

Greenland Eskimo Studies Musk Ox Management

Also Attends University of Alaska and Is a Fine Skier

Special to Tundra Times

Cross country skiing and herding musk ox don't have much in common unless you happen to be 17-year-old Larserak Niels Skifte at the University of Alaska Musk Ox Project.

Skiing happens to be one of this Greenland Eskimo student's favorite sports and he is also interested in learning the techniques of musk ox management. Skifte is on a one-year study project at the musk ox farm through arrangements made by the Greenland's Department of Education and the governor of Greenland and the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research.

Skifte is a former cross country skiing champion of Greenland. Occasionally he skis with the university ski team for fun. Musk Ox Project Director John Teal Jr. recalls that recently Skifte took a pair of borrowed skis to ski with the team.

He arrived at the starting point after the other skiers had started their run. Teal said Skifte decided to make the run even though he was late and ended up

passing four of the skiers.

Skifte arrived at the University last Fall to study musk ox husbandry and management and techniques of introducing the musk ox industry to native villagers. He lives at the farm on Yankovich Road but also attends classes in English and photography on campus.

During his stay at the musk ox farm, Skifte is learning the routine of care for the animals including breeding, winter care, calving, and collection of wool known as "qiviut." Skifte said when he returns to Greenland this summer he hopes to continue his studies in education and animal husbandry. He said he also hopes to be able to work in a musk ox project in Greenland which may be established by the institute.

Skifte was selected to make the year-long study in Alaska after he was graduated from high school in 1968. His high school principal discussed the plan of coming to Alaska and helped with arranging his trip here.



GREENLAND ESKIMO—Larserak Niels Skifte, an Eskimo from Greenland, is a student at the University of Alaska. He is also studying the techniques of musk ox management at the Musk Ox Project. Skifte is seen petting a grown musk ox at the Institute of Northern Agricultural

Research experimental musk ox farm near the University of Alaska. Skifte's trip to the university was arranged by the Greenland's Department of Education and Greenland's Governor N.O. Christensen and the INAR. Skifte is 17 years old.