

# Denise Taylor Driving for TT at North American Races



DENISE ELLEN TAYLOR, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Taylor, rests with her sister's dog, Sasha, after coming in fourth of thirteen entrants in the three-dog, three-mile race held last Sunday at the Alaska Dog Mushing Association, Inc. track off Farmer's Loop Road in Fairbanks. Denise will be sponsored by the Tundra Times in the junior dog races scheduled during the first week in March in Fairbanks as part of the North American Championship Dog Races.

A seventh grader at Main Junior High School in Fairbanks—Miss Denise Ellen Taylor—will carry a sign with the name of the Tundra Times on her sled when she competes in the three-dog junior dog mushers race in the North American Championship Dog Races in Fairbanks in March.

Denise, who has been racing for two years, says her dogs used to run away with her, but now she has better control.

Denise, the oldest of four children, learned dog racing from her father, Jesse Taylor. All of his children participate in dog racing.

He teaches the children to train their dogs.

Denise was first mentioned in the Tundra Times on May 1, 1965, when a picture of her wide grin (she was missing some baby teeth) was used to publicize a St. Louis scientist's need for baby teeth to help him determine the radiation count in human beings.

Later that year, on May 24, Denise made the editorial page of the Tundra Times when this newspaper presented her with the North Star Award for "her amazing presence of mind in an

emergency ..."

Denise, not yet in kindergarten then, helped save her mother's life. It happened this way:

Late one evening her mother, Alma, had a heart seizure. Denise, knowing her father was at work, tried to reach him by phone. For some reason the phone call did not get through.

Then she called the telephone operator for help. She didn't know her address, but she read her phone number to the operator and told her where her father worked.

From this information the operator was able to call an ambulance and the police and notify Jesse Taylor of the emergency at his home.

"When I got home the ambulance and the State Police were already there," Taylor said.

Denise had been aware of her mother's heart condition for some time, Taylor said, and stayed up with her mother on evenings when he was at work.

Now, years later, under the sponsorship of the Tundra Times, Denise will enter the North American Championship Dog Races in Fairbanks as a junior musher, urging her three dogs—Pearl, Polar Bear and George—to run as fast as they can.