

Fife, WA, January 3, 2012

Southern Alaska Forwarding (SAF) has merged with Pacific Alaska Freightways (PAF), effective January 2, 2012. Though the name will change to PAF, the entire SAF Kodiak team will remain in place. The efficient, friendly service you have come to associate with SAF will continue with modest enhancements.

Pacific Alaska Freightways, formerly Pacific Alaska Forwarders, began in 1961 when Rex and Dorthy Sears started PAF out of a small office in Seattle, WA. Five years later Joe Smith joined the team to run the company, while spearheading new business, resulting in expanding the company to a full-service trucking/consolidating operation. Eventually Smith took over and consolidated business for Alaska throughout the Lower 48 making PAF one of Alaska's premier freight haulers and logistics providers.

With Smith taking on more work he began incorporating his sons into the business by having them work in the warehouse and drive the forklift on weekends. As they grew, the boys started to take interest in the business and became part of the PAF team, modernizing the way the company conducted business.

In 1979, Alain Smith and Ron Sears, the eldest sons, established "Southern Alaska Forwarders" (SAF); seizing upon an opportunity to provide much needed freight service to the Kodiak community. "I can remember loading shipments into containers in Seattle, then flying up to Kodiak on the weekend, to meet and unload that same container in Kodiak. Back in those days, Ron and I wore many hats, but we got the job done" says Smith.

Within a few years, SAF expanded its coverage and operations to include the communities of Kenai and Cordova. Ron ran the day to day administration of the company, and Alain traveled to Alaska to build the key relationships with clients, many of which are still loyal customers of both PAF and SAF today. Smith says "I am really excited to see some of my old friends this spring as we finish the integration".

PAF and SAF grew prosperously during the 1980's. Growing their respective account bases and expanding and enhancing services. In 1993, while maintaining his partnership interest, Alain left his day-to-day responsibility at SAF to rejoin PAF, as president. It was then, that PAF began to build new terminal facilities and further expand its trucking and logistics operations. "Those were the key investments decisions that really put us on the map" says Smith. The two companies continued to support each other's business interest and SAF and PAF enjoyed a close partnership that continues to present day.

Then, in 2000, Alain and Ron decided to dissolve their SAF partnership. Ron became the sole owner of SAF, while Alain maintained his leadership role and majority interest at PAF. The two separate companies maintained a strong partnership with PAF picking up freight from Anchorage and transferring to SAF for delivery in Kodiak as well as supporting each other from the Lower 48 into their respective service areas.

Present Day, SAF is merging back together with PAF under the leadership of Ed Fitzgerald, CEO of Pacific Alaska Freightways. "This is a great acquisition for us. We know the SAF business model and we expect a seamless transition. We are really excited to have Mike York and his team in Kodiak join PAF, and we are equally pleased that Chuck Kollasch with be joining us at our headquarters in Fife as well" says Fitzgerald.

About PAF: Pacific Alaska Freightways has been providing freight transportation services to Alaska since 1961. We have gained experience in all modes of transportation to Alaska including steamship, barge, rail, air and over the road. In addition, with established inter-modal, LTL and Truckload Carrier services available in the lower 48 states, we can offer seamless origin to destination services to all our clients throughout Alaska. Visit us at www.pafak.com

