

COURSES INTERNATIONALES EQUIPES A TRAVEAU X DOG RACE Agathe 21F

JERRY RILEY IN CANADA—M. Louis Pellerin, mayor of Ste. Agathe des Monts, Quebec, presents the ensign of the new Canadian flag to Alaskan dogsled racer Jerry Riley, during a display of Jerry's team at Place Ville Marie, Montreal, in January. At left is M. Roland Patenaude, Director of Tourism for the Province of Quebec. To the right of Jerry is his handler Charles Ned of Allakaket, and extreme right is well-known Canadian racer J. Malcolm McDougall. Riley's appearance in Montreal was part of the promotion for the Snow Festival held in Ste. Agathe on February 20-21, during which Riley and his team placed second in the international sled dog race. —Gracieuseté Office Du Film Du Quebec (Courtesy Province of Quebec Film Bureau)

In Records, Friends for Alaska

Jerry Riley's Trip East Surpasses Expectations

By CAROL PHILLIPS
 Nenana, Alaska

At the start of the "send a musher east" campaign the primary purpose was to send a top-notch Alaskan racer to compete against the New England champions on their home grounds.

This purpose has been fulfilled in a way surpassing all expectations by the record set by racer Jerry Riley during his three months in the eastern United States and Canada, but even more important than the race record is the mark left by Jerry and his handler as representatives of the state of Alaska.

Sent east by the donations of hundreds of people of Alaska, sixteen other states, and four Canadian provinces, Riley chalked up a remarkable list of top spots in ten races, including a first place victory at Meredith, New Hampshire, second place at Ste. Agathe des Monts, Quebec, third place at Quebec City, Maniwaki, and Tamworth, with victories at one time or another over all of the Big Three racers: Lombard, Bryar and Belford.

As goodwill ambassadors, Jerry Riley and Charles Ned have also scored with unqualified success, as many letters received by the Riley Committee have testified.

"If all Alaskans are like this, I'm all for them," wrote one of their eastern hosts. "Jerry and Charlie are both very popular with the New England spectators and the cheers and whistles really fly whenever their names are mentioned. Jerry really got the biggest ovation at Tamworth even though he wasn't top dog on the winning roster."

Jerry has appeared before many service clubs and school groups, demonstrating his team, showing Alaskan publicity films, and answering hundreds of questions.

At the conclusion of the World Championship Sled Dog Derby at Laconia, New Hampshire, on Sunday, February 28th, Jerry Riley presented, in behalf of Governor Egan of Alaska, a husky pup to Dr. Royal M. Frye, President of Belknap College, as a mascot for the college and a token of the tie between Alaska and the eastern racing capital in New Hampshire.

In his letter to Jerry, Governor Egan wrote: "Alaska is very proud of your showing in the eastern sled dog races this winter, and you are to be highly commended for the

able manner in which you represented our great State. Your competitive spirit is truly representative of all Alaskans and has I am sure, contributed considerably to the top notch performance you and your team have turned in."

Now Jerry and Charles are on the long road home to Alaska, where Jerry will compete in the North American and Charles will no doubt defend his two-year title as Snowshoe Champion.

It is the hope of the Riley Committee that Jerry's record in the east and the wonderful reception he received on every hand will encourage other Alaskan racers to consider "mushing east" in years to come.

All Alaskans may well be proud of the statistics tallied up by racer Jerry Riley, but the true success of the project can be measured by these words from a correspondent in the east:

"If one of your goals was to make friends for Alaska, you have succeeded beyond your highest expectation."