



70
YEARS

ALCAN HWY
SERVICE



Celebrating 70 years on the Alcan Highway

 **LYNDEN**®

Old No. 27: Carrying on Lynden's Commitment to Alaska

Seventy years ago, a legend was born when Lynden Transport trucks began rolling north on the Alaska Highway to make the first scheduled deliveries to Alaska. The highway opened new frontiers for Lynden, and fulfilled Hank Jansen's vision of providing reliable surface transportation to Alaska that was less expensive than air and faster than water. In the 1950s the Alaska-Canada (Alcan) Highway was the highway route into Alaska from the Pacific Northwest and it was extremely challenging. After establishing reliable scheduled service over the Alcan, Lynden became a household name in Alaska.



No. 27 was one of four new Kenworths purchased for the Alaska operation after a successful test run in December of 1953 proved the route was viable. Sleeper team drivers Glen Kok and Oscar Roosma left Seattle in February 1954 to complete the maiden trip to Fairbanks and Anchorage. They pulled into Carr's Market with 36,000 pounds of beef swinging from hooks in the trailer. This delivery marked the first continuously scheduled commercial tractor-trailer delivery of goods to Alaska on the highway, it also established Lynden's reputation as a can-do company ready to meet any challenge.

Drivers used their wits and courage to deliver loads through cold temperatures, roadblocks, moose and fender-high mud. Some drivers replaced as many as 28 tires on a single trip. Lynden's reliable deliveries opened up a new world of shipping possibilities to Alaska residents and those in the Lower 48.

Many years later, the original tractor and trailer were located in Alaska and restored in Lynden, WA. Today, No. 27 is still on the road making appearances in parades and community events and turning heads with its historic green paint. This time the cargo is a rolling exhibition that tells the tale of the legendary road, the valiant men who drove it and the Lynden drivers today who carry on the tradition. Here's to seventy more years on the Alcan!



About Old No. 27

- 1954 Kenworth tractor with a 40' Aero Liner Trailer
- The original trailer, Old No. 22-B, was equipped with meat racks in the first half and a Thermo King reefer
- Tractor is powered by a 220-Cummins engine with a 5-speed main and a 4-speed Brownie (3 progressive and a deep under)
- The rig ran approximately 1 million miles on the Alcan Highway during its years of service. It was later equipped as a dump truck and hauled copper ore from the Bonanza Mine to Kennicott in 1967 with Jim Jansen at the wheel. The rig was sold to Frontier Transportation in 1968 and was later retired to Bud McGee's junk yard in Fairbanks. McGee donated it to Lynden for restoration. Old 22-B was located in Kenai where it was being used as a storage trailer. The owner agreed to trade it for a more modern Lynden trailer. It was also restored in Lynden, WA.