

CHIEFS' RACE—

Richard Frank Came in Next To Last: Notti

“When we raced, Richard Frank came in next to last and I came in second.”

Such was the well considered evaluation made by Emil Notti regarding the Chief's Snowshoe Race last Saturday at the North American Championship Sled Dog Race grounds in Fairbanks.

Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, was telling the exact truth and there is no way for Richard Frank to dispute Notti's evaluation.

Notti's unusual dissemination of the race stemmed from the fact that he and Richard Frank were the only entries in the race.

Richard won the race going

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Snowshoe Race

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away while Notti came in a rather bad second. One of the reasons was that Notti fell flat on his face in the snow just at the third step of his race.

Several other chiefs were expected to race but they didn't show up at the grounds, including Ralph Perdue of the ptarmigan foot fame. (He has trained with ptarmigan feet attached to the front ends of his snowshoes so he can be light-footed like the ptarmigan.)

After the race, conversations followed and someone said that Perdue had "chickened out."

"That guy didn't chicken out he ptarmiganned out," someone sneered.

Sen. Ray Christensen of Bethel was expected but he didn't arrive in Fairbanks. Rep. William L. (Willie) Hensley wound up in New York on business as well as to appear on the national television show, "Today."

On the following day of the Chiefs race, Richard Frank was challenged by Gov. Keith Miller.

Gov. Miller almost won the race because Richard Frank fell and lost one of his snowshoes. He had to replace his shoe, got up and pursued the Governor and beat the State Chief Executive by a nose.

Richard Frank is thinking about challenging all chiefs next year by having all chiefs donate some money before the race and the money will go to some charitable institution in the City of Fairbanks.