

Homer sponsors Demoski in Iditarod

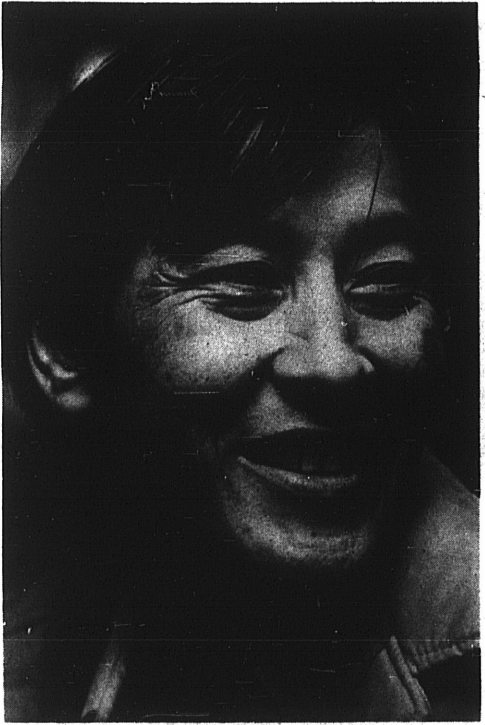
By MARTHA UPICKSOUN

Sled-dog mushing, once a primary mode of travel for Alaska Natives, has expanded in modern times to include long-distance racing. 1973 marked the beginning of the annual Iditarod sled-dog race, a 1,049-mile journey through backwoods Alaska that retraces the Seward-to-Nome diphtheria serum run of 1925.

The Iditarod race is symbolic for some; it is serious business for others; and, to many house-bound Alaskans, it is a diversion that helps erase late-winter doldrums.

Rudy Demoski, a 34-year old musher who hails from Anvik, and Homer, a town reminiscent of a New England coastal village that is located on the Katchemak Bay shoreline, have teamed together to make sure that Demoski hits the Iditarod trail come March 1, 1980.

(See DEMOSKI, Page Six)



IDITAROD RACER RUDY DEMOSKI —ROB STAPLETON PHOTOGRAPH

● *Demoski*

(Continued from Page One)

Two Homer residents, Anne Patch and Gail Phillips, befriended Demoski during the 1979 Iditarod. They contacted the four-time Iditarod runner last summer and told him their town might be interested in sponsoring him. Demoski travelled to Homer in August and met with the Chamber of Commerce.

Contacts and visits paid-off. The people of Homer are sponsoring Demoski's attempt at winning or finishing the 1980 Iditarod. When asked what the several-thousand dollar sponsorship did for the morale of the Athabaskan Indian racer, Demoski said, "I feel really good. Now I have something to really race for."