

Lena Charley wins two Gulkana races

GULKANA — Dog mushing races began early this year in the Copper Basin. The Gulkana Village Council has already sponsored two successful preliminary races this year — one on December 10, and the second on December 30.

The winner of both races was Lena Charley, of Chistochina. Mrs. Charley led the pack each time by a wide margin. On the December 30th 10-mile race, she beat her closest competitor by a full 24 minutes — in spite of taking the wrong trail at the beginning of the race.

Snow in the Gulkana area has been deep this year, and trail conditions have been rough. The November race covered approximately 5 miles, and began and ended on a grueling steep hill outside of Gulkana Village. The December race followed the Richardson Highway from Gulkana Village down to Mile 122½ and back up the other side of the road to the village.

Cash prizes awarded to the contestants were donated by local merchants.

The winners of the December 30, 10-mile Gulkana Village Council Preliminary were: 1st place, Lena Charley, with a time of 1 hour, 4 minutes, 21 seconds, \$80; 2nd place, Howard Jerue, 1 hour, 28 minutes, 54 seconds, \$55; 3rd place, Randy McKinney, 1 hour, 30 minutes even, \$35; 4th place, Freddie Heinz, 1 hour, 30 minutes, 27 se-

conds, \$20.

Standings for the December 10 race were: 1st place, Lena Charley, with 25 minutes, 45 seconds, \$75; 2nd place, David Richcreek, 31 minutes, 57 seconds, \$50; 3rd place, Lemmie Charley, 34 minutes, 32 seconds, \$25; 4th place, Freddie Heinz, 36 minutes, 7 seconds, Dinner at the Hub; 6th place, Larry Adams, 38 minutes, 56 seconds, \$7.50.

Lorraine Neeley is chairman of the Village Council.



This photograph of Chistochina musher Lena Charley was taken at the starting line of the 1978 1st Annual Dogmushers' Classic in Copper Center. Mrs. Charley recently placed 1st in two preliminary races held in Gulkana.