



Above - Alfred Agree appears to fly over the ice glazed surface of a lake.

Winter Carnival at Willow

by Shelley Gill

The 20th Annual Willow Winter Carnival was held this weekend and locals had a chance to show off their athletic abilities even though there was more ice than snow.

John Kolwoski achieved fame and received a 1st prize kiss from the newly crowned Miss Willow when it was determined that he had the 'best' beard in the Mr. Fuzz Face Contest. Miss Willow, Carla Person, and first runner-up, Kandy Jo Kramp, chose Kolwoski because his beard was "curly, soft, had lots of nice colors and was evenly grown."

Carnival events began Friday afternoon and will continue through Sunday, Feb. 1. They include the women's cigar smoking contest, a turkey shoot, weight pull, three legged races, the WACO Women's Sled Dog Competition, wheelbarrow races and more. Though it had been broadcast earlier in the week that all of the dog sled races would be canceled due to lack of snow, eight inches fell in the area on Thursday, making some of the races possible after all. In the one-dog events held on Saturday, Macie Merrill took first place finishing with a time of 24.06. Second place went to Dian Johnson at 25.14, third was Jason Stanford with a 26.45 and fourth place went to Ramey Smith with a time of 27.26. Turnout for the five-dog event was low, but none-the-less enthusiastic. Veteran Iditarod Musher, Lolly 'Crash' Medley, who was sponsored by Lolly's Harness Shop and Wasilla local, Linda Sparks, sponsored by the Wasilla AMCO 76 Union, raced against each other in that event. Unfortunately, due to a lack of markers, the drivers took opposite trails, so the description 'fun-race' was aptly applied.

Spectators who stayed late and braved the Saturday afternoon chill got to see Wood-chopper John of Anchorage win his third Chainsaw Championship. He beat Tony Sakis by 4 seconds using a Skil saw.

Sponsors for the carnival were Brown's Electric, ARCO, SOHIO, Matanuska Credit Union, Coca Cola, Alaska Cleaners, B&J, United Bldg. Supplies, D&A Supermarkets, Ham-maker's, Fisher's Fuel and MATSU Supply.



Photos by Andy Klamser



Children and adults marvel at the precision and speed exhibited during the chain saw championship.