

Famous Native Leader Snowshoe Race on

The famous native leaders snowshoe race will again be performed during the North American Sled Dog Championship races next month in Fairbanks.

"Look what I've got here,"

said Emil Notti this week in Anchorage. "I bought me a pair of snowshoes this year and I'll be training from now on for that snowshoe race in Fairbanks."

Emil Notti probably remembered last year when one of the native leaders complained that he wasn't provided with the right kind of snowshoes for the race and after Richard Frank ran circles around his fellow native leaders.

When told about Notti's cur-

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rent snowshoe training, Ralph Perdue, Fairbanks native leader and successful jeweler, said:

"Hmm, that's interesting. I think I better start walking home a mile from now on. I've been keeping in pretty good shape by riding my sno-go the past few weeks. I've also cut down on my martinis—I mean I quit them so my wind is better this year."

When asked whether Perdue might challenge the new Alaska Governor Keith Miller, he said:

"I would go so far as that. I don't think he's in as good a shape as I am. In fact he doesn't look in shape. I'm just trying to be fair. I wouldn't want to embarrass him by a bad defeat."

Perdue said he got himself a new pair of snowshoes this year. He said he will start training making sure to attach his ptarmigan feet at the front tips of his snowshoes.

He said that according to the old Indians, ptarmigan feet are supposed to make the snowshoer "light-footed." When he was training last year, Ralph Perdue became known as "Light-foot Perdue."

Perdue, however, came in a bad second last year when he came a lap behind the leader Richard Frank.

Perdue had boasted before the race that he could outrace Frank with a man on his back. He, Emil Notti and Don Wright kept falling in the deep snow and had trouble getting up to start again while Richard Frank coasted along at a good trot leaving his challengers far behind.

"I told you I'd run circles around those guys," said Richard Frank jubilantly last year. "And I'm years and years older than they are."