

Feature Sheldon In Story

Alaska glacier pilot Don Sheldon is the subject of a feature article in the November issue of "Friends," a magazine published by the Chevrolet division of General Motors Corp.

Sheldon's exploits in his 23 years of bush flying are outlined, but most emphasis is placed on his activities in ferrying climbers to Mount McKinley and taking tourists on high-flying trips in that vicinity.

The article notes that the 50-year-old Sheldon has "run through 45 aircraft" since he began his challenging business. Based at Talkeetna, Sheldon has become a local legend through his skill, experience and "pure instinct" as a bush pilot.

Sheldon's Talkeetna Air Service, the article continues, is headquartered at his home and his small fleet of bush planes — one for every task — is parked outside, with a float-plane bobbing on the nearby Susitna River.

While Sheldon's major activity is flying tourists to see spectacular Mt. McKinley, he also makes regular checks of the climbers he has deposited on its slopes, stops at various camps checking on miners or trappers and delivers groceries to homesteaders.

Sheldon's wife, Roberta, is the firm's communications expert, and when on flights, the pilot is in constant contact by radio.

The article presents Sheldon, and Alaska, in the romantic, last-frontier tradition commonly pictured by Outsiders. The article with its descriptive passages of both Sheldon's exploits and the state itself, is expected to provide an additional drawing card for visitors.

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