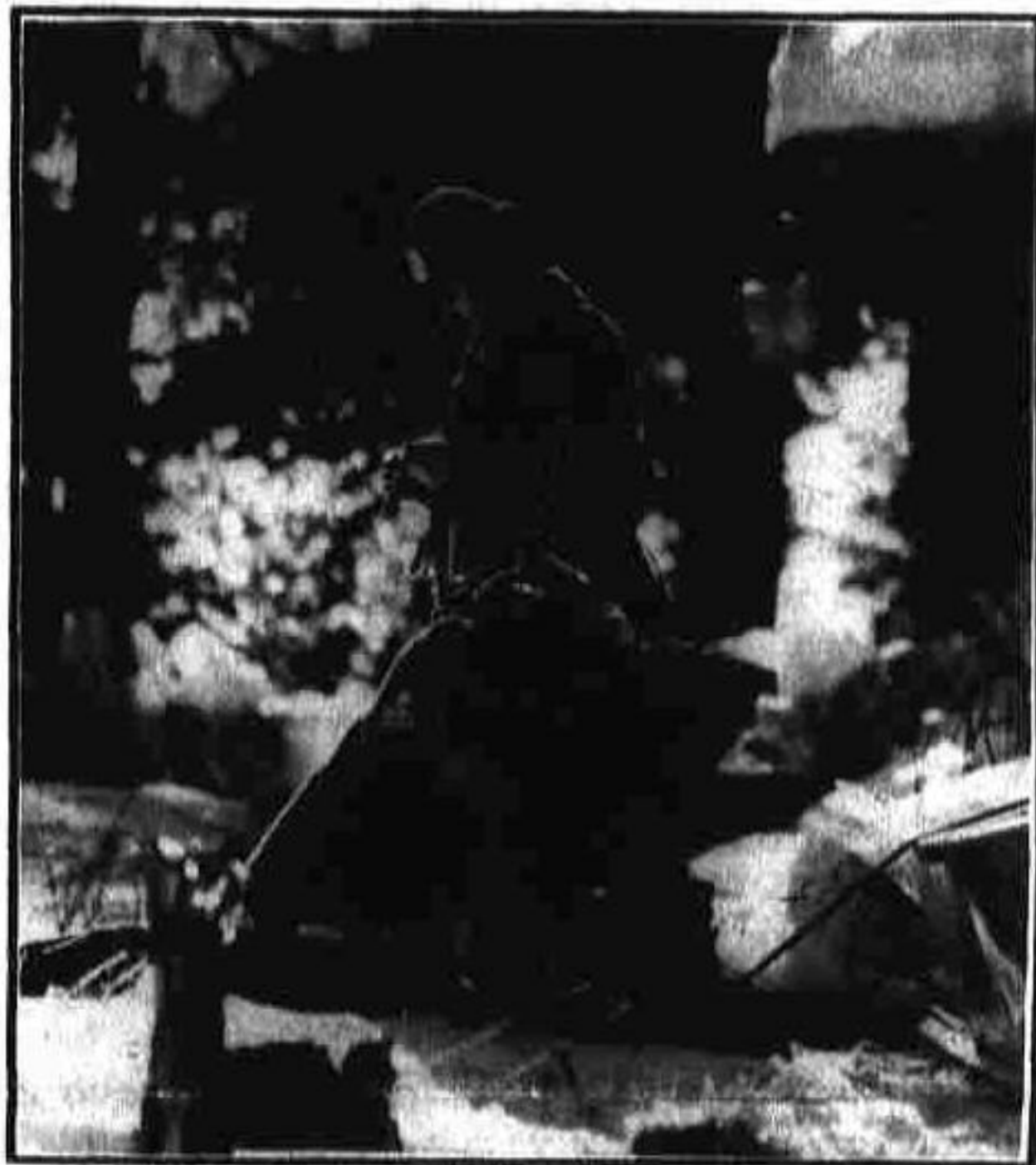


# MAUSON Sonny drops out of Iditarod, three Natives in race

1993 The two time winner of the Kuskokwim 300 Race, Sonny Russell of Kotzebue had to scratch from the Iditarod Race. One of his Alaskan sponsors, did not make deadlines for getting the supplies and gear readied says another sponsor.

Russell, who won the Kusko in 1989 and 1990, and was the Iditarod Rookie of the Year in 1990, had to drop out of this year's race. He had to drop out of last year's Iditarod due to an injury. His primary sponsor, Eagle Pet Foods president Ed Coker told the *Tundra Times*, they would have covered the rest of the sponsorship had Russell notified them three weeks ago. Coker added they look forward to Russell's competing in three or four long and mid-distance races next month.

'It's a shame, the entry, the training, all the time and planning didn't jell for Sonny,' Coker said. Russell could not



**SONNY RUSSELL**

be reached for comment, though is expected to be in Nome later. Only three other

Natives are running the Iditarod: Beverly Masek, Mike Williams and Joe Garnie.