

# Of Iditarod interest :



**PATRIARCH STEVEN SAMPSON**

Steven Sampson, patriarch of the Noorvik dog mushing family had recently suffered a heart attack and is recovering at Alaska Hospital in Anchorage. Shown above handling son Wilbur's dogs during a North American Championship race. Steven reportedly came out of a coma to urge another son, Frank Sampson to run the 1980 Iditarod Race. Frank wanted to scratch but will be kept posted on his father's condition by mother Mildred at every check point along the 1049 mile trail to Nome.

As of press time, Nome's Harold Ahmasuk and Shishmaref's Herbie Nayokpuk were leading in a field of 59 mushers. They were out of Rainy Pass and heading to Rohn check point. The trail is reported icy with whiteout conditions facing them. Other Native mushers include Warner Vent and Rudy Demoski. Jill Massick and Bill Boyko, both of Anchorage had scratched. A rookie California musher Landon Carter of California was disqualified from the race for cruelty to his team. A \$50,000 purse will be divided among the top 20 mushers with \$12,000 going to first place.



Charlie Evans, pictured above in 1969 with late wife Liz, traded in his dog team for an iron horse. Evans, now living in Galena is one of the four surviving mushers of the 1925 Iditarod serum run.

(TUNDRA TIMES Photos)