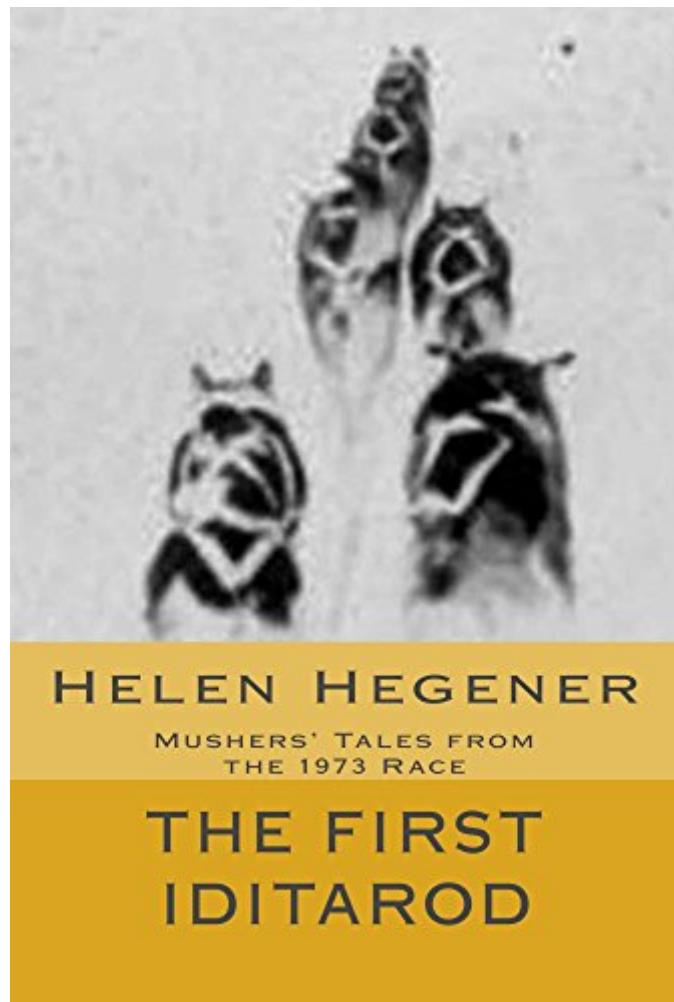


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# The First Iditarod



## Synopsis

“Musher after musher agrees that no one knew or officials knew what to expect.” Bill Sherwonit in *Iditarod: The Great Race to Nome* (Alaska Northwest Books, 1991) This book is the result of several years of researching, interviewing, and writing, beginning with an idea which took shape in 2007. But one could really say it began long before that, because my first interest in the Iditarod came in late 1972, when, as a sprint-racing fan, I began hearing thin reports of some mushers in Wasilla meeting to discuss an unprecedented 1,000 mile race across Alaska. The very idea was astonishing, unbelievable, incomprehensible. Who in the world would race their sled dogs one thousand miles? Was it even possible? Would the dogs survive? Would the mushers? Over the years an aura has developed around that first race, and most fans know the lore and the rudiments of the story, how it was Joe Redington Sr.’s pie-in-the-sky dream, how he wrangled others into sharing the dream with him and doing the groundwork necessary to make it happen. The history of how the race began can be found in almost every book about the event, because it’s a darned good story, colorful and compelling and full of true-life characters and exciting adventures. But the mushers’ unique individual stories are little-known. Several years ago I set about tracking down and visiting the remaining mushers from the 1973 race who would share their stories, their memories of what it was like to be one of the original pioneers setting out on what has since become known as “The Last Great Race on Earth.” This book is comprised of the verbatim words of mushers who made that first journey to Nome in 1973, captured through recorded and videotaped interviews conducted over a span of several years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book is one who nothing about Alaska mushing.

For those of us that love the Iditarod, what an informative book.

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