Berlin, New Hampshire. There he was greeted by a contingent of local residents who had heard of his trek and were anxious to meet him and his chinooks.

The next morning brought still another change in weather conditions, and 50-degree F weather slowed his progress a bit on the trails. Between Berlin and Conway, the trail runs on an old railroad bed.

With his last overnight stay behind him, Harry set out for the terminus of the trek. Harry and the dogs stopped

White Mountains of New Hampshire began to pull the terrain upward. Moving away from the most populated areas encountered on the trip, Harry began to notice the activity of wildlife. Not far from Willon, a coyote made a brief appearance along the trail before making a swift exit. The final mile or two outside of Willon was a sprint across a frozen lake. A welcome reception awaited Harry and his team in the home of some friends.

The capricious Down East weather touched the Willon area that night, and Harry rose to find a challenge ahead in the 45 miles separating him from Andover, his last stop in Maine. The temperature hit rock bottom overnight, and wind chills of -30 to -60 degrees F bit into musher and dogs alike. Although sprints across open fields were done in the face of near whiteout conditions, the many well-