

SHARP SHOOTER

KENNY SAILORS
PIONEERED THE
BASKETBALL
JUMP SHOT THEN
AIMED FOR ALASKA.

BY LEW FREEDMAN
PHOTOS BY AL GRILLO

KENNY SAILORS IS A HOMESTEADER, HUNTER AND FISHERMAN—ALASKAN TO the core, a man drawn to the hardscrabble existence of the Last Frontier. For more than three decades he has prowled the land on horseback, tangled with grizzly bears and fed his family with salmon caught in swiftly flowing rivers.

His experiences are common to many who live here, but because the unassuming and soft-spoken Sailors lacks the quality of braggadocio, few know that he was famous long ago and far away.

This same outdoorsman was once a pioneer in a completely different manner. Fifty years ago Sailors made history as the inventor of the jump shot. At a time when the sport of basketball was landlocked, he soared.

Call this a tale of two lives.

In a clearing cut by hand from the forest, you can stand beside as fine a personally made log home as it is possible to find in the 1990s. It is an abode befitting someone



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNY SAILORS