

The Story of Number 27



Seventy years ago, a legend was born when Lynden Transfer trucks began rolling north on the Alaska Highway (also known as the Alcan Highway) to make the first scheduled deliveries to Alaska. In the 1950s the Alcan Highway was a new route into Alaska from the Pacific Northwest and it was extremely challenging. It 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. After establishing reliable scheduled service over the Alcan, Lynden became a household name in Alaska.

Number 27 was one of four new Kenworths purchased for the Alaska operation after a successful test run in December 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, Number 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 Number 27



1954 Kenworth tractor with a 40' Aero Liner trailer



The original trailer, 22-B, was equipped with meat racks in the first half and a Thermo King reefer



The tractor is powered by a 220-Cummins engine with a 5-speed main and a 4-speed Brownie (3 progressive and a deep under)

1,000,000

Approximate miles the rig ran on the Alcan Highway during its years of service.

Restoration of Number 27 and 22-B

After more than one million miles on the Alcan Highway, Number 27 was converted into a dump truck for hauling copper ore at the Kennecott Mine. It was sold to Frontier Transportation in 1968 and was later retired to Bud McGee's junkyard in Fairbanks, who donated it to Lynden for restoration. Trailer 22-B was located in Kenai where it was being used for storage; the owner agreed to trade it for a more modern Lynden trailer. Both the tractor and trailer were restored by a team of Lynden people in 1992 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Alcan Highway.