

# Oldest Native Leader to Run Circles Around Others at Snowshoe Race

"They can have all the ptarmigan feet, wings and Indian traditions and all that, but I'll run circles around those guys," said determined Richard Frank this week.

Richard Frank is one of the four native leaders who will take part in the snowshoe race on March 16 in the vicinity of the North American Championship Sled Dog Race grounds in Fairbanks.

"The Governor is going to shoot the starting gun, in the afternoon, I guess," Frank said. "The Dogmushers Association is getting a

special prize ready for the winner."

When asked if he had been training, Frank merely put on his huge grin and nodded his head up and down indicating "yes."

"And you know what?" he pointed out. "I'm the oldest of all those guys but I'll still run circles around them."

Richard Frank is the president of the Fairbanks Native Association.

When Ralph "Lightfoot" Perdue of the ptarmigan foot fame found out what Richard Frank had said, he made the

following remarks:

"Our fearless leader will make the circles alright, but he'll be riding on my back while I run circles around those guys from Anchorage. Richard will be so tired he'll ride my back."

"Come to think of it," Perdue reflected, "he'll be riding my back anyway after I beat him to the finish line."

Perdue took note of what Emil Notti had said about him last week.

"That guy's statement was very bold when he said I'm a 'Leadfoot.' I feel sorry for him but I wish him luck which won't do him any good."

"Why, that fellow hasn't had a pair of snowshoes on for 20 years and he'll need plenty of aids at the finish line. I'll have two chiropractors to get his joints back together again."

Emil Notti is the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Nothing much has been heard from Don Wright, president of the Cook Inlet Native Association, but he is reported to have said, "I'll be there."

Governor Walter J. Hickel will officiate at the snowshoe race and will sound the starting gun probably around 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. March 16.

Hickel will attend the native potlatch that evening at 6:30 p.m. He will also do a bit of Eskimo dancing during an invitational dance.