

## Rader Appoints 2 Nomeites to Aid Campaign

John Rader, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives and former Alaska Attorney General announced the appointment of Neil Kennelly and Bob Scott, both of Nome, to his campaign organization.

Kennelly will coordinate the campaign activities in the Northwest area of the state. Originally from New York, Kennelly formerly practiced law in Fairbanks and now is practicing in Nome. He has long been in political affairs.

Bob Scott, who will be responsible for Nome, has lived there all his life, with the exception of the time he served as a navigator with the Fifth Air Force in the South Pacific. Scott says, "I've been involved in politics for as long as I can remember."

Rader said, "With the help of top-flight people like Kennelly and Scott, we will run a vigorous and positive campaign, a campaign designed to bring important issues and problems before the people of Alaska."



**Fred Kelly**



**Shirley Firth**

## Canadian Native Young People Show Fine Form in Recent Junior Skier's Meet at U of A

By GINNY HILL WOOD

Scandinavia may have to look to its laurels in cross-country ski competition in the future if junior skiers from the Canadian far north keep up their training and technique improvement.

And many of the winners in international competition in a few years could well be Indians and Eskimos.

Skiers and spectators who watched the cross country ski meet recently held over the Ivar Skarland Memorial Ski Trail System north of the Fairbanks Country Club were treated to a display of championship style and performance by a plane load of Indian and Eskimo youths from Inuvik and Old Crow racing against Fairbanks and Anchorage junior skiers.

They didn't take home all the trophies in the two day relay and individual cross country ski competition because the course was new to them—in fact a few took the wrong trail when someone removed a barricade by mistake during the race—and the day was much warmer than temperatures they were used to.

But it was easy to see how Fred Kelly, a 16 year old Indian from Ft. Good Hope in Northwest Territories had placed first at the Canadian Junior National Championships at Port Arthur this winter over the best cross country racers in Canada.

And how the Inuvik girl's team made a clean sweep of the races there, then one of them, Shirley Firth, had gone down to the American Junior Nationals at Montana and had nosed out the hitherto unbeatable Barbara Britch from Anchorage.

How can remote villages like Old Crow and Inuvik produce championship cross country skiers in climates that are even colder and have more hours of winter darkness than Fairbanks?

One reason is Father J. F. Mouchet, an Oblate priest who first introduced cross

country skiing to the village of Old Crow on the upper Porcupine river about eight years ago.

Father Mouchet had been a top notch skier and instructor in his native France, and he saw this sport as being a natural for Native youths of the north.

The physical endurance of Indians and Eskimos coupled with their environment where snow lies on the ground for more than half the year would give them an advantage for competition if they could master the techniques of the sport and have the will to train and practice.

During the years that Father Mouchet was at Old Crow skiing became a way of life for the whole village. Starting with castoff equipment donated by ski clubs in the United States, the whole village became involved.

Those too old to actively participate became officers of the Old Crow Ski Club, and the Old Crow Ski Club practically became the village council.

Youngsters without equipment took part in training exercises that would help them when they did get their skis.

Fairbanksans were amazed one March in the early '60s when a hitherto unknown group of skiers from a remote Canadian Athabaskan Indian village came down to the Winter Carnival to take top honors in skiing events.

Then Father Mouchet went to Inuvik, the new town that was built from scratch by the Canadian government on the MacKenzie river delta to replace old Aklavik which was sinking in the mud.

Most of the people of Aklavik remained there after the new town was built for them, but others moved in to this model community less than 50 miles from the Arctic Ocean.

Besides becoming a center for government agencies, Inuvik has the consolidated boarding school for both primary and secondary

students from villages all over the northwestern part of the District of MacKenzie from Banks Island to Ft. Norman.

It was among students of this school that some of Canada's top junior cross country ski competitors have developed.

The Canadian government which has an intensive interest in physical fitness sponsors a winter sports program of ice hockey, skiing, and figure skating centered at Inuvik, but with visiting coaches and equipment being sent to the more remote villages such as Old Crow.

The government also underwrites transportation costs to enable youths to compete in events all over Canada and even Alaska and the American Junior National meet that was held this year in Montana.

Despite the extreme cold the Inuvik skiers train all winter. Over two miles of their extensive ski trail system in the hills adjacent to their school is lighted, for darkness is a major problem at this high latitude.

Training starts in the fall with cross country running over the tundra. Over 175 Indian and Eskimo youths turned out for the sport this year.

After completing 125 miles of trail practice on surplus army skis, a skier is outfitted with regular narrow racing skis and boots, and he or she is eligible to try out for the ski team.

By last Christmas some skiers had put in over 300 miles of cross country skiing in temperatures sometimes as low as 40 degrees below zero.

This year while Father Mouchet was visiting his native France the coaching of the Inuvik team was taken over by Bjorger V. Pettersen, a former Canadian national cross country ski champion.

After 16 year old John Kelly came from behind to win the Canadian Junior

Cross Country Ski Nationals last February Pettersen stated, "We proved that there still is a lot of fight left in the Natives of Canada's far North. Racing in what experts termed the toughest cross country field ever assembled a modest Indian boy of the north became the champion of Canada."

## 600 Fairbanks Homeowners Apply for Aid

The Alaska State Housing Authority reports that to date 600 homeowners have applied for a 12% Incentive Payment on their real property based upon an estimated \$3,134,579 of flood repair. The 12% Incentive Payment program ends May 1, 1968 and the Alaska State Housing urges every homeowner to file an application regardless of whether he is complete with his repair on that date. The 12% Incentive Payment will be made on percent of completed repairs.

## FLIPPER FLIPS FOR THE HEART FUND



FAMED TV PORPOISE, wearing heart-shaped collar, invites your support of the 1968 Heart Fund Campaign, being conducted here and throughout the nation.

## Dock Berth Offered for Use

JUNEAU—The New England Fish Co. has volunteered use of its dock for emergency berthing while the community of Cordova recovers from last week's disastrous waterfront fire, Gov. Hickel reported.

In a telephone conference with the Governor's office from Seattle, Jay Gage, vice president of the fish company, said New England will make available its dock in Orca Inlet, about two and a half miles from the city of Cordova.

Gage said the main user of the facility will be the Alaska Steamship Co., which lost its own dock in the blaze.

Docking facilities which are used for berthing Alaska State Ferry System vessels were not damaged in the fire.

## Gear Licenses

### By April 15

Commercial fishermen were advised by the Department of Fish and Game that applications for 1968 salmon net gear and vessel licenses must be submitted to either a commercial fishing license vendor of the Department of Revenue or to the Department of Fish and Game, not later than April 15, 1968.

The April 15 deadline has been in effect each year since statehood. However, it is especially critical this year because of the new eligibility requirements for salmon net gear licenses which were adopted by the Board of Fish and Game at its special meeting in February 1968.

Under the provisions of this regulation, only those individuals who held salmon net gear licenses in 1965, 1966, or 1967 are automatically eligible for 1968 salmon net gear licenses.

Individuals who are not automatically eligible may qualify under the hardship provisions of the regulation or may be selected as new entrants at a public drawing scheduled for April 25, 1968.