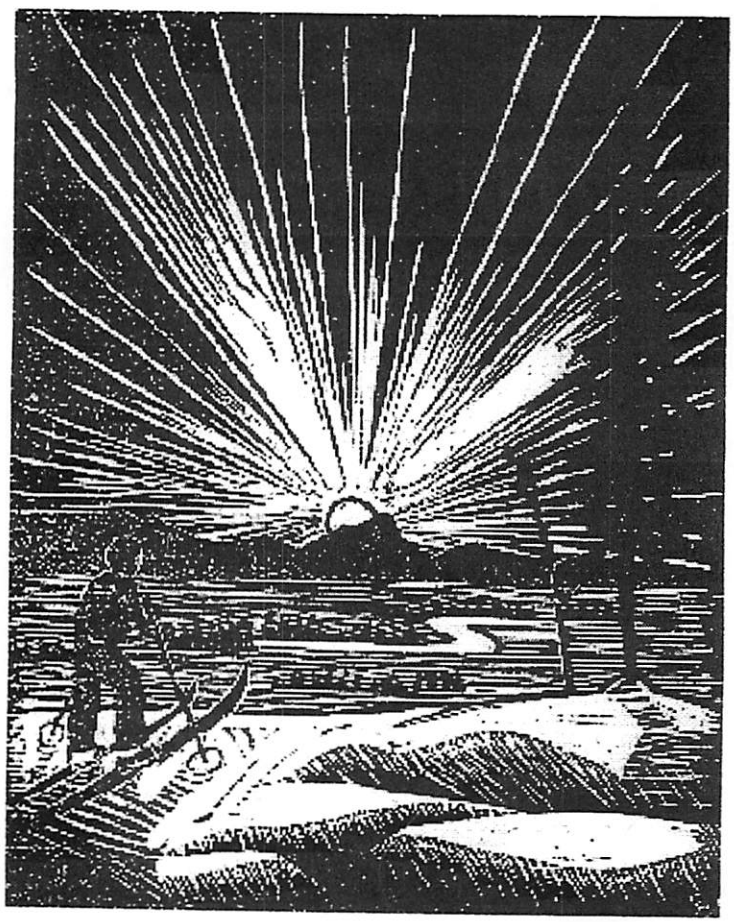
RESPECTING OUR ROUTES...



Jane McNeely Parrish

Perspectives of the North
NORS 600
Terrence Cole, Professor

TABLE CONTENTS

Introduction 1

The Early Years 1

Post-War to the Mid-1960's 12

The Equinox Trail 17

The Skarland Trail 21

1970's through 1980's 24

Conclusion 26

End Notes

Bibliography

ATTACHMENTS

Map of Skarland Ski Trail System
UAF Recreational Trails, Master Plan, 1991

RESPECTING OUR ROUTES.....

HISTORY UNDERLYING THE UAF SKI TRAILS, SKARLAND SKI TRAIL, AND THE EQUINOX TRAIL

Introduction:

The large undeveloped natural area northwest of campus makes UAF unique. Students, university personnel, and the community at large use the area extensively for recreation and research purposes. Over the years, trails for non-motorized multiple uses have been developed throughout the approximately four square miles. In addition, trail systems have been created which originate on campus and reach as far as Ester Dome.

This paper describes the history of skiing and major ski trails in the vicinity of and on the University of Alaska campus. It focuses on the University of Alaska ski trails, the Skarland Memorial Ski Trail, and the Equinox Trail.

The discussion reflects individual commitments to skiing which have served the area well and are an inspiration for the future. Presently, however, increased land use threatens to crowd out existing trails and stifle development of new ones. The changing nature of the land and the expanding role of governmental agencies demand a new type of focus to preserve the trend initiated by our predecessors. Otherwise, this valuable resource and the history underlying it may be lost to future generations.

The Early Years:

Skiing began developing as a sport in Scandinavia in the early 1800's.[1] Norwegians living on the eastern seaboard introduced skiing to the United States in the 1840's. During the California gold rush, skis were used in the Sierra Nevadas.[2] Later, skiing flourished in areas where Scandinavians settled. Alaska was no

exception.[3]

The University community played a pivotal part in the development of cross-country skiing in the Fairbanks area. From the start, the school encouraged and pursued sporting activities.[4] Through the years, the university attracted or produced durable individuals, who, among other things, popularized skiing and established ski trails.

UAF opened its doors in September, 1922.[5] Known formally as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, residents nicknamed it "College Hill."[6] The optimistic local boosters predicted that "150 students were ready to enroll on opening day."[7]

Only six actually entered that first September morning.[8] Three weeks later at the close of registration, enrollment had doubled to 12.[9] Undaunted, President Bunnell committed himself to providing a top notch education. Having graduated from Bucknell,[10] Dr. Bunnell wanted his students to have an educational experience comparable to his own.

Dr. Bunnell included athletics as one of the criteria in his ideal, believing that "organized sports instilled discipline and aided the development of the mind and body." [11] This sentiment endured throughout Bunnell's long tenure.[12] As a result, athletics flourished as a selling point of the school.[13]

School-sponsored sporting activities became "a major part of college life." [14] That very first year, despite such a small student body, the college managed to put together a fine basketball team.[15] The players of that era possessed unusual determination as they had no gymnasium in which to play, had to walk to and from town for practices, and found competition only in high school teams.[16]

Although basketball was the most popular sport on campus, other sports were cultivated; skiing among them.[17] The first recorded ski race occurred in the winter of 1923-24. Students were looking forward to a follow-up race in December, 1924. Postponement of the race until spring disappointed all.[18]

Skiing was not limited to cross-country as "plans were in the making to build a ski and toboggan slide on College Hill. "[19] In fact, a toboggan slide, constructed in 1927, rested on a south-facing slope of College Hill.[20] Whether it was ever used for skiing is not known.

Outside influences may have helped bring skiing and ski jumping into vogue during this time period. Chamonix, France, hosted the first Winter Olympic Games in 1924. Nordic skiing and ski jumping were two of the many sports contested. An article describing the games imparted detailed information regarding the ski jump and bobsled runs.[21] Olympic events have been known to create motivation (fads), whether it be a Dorothy Hamil haircut or ski skating like Bill Koch.

Opportunity for winter tourism may have been a second factor in generating interest in skiing locally. In the winter of 1924, Fairbanks investigated ways to attract winter tourists. With the necessary natural resources, that is, cold and snow, Fairbanks could be competitive in marketing a variety of winter activities. The *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* read: "It would surprise you to know the number of millions of dollars the Canadian winter resorts absorb from the winter tourists to their ice and snow fields. Montreal is at its best and liveliest in the winter.....The possibilities of entertaining winter tourists are greater or as great as those for entertaining summer tourists, yet here we allow our winters to be a drag and a blank."[22]

A record warm fall occurred in 1925. The students improvised an outdoor tennis court on which they played as late as October 31. The campus newspaper noted: "Winter sports must wait their season. But when an ever active student body turns its attention to tobogganing and skiing, there will no doubt be more 'major sports.'"[23]

From early views of the campus, the main building sat in a hay field with large cleared areas surrounding it.[24] These open spaces may have been the earliest ski areas. With the Agricultural Research Station (now the Experimental Farm) in close proximity, a route could easily have been created between there and school. Skiers

may also have ventured over the old Chena Road through campus as well as a trail from the farm to Smith Lake.[25]

A man destined to become a key figure in the ski community was Ivar Skarland, a native of Norway. After obtaining a degree in forestry, Skarland had left his homeland in 1928 to work in British Columbia and then Juneau as a logger. Later, he journeyed further north to work in the Healy coal mines for two years.[26]

New to Interior Alaska, Skarland wanted to get into the back country of McKinley Park. Grant Pearson, a park ranger at the time, agreed to a friend's request to take Skarland on a trip Grant anticipated making to the Eielson cabin. Pearson met his charge at the train, dismayed at what he saw. Instead of snowshoes, which were customary in those days, Skarland clutched in his arms what Pearson described as "some long skinny things." Despite Grant's doubts, off they went.

Before long, Skarland's long, graceful strides overtook the running dogs. They reached Copper Mountain, which lies across the river from the Visitor's Center, some 50 to 60 miles within the Park. Skarland, in his thick Norwegian accent, tried to explain to Pearson that he needed to catch the train "tomorrow" for College; that he wanted to go to school. Pearson, skeptical and unsure that he understood Skarland, tried to dissuade him because of the distance. This didn't seem to phase Ivar, who skied off alone.[27]

It was 1930 when Skarland tried to enter the college, but President Bunnell encouraged him to practice his English for another year to improve his chances of succeeding. Heeding Bunnell's advice, Skarland returned to Healy until the following year.[28]

Skarland enrolled in the fall of 1931. Apparently, the only problem Skarland encountered with English was speaking it. After Skarland's first year in college, he became "employed as the grader in the English department and in his senior year -- having overcome his fear of talking -- (and) taught a section of English 101." After graduating in 1935, Skarland continued his education at Harvard, earning his M.A.

and Ph.D. in anthropology. Upon returning to Fairbanks, he headed the anthropology department for two decades.[29]

Skarland, an incredibly good skier by Fairbanks' standards, literally competed in a class by himself. Many years passed before a local skier beat him and earned "elite" status.[30] Possessed of tremendous endurance, Skarland helped to conduct the 1939 U.S. Census "by skiing along the railroad in mid-winter."[31]

Skarland greatly influenced the sport in the College community. He knew good technique and how to race. He wrote articles on skiing, helped establish one of the first racing trails, and aided students in procuring skis. The ski community looked to Skarland for leadership.[32]

As snow fell in the fall of 1932, Skarland and another influential Scandinavian, Inge Trigstad, eagerly awaited their order of skis from Norway. Meanwhile, construction of a ski jump took place on "engineer hill," which busied the anxious skiers. It bore Skarland's name.[33]

Trigstad designed the first ski trail on campus: "Through 'Trig's' influence, there is now a ski trail west of the campus, over the hill and through the birches to the Experiment Farm." Designated "Circle Tour," the two-mile course provided several obstacles for skiers to negotiate. It also included a downhill section where "one can coast clear to the road and thence back to the campus."[34]

The college scheduled the first annual ski meet for March, 1933.[35] It was part of a larger vision of attracting people from all over the world upon completion of the greatly anticipated road to Alaska:

> "In the advent of the completion of the International Highway, Alaska will find itself the center of winter sports and a mecca for the tourists of the world.
>
> It is now time to build up traditions and events which will, as their popularity increases, attract people from everywhere. The annual dog races must continue and meet with increasing support and favor. The skiing element must not be neglected. The College will hold its first annual ski meet in March. Everyone may participate in this event. Slick up your skiis and come our way for a good time."[36]

The upcoming event included classes of competition based on experience, welcomed everyone to participate and awarded points toward an intramural letter in Dean Patty's "One Hundred Mile Club." The club was developed to "stimulate interest in skiing." For every mile skied, a point would be awarded toward earning a "letter."[37]

Skiing faced an uphill battle in the Far North. In 1933, skis, let alone "racing" skis, were hard to acquire. "There are few pairs of modern racing skiis at the College."[38] Some skiers were forced to design and construct their own skis from local timber based upon general advice:

> "Racing skiis made from second growth hickory are stronger than those made from birch. The latter, however, have the advantage of being stronger than those made from birch. (Birch) have the advantage of being lighter in weight. They also slide better in cold weather. In fact, most of the skiers in northern Sweden and inland, where the climatic conditions resemble those of the interior of Alaska, use skiis made from birchwood while the Norwegians use skiis made from hickory because of their more rugged country. The Alaskan white birch if properly seasoned furnishes excellent material for skiis."[39]

The first annual ski meet used the Circle Tour trail. It was a perfect day for racing: Sunshine and a balmy zero degrees. Paired teams of eager locals gave it their all, but Joe and Aileen Walsh from Nome prevailed in the scramble. Inge Trigstad and Audrey Steele "were making the snow fly down the last lap of the home stretch for third place."[40] Other races were held over the same course that year.

With the success of the spring races, skiing continued to rise in popularity. Several informative articles regarding skiing appeared in *The Collegian* during the 1933-34 school year. The newspaper touted Fairbanks as optimal for winter sports. "The country around Fairbanks is ideal for the beginner. Trails are found everywhere that can be easily kept open."[41]

Ivar Skarland wrote an informational feature detailing the history of skis. Its historical bent suggests genuine readership interest in skiing:

> "Most archaeologists believe that skis originated in the

> mountainous regions south of the great plains in Western Asia where they gradually had developed from snowshoes. Skis found during excavation works there are all of a short and wide type (often lined with fur) which is best suited for a mountainous country. During the westward migration of the people, most of whom were Finns, skis served as a necessary means of travel. On the Persian plains a long type of skis, well adapted to a flat country, is found, while in the Scandinavian peninsula this long type is found on the plains, and a short and rather wide type of ski is found in the mountainous regions."[42]

The 1932 Lake Placid Winter Olympics spurred interest in skiing as a sport nationwide. The winter games, especially the skiing events, intrigued spectators who could not wait to try the sports themselves.[43] The games may have contributed to the popularity skiing enjoyed locally during the 1930's. Coverage by the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* was generous both before and after the games, running pictures well after the games' conclusion.[44] Local legend and dog musher Leonard Seppala boosted Fairbanks' image as a winter sports center with his participation at Lake Placid. The games incorporated dog mushing events as an exhibition sport. The *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* followed and reported on his progress.[45]

To satisfy student demand, Skarland ordered seven pairs of skis and poles from Norway in the summer of 1933. The order, which took five months by boat via the Panama Canal, finally arrived in January of 1934. The skis were well worth the wait.[46]

Skarland and fellow student George Karabelnikoff established a four-mile trail in the spring of 1934 that was "tricky and full of hazards."[47] The trail made a loop from the dormitories out to the Experimental Farm. From there it followed the railroad tracks to Ester Siding, where it made a turn to the east toward Smith Lake. From Smith Lake, the trail "turns and comes up behind the University Farm, winds along the Farm ridge and then drops to the campus alongside the Girls' Dormitory." The trail began and ended where Constitution Hall is now.[48] The new route added interest for racers and tourers. Regular Sunday races were conducted over the course that spring.[49]

By 1934, skiing had become entrenched in the college lifestyle: "Increased interest this year in skiing was very evident and helped to make this sport both

prominent and popular..... "[50] The effort to cast Fairbanks as a potential winter sports capital persisted as a theme:

> "The Alaska College could top the list as a winter sports leader. Every advantage is here. We can be the pioneers of an extensive campaign to put winter play on a level with major sports. So far we have a fair start. The new ice rink, ice carnival, and skiing program are only a hint of the expanse of possible openings..... Collegiate dog derbies, snow-shoeing, a ski jump . . .and what's the matter with having a winter lodge out here in the hills within skiing distance of the campus? These are only simple potentialities for furthering an expanded program for A.A.C. (Alaska Agricultural College) winter sports."[51]

By the mid-1930's, skiing had become a favorite athletic diversion on campus. Even though it was still a "minor" sport relegated to intramural status, more students enjoyed skiing than any other pursuit.[52] A well-used ski route that year was to town and back. An experienced skier could cover the distance in 35 to 40 minutes one way. On campus, the four-mile trail was the preferred route.[53] Widespread acceptance of skiing led to the formation of the "College Ski Club" during the winter of 1935-36.[54] Unusually mild weather intensified enthusiasm for skiing that year.[55]

That winter saw women join the ranks of serious competitors: "Elsa Lundell with a pair of her grandfather's skis is ready to give competition to the best of them. She has been practicing since June."[56]

The 1930's saw remarkable growth for the College, considering the plight of the depression-stricken Lower 48 states. With the resurgence of gold mining locally, Fairbanks had stumbled on good economic times:

> "During the depression, the Alaska College not only offered training for the future, but thanks to Bunnell's policy of hiring student labor, the college could generally provide employment to all students who needed it. Enrollment also increased due to the relative strength of Alaskan gold mining, an industry which the college advertised as 'depression proof.' About one-third of the college's graduates between 1923 and 1935 earned their livelihood by either digging for gold themselves or working for a gold mining company. Gold mining had begun to revive from its World War I depression in the 1920's when the U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Co. of Boston began large scale dredging of the placers at Fairbanks and Nome. In 1934 President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal boosted the official price of gold by

seventy percent to thirty-five dollars an ounce, starting the first Alaskan gold rush in almost a generation."[57]

The student body's energy and enthusiasm for skiing reflected this economic boost. Students were able to work and could afford to buy the finest ski equipment available. More skis were ordered, this time from Sweden.[58]

Ivar Skarland graduated in the spring of 1935, the last graduating class of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. That summer, the Alaska legislature changed the name to the University of Alaska.[59]

Doug Colp, a typical student of this era, enrolled in the fall of 1935. With increased enrollment, student needs exceeded available dorm space. Colp and others were left to their own devices for housing. In Colp's case, the choice was "Yertchville," where he resided in a mud house they called a "yurt."[60] More properly, a yurt was a portable Siberian tent, usually made out of skin.[61] Many villas similar in quality to Colp's stretched from College Road to Wolf Run.

Employed by a mining company on weekends, Colp used skis for transportation. Colp skied to work on Friday evenings and back home on Sunday nights, lighting his way with a carbide headlamp. Other students commonly skied to their jobs in the Ester Dome area. That trail headed west from the dorms to the Experimental Farm along what now is Yukon Drive. At a point overlooking the farm, the trail turned north and headed to Smith Lake. From there it proceeded in a somewhat northerly direction, eventually leaving campus property for Happy Station.

From Happy Station, Colp and others continued on to various creeks and mines in the area, including Happy Creek, St. Patrick's Creek, Sheep Creek, Ryan Lode, and Grant Mine. Sometimes Colp and his buddies skied the section to Happy Station and back just for fun and exercise.

Students working at the mines around the base of Ester Dome probably cut the trail to Happy Station. Unlike today, when ski trails approximate highways, skiing at that time did not require much in the way of clearing. Trails were only wide enough to

maneuver body, skis, and poles through the trees. Obtaining permission for a trail through property was not a problem, as it did not appear that anyone owned the land, or if they did, they didn't seem to mind having skiers cross it. Everybody who used the trails contributed to construction and maintenance. They carried axes with them and brushed and straightened the trail as it needed it.[62]

Cross-country skiing continued to be the rage on campus through to the 1940's.[63] The Circle Tour and four-mile trails remained most used because of their close proximity to the dorms. Some students needed more of a challenge: ".....the really dyed-in-wool fanatics are taking longer trips -- trips to the hills behind Chena pump station, trips to the top of Ester Dome, trips along the ridge behind the University and trips to (?) Nenana."[64] Discovering the area on skis exploded in popularity. As a result, many other trails emerged.

By May of 1936, the ski club had elected officers.[65] The club continued to play an important role in promoting skiing. Dr. Bunnell donated a cabin on some property he owned off what is now Ballaine Road, then a summer wagon trail, approximately three miles from the University. Skiers dedicated the cabin November 14, 1936, "with a large party for members and invited guests....."[66] Some 40 skiers helped celebrate the event as they "explored Goldstream Ridge," practiced their downhill technique, and ate hot dogs. Not long after, members cut trails in the area, built a jump, and set up a slalom course.[67]

The "Main Trail" provided access to the cabin. Starting behind the dorms, close to where the Wood Center sits today, the trail rose slightly to the ridge, then dropped down and paralleled Farmer's Loop Road to approximately where Ballaine Road and Farmer's Loop meet today. From this point, it angled north for one mile along the old wagon trail, now Ballaine Road. To the east, the cabin stood in an open field.[68] For years following, this venue was the social center of the ski club and the campus. Membership in the club swelled.[69]

Members regularly skied to the club cabin. Someone was always there day or

night. Skiers would leave many times as late as 10:00 p.m. on a school night, ski to the cabin, warm up with a cup of coffee, and then return.[70] A respite from the scholastic grind, the cabin housed many parties.[71] For many years, Dr. Bunnell hosted an annual fried chicken wing ding.[72]

By spring of 1937, two new trails came into being. An eight-mile trail followed the Main Trail to the cabin, then looped through the surrounding area.[73] The return route is unclear: "The grueling course.....started at the west end of the main building and went down the hill toward the Farmer's Road and circled in back of the campus across Rainey Ridge....."[74] A second trail was the "difficult" five-mile Ballaine's Lake course.[75] Other than its presumed proximity to Ballaine Lake, little exists regarding this route.

Given the closeness of the ski community, maps of the trails at that time would have been superfluous. It was obvious to the users where the trails were. The university population numbered 200, and more than one-quarter took part in skiing activities. The descriptions of the old trails are vague and variable. Measurements were estimated and rarely did the name of a trail agree with the actual distance. Consequently, precise trail location is open to debate.

During the '30's, skiing was a part of the everyday culture of students living on campus. For example, one winter day during the 1938-39 winter, Doug Colp returned to his dorm room to find his rocking chair missing. It was a tall backed rocker, the favorite seat in the house for Colp and visitors alike. Colp looked everywhere, and even made excuses to get into other students' rooms to search for his chair. But the whereabouts of his rocker remained a mystery. After some weeks, everyone on campus but Colp knew the location of the chair. Students regularly asked Colp if his chair had been found, and he would have to say, no, not yet.

One Sunday evening at dinner, a once a week formal affair requiring clean shirt, tie, and coat, the conversation made its way to the missing chair. A classmate blurted out, "Why, Doug, I just saw that chair last --," stopping abruptly when she

realized her mistake. Colp reasoned that if she had finished her sentence, she would have ended it with "night," recalling she had been at the ski cabin the previous evening!

Colp donned his headlamp and skied out to the cabin, searching the bushes along the way for his beloved chair. Not finding it at the cabin, Colp warmed up with a cup of coffee and returned empty-handed to campus. It was well after midnight when he descended the slight downhill to his room. Looking up, he saw the chair dangling from his window with two to three feet of accumulated snow on it![76]

The university enjoyed growth and prosperity through the balance of the '30's. The Ski Club continued to be the most popular organization on campus. Finally recognizing skiing as a "major sport," the university endowed it with varsity status in the 1941-42 school year.[77]

The entry into World War II by the United States brought drastic changes to the university. Enrollment declined from a high of over three hundred students to just 68 in 1942-43. Lower enrollment meant fewer faculty, down to just eight from 38 in 1941-42. It showed up in athletics as well. For the first time since opening, the school could not put together a basketball team. Athletic programs were dropped between 1943 to 1948: "All student organizations have been discontinued for the present, excepting the Ski Club, which maintains a ski cabin and holds regular meetings; and the International Relations Club, active during the second semester."[78] *(Denali,* 1943).

Thus, with the war, the University of Alaska saw an end to its "Golden Age" of skiing. Even though the ski club lingered on with smaller numbers, it could not sustain the sense of adventure and camaraderie attending those formative years.

POST-WAR TO THE MID-1960's:

Even after cessation of military enlistments, the National Ski Patrol System had sought men for mountain troop training. Acting as consultant to the War Department

on Mountain and Winter Warfare, the Ski Patrol wrote the university in December of 1942: "Many men in northern colleges are ideal 'raw material' for the mountain troops, even if they are not skiers. It is a popular misconception that the mountain troops are ski troops. Skiing is only part of the training. In our selection of men, we place our emphasis on general physical toughness and outdoor experience.....and the training is designed to fit men to fight in rough and mountainous country anywhere in the world."[79]

Once the War ended, many people came to Alaska for work, school, or just to make their home. Among them were ski troops. The university was the place to go for soldiers, especially the Tenth Mountain Division.[80] The GI Bill made it possible for many veterans to finish a degree or start school from scratch. Alaska offered remarkable opportunities. Post-war Fairbanks attracted colorful personalities (and there were many). Unusually individualistic, they showed a willingness to buck traditional ways to get what they wanted.[81]

Ginny Wood and friend Celia Hunter first arrived in Fairbanks after ferrying two surplus war planes from the Lower 48 through the Lend-Lease program. On New Year's Day, 1947, extreme cold delayed their departure south.[82] Stuck for a week, the two pilots made many friends, who shared interests similar to theirs: skiing and the outdoors.

Afterward, Ginny and Celia went to school in Sweden. "Living there, Wood and Hunter became convinced that cross-country skiing could be a valuable addition to an active lifestyle in the arctic climate."[83]

Dr. Bunnell owned property off Ballaine Road. He sold 150 acres to friend Gordon Herreid. Gordon, in turn, sold five upper parcels to his friends. The area became known as "Dogpatch." Ginny Wood returned with her husband in the early 1950's. They were among the Dogpatch purchasers. Thanks to one of Ginny's friends at United States Geological Survey (USGS), Dogpatch and the five houses in it were placed "on the map."

During the 1950's, Dogpatch residents skied to work and classes on a route they created called the "Commuter Trail." Still in use, it follows the old Main Trail from campus to Ballaine Road. The Commuter Trail parallels Ballaine Road on the east side until reaching Herreid Road. There, it leaves the road and climbs in a northeasterly direction to the Dogpatch area. It then branches to various residences.

To the inhabitants of Dogpatch, skiing was more than just a sport. It was a way of life: recreation, transportation, and fitness. As a result, the ski community extended beyond the campus. A number of key players who had a substantial impact on the preservation of ski trails in later years lived in this general area.[84]

During the mid-1950's, even though skiing was a "major" sport at UAF, there was no full time coaching position. Harvey Turner, a student, coached the ski team. Turner and other UAF ski coaches and their teams donated innumerable hours to making trails.[85] The informal procedure of creating new trails continued until the 1980's.

Turner and his team cleared the 9-mile trail, which was later incorporated into the 12-mile Skarland Trail. This section wound through the woods on the west side of Ballaine Road, through Bunnell's property, up to Dalton Trail, then through the Magoffin property and back to the campus trail. The route started where Constitution Hall sits today and formed a continuous loop.[86]

Jim Whisenhant was one of Turner's skiers in the mid-'50's. During Whisenhant's tenure as a team member, competition in Alaska was lacking. Turner organized meets against a military team stationed at Ladd Field. The university team envied the superior military athletes. Skiing was their job, and they boasted a full time coach.[87]

Fred Boyle was the first real ski coach hired by UAF. He arrived here in the fall of 1958. In 1960, Boyle was made head of the P.E. Department and Athletic Director. Boyle set a standard for his skiers. Before they were allowed to attend Outside competition, they had to beat their coach. Not all team members managed to do this.[88]

At the time Boyle arrived, the trail network did not fulfill the needs of his team. He believed the university skiers needed more of a challenge. So, he and his team introduced technical difficulty to old trails and created new ones. They upgraded existing trails to better accommodate racers and created a five-mile circuit. He arranged racing routes of differing distances to loop into each other, producing a "system."[89]

In creating the five-mile trail, Boyle added a twisting section parallel to Yankovich Road that would challenge any skier's agility, then or today. Winding in and out of trees required skate turns and good balance to avoid catching a tip.[90] The tortuous character of this route shows up on the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks'1967 trail map. This section also served to connect the Commuter Trail to the 9-mile trail.[91]

Boyle wanted to add a three-mile segment off campus to the 9-mile trail. This would establish one 20-kilometer race trail, an Olympic distance. At the same time, Ginny Wood wanted to connect campus trails to hillside trails.[92]

One afternoon Wood was cutting above Dogpatch when she "accidentally bumped" into Boyle and his team.[93] They combined their efforts to create the loop on the east side of Ballaine Road that connected to the west side of the 9-mile trail.[94] Later, the full trail was named the Skarland Ski Trail System.[95] When completed, the unbroken 12-mile circuit originated on campus and wound through the neighboring wooded hillsides.

To Boyle's credit, he accomplished his goal of adding challenge to the trail system. One section on the west side of Ballaine Road incorporated a treacherously fast and narrow downhill known as the "Moose's Schuss." Whisenhant posted a sign at the top of the downhill warning: "Gear down or fall down."[96] Skiers, who ignored the warning, often met their demise, leaving as evidence their personalized sitzmark or, worse, arboreal carnage.

Boyle took a sabbatical to Florida to earn his doctorate in 1962. The new Patty building had been Boyle's "project," having worked closely with the designers and

engineers. Boyle left with it two-thirds completed. Although anxious to return, when the University denied Boyle's request for an additional position for pool manager, he decided to stay in Florida.[97]

Before leaving, Boyle had hired Jim Mahaffey as an assistant coach and P.E. instructor, in the spring of 1962.[98] A student of ski guru Sven Wik in Colorado, Mahaffey was out of the new school of skiing. He had the experience of an Olympic skier and had also spent time in Europe under the tutelage of foreign coaches. Mahaffey first brought science and technology to the sport of skiing at UAF.[99]

Mahaffey was very successful at what he did, both at UAF and later in Anchorage at Alaska Methodist University (now Alaska Pacific University). He combined a powerful character with seamless integrity and singular unselfishness. In the fall of 1993, APU named their trail system in his honor. Praise he has received is exemplified in the following passage: "Throughout his years at AMU/APU, Mahaffey was a tireless advocate for the recreational trail systems surrounding the campus. He spent thousands of hours designing, developing, updating and maintaining the trail system. He has negotiated with several groups in an effort to preserve the integrity of the overall trail system in Anchorage."[100]

Mahaffey coached numerous Olympic and national caliber skiers. He has "served as Chief of Course for various National and World Cup races.....including the 1980 Olympic Games at Lake Placid, N.Y."[101]

Mahaffey continued Boyle's effort to enhance the trails with interest and difficulty. Among other improvements, Mahaffey diverted the 9-mile/12-mile/Skarland Trail to its present location along the Musk Ox Farm fence.

In order to add difficulty, Mahaffey's new route turns west after crossing Yankovich Road and climbs up toward Miller Hill Road. About 200 yards before Miller Hill Road, the trail turns south toward Smith Lake, paralleling Miller Hill Road, and returns to campus via Smith Lake Road. These sections of the trail remain the same today.[102]

Through the 1950's and '60's, the area surrounding Bunnell's cabin, just below Dogpatch, regained its status as the hub of skiing activity. Old sled dog routes and wagon roads were joined by connecting segments to form new trails. The locale provided interesting touring tracks as well as challenging race courses. The first elementary ski games were held in this area in the mid-1960's.[103] At first, the university sponsored most of the races. But as the ski community grew, the newly organized Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (NSCF) and Lathrop High School supported events as well.[104] As of Mahaffey's departure in the summer of 1967, the main ski trails had been established.

The university ski club cabin stood in the open field below Dogpatch until the early '60's. At some point, the cabin burned down, but the NSCF had replaced it with a new one. Eventually, Bunnell's successor-in-interest required the NSCF to remove the cabin in the early '70's.[105] Thereafter, and perhaps as a result, the bulk of ski activity shifted back to the campus trails.

THE EQUINOX TRAIL:

Nat Goodhue attended UAF in the early '60's under Boyle and Mahaffey. He was a runner and a cross-country skier. Goodhue was an outspoken trails advocate,[106] who aided in the preservation of the Skarland Memorial Ski Trail. But the bulk of his recognition derives from his part in establishing the Equinox Trail.

The seed was planted one spring day in 1963. After a ski workout, Goodhue and several teammates entered the P.E. department, then housed in Signer's Hall. Bill Ordway, the basketball coach, and Mahaffey were sitting in the office with "wry smiles" on their faces. Ordway posed the idea of the university hosting a marathon to the group. Goodhue pondered that it was hard enough to get anyone but varsity athletes to run a 10-kilometer race, let alone 26 miles, 365 yards. He kept quiet, though, thinking that even if the race died, they would gain a 42-kilometer trail.

Ordway advertised the race to various organizations. The event would take

place close to the fall equinox. Goodhue, Mahaffey, John Samuelson, and others spent the remainder of the spring semester scouting out possible routes. Ester Dome was chosen for the course. It provided the distance needed for a marathon as well as unused mining roads for part of the route. In addition, the scenic views from the dome were spectacular.[107]

Mahaffey worked to systemize management of the race. Early success of the marathon can be attributed in part to Mahaffey's superb organizational skills. Mahaffey is credited with "making an institution of the Equinox Marathon: 'Jim was chief of race in the beginning, and in terms of total hours he put in more time than anyone on the race. In those formative years, he was the person most responsible for setting high standards for it.'"[108]

Some disapproved of the race. The Equinox Marathon was ahead of its time. Not only was everyone welcome to enter, but official divisions had been set for juniors and women. In the early '60's, the idea of women and children running marathon distances was considered *avant-garde*, if not outrageous. (Women were not officially allowed to run in the Boston Marathon until 1972.)[109]

Scott Downs Hamilton, III, of Anchorage, received Ordway's advertisement. As Alaska's long distance running representative to the American Athletic Union, Hamilton opposed the unprecedented participation. His letter concluded with a threat of possible legal action and a hope that the race would see an early demise.[110]

Another dissenter, a university employee, expressed horror that UAF would take on so grand a commitment "with such meager resources and short time constraints."[111] Despite the opposition, a plan was effected.

Ordway and Mahaffey left for the summer, assigning course preparation to Goodhue. A group consisting of Goodhue, Gail Bakken, Tim Middleton, Kathy Love Fine, and others worked all summer brushing and clearing. The work to be done as Labor Day approached made Goodhue nervous. But, the tide changed when Art Roy donated a moose to roast in exchange for trail clearing help. A work party of at least

20 people helped finish clearing the last sections of trail.[112]

The marking of the course was tedious. Students brightened #10 can lids they had saved over the summer with orange spray paint. The lids were placed at every turn, so runners always had one in sight. The distance required hundreds of lids.[113] Users today still see some of these old markers.

Permission to locate the trail over private property was obtained by crew members simply knocking on landowners' doors. This procedure created no more than revocable consent to cross the affected properties. Most owners supported the idea and were happy to let the community traipse across their land.[114]

An incident in the early '80's, however, exposed the frailty of this arrangement. A university professor owning land adjacent to the trail easement just behind the old golf and country club repeatedly blocked runners from using the trail. As a result of the owner's obstructions, the 1980 Equinox Marathon and 1981 Skiathon, a spring event, were "detoured for approximately one mile onto Ballaine Road, creating risks and dangers to participants from traffic." Three runners filed a class action suit against the property owner and asked for an injunction to prevent the owner from future interference of "lawful use of the public right-of-way."[115] The issue was resolved by an agreement of the owner to stop blocking the trail, or he would be found in contempt of court.

Goodhue, *et. al.*, felt the course had been thrown together so quickly that it would be a temporary route. They felt there were some less-than-scenic areas that might have been moved. But once the race had been run, the precedent was set. The original route became "the trail." No one wanted a different course.[116]

Second in toughness only to Pike's Peak, the first Equinox Marathon took place on September 21, 1963. The course's cumulative vertical climb is approximately 3300 feet.[117] The first 17 miles are rolling or uphill. The grueling circuit follows portions of the Skarland Ski Trail,[118] and then heads west to its highest point atop Ester Dome. It then descends steeply down the south side of Ester Dome onto old Henderson Road

and returns to campus.

When the cannon fired on race day, 143 competitors left the starting line and headed for Ester Dome.[119] Three hours, 54 minutes, and 22 seconds later the race ended for Goodhue, the first person to cross the line. His fiancee, Gail Bakken, finished approximately two hours after Goodhue to take the women's crown.[120] For all their labor and toil, it was fitting, and understandable, that Goodhue and Bakken took top honors in the inaugural race.

The race went "into the record books" of the university as "an outstanding success."[121] It became a fall ritual for runners and hikers alike. Many of them families, the community "event" attracted over 1,300 participants at its peak in 1968.[122] One year, the Equinox had more participants than the Boston Marathon![123] Goodhue cites people's need to "get out in the country" and being "the right event at the right time" as factors for its success.[124]

Whatever the reasons, the race has endured. The marathon celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1992, making it one of the oldest in the nation. But there were no official winners to lead the festivities that year. Record snows in early September forced cancellation of the race! Unofficially, a handful of dedicated runners, who had trained all summer for the event, ran the course anyway.

Over the years, the race has drawn notable people as well as unusual characters. In 1968, then UAF President William Wood completed the trek for the third time, while his wife Dorothy Jane earned her first patch.[125] Three nuns, fully attired, managed the hike in 1967.[126] Don Kardong, former Olympic marathon medal winner and now sports writer for "*Runner's World,*" ran it a few years ago and noted its scenic beauty. Perhaps the most unusual "participant" was a Great Horned Owl, abandoned in its nest. Perched on the shoulders of its caretaker, Mary Shields, "Laska" made the full distance.[127] (Author's note: Sounds like the way to go to me!)

In 1968, Celia Hunter, Ginny Wood, and Mahaffey's successor, Bill Smith, worked together in an effort to realign the course to "get the runners off the roads" and

to "provide [cross-country skiers] easier grades for ascent and descent of Ester Dome." They coordinated with the Community Action Agency in obtaining easements for non-mechanized use over private property. The project generated files of paperwork, but eventually was abandoned before the full trail was protected.[128]

Today, the course is still in tact, although development has caused the diversion of some sections. Easements protect most of the trail portions. Several segments that pass through private property on Ester Dome still need to be safeguarded.[129]

THE SKARLAND TRAIL:

In the early 1960's, the State of Alaska, Division of Lands, developed the Musk Ox Subdivision, a large tract of land above Dogpatch. The 12-mile trail ran through the middle of the property. Outdoor enthusiasts had been enjoying the use of the trail year-round for a variety of non-motorized activities: skiing, running, horseback riding, picking berries, and just strolling.[130] The trail's uncertain future became a concern of the users. Celia Hunter, Ginny Wood, and others contacted the State to air their fears that the trail would be lost. Informally, the group adopted the name "Skarland Ski Trail," thinking that would help their cause.[131] (After Dr. Skarland's death in January, 1965, the state approved the student body's recommendation to formally name the 12-mile trail the "Skarland Ski Trail System" as a tribute to Skarland.[132])

To appease neighbors in the area, the state organized a meeting to present their development plan.[133] Concerned citizens voiced their opposition when they saw their trail missing from the plat. They argued that Scandinavians have been integrating trail systems into suburbs for years. The Nordmarka trails admirably exemplify the idea, as they intertwine through the outlying hillsides of Oslo, Norway.[134] Ginny Wood argued, "We're talking about people's lives; people working, recreating, commuting to work. We need communities that are sensitive to our lifestyles." In the final analysis, the residents convinced the state of the trail's benefits. The state modified their view of the users as trespassers and agreed to work with them.[135] The

joint effort yielded 25-foot easements on both sides of the platted lot lines for recreational non-mechanized use. In December, 1963, the Musk Ox Subdivision plat was approved.[136] Everyone seemed satisfied, and the trail became permanent through that area. From a planning perspective, the Musk Ox Subdivision embodied a vanguard concept for Alaska.[137]

The state created the official plat locating the trail within the subdivision. A university class surveyed the trail as it existed on the ground.[138] Later, discrepancies between the platted trail and the existing trail appeared when landowners surveyed their lots for building purposes. In some cases, owners found the trail almost in the middle of their property.[139] Of course, the plat prevailed. Landowners and volunteers had to reroute the offending sections.[140]

Development during the 1960's and '70's plagued users with threat of the Skarland trail's disruption in other sections. Large tracts of land to the west of Ballaine Road and north of Yankovich were consumed during stage developments of College Hills. Each new addition saw interested citizens mounting campaigns to convince developers of the trail's value in order to obtain easements. The users' vigilance paid off. Cooperative developers granted their requests.

The upper portion of College Hills required major rerouting, because the developer did not want to change the platted lot lines to match the existing trail. The changes were accomplished with the borough's financial help, in conjunction with several ardent users' sweat.[141]

The most notable controversies on the east side of Ballaine Road involved a most famous Alaskan "character," Joe Vogler, who purchased property through which the trail meandered.[142] To say that Vogler was "cantankerous" regarding public use of his land, especially by cross-country skiers, is understatement. A miner at heart, Vogler could not seem to grasp the concept of an "easement" or "right-of-way" through his property.

In the late 1960's, during a high school race through Vogler's property, Lathrop

High School coach Jim Whisenhant came to appreciate that skiers were not welcome there. Course preparation, tedious in those days, usually took place the evening before. Unaware that Vogler had sabotaged the course during the dark of night, Whisenhant sent the first skier out on the trail. The skier met disaster upon descending a short steep section, wiping out, and breaking her collarbone after hitting a bulldozed "road" across the trail at the bottom![143]

Bob White served as organizer of the 20-kilometer spring Skiathon event during the early '70's. It was his task to ensure safe passage through Vogler's property. Each year, the night before the race, White would try to convince Vogler that White was a good guy, by telling Vogler about how his family operated a gold mine in Australia. This usually worked, but White never knew what to expect on race morning. Finally, in the mid-70's, that portion of the Skarland Trail was abandoned.[144]

The movement to preserve the Skarland Trail led to the formation of a citizens' trail committee. As leaders, Celia Hunter and Ginny Wood invited representatives of various recreational activities, non-motorized and motorized, to inventory existing trails in the community. After four years, the group received official sanction as the borough Trails Advisory Committee.[145]

On the basis of its historical use, the Trails Advisory Committee recommended public dedication of the Skarland Ski Trail under the borough's "Trail Projects in Progress" program.[146] As part of that process, the borough and university entered into a "Memorandum of Understanding" in 1980, which provides that the university "will include preservation of the trail in future campus planning and development." Under the agreement, the university "reserves the right to relocate the course of the trail, but will provide that the trail will tie in with segments presently located on non-University land."[147]

The Skarland Trail "is the first trail dedicated to the public in the Fairbanks North Star Borough recreational trail program." A formal dedication was made on September 18, 1982, in conjunction with the awards ceremony for the Equinox

Marathon.[148]

1970's through 1980's:

By the early '70's, ski programs were in place at several elementary schools,[149] and local skiers were doing well at all levels. The ski community strongly supported kids in the sport.[150] Fairbanks had already turned out many national class skiers.

In the mid-1970's, plastic skis revolutionized cross-country skiing. The new technology made the sport fast and reduced ski preparation time. This helped to further promote skiing generally. Then, in 1976, when Bill Koch won a medal in the Olympics, skiing became the rage. In Fairbanks, with so many months of winter, a resurgence occurred.

The growth of skiing in the community was tremendous, but it brought conflicts. The faster skis required wider trails for safe maneuvering. Many trails on campus were widened to accommodate the racers. This began to divide the ski community into two factions: Tourers, who enjoyed the aesthetics of a narrow trail, and, racers, who needed more room.[151] Clashes occurred, but the tourers soon gravitated toward less groomed trails.

During the '70's, the increased skiing activity on the campus trails required an additional recreational area. Jim Whisenhant found an area on the southern and western slopes of Birch Hill. The Borough together with the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks developed Birch Hill, which has evolved into an excellent skiing facility and alleviated over-use problems on campus.

In the 1980's, ski bases became so fast that skiers could "skate" on them. The skating style, popularized by Bill Koch, came of age. This new technique impacted skiing even more than plastic skis. Skating greatly increased participation, because the technique could be learned more quickly than the diagonal stride. And skating was more fun, because it was fast!

Skating required trails so wide they resembled highways. Bulldozers were

required to achieve the desired width and smoothness. On campus, where sensitive areas often surround trails, disputes arose over philosophies of trail construction. Some of the wounds are still healing. Yet, issues such as trail widening and permitted uses are solvable. There always exists a common ground more suitable to opposing parties than potential alternatives. Finding that area sometimes takes time.

The campus trails face a continuing threat: Future construction of facilities may supplant trails. Except for the university's agreement with the Borough concerning the Skarland Trail and a verbal assurance that there will always be a place for trails, there is no written policy guaranteeing this.[152] Policy is essentially the same as in 1983: "The University does not, at present, have any formal policy specifically addressing the establishment or use of trails on its lands. In general, however, interim or short-term use of University property for trails has been accommodated where no conflict exists with existing or planned University uses for the land."[153]

A new approach to planning is necessary to ensure future preservation of existing trails. Development will continue to take place as enrollment and northern research projects increase. Money for overall planning projects does not come naturally from the legislature. Project funding has been done on a case by case, as needed, basis.[154] But, trails need to be planned now, not as an after-thought.

Out of the 2500 acres of campus land, approximately 10 per cent is suitable for building. Permafrost is the main limitation for most of the land. The areas most ideal for construction are the ridge area, south facing slope areas, and the areas just south of Yankovich Road.[155] The ski trails presently traverse these same lovely birch covered areas. While it is true that people can ski just about anywhere, these areas provide a more aesthetic experience.

The earliest ski trails commenced where Constitution Hall sits today. After the "bulldozer revolution"[156] of the early '60's, the trails started from the Patty Center. Today, they originate from the ski hut adjacent to the new Elvey complex construction. The ski hut and some of the nicest segments of trail lay just west of that area in the

path of future development.

If trails had been part of an overall plan early on, we would have had an idyllic inter-campus network weaving through the buildings and trees. It is not too late to reclaim some of the old paths.[157] It is certainly feasible to plan new ones. A trail system integrated into future construction projects is something we can benefit from in the short run and give to generations to come.

CONCLUSION:

Recreational trails resulted from ski development in and around the university community. In order to protect, and benefit from, the rich history of skiing at UAF, the integrity of the trails must be permanently protected.

Most of the Skarland and Equinox Trails lie off campus. Dedicated individuals and realistic developers in the private sector took the measures necessary to safeguard thoroughfares as far reaching as Ester Dome. Yet, trails on university land remain exposed and vulnerable to the whim of *ad hoc* "progress."

The university, as an institution, is often looked to for leadership. That role could be recaptured in this case by building on the Skarland and Equinox successes. Our climate can become a unique and valuable selling point if the university incorporates trails into an overall planning process. Only then can we realize the vision of a northern lifestyle which integrates the ideals of conservation, recreation, and education.

END NOTES

[1] *Farthest North-Collegian*, December 1, 1939.
[2] Menke, Frank G. *The Encyclopedia of Sports*, 6th revised ed., A.S. Barnes & Co., 1978, p.853.
[3] Hickok, Ralph. *The New Encyclopedia of Sports*, McGraw Hill Book Co., NY, 1977, p.
[4] Cole, Terrence. *The Cornerstone on College Hill*, University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1994, p.44.
[5] *Ibid., p.37.*
[6] *Ibid., p.7.*
[7] *Ibid.*, p.37.
[8] *Ibid.*, p.37.
[9] *Ibid.*, p.39.
[10] *Ibid.*, p.13.
[11] *Ibid.*, p.44.
[12] *Ibid.*, p.144.
[13] *Ibid.*, p.45.
[14] *Farthest North Collegian*, May, 1949.
[15] "College Athletics," *Farthest North-Collegian*, February, 1923, p.13.
[16] Cashen, William R. *Farthest North College President*, University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1972, p.157.
[17] "College Athletics," *Farthest-North Collegian*, February, 1923, p.13.
[18] "Notes and Quotes Out of the Past," *Farthest-North Collegian*, April 1, 1942, p.6.
[19] "College Athletics," *Farthest-North Collegian*, February, 1923, p.13.
[20] Cole, Terrence. *The Cornerstone on College Hill*,University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1994, p.74.
[21] "Swiss Track is Fast One," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, January 17, 1924.
[22] "After Brisbane," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, January 19, 1924.
[23] "The Effulgent College Spirit," *Farthest North-Collegian*, December, 1925, p.3.
[24] Cole, Terrence. *The Cornerstone on College Hill*,University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1994, p.39.
[25] 1905 map of the U.S. Agricultural Experiment Station, Archives, Rasmuson Library, UAF.
[26] Cashen, William R. *Farthest North College President*, University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1972, p.222.
[27] Interview with Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[28] Cashen, William R. *Farthest North College President*, University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1972, p.223.
[29] Cashen, William R. *Farthest North College President*, University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1972, p.223.
[30] "Racers Given the Gun Are Launched on First Ski Test," *Farthest-North Collegian*, April, 1934, p.5
[31] *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, January 4, 1965.
[32] *Farthest North-Collegian*, November 1, 1932, January 1, 1934, April 1, 1934; *Denali*, 1934; Interview with Doug Colp, November 17, 1995.
[33] "Skiing in Order Now That Snow Is Here to Stay," *Farthest North-Collegian*, November 1, 1932, p.7.
[34] "Circle Tour," *Farthest North-Collegian*, March 1, 1933, p.3.
[35] "Ski Our Way!" *Farthest North-Collegian*, January 1, 1933, p.2.
[36] *Ibid.*
[37] "Skiing Meet Planned Be Held Sometime March," *Farthest North-Collegian*, January 1, 1933, p.1.
[38] *Ibid.*
[39] *Ibid.*
[40] "Nome Skiers Are First Cross Line In Two Mile Dash," *Farthest North-Collegian*, March, 1933, p.3.
[41] "No More Thrilling For Experts Than for Initial Skier," *Farthest North-Collegian, December, 1933, p.5.*
[42] "Ski Types Vary According To Kind of Snow, Climate," *Farthest North-Collegian*, January, 1934, p.7.
[43] Menke, Frank G. *The Encyclopedia of Sports*, 6th revised ed., A.S. Barnes & Co., 1978, p.855.
[44] *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, January 13, 19, 30, February 5, 8,9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 1932.
[45] *Ibid.*, February, 1932.
[46] "Skis From Norway Take Five Months," *Farthest North-Collegian*, January, 1934, p.1.
[47] *Denali*, 1934.
[48] "Sundholm, O'Neill and Adams Win Ski Races," *Farthest North-Collegian*, May, 1936, p.7.
[49] "Racers Given the Gun Are Launched," *Farthest North-Collegian*, April, 1934, p.5.
[50] *Denali*, 1934.
[51] "Alaska's Winter Resort," *Farthest North-Collegian*, April, 1934.

[52] *Denali,* 1935.
[53] *Ibid.*
[54] *Denali,* 1936.
[55] "Skiing Is Rage on University Campus," *Farthest North-Collegian,* February, 1936, p.7.
[56] *Ibid.*
[57] Cole, Terrence. *The Cornerstone on College Hill,*University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1994, p.49.
[58] "Skiing Is Rage on University Campus, *Farthest North-Collegian,* February, 1936, p.7.
[59] Cole, Terrence. *The Cornerstone on College Hill,*University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1994, p.55.
[60] Interview with Doug Colp, November 17, 1995.
[61] *Webster's II, New Riverside University Dictionary,* The Riverside Publishing Co., 1984.
[62] Interview with Doug Colp, November 17, 1995.
[63] *Farthest North-Collegian,* December, 1936, April, 1937, April, 1939, December, 1939, April, 1940; *Denali,* 1937, 1938, 1939.
[64] "Skiing Is Rage on University Campus," *Farthest North-Collegian,* February, 1936, p.7.
[65] "Campus Skiers Form Ski Club," *Farthest North-Collegian,* May, 1936, p.7.
[66] "New Ski Club Is Dedicated Nov. 14," *Farthest North-Collegian,* December, 1936, p.1.
[67] *Denali,* 1937.
[68] Interview with Doug Colp, November 17, 1995.
[69] *Denali,* 1938.
[70] Interview with Doug Colp, November 17, 1995.
[71] Telephone interview with with Earl Beistline, November, 1995.
[72] *Farthest North-Collegian,* January, 1939, April, 1939, April, 1940, May, 1942.
[73] *Denali,* 1937.
[74] "Sundholm Wins Exciting Cross-Country Ski Race," *Farthest North-Collegian,* April, 1937, p.7.
[75] *Denali,* 1937.
[76] Interview with Doug Colp, November 17, 1995.
[77] *Denali,* 1942.
[78] *Denali,* 1943.
[79] "Skiing Is Requisite to Some Troops," *Farthest North-Collegian,* February, 1943, p.7.
[80] Interview with Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[81] Cole, Terrence. *The Cornerstone on College Hill,*University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1994, p.138.
[82] Luebke, Mary Lou, "Trails to Glory," *Heartland* Magazine, March 5, 1995, pp.H6-8; Interview with Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[83] *Ibid.*
[84] Interview with Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[85] Interview with Jim Whisenhant, November 10, 1995.
[86] *Ibid.;* Interview with Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[87] Interview with Jim Whisenhant, November 10, 1995.
[88] Telephone interview with Fred Boyle, October 4, 1995.
[89] *Ibid.;* Interview with Jim Mahaffey, September 23, 1995.
[90] Telephone interview with Fred Boyle, October 4, 1995.
[91] Map, "Skarland Memorial Trail System," produced by D.K. Bingham, 1967.
[92] Hunter, Celia, "A Proposal to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission."
[93] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[94] Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[95] Interview of Ginny Wood; "Students Show Interest in Naming of Ski Trails," *Polar Star,* January 29, 1965.
[96] Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[97] Telephone interview with Fred Boyle, October 4, 1995.
[98] Interview with Jim Mahaffey, November 23, 1995.
[99] Interview with Jim Whisenhant, November 10, 1995.
[100] "University Dedicates Jim Mahaffey Trail System," *Contact,* Winter, 1994, p.8.
[101] *Ibid.*
[102] Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[103] Hunter, Celia, "This is Our Land," *Alaska Magazine,* February, 1984, p.49; Interview with Ginny Wood; Interview with Bob White, November 20, 1995.
[104] Interview with Jim Mahaffey, November 23, 1995; Interview with Jim Whisenhant, November 10, 1995.
[105] Interview with Jim Whisenhant, November 10, 1995; Interview with Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.

[106] Goodhue, Nat, "Development Program Alters Face of UA Campus," *Polar Star,* October 4, 1963, p.1.
[107] Interview with Jim Mahaffey, November 23, 1995; Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[108] Caulfield Collection, UAF Archives, Equinox Marathon clippings, folder 1.
[109] Hosler, Ray, ed. "Boston: America's Oldest Marathon," Anderson World, Inc., 1980.
[110] Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[111] *Ibid.*
[112] Interview with Jim Mahaffey, November 23, 1995; Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[113] *Ibid.*
[114] Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[115] "Three file class action suit over trail," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner,* November 3, 1981.
[116] Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[117] Interview with John Estle, December, 1995.
[118] Caulfield Collection, UAF Archives, Equinox Marathon clippings, folder 1.
[119] "Nat Goodhue Finishes First," *Polar Star,* October 4, 1963, p.5.
[120] Caulfield Collection, UAF Archives, Equinox Marathon clippings, folder 1.
[121] "Nat Goodhue Finishes First," *Polar Star,* October 4, 1963, p.5.
[122] Dalton, Mike, "Women From All Walks Stroll in Equinox Marathon," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, September 23, 1968, p.5.*
[123] Hosler, Ray, ed. "Boston: America's Oldest Marathon," Anderson World, Inc., 1980; Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[124] Caulfield Collection, UAF Archives, Equinox Marathon clippings, folder 1.
[125] Dalton, Mike, "Women From All Walks Stroll in Equinox Marathon," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, September 23, 1968, p.5.*
[126] *Ibid.*
[127] Evans, Patti, "Whoo? The Owl Girl," *Polar Star,* September 30, 1966, p.12.
[128] Equinox Marathon Collection, UAF Archives, Folder 7, "Right-of-Way Easements."
[129] Conversation with Jeff Bouton, Trails Planner, Fairbanks North Star Borough, December, 1995.
[130] Hunter, Celia, "A Proposal to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission."
[131] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[132] "Students Show Interest in Naming of Ski Trails," *Polar Star,* January 29, 1965.
[133] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995; Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[134] Hunter, Celia, "Our skiing trails are true local treasure," *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner,* February 9, 1983.
[135] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995; Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[136] Fairbanks North Star Borough, Planning Office.
[137] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995; Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[138] Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995.
[139] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995; Telephone interview with Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995; Hunter, Celia, "A Proposal to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission;" Borough documents.
[140] *Ibid.*
[141] Hunter, Celia, "A Proposal to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission." Letter from Hunter to Ronald Cosgrave, January 24, 1980.
[142] Hunter, Celia, "A Proposal to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission;" Interview with Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[143] Interview with Jim Whisenhant, November 10, 1995.
[144] Interview with Bob White, November 20, 1995.
[145] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.
[146] Fairbanks North Star Borough document entitled, "B. Non-Dedicated Recreational Trails."
[147] "Memorandum of Understanding," August 15, 1980.
[148] Fairbanks North Star Borough document entitled, "Equinox Marathon Ceremony and Dedication of the Skarland Memorial Ski Trail."
[149] Interview of Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995; Interview with Bob White, November 20, 1995.
[150] *Ibid.*
[151] Interview with Bob White, November 20, 1995.
[152] Conversation with Walt Ensign, UAF Planning liaison, December, 1995.

[153] Letter from Merry Tuten, UAF Statewide Office of Land Management, to Scott Burgess, Planning Director, Fairbanks North Star Borough, August 9, 1983.
[154] Conversation with Walt Ensign, UAF Planning liaison, December, 1995.
[155] *Ibid.*
[156] Goodhue, Nat, "Development Program Alters Face of UA Campus," *Polar Star,* October 4, 1963, p.1.
[156] Interview with Dave Klein, November 22, 1995.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS:

Cashen, William R. *Farthest North College President,* University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1972.
Cole, Terrence. *The Cornerstone on College Hill,*University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1994.
Hickok, Ralph. *The New Encyclopedia of Sports,* McGraw Hill Book Co., NY, 1977.
Menke, Frank G. *The Encyclopedia of Sports*, 6th revised ed., A.S. Barnes & Co., 1978.
Webster's II, New Riverside University Dictionary, The Riverside Publishing Co., 1984.
Hosler, Ray, ed. *Boston: America's Oldest Marathon,* Anderson World, Inc., 1980.

PERIODICALS:

Alaskafest, "Runner's Diary: Part 3," Steve McKee, September, 1982.
Alaska Magazine, ""This is Our Land," Celia Hunter, February, 1984.
Alaska Northern Lights, "The Equinox Marathon," June, 1966.
Contact, "University Dedicates Jim Mahaffey Trail System," Winter, 1994.
Denali yearbooks.
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.
Farthest North-Collegian.
Heartland Magazine, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.*
Polar Star.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS:

Alumni Services Collection, UAF Archives, Rasmuson Library.
Caulfield Collection, UAF Archives, Rasmuson Library.
Equinox Marathon Collection, UAF Archives, Rasmuson Library.
Loftus Collection, UAF Archives, Rasmuson Library.
Skarland Collection, UAF Archives, Rasmuson Library.
University Relations Collection, UAF Archives, Rasmuson Library.

INTERVIEWS:

Paul Beberg, December 12, 1995 (telephone).
Earl Beistline, November, 1995 (telephone).
Doug Colp, November 17, 1995.Fred Boyle, October 4, 1995 (telephone).
Walter Ensign, December 12, 1995 (telephone).
Joan Foote, December 1, 1995.
Nat Goodhue, November 21, 1995 (telephone).
Larry Irving, November 19, 1995.
Dave Klein, November 22, 1995.
Jim Mahaffey, September 23, 1995.
Dave Musgrave, November 22, 1995.

Les Viereck, November, 1995.
Bob White, November 20, 1995.
Jim Whisenhant, November 10, 1995.
Ginny Wood, November 8, 1995.

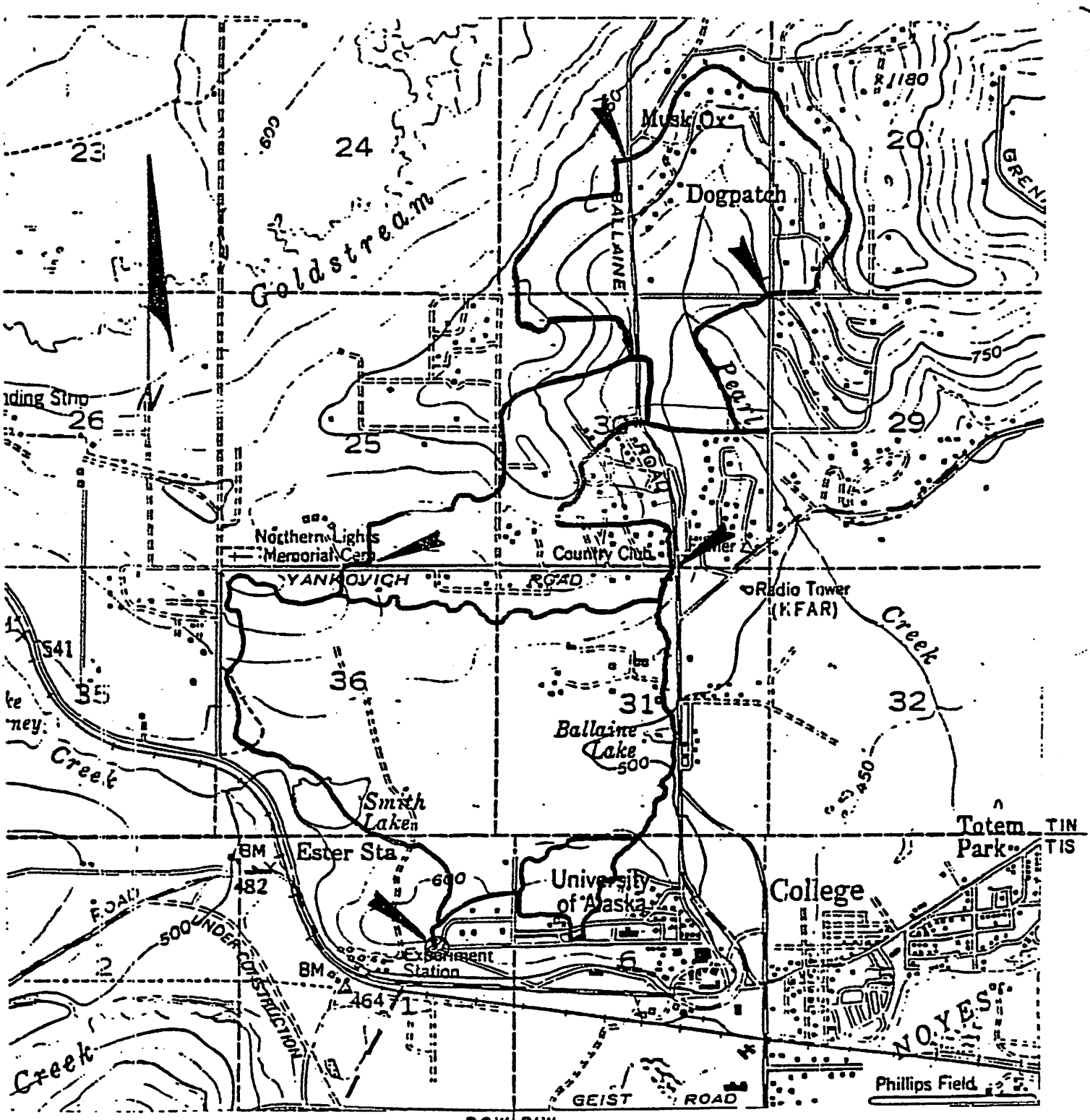
DOCUMENTS:

Fairbanks North Star Borough, Planning Department, Skarland Trail files.
UAF, "Report of the President's Advisory Committee on the Establishment of a Boreal Arboretum."

MAPS:

1905 map of the U.S. Agricultural Experiment Station
1913 economic geology map by Prindle and Katz
1967 FNSC Skarland Memorial Ski Trail map prepared by D.K. Bingham
1982 "Commuter Map" furnished by Ginny Wood
1991 UAF Master Planning map of campus and trails

SKARLAND SKI TRAIL



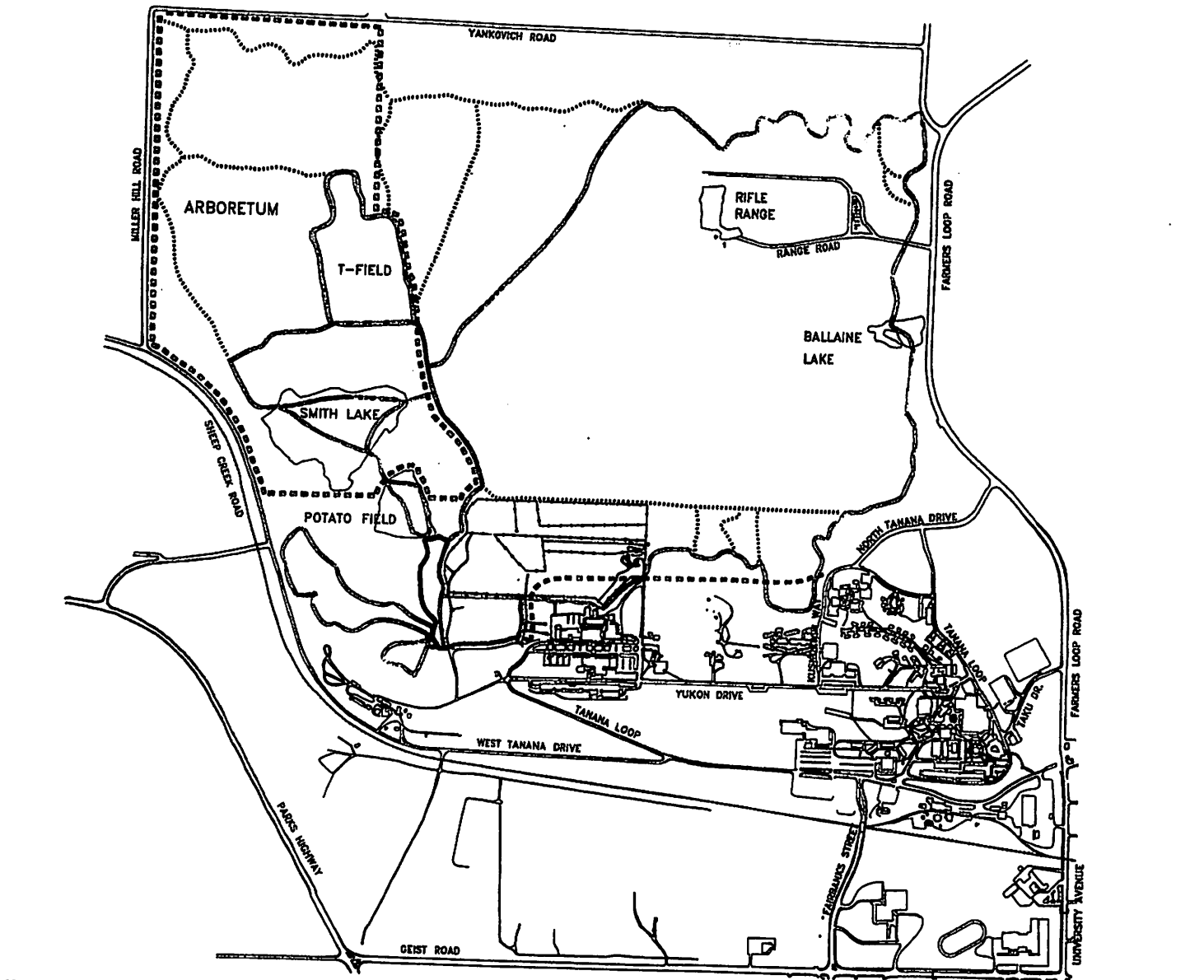
LEGEND

Main Trail ——————

Connecting Trail — — — — —

Trail Start/End ——○

Map 9



LEGEND

- LIGHTED TRAIL
- IMPROVED MAINTAINED TRAIL
- UNIMPROVED NON-MAINTAINED TRAIL
- ARBORETUM BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED ROAD

RECREATIONAL TRAILS

NORTH

MASTER PLAN
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
APRIL 1991