

Woman Wins Fame By Taking Truck Over Alaska Highway

HEADQUARTERS, ALASKAN DEPARTMENT—(AP)—A big, 10-wheeled army truck, its tailgate bending under a load of truck tires, rolled to a stop at the army engineers' motor pool here after a 56-hour trip over the Alaska highway and a red-haired woman dressed in khaki overalls climbed from behind the wheel.

It was Rusty Dow making another new mark in Alaska's transportation history.

The first woman truck operator in the territory, the first woman over the new Richardson highway, the first woman to drive through the newly-drilled Whittier tunnel,

Mrs. Russell (Rusty) Dow has now become the first woman to drive over the Alaska highway.

Mrs. Dow started her history-making trip from Fairbanks, wheeling a five-ton load of cement to Dawson Creek, B. C., but she added 300 miles to the return trip to deliver a load of recapped tires here from Whitehorse, Yukon territory.

Besides a new record, she brought back a belief that most reports about the Alaska highway had done the route injustice, and expressed the hope that the route would be kept up after the war as "a monument to American ingenuity."

"It's a beautiful highway," she said. "It should be preserved because it's a picture of what American people can do when they have to. Not only that, but it won't require any more maintenance than any other road in the north. It's got a good roadbed."

Rusty, blue-eyed and handsome, admitted her trip caused quite a stir along the overland route which extends from Fairbanks to Edmonton, Alta.

"I pulled into one roadside rest station and one truck driver said to his helper, 'Let's get rollin'. Bill. They've got women driving this road. We better look for another job,'" she related. "Let's of other people thought I was a test driver, covering the run to see if women could handle the job. Others asked me if I was a Wac or a marine."

Mrs. Dow, whose name was

Ola Scott before she married Russell Dow, the Dartmouth ski champion, four years ago, was one of Alaska's pioneer truckers. She brought a two-ton Chevrolet to Alaska when stories about the Matanuska valley development lured her north in 1934, and since then has done free-lance trucking throughout the Anchorage area.

Bids On Removal Of Housing Sought

TOLEDO—(P)—Bids have been called for the removal of 20 prefabricated houses from the newly-completed Siletz housing project to Gardiner.

The houses were requested by the Gardiner Lumber company to ease the shortage of living quarters for loggers.

Government Wheat Buying Explained

WASHINGTON—(P)—Purchases of wheat by the government's commodity credit corporation this week were made, officials said, under a livestock feed-wheat purchase program inaugurated more than a year ago to help relieve feed shortages in deficit feed areas.

No new program for supporting wheat prices has been inaugurated, officials said.

In the past year the CCC has bought about 87,000,000 bushels of wheat in the domestic market for sales to farmers short of feed for dairy cattle and poultry.

While government purchases are made at current market prices, officials said, such purchases naturally tend to boost prices, the amount of increase usually depending upon the quantity bought or likely to be bought.

Officials declined to say what quantity they expected to buy in the next several weeks or months.

It is possible that some of the grain may be diverted later into a foreign relief pool, or made available for lend-lease shipments.

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The rate, reflecting "in the main the psychological and economic effects of war," rose from 10.5 per 1000 population in 1939 to a record 13.1 in 1942, the bureau said. Then came the 1943 drop to 11.8 which also, the bureau said, "resulted from wartime conditions."

Obvious among these marriage-restricting conditions was the fact that many eligible single men were in the armed forces overseas. But there was another son, too. As the census bureau put it:

"It is probable that the abnormally large number of marriages in 1940, 1941 and 1942 also helped to produce an effective deficit in 1943 in the number of marriageable persons."

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