

FOR RELEASE #129
June 6, 2002

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO THE TRANSPORTATION HALL OF FAME

WHITEHORSE – The Alaska Highway will figure prominently in the Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame ceremony being held this evening in Whitehorse. The late George Chambers from Champagne and Alaskan Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel will be inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2002.

George Chambers is being recognized for creating a network of pack trains throughout the Yukon during the early decades of the last century. These teams hauled goods and mail to the mines and supplied the survey crews who were mapping the Yukon's mineral deposits. The pack trains later served the engineers and contractors who were building the Alaska Highway during World War II.

“The pack trains provided an essential service; it's not as though vehicles could get into the remote terrain. The alternative would have forced people to haul one hundred pound packs on their own backs – one pack at a time,” remarked Mike Stanock, President of the Yukon Transportation Association. “George Chambers exemplified the pioneer spirit and resourcefulness of the Yukon.”

Chambers is also remembered for designing a truck with skis that was used to deliver mail between Champagne and Whitehorse in the winter.

Alaskan Senator Ted Stevens and former Alaskan Senator Mike Gravel are being inducted into the Transportation Hall of Fame for their roles in funding the Shakwak Project. They have both been involved in committees that allocate money for various projects, and were instrumental in securing funding for Shakwak. The project involves the rebuilding of the Canadian portion of the Haines Road and North Alaska Highway from Haines Junction to the Alaska/Yukon border near Beaver Creek.

Individuals inducted into the Transportation Hall of Fame are chosen from nominees by an independent panel. The Yukon Transportation Hall of Fame is a partnership between the Yukon Transportation Museum, the Yukon Transportation Association and the Yukon government.

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