

Finding Irv's Spot on the Seward Highway



BY DAVID IRVINE

Irv attaching the three-million-mile badge at the pull-off on the Seward Hwy. where he set the record, with the Cook Inlet in the background.

Back in 2014, Irv Gordon came to our *Volvos at the Gilmore* meet in Hickory Corners, Mich. and spoke at the evening banquet. The year before, he had hit three million miles with his 1800S near the village of Girdwood on the Seward Highway, south of Anchorage.

After the dinner, we were chatting about the beauty of Alaska and my connection to the state. My family and I, including my then 84-year-old mother, had volunteered at the 2006 *National Veteran Wheelchair Games* in Anchorage. After the event, we had driven the same highway that Irv travelled when he set the record on Sep. 18, 2013.

Fast forward to April 2020, our daughter

Camille had just been hired by the Anchorage VA Health Care System as the pandemic began to shut things down. She bravely proceeded to Anchorage on her own with one of her two cats, where she had bought a car, and rented an apartment sight unseen.

My wife Joyce and I went to see her in late June. On the way back from a long weekend exploring the Kenai Peninsula, we passed the stretch on Seward Highway where Irv made history. I had forgotten that there were four pull-offs, approximately a mile apart. Finding the exact location where he set the record would not be so easy.

Studying the video on YouTube, where Irv talks about his trip to Alaska and passing

the three-million-mile mark (www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYvgehY4wfY), I determined it must have been the second pull-off as you drive towards Girdwood, at mile marker 93.5.

I'm curious whether anyone in Alaska or at Volvo is interested in putting up a plaque to mark the exact location where the event took place? If anyone reading this has an idea, I'd be willing to help, since we plan to go back frequently to Alaska in the next three years to visit our daughter. ■

David Irvine is the president of the the Great Lakes Chapter. He lives in Shelbyville, Mich. and can be reached at jirvine123@yahoo.com.



The two steel transmission towers in the background were telltale signs to the correct pull-off. The others had only one tower or they were made of wood.

