



TALENTED YOUNG LADY—Louisa Stine, 17, is going to represent the State of Alaska as a cross-country ski racer during the National Ski Championships at Alyeska this weekend. Louisa was born at Barrow, raised at Wiseman, and now attends high school in Fairbanks. Louisa is also showing talent in art. While attending school, she resides at the Hospitality House in Fairbanks. See story on page 5.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

Louisa Stine Shows Talent in Cross-country Skiing and Art

By THOMAS RICHARDS, Jr.

A young Eskimo girl is proving herself to be an accomplished artist and athlete. She is 17-year-old Louisa Stine, originally from Barrow, raised in Wiseman, and now attending school in Fairbanks.

This year, Louisa has distinguished herself as a star athlete on Lathrop High School's cross-country ski team.

She was recently chosen to represent Alaska, with eight other girls from the state, at the Junior National Skiing Championships, to be held at Alyeska this weekend.

This is a truly remarkable feat considering that Louisa began to ski only this past Fall.

When queried as to why she began to ski Louisa replied, "I think it's a lot of fun, I like the outdoors. That is the only reason I began to ski. I just hate sitting around doing nothing."

Louisa practices skiing three hours per day after school and much more on weekends.

When Louisa isn't skiing she is studying or painting at the Hospitality House, where she is staying in Fairbanks.

Mrs. Mabel Rasmuson, Director of the Hospitality House, is happy with the work Louisa is doing. "Since Louisa took an interest in skiing, she assumed a real purpose," she said.

The walls of Mrs. Rasmuson's office display several of Louisa's paintings and drawings.

Young Miss Stine is serious about her interest in art. When asked about her plans for the future, she stated, "I would like to major in art after graduating from high school."

The quiet Eskimo girl became interested in art as a small girl in Wiseman.

In describing her initial artistic endeavors, she said, "I started drawing on the walls and cardboard boxes at our sod house in Wiseman. I drew on everything that I could find, on old letters, books, and even on the pages of the Bible."

The first sketches that Louisa did were pencil drawings of the family dogs and her aunt and uncle. On a recent return trip to Wiseman, she went back to the sod house where she once lived.

There she viewed the old drawings and sketches. "I didn't know that I had improved so much," Louisa said.

While attending the Upward Bound Program at the University of Alaska, Louisa began to work in oil and water colors. She enjoys painting portraits, and sketching animals, as well as landscapes.

She continued painting and studying art in school at Lathrop High. Several of her works have been entered in school-sponsored art shows.

Louisa's other classes include algebra, biology, English, history, and physical education. Of these she enjoys her courses in art and physical education most.

The interest that athletics has for Louisa Stine is well founded. The dog sled and hunting experiences from her life in Wiseman have well-prepared her for the discipline and stamina required in cross-country skiing.

Louisa has fond memories of her life at Wiseman. There, she and Arctic Johnny ran dogs and hunted often, usually hunting caribou, sheep and moose.

She recalls encountering a wolf and a moose on two hunting trips.

"We were on a hill one time looking for moose and sheep

when a wolf sneaked up to us. We let the dogs go and they chased it away," she said.

On another occasion they were hunted by a moose.

"I was out hunting in the springtime with Arctic Johnny and a moose was sneaking up on him. I let one of the dogs go and he barked and scared it away. We already shot one moose and didn't need another one, so we let it go."

In Wiseman, Louisa was raised by her aunt and uncle, Arctic Johnny and Esther. They now

live at Anaktuvik Pass. She was born in Barrow to Mrs. & Mrs. Abraham Stine.

Louisa, summing up her reaction to the honor she had been given, said, "It was great. I didn't expect to be on the ski team, but I got in."

When asked about the prospects for the Alaska team, she stated, "I am hopeful. We have a good team."

Louisa Stine has many people who will be cheering her on, and who feel she has good reason to be optimistic.



THIS OLD ESKIMO, pipe in mouth and with his hair combed onto his forehead, is a watercolor by Louisa Stine. Louisa, 17, was born in Barrow and raised in Wiseman.