



**ACROSS THE LINE**—Luke Titus, of Minto, pushes a weary team across the finish line on the last day of Minto's 2-day championship races. Mushers fought soft trails and warm weather during the 36-mile race, held during Minto's annual Winter Carnival. At right, the winners in the long, tough races are lined up along the starting line. At left is Luke Titus, first, Fairbanks musher Pete Shepherd, second, John Greenway, also from Fairbanks, third, and Roy Folger, of Tanana, who came in fourth. (See Pictures, Story P. 6.)

—Tundra Times Photo





# MINTO'S CARNIVAL --- SPRING COMES

## Winter Sports Herald Spring at Village

By BRADY LEE

MINTO, (Special)—Spring came to this little Tanana River Indian Village last weekend.

It came with a burst of sunshine, with blue skies and a warm wind that washed away the silent, deadly chill of winter.

When it came, it brought laughing, black-haired children streaming out from snow-covered log homes, shouting a winter's pent-up waiting into warm spring sunshine.



Young Jonathan David—  
Central attraction at Minto Dances.

Spring was declared officially in Minto. It was the people who declared it.

Summer was coming. A promise of long days, running rivers and green, cool grass, and the people celebrated by throwing open their homes and rolling out the welcome mat for visitors from neighboring villages and towns.

They call it the Minto Winter Carnival—actually misnamed since it signifies the coming of spring.

Whatever the name, it's three days of merriment for visitors and villagers alike, with a schedule crammed with sled-

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# Minto Carnival Heralds Spring. .

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dog races, snow-shoe racing, ski-joring contests, potlatch feasts and ceremonial dancing.

The main attraction, of course, was the met.'s Minto Championship Sled Dog Races, a 36-mile race that for two days saw mushers sweating over soft, narrow trails that wound out through lakes and portages for eighteen miles east of the village, across the wildlife-rich Minto Flats.

A 10-mile women's race saw Minto women, many of them wives of mushers competing in the big races, take to the trails in this traditionally male sport.

One Minto woman musher, Josephine Riley, went out on the trail with one team and came back with another.

A few miles out from the starting point, her towline snapped, sending the team racing off down the trail and leaving her with a sled and no dogs.

Coming up behind her, Helen Peters, of Tanana, also ran into some bad luck. While she was putting a worn-out dog into the sled, the team took off, leaving her with one dog and no sled.

Josephine caught Helen's team and mushed on home with it, and a snow-go was sent out to rescue the unhappy Helen with her one dog.

But the happiest musher in Minto is probably 3-year-old Dewayne Jimmie, who won all three days in one-dog children's races. His dog was named Alaska.

Dewayne proved that the mushing test was in the dog—not the musher. He sat in the sled all three days, and won.