

New barge serves western Alaska

A Seattle-based freight company has launched barge service between Anchorage and Western Alaska.

Northland Services's first sailing to coastal communities in Western Alaska carried about 2,000 tons of goods ranging from household effects to cars, heavy equipment and building supplies, said David Whitley, of the company's Anchorage office.

Five other trips are planned through September, he said.

Northland is in competition with air carriers, which cannot take heavy loads, and other scheduled shippers, which route loads from Anchorage through Seattle, he said.

"Anchorage has become more than just a consumer and service-oriented economy," said Jim Haagen, the company's president.

"We've demonstrated that Anchorage has manufactured products to export."

The barges serve Dillingham, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue and 22 other villages on the western coast and Yukon River.

All of those communities won't be served on each trip, Whitley said. For example, the barges will stop at Dutch Harbor each sailing because that port is on its way to Western Alaska. But Kotzebue is a destination for just two of the sailings.

The barges will take containers and platforms, and smaller shipments. Larger loads, such as machinery and building materials, also can be handled, Haagen said.

Northland also has twice monthly sailings between Seattle and Anchorage with its 5,000- to 6,000-ton barges.

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Knik Arm crossing

By DOYLE WOODY
Daily News reporter

Captain James Cook might have raised his eyebrows at Fritz Hummel's method of sailing across Cook Inlet, but he probably would have understood Hummel's gusto.

More than 200 years after the English explorer sailed into the uncharted inlet that now bears his name, Hummel on Wednesday took on a new challenge.

He slipped into a blue survival suit, climbed aboard a 12½-foot, white Magnum sailboard and left the Port of Anchorage to sail across Knik Arm and back.

Hummel, a 32-year-old athlete and model, completed his five-mile roundtrip to within 100 miles of the opposite shore in 49 minutes and 30 seconds, which ranks as some kind of unofficial record since he believes he was the first person to cross the Inlet on a sailboard.

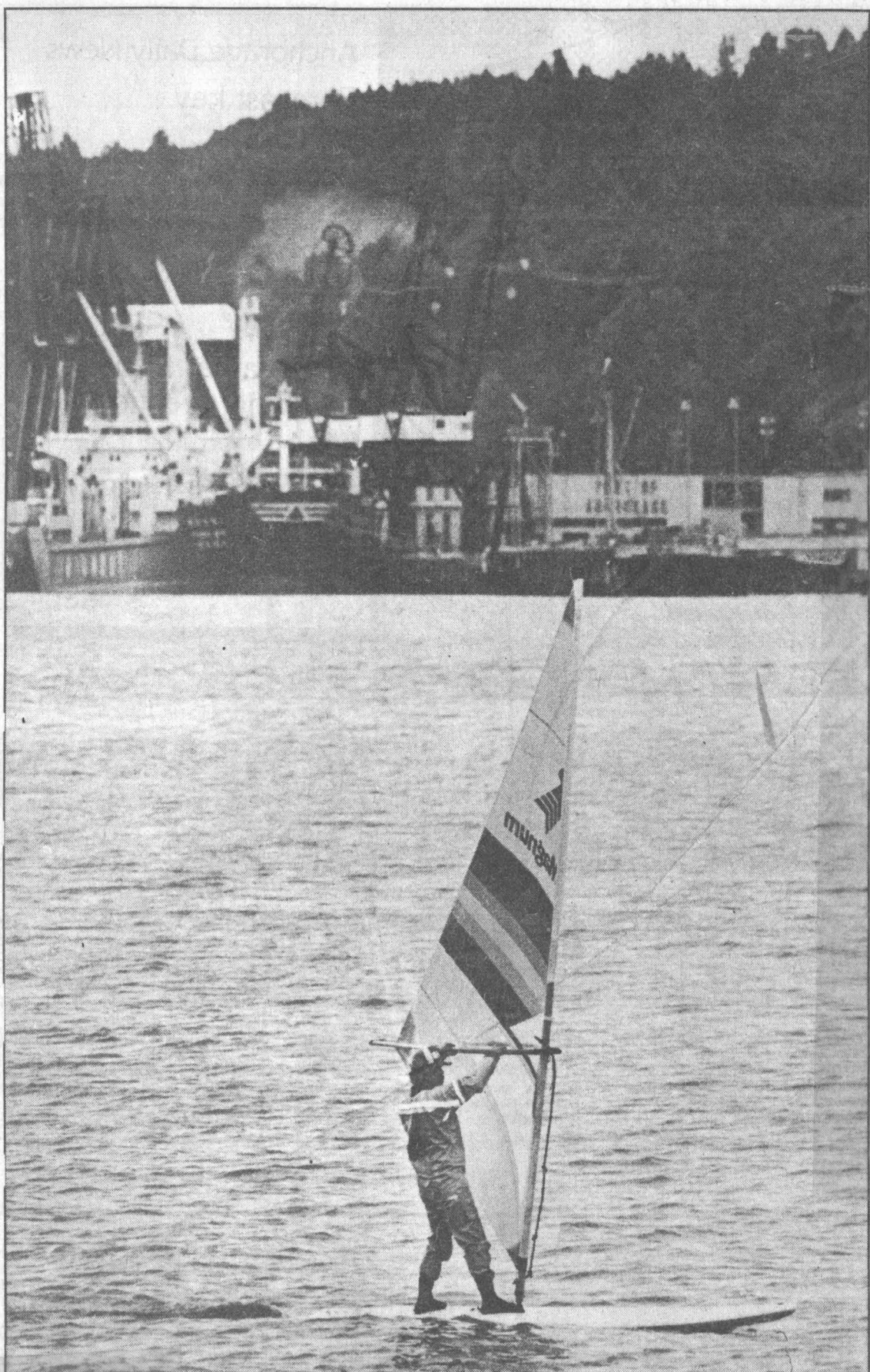
"Would Captain Cook be proud of me or what?" he asked onlookers as he returned to the shores of Anchorage.

Hummel said he has wanted to sailboard across the Inlet ever since he arrived in Anchorage in 1981.

"I've been sailboarding for eight years now and back when I checked out the Inlet in 1981 I figured it would be a lot of fun to sail across it," he said.

There were no close calls from nature on Hummel's trip — "I didn't see any belugas or orcas," he reported later — but on his way back across the Inlet he did get a good view of the Six Pak barge leaving port.

"I just let it go by," Hummel joked. "I wasn't going to take it on."



Anchorage Daily News/Bill Roth

See Back Page, SAILBOARD Fritz Hummel sails across the cold waters of Knik Arm Thursday.

Sailboard journey smooth

Continued from Page A-1

Hummel had another motive behind his mid-day adventure — making a name for himself with a business angle in mind.

"I'm just trying to build a reputation for a qualified, accredited sailboarding school I want to start here next year," he said.

So Hummel, who began sailboarding in Boise, Idaho, in 1976, borrowed a sailboard and survival suit from a friend and began planning.

He said he contacted Coast Guard authorities to see if he needed a permit and checked with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service to inquire

about weather and tides.

"I just want to help the sport of sailboarding grow up here because I think it's just about to take off," Hummel said. "There's so many lakes and so much coastline, it's a natural."

Sailboards are becoming a more common sight in Alaska and the sport is growing fast in California, where it will be a demonstration sport in the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Sailboarding is to be a competitive sport in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

The next time Hummel tests the Inlet, he doesn't want it to be a solo voyage.

"It was really fun," he said. "I want to get a bunch of people out here and have a race."

Knik Arm Crossing garners support from local candidates

By LARRY MAKINSON
Daily News reporter

Some see it as a panacea. Others have reservations about the price tag or the cost-benefit to their districts. But nearly all Southcentral legislative candidates see the Knik Arm Crossing as a project whose time has come.

And by a sizeable majority, the candidates believe that

the primary purpose of the half-billion dollar project is to open up new land for development, rather than to cut commuting times between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

The candidates' comments came in response to a Daily News questionnaire that included the following question: What is the purpose of the

proposed Knik Arm Crossing; are you satisfied that there are no potentially preferable alternatives to meet that goal?

Forty-seven candidates said the main purpose was to open new land for development across the Inlet. Fifteen said the purpose was to improve access to the Valley or to cut commuting times. Nine

said it was a combination of the two.

Though the candidates were not specifically asked to give their opinions on the project, many took the opportunity to do so.

"I haven't heard a better proposal in the last 25 years," said Spenard Republican Rep. Mae Fischer.

"The construction of the

Knik Arm Crossing is vital if we do not wish to strangle our city," said Phil Maser, a Republican candidate for House seat 10B.

Democrat Mike Szymanski of District 7 in South Anchorage described the crossing as a "growth pain reliever" which will cure the current

See Page C-8, KNIK

Port operations meeting topic

Tyler Jones, director of the Port of Anchorage, will discuss present operations and future port development at this week's breakfast meeting of the Resource Development Council. Jones also will discuss building a bridge across Knik Arm and a masterplan that considers Fire Island as a site for a second port in the Anchorage area. The meeting is at 7:30 a.m. Thursday at Suite 201/Aesops, 711 H St. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 278-9615.

Hunter to speak at luncheon

Barbara Hunter, president of the Public Relations Society of America, is the featured speaker at the monthly luncheon today of the society's Alaska chapter. Hunter is president of Dudley-Anderson-Yutzy Public Relations in New York. Her topic will be "The Position of the Public Relations Profession." The luncheon will be at noon at Regina's Restaurant, 510 L St. Reservations may be made by calling 862-9298.

8/21/84
From Daily News staff reports

Panel endorses Mat-Su port idea

By CHRIS GEIGER
Daily News reporter

Proposals for a deepwater port in the Matanuska-Susitna borough gained momentum Monday night, with the Anchorage Port Commission's decision to expand port services on a regional basis.

The commission adopted a resolution that would allow Anchorage and the Mat-Su borough to cooperate in the development of complementary port facilities across Knik Arm. The proposal must still be approved by the municipal and borough assemblies.

The Port of Anchorage Marketing and Development Plan suggests adoption of a

dual-port strategy to accommodate expansion of shipping capacity. The second port would be oriented to large-scale industrial products, such as petrochemicals and aluminum.

Expansion options are extremely limited on city-owned property. According to two studies commissioned by the port, Fire Island represents the most viable site within the municipality, and necessary bridges to the mainland would prove costly.

Mat-Su planning officer Michele Stearns said the borough is very interested in developing its own port across Knik Arm. Stearns said two general sites are

being considered: One just south of Lake Lorraine — directly opposite the existing port — and the other at Point MacKenzie.

The commission prefers the Lake Lorraine site, because of land ownership patterns, topography, and proximity to the proposed Knik Arm crossing, Stearns said.

Although the construction of a Knik Arm crossing is an "underlying assumption" to Mat-Su planners, the borough remains interested in a port whether or not the bridge goes through, Stearns said.

"If both sides can get the ball rolling, we could begin the joint planning within a year," Stearns said.

police report anch Daily News 8/23/84

Nude swimmer rescued

A nude swim in the frigid waters of Cook Inlet ended shortly after it began Sunday. A 25 year-old man described as emotionally upset was rescued as he clung to a tire hanging from a tugboat several hundred yards off shore, according to Anchorage police and paramedics. The man, whose name was not released, stripped naked on the beach and swam out about 300 yards, then made for the nearest refuge. Police called to the scene spotted the man looped through the tire, said Lt. Dave Hardy. Several people from another tug launched a rubber boat, rescued the swimmer and delivered him to shore. Paramedics said the man was not injured. He was taken to Providence Hospital as a precaution, they said.

8/24/84