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## Louisa Stine Competing in National Ski Meet

Louisa Stine, a member of the Lathrop High School Ski Team has been selected to participate in the Eastern Division Cross Country Training Camp sponsored by the United States Ski Association in Andover, Maine. The training camp will be in conjunction with the selection of the United States Women's Cross Country Ski Team which will compete in the FIS (Federation International Ski) World Championship in Czechoslovakia next February.

The Training camp will be conducted from December 26 to January 4. The U.S. Team will be selected from the results of three races that will be held

on January 9, 13, and 16 in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Miss Stine, originally from Wiseman and later from Anaktuvuk Pass, was selected along with two other Lathrop Ski Team members for outstanding race performances last year, as well as, in early races this year.

Several other native young people have excelled in ski competition on the Lathrop High School Team. Eunice Hopson is a three year veteran of the Lathrop Varsity Team.

Don Kubanyi is a two year veteran and is expected to be a strong contender for a position on the Alaska Team to the Arctic Winter Games in Yellow-

knife, N.W.T. in Canada next March.

Richard Evans, a boarding home student from Rampart, is in his second year with the Lathrop Team and is running only seconds behind the varsity skiers.

Cross country skiing offers one of the greatest opportunities for native young people of Alaska to compete favorably in athletics both nationally and internationally.

The Canadian Government has proven this without doubt in their T.E.S.T. program which has been centered in Inuvik and Old Crow, N.W.T. in Canada.

## Tanacross, BLM Meeting...

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another spokesman for the natives, "Burt Silcock agreed to give prompt notice to Chief Isaac of any actions or decisions affecting the land in the Tanacross area."

"Furthermore," she added, "Silcock implied that individual applications for allotments that have been rejected since the land freeze would constitute native protests against state selections."

By way of brief explanation the controversy between the natives and the state and federal government began largely in the 1960's when the state began to select land for its use that the natives had been occupying and using.

According to Hollett, in an interview Thursday, the state was authorized under the Statehood Act to select vacant and unappropriated land.

And, if no claims for land allotments of the selected vacant area were on file the state was in most cases granted tentative approval to administer the land.

This tentative approval, according to the BLM, gave the state the power to sell timber from the land, to lease the property for oil and gas, and, for all practical purposes, to claim title to the land, though with conditional statements.

The granting of a patent by the BLM would later give the state clear and final ownership.

The natives thought that they were protected from such by a 1950 claim that they had filed for their land.

However, this was not the case.

The claim was somehow lost and thus the BLM had no official record of use and occupancy in the Tanacross area.

Therefore, land that the natives had been using was turned over to the state on the tentative approval basis.

According to the director of the BLM, the land is surveyed before it is turned over to the state.

However, Silcock added, due to a lack of manpower and money the BLM cannot thoroughly investigate all of the land and might not discover that it is being occupied by a native.

Legal notice, he continued, is given in the paper and any native occupying the land should come forward at that time to make his claim known and to prevent transfer of the land to the state.

But not all natives receive or read the papers—a fact which he acknowledged.

And, once the BLM has granted tentative approval to the state, Silcock implied, it is up to the state to relinquish its rights to any native who claims the land after that time.

The natives argue that such tentative approvals should never be granted in the first place.

Concerning a related area of controversy, the natives have found that claims they have filed recently have been rejected by

the Bureau of Land Management.

According to a spokesman, they fear that, when Congress settles the native land claims issue, there will thus be no record of their use or occupancy of the land, and the land might consequently go to the state.

The BLM, Silcock said, is rejecting these applications because they were not filed before the land freeze or the promulgation of Public Land Order 4582 which withdrew land on which no claim had been made until the land claims issue is settled in Congress.

Maybe, the BLM should use the word "hold" rather than reject because the application will be noted on our file and taken into consideration when a final settlement is made, he added.

For this reason the BLM encourages the villagers to file individual applications for their land even though they will not be processed at this time, he continued.

However, further concern was noted by the villagers over whether a description of the land would also be kept on file. "We feel we got no real answer on the question," a village spokesman said.

Concerning communal claims of the natives that would enable them to use large amounts of land surrounding the village for hunting and fishing, Silcock said that his office could do nothing about the issue and that it would have to be settled in the native land claims bill.

"I feel that the Tanacross people were very concerned," Silcock said, "and I feel that we didn't satisfy them."

Another point of concentration raised at the meeting concerned geologists digging in the ancestral burial grounds of the villagers without consulting or informing the natives of their actions or plans.

The answer the natives received was that the state legislature had authorized such actions two years ago.

The meeting, as described by state and federal officials, was not intended to settle the involved and controversial issues, but merely to inform and explain.

The governor's representative in Fairbanks, Glen Hackney said, "I hope that something was accomplished but as far as this office is concerned we cannot do anything."

"I do not feel that the natives were satisfied," he added, "but at least Silcock said that he would check into certain things."



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