

Jimmy Bedford Races For Tundra Times

Last Sunday, the news media of Fairbanks gave a benefit dog sled race with the proceeds going to the Hillcrest Home for Boys in Fairbanks.

The requirements were a three-dog team and a three-mile track. No other requirements, or handicaps, were asked, not even weight or overweight.

Tundra Times entry was, of course, a three-dog team with a great sport as a driver in the person of Prof. Jimmy Bedford, head of the journalism department of the University of Alaska.

Prof. Bedford is great in other ways also. His hulking frame tips the scales at 250 pounds. He also has another distinctive characteristic—a great handlebar mustache.

"Out of the 15 or 16 racers, I think I came in 15th," Bedford reported after the race. "And here they're going to hold a ten-mile freight race with a 500-pound load and ten dogs and my three little dogs were pulling a 250 pound load—me."

Bedford said it was great fun just the same.

"I kicked my foot once in a while like all racers do but I rode most of the time. Those dogs were nice—friendly. We all had a lot of fun on the trail."

"One thing I noticed,

though, that slowed us down quite a bit. Somebody forgot something. Those dogs weren't housebroken," reflected Bedford.

The winner of the race—Hippie the Clown of the KFAR-TV and he covered the course in the time of 13:43/100 minutes. Hippie probably became serious for once—forgot clowning and won going away.

Prof. Bedford did not bother to give his time of the race.

26 Alaska Town Officials to Act As Passport Agents

At the request of Senator Ernest Gruening, U.S. State Department recently invited officials in 26 Alaska towns to serve as passport agents.

The officials, who are magistrates and clerks of courts, will be authorized to execute passport applications.

Gruening had earlier pointed out to State Department officials that passport applicants in Alaska are often inconvenienced due to long distances between the Alaskans and passport offices.

The cities affected by the action are: Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cold Bay, Cordova, Dillingham, Galena, Fairbanks, Haines, Homer, Glennallen, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Naknek, Nome, Palmer, Petersburg, Rampart, Seward, Seldovia, Sitka, Valdez, and Wrangell.

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Village Asks Head Start Funds

For the past six months, the village of White Mountain has been operating an unfunded Head Start program the village itself has developed and programmed.

Now the parents advisory group made up of local Head Start children's parents and a representative from the village council, are appealing to Larry Brayton, director of the Alaska State Community Action Program, for consideration.

"We have overcome numerous hardships to get our program going and would appreciate your consideration at this time," advisory group members, Velma Brown and Willa Ashenfelter wrote Brayton recently.

The village had cleaned up an unused warehouse and worked three weeks putting in a new floor, new windows, painting, building book shelves, and drawers were moved in to contain Head Start supplies.

The village native store donated food for mid-morning snacks for the children and the local mothers have been holding bake sales to raise funds to furnish supplies for the project.

During the renovation of the building, together with new supports under it, the village council called a general meeting to explain

the program to the villagers.

The council held interviews and chose three people: a teacher-director, teacher's aide and a cook. The three have been going through a 12-week training course

using Head Start records and pamphlets.

The course also includes work in the classroom for two hours a day. The program is being conducted by VISTA Volunteers.



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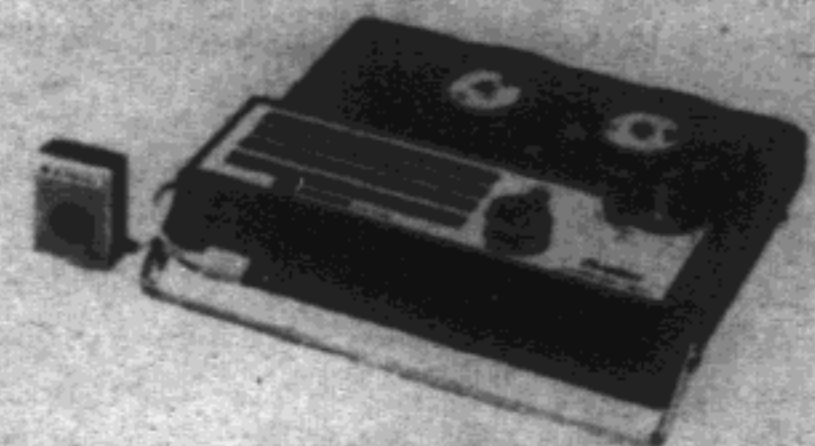
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