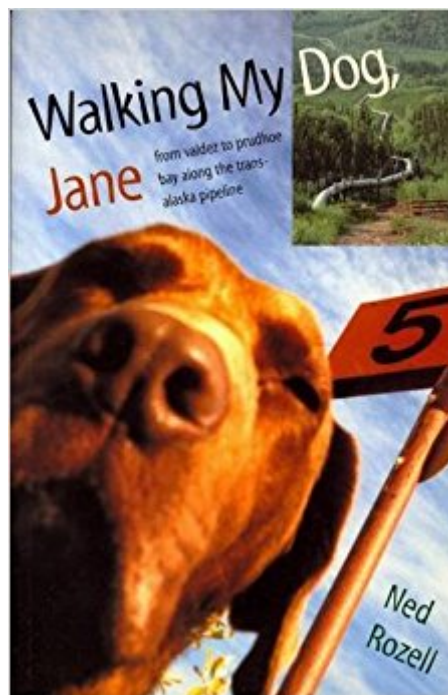




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Walking My Dog Jane: From Valdez To Prudhoe Bay Along The Trans-Alaska Pipeline



Synopsis

“I took my dog for a walk last spring,” says Ned Rozell, “and we didn’t come home until fall.” In *Walking My Dog*, Jane, readers travel along with Ned and Jane, his chocolate Labrador, as they walk 800 miles across Alaska along the trans-Alaska pipeline, beginning in the south at Valdez and ending at Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean. “I wanted a few things from this walk,” Rozell writes. “I wanted the quiet times, alone with my dog. Maybe to learn something about myself, maybe not. I wanted to find out who lives here, where they came from, why they stay. This trip would be about time. For one summer of my life, I could walk, and I’d never be late.” Rozell describes the extraordinary wildlife and spectacular scenery of Alaska, but perhaps the greatest wonders in this story are the people who live near the pipeline: homesteaders who in the 1960s nearly starved on a diet of grouse and hares while taming their piece of Alaska; a husband and wife recovering from alcohol and drug addictions by running a hamburger stand on the Yukon River; gold miners who stubbornly pick at a hillside above the Arctic Circle with tools a century old; a pipeline worker who commutes 3,000 miles every two weeks to be with his son in San Diego. As Rozell discovers on his 120-day journey, the frontier still exists in Alaska, but it’s not the same frontier that stampedeers encountered 100 years ago, or the one to which pipeline workers rushed 20 years ago. Instead, it is a spirit found in these people who live there, now, at the end of the century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It is entirely well written and thoughtful." -- Heartland Magazine, March 19, 2000 "Pleasantly understated...Rozell gives glimpses into the history, politics, terrain and economy of Alaska..." -- Publishers Weekly, March 27, 2000 "Rozell has managed an entertaining narrative of his great walk..." -- Western American Literature, Fall 2000 "Rozell's opus can stand with its tail held high among this body of work." -- The Christian Science Monitor, July 27, 2000 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

NED ROZELL is a contributing editor to *Alaska Magazine* who writes the "Wilderness Adventurer" column each month. He has made his home in Fairbanks, Alaska, since 1986. His longtime trail partner Jane died in 2000 at the age of 13.

Great book. Was in excellent condition.

I have just returned from a trip to Alaska following the pipeline via the Dalton Highway from Prudhoe Bay to Fairbanks. Having traveled a very similar route to Ned and Jane, this book is very interesting to me. I also enjoy Ned's perspective on life and the beauty of Alaska.

Love the topic and the way it is written... Makes me yearn to start my 2014 trip NOW. Realistic and beautiful.

This would be a nice beach book: not too deep, reasonably well written. And some nice reflections on an Alaska that is changing, and the people who live there.

One of the best books about Alaska I've ever read! Good for anyone from the hardcore adventurer to the introspective armchair explorer.

Walking My Dog, Jane By Ned Rozell
Rozell, an easygoing, thirty-something resident of Fairbanks, Alaska, tried to quit his job in the summer of 1997 to take his dog for a walk. His dream was to walk across Alaska by following the famous pipeline with Jane, the chocolate Labrador who had seen him through "three pick-up trucks and seven girlfriends." His boss at the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute wouldn't let him quit, as it turned out, so he stuck a small tape recorder and a palmtop computer into his backpack and continued to write his column for the "Alaska Science Forum" along the way, sending in reports whenever he found a telephone to transmit through. The

best of Rozell's insights and observations are woven into this work of creative non-fiction, including illuminations on the history of the pipeline; its place in the Alaskan landscape and economy; the mosquitoes, bears, and other companions who join him along the way; and the unusual people who choose to live in the semi-civilized Alaskan outback. Rozell also takes time to muse on being alone, making commitments, managing addictions, and a few other things that affect us all. A gentle, thought-provoking first book with something to interest almost everyone.

I enjoyed this book immensely, in part because Ned Rozell writes about things that I know, places that I've been, and the land that I love. He also strikes a chord in me when he writes about what Alaska means to him and the people that he meets along the way, and how so many of us have families in the States that just don't quite understand what keeps us here. I hope Ned's words help explain. I have lived in Alaska for 13+ years, and still I am reminded of the wonder and magic of the mostly wild land which surrounds us. Ned tells a wonderful story of the land and the history of the places he walks, interspersed with the adventure of crossing the largest state in the nation, and funny dog stories courtesy of his traveling companion, a chocolate Labrador Jane. As they traverse three mountain ranges and over 800 water crossings, Ned learns things about himself and his surroundings that he never expected. If you ever dreamed of traveling to Alaska, or if you have a dog that insists on walking you every day, you'll enjoy this adventure/history/travel story as much as I did.

This book is a good read for all "free spirits" who have thought about going to Alaska and experiencing this new frontier the hard way. No cruise ship or guided tour in a luxury bus. This is strictly about "hoofing" for 800 miles across some magnificent country. It is also about being alone and sometimes being afraid. My immediate reaction was one of envy. Envy for those who have the dream and the TIME to pursue that dream. The reader also develops a great deal of respect for individuals who have the perseverance to follow their dream. Dog lovers will particularly love this book since they understand the special bonding that often takes place between dogs and their owners. Some readers will want to schedule a trip to Alaska after finishing the book and others will be happy to settle for the new knowledge that they have acquired. Clearly, Alaska is not for everyone. Read Ned Rozell's book to see if you experience the "call of the wild".

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