



# *'Muktuk' Marston will be the No. 1 musher*

Marvin "Muktuk" Marston has been chosen as the "honorary musher" for the 1988 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, according to Iditarod officials.

Marston, who died in 1980 at the age of 94, contributed \$10,000 in cash for the prize money for the 1973 Iditarod Race. Joe Redington Sr. credits Marston with "priming the pump," explaining that before Marston's donation, race leaders had been unable to raise money.

During World War II, the Army Air Corps major conceived the idea of having a volunteer militia watch for possible Japanese invasion along the Alaskan coast. Gov. Ernest Gruening gave Marston the responsibility of organizing this effort.

He went by dog team to 22 villages and organized Eskimos in the Alaska Territorial Guard. Following the war,

he helped organize the Alaska Army National Guard, which many of the former members of the Territorial Guard then joined.

The units became predominately Native organizations, thanks to Marston's confidence in Native leadership, and have flourished. Today, there are Guard units in 92 villages and cities in Alaska.

Marston served as a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention. He was responsible for stopping the effort of the Department of the Interior to form Indian reservations in the state.

He led a group of Eskimo Scouts in President John F. Kennedy's inaugural parade. He ran for state Senate in 1968 and made a historical movie about the Territorial Guard. He also established a foundation that provided funding for small farming projects in Northwest Alaska.

Marston homesteaded in the 1940s in Anchorage in the area of what is now Spenard. He is the originator of Marston Real Estate. He was always interested in dog mushing and was ready to help dog clubs in whatever way he could.

Marston will be honored at the

mushers' banquet and drawing on March 3. At that time, the No. 1 will be removed from the actual drawing and reserved for the honorary position. On the start of the 1988 race, Marston will again be recognized and honored. No musher will leave the chute following the timer's first countdown to zero.