



COURTESY OF
INUVIK RESEARCH LABORATORY

**T.E.S.T. PROGRAM
PROGRESS REPORT 1968-69**

Lorna Clement,

T E S T

TERRITORIAL EXPERIMENTAL SKI TRAINING PROGRAM

1968 - 69

INUVIK

PROGRESS REPORT

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Foreword

The Territorial Experimental Ski Training (TEST) program is a development research project for northern youth involving the northern education system, the school, hostels, Territorial governments, recreation officials, the Inuvik Research Laboratory, the Mackenzie Institute, and several independent researchers. Primary financing for the program is from a National Health and Welfare research grant with considerable assistance from the Territorial Governments and private individuals.

The results from the TEST program are encouraging. They demonstrate that northern youth, with opportunity and training, can excel in competitive sports and that standard training methods are effective in the northern frontier. Although the program is recreation orientated, these results provide a significant contribution to the understanding of northern people. The TEST program is a long term project and will run for several years to establish the validity of the development approaches and evaluation of results.

This progress report from Bjorger Pettersen details the TEST activities and results for the winter of 1968-69. All of those involved in the program have shown considerable skill and devotion, and are to be thanked for a job well done.

Richard Hill,
Chairman,
TEST Trustee Board.

A. INTRODUCTION

In 1964 fitness education expert, Father J.M. Mouchet, of Old Crow, Yukon, reported to the NWT Recreation Department on an inexpensive, and challenging, outdoor education program aimed at fitness in the land of the future, Canada's North.

A cross country ski program was recommended as the Canadian North has the best conditions for this sport in the world with excellent skiing conditions from October 1 until the end of May, and because this sport is so closely related to the past, and present, Northern environment and culture. Furthermore, cross country skiing requires an extremely highly developed physical fitness and body capacity. As a matter of interest I can mention that cross country skiing at tests at Oxford University is the only sport that scientists have been able to prove lengthens the human life span. It is unnecessary to elaborate on the importance of health and physical fitness in the demanding climate of Canada's North.

by 1967 the skiing activities had grown beyond a simple community program and, in August, that same year, the National Fitness Council approved a grant for a program to explore if northern youth, participating in an activity where they have the ability to succeed, can be motivated by their success for greater general achievements and determination in life itself. A group of interested Inuvik residents formed a trustee board under Chairman, Richard Hill, of the Inuvik Research Laboratory, to operate a cross country ski program in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. During the same month the Territorial Experimental Ski Training (TEST) Program, initiated its program in the development of northern youth, with a summer training camp at Old Crow in the Yukon Mountains.

During 1965 and 1966 I represented the C.A.S.A. as a coach and director at the yearly Inuvik cross country spring training clinics. When TEST started in the fall of 1967 I received an offer to join the program in Inuvik. I left my position in Norway, returned to Inuvik and started the most demanding, interesting and self satisfying job of my life.

In October I formed the new Inuvik Ski Team and started these Eskimo, Indian and Metis youngsters on a demanding Olympic calibre training program. During the 1967-68 ski season the 15 member team skied more than 20,000 miles in training and raced a total of 45 races. I have, for the past years, trained skiers in all parts of Canada and Scandinavia, but, I dare say, nothing can be compared to the astonishing determination of these hard working youngsters. Our training program consists of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of indoor training at 6:30 every morning, meetings on motivation at least twice weekly, and ski training every day - sometimes up to 3 times daily. I have seen some of the younger members of the team, who are only 14-15 years old ski up to 20 miles in the dark arctic night after school. I remember one day in January 1968, it was our last day of distance training before the Canadian Junior Championships. I put on the

Introduction - cont'd

blackboard in the ski lodge - boys 30 k.m. girls 20 k.m. No questions were asked - the distance was completed by all. Later that day I found out that the temperature was 45 below zero. One boy froze his foot after 20 k.m. but refused to quit. Another boy who was working on a more powerful leg movement, skied so hard that he needed help to get up the last climb. This determination did pay off. The Christmas of 1967 the Inuvik Ski Team went to Anchorage, Alaska, and brought back to Canada 11 out of 15 possible medals. Competing in the Junior Mens' 10 k.m. at the Canadian Junior Championships at Port Arthur during February the same year was Malcolm Hunter, of Ottawa, who had beaten part of the Olympic Team prior to their departure for the Grenoble Olympics. Hunter was leading by 40 seconds at the half and our best skier, Fred Kelly, was 3rd - I had almost given up hope, standing at the 9 k.m. mark, when someone crossed the point where I was taking my intermediate time from - there, running like a clock, grinning slightly and moving faster than anyone else was the youngster that we, up North, call the "Kelly Express". Well, he expressed home in a 19 second victory and a modest Indian boy of the North was the champion of Canada. All our 5 boys placed in the top 10. Later that day our 5 girls, led by 13 year old Roseanne Allen, won the 5 first spots by a large margin in the National Championships.

On short notice we were, in March 1968, sent by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association to the U.S. National Championships at Bozeman, Montana. We were not ready for this meet as our training was peaked one month prior. Fred Kelly had just spent 2 weeks in hospital with severe frozen hands - but we were honoured to represent Canada, so away we went. The altitude was over 6,000 feet - we live at sea level here in Inuvik - we encountered the same problems as the competitors did in Mexico during the summer Olympics. Our boys really had problems and failed to place in the top 5. Our girls' team was up against the famed Barbra Britch, who is, by far, the fastest women's cross country skier in the U.S. Miss Britch is a husky 18 year old - Canada's challenge to her, a 14 year old Loucheux Metis girl from the Mackenzie Delta standing 4'11" and weighing 98 lbs. but all heart. Miss Britch was cheered in as the winner but I saw the confusion among the timekeepers and officials. Sure enough, when the results came up, they read - first Shirley Firth, Inuvik - second Barbra Britch - third twin sister Sharon Firth - fourth Roseanne Allen - sixth Anita Allen. Time magazine did a story on the Inuvik Ski Team. That April Roseanne Allen had a 14.25 clocking on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ k.m. course at the Gold Nugget races at Fairbanks. The snow was no doubt a lot faster than it was during the Olympics at France, but so was Roseanne Allen.

It was interesting to watch how the participants in TEST changed during the 1967-68 season. Youngsters that were too shy to take their eyes off the floor in schoolroom became teenagers that were bubbling over with ideas and confidence. They become much more willing to work. Because of the travelling done to competitions they understand a greater world. The participants of TEST are learning that hard work is the answer to success and, most important, they are setting an example for the North. I have heard old Northerners tell that the only pride the Indian and Eskimos have left is their skiers.

Introduction - cont'd

Idealism can be a good thing - is it not better for the young northerners to look up to these young heroes and heroines than to the many that hang out in less healthy places. The performance of the Inuvik Ski Team has already motivated more than 500 children in the village of Inuvik to train regularly for skiing.

In the research sense it is too early for the TEST staff and Trustee Board to make any definite conclusions. But already at this time the importance of the right motivation and goals is evident.

I believe that the TEST program can offer something to all concerned. The Inuvik Ski Team, last season, brought more public relations to the Northwest Territories than is possible through travel and advertisement brochures. When we go into International competition these hearty skiers will surely receive tremendous international attention which, surely, will assist Canadian exports, diplomats and bring a greater demand for everything that is Northern and Canadian. And, most important, TEST is in the process of doing something for the people of the North.

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HOW THE KIDS FROM INUVIK BECAME THE TOAST OF SCANDINAVIA by Dan Foulk

Things may well be back to normal, by now, for the nine kids from Inuvik, N.W.T. But don't bet on it. They've been the toast of international cross-country skiing in Sweden, Norway and Finland and, because they returned to Inuvik little more than three weeks ago, they're probably still sorting out their prizes.

Not that winning is anything new for these teenagers, who are the best of more than 250 Indian, Eskimo and Métis youth taking part in a program known as TEST (Territorial Experimental Ski Training). They've been busy gaining glory for Canada in a sport unknown to most of this country's ride-uphill-ski-downhill skiers — racing across distances up to 30 kilometers, or almost 20 miles. And it was more than a year ago that TEST's Shirley Firth became the youngest-ever U.S. national junior girls' champion, winning at the age of 14.

They go where the competition is best. That's why they were in Scandinavia, where cross-country races attract as many as 40,000 spectators, and why all nine of them and their coach, 27-year-old Bjorger Pettersen, packed themselves into a rented Volkswagen bus to chug between races. The tiny bus grew increasingly crowded, as Inuvik's champions captured prize after prize.

Fred Kelly, a 17-year-old, became the first Canadian to win a men's cross-country race in Europe—the 7½-kilometre junior event at Bergsjö, Sweden. He was presented with a new pair of skis. Later, the TEST team's baggage began to swell as Sharon Firth, Shirley's twin sister, got an electric bread and meat slicer for a win, Shirley won a rug, Anita Allen, 18, won an iron and her sister, 14-year-old Roseanne Allen, won a lamp.

But coach Pettersen was also happy with the team's losses, during the 12 races. "They saw that you have to ski thousands of miles a year in training," says Pettersen, "if you want to be an Olympic champion." Next year, cross-country skiing's world championships will be held in Czechoslovakia, and Pettersen figures the four TEST team girls will be among the Canadian representatives, along with two or three of his boys.

The team will be anxious to travel, too, after their experiences in Sweden, Norway and Finland. As 19-year-old Harold Cook reports, "We were treated like movie stars." The reason, of course, was that the young Canadians were the stars of the skiing show. They were surrounded for autographs at every event, and promoters credited them with attracting extra-large crowds.

"Everyone seemed to love Canadians," 16-year-old Roger Allen relates, "though they used to mistake us for Japanese in Norway. But they asked us about it in such a nice way, we got a real kick out of it."

Scandinavian cross-country champions offered advice and hospitality both on the courses and *après-ski*. After the Swedish International Ski Games, Pettersen told his athletes that as a treat their curfew would be extended to 11:30. Came 11:30, however, Anita Allen and Sharon Firth were still missing. "I found them at the dance at the Grand Hotel," Pettersen explains, "where the men were in tuxedos and they were in blue jeans. Anita was in the arms of Gjermund Eggem, the only skier who's won three world championship events in one season, and Sharon was surrounded by admirers."



Team's youngest, Roseanne Allen, 14.

Anita Allen, a Grade 10 student, and Harold Cook, who's in Grade 12, were in charge of school lessons between races. Teachers back at Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik had prepared work for the trip, which lasted from Dec. 23 to March 1. The TEST team was in Europe for five weeks, returning to Canada in early February, but once back they competed in the Canadian junior championships, in Prince George, B.C., and the senior championships in Kamloops.

How did they do? Well, Shirley Firth, Sharon Firth and Roseanne Allen placed one-two-three in the girls' 5-kilometre Canadian championship race. Defending boys' champ Fred Kelly placed second in his race, behind Ottawa's Malcolm Hunter, and Harold Cook was third. Anita Allen, Roger Allen, John Truro and David Cook all finished high in the standings.

"By now," coach Pettersen said after the races, "we're all pretty well worn out."



National Health & Welfare



Puzzle picture, on top: Find a certain non-TEST skier among the beaming kids in Ottawa after their prizewinning trip. Others are, left to right, Anita Allen, Sharon Firth, Roger Allen, Fred Kelly, John Truro, David and Harold Cook, coach Bjorger Pettersen, Roseanne Allen and Shirley Firth. Below, the team competing in Canadian junior championships in Prince George, B.C. after their return.

The Inuvik team's big achievement has been to make the rest of Canada aware of cross-country skiing. Until the TEST kids' return, and the official dinner in their honor at Ottawa with Prime Minister Trudeau present, we'd considered cross-country skiing as something strictly Scandinavian.

Now, it's ours. Even the Swedes agree, because one Swedish club started a fund for 15,000 kronor (about \$3,000) to bring the TEST team back for more racing. That's how successful the Canadians were in their first overseas visit.

Inuvik's cross-country skiing got started in 1965, when Father Mouchet of the Roman Catholic church introduced it as recreation for the teenagers who live in hostels there while attending school. Fred Kelly, for example, is from the Indian village of Fort Good Hope, some 250 miles south of Inuvik. Then, in 1967, the National Fitness Council of the federal Department of Health and Welfare financed the TEST plan, with Father Mouchet at Old Crow, in the Yukon, and Pettersen coaching at Inuvik. Pettersen, who had coached at Inuvik spring clinics, moved back to Canada from Norway,

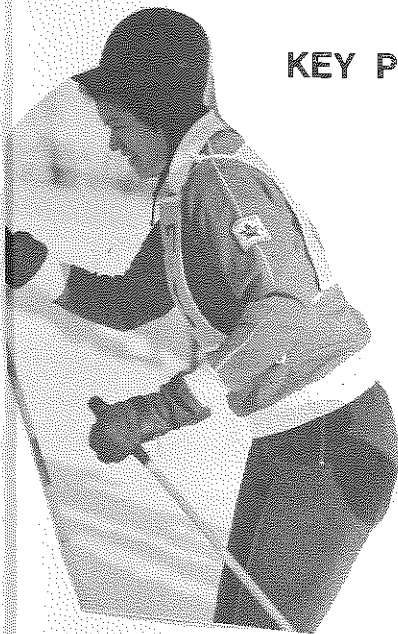
his birthland, when the TEST position was offered to him by the fitness council.

They skied six days a week, before the European trip, even though the warmest days offered nothing better than 35 degrees below zero. Inuvik has a month and a half of total darkness, but the skiers practised after dark over a 2½-kilometre course illuminated by 150-watt light bulbs set up on log tripods (there are no trees tall enough to use for light posts).

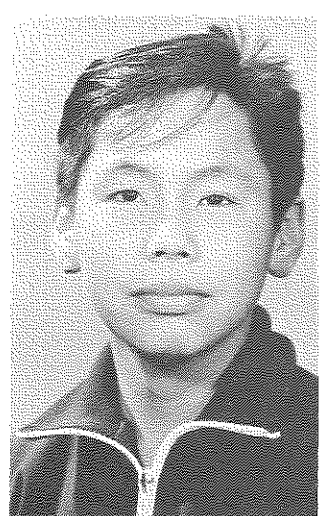
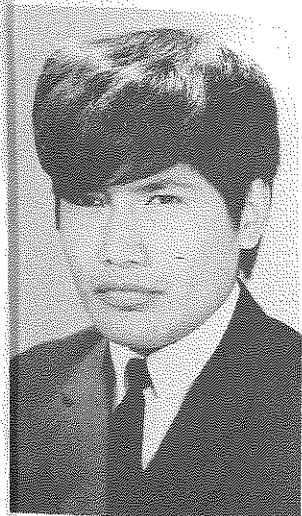
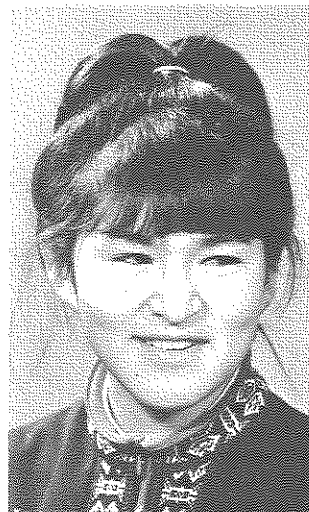
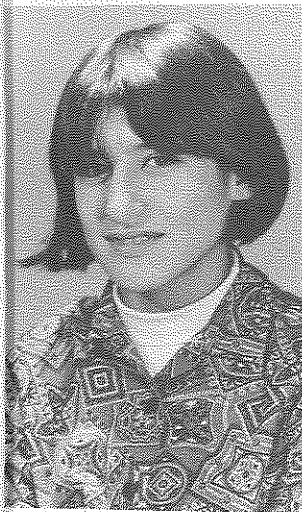
After seeing the European competitors' superior conditioning, the teenagers are even more determined. They train eight months a year, normally, and this year coach Pettersen hopes to organize an extra session during the summer, at a B.C. mountain camp.

Now, though, there's school work to catch up on. Inuvik's secondary school has about 400 students, including approximately 75 per cent who board in the hostels operated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. Among those 400, the kids in the TEST program consider themselves lucky, and the nine international racers luckiest of all. But even heroes have to pass.

KEY PEOPLE IN INUVIK TEST



ABOVE: Skiers Anita "Dite" Allen, Shirley Firth, faithful supporters and T.E.S.T. trustee board members Dave Sutherland, Dick Hill, and Father Max Ruyant. BELOW: First row from the left, skiers Sharon Firth, Roseanne "Nanny" Allen, Coach/Program Manager Bjorger V. Pettersen, Harold "Cookie" Cook. BELOW: Second row from left, skiers John "Big John T" Turo, Fred "Express" Kelly, Roger "Ciga Grønningen" Allen, and David "Goliath" Cook.



B. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Father J.M. Mouchet, Old Crow, Yukon	- Chief Investigator
Bjorger V. Pettersen, Inuvik, N.W.T.	- Head Coach/Manager
Kane Tologanak, Inuvik, N.W.T.	- Assistant Instructor
Jim Boyde, Inuvik, N.W.T.	- Instructor
John Turo, Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.	- Assistant

Trustee Board

Richard Hill, Director, Inuvik Research Laboratory, Chairman.
 Dave Sutherland, Craft Officer, Inuvik, Secretary.
 Jim Maher, Principal, Inuvik's Secondary School.
 Fred North, Principal, Inuvik's Elementary School.
 Mrs. B. Exham, Community Teacher, Old Crow, Yukon.
 Mrs. P. Curtis, School Counsellor, Inuvik.
 Dave Jones, Chairman, Village Council, Inuvik.

C. OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAM

1. To investigate if Indian and Eskimo youth in the Yukon and Northwest Territories can be motivated to higher general achievements as students and citizens through participation in competitive athletics.
2. To develop a cross country skiing program for northern youth that will provide meaningful athletic motivation and involve maximum personal effort.
3. To investigate the potential of northern youth for making the best of their environment and excelling in competitive cross country ski racing at the national and international level.

In addition the TEST Program gives Northern youth a chance to compete in the MODERN world in an activity where they have sufficient environment, culture and understanding to excel to greatness and to study the effects of accomplishment upon them, their determination in life, their success and failures in other fields, and its effect upon all the other northern people.

D. TRAINEES

More than 500 children took part in the overall ski program including the special classes for children in school. These skiers were split into 12 different ski teams, depending upon their skiing ability. It was very interesting to note how the TEST teams on top motivated the other teams. It has always been more difficult to motivate the best racers to train harder than those that have these best racers as a positive example.

Comment on the Elite TEST Skiers

Anita Allen - Home Aklavik, N.W.T. Born February 2, 1951.
Height 5'7", Weight 135 lbs. Grade 12.

Anita is the leader of the Inuvik's Girls Team. She has a very dominating personality and her mood is normally the mood of the whole team. She has a very powerful skiing technique which requires great strength and an extremely high body capacity. Because of her shyness and moods she requires much attention. She is an extremely hard worker.

Roseanne Allen - Home Aklavik, N.W.T. Born May 1954.
Height 5'2", weight 120 lbs. Grade 10.

Roseanne is Canada's youngest National Ski Champion in history. She was only 13 when she won the junior title at Port Arthur in 1968. During the same season she had a 14.25 clocking for 4½ k.m. at Fairbanks, Alaska. Roseanne has tremendous potential as a skier. She is the youngest and the pet of the TEST team. She has a very open personality. Often influenced by the other skiers' moods.

Sharon Firth - Home Inuvik N.W.T. Born December 31, 1953.
Height 5'1", Weight 108 lbs. Grade 10.

Sharon is often overshadowed by twin sister, Shirley, but, during the TEST team's 1969 European Tour, she obtained the best International results ever by any Canadian cross country racer. This Grade 10 student's skiing stride is the best on the continent. She has had a tremendous personality change during the last year and seems much happier.

Shirley Firth - Home Inuvik, N.W.T. Born December 31, 1953.
Height 5'2", Weight 110 lbs. Grade 9.

Shirley may be said to be North America's No.1 cross country skier on an international scale. During her only racing seasons in 1967-68 and

Trainees - Cont'd

Shirley Firth - 1968-69 she has won 60 races. This grade 9 student (Cont'd) at Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik is a natural competitor. She uses a shorter stride and a quicker tempo than is common. Shirley's behaviour changes with her mood - sometimes happy and outgoing other times sullen and withdrawn - but she is improving from year to year.

Roger Allen - Home Aklavik, N.W.T. Born May 1952.
Height 6'2", Weight 150 lbs. Grade 11.

Roger, because of looks, height and skiing technique, has been nicknamed "Ciga Gronningen" after the famous Norwegian Olympic Champion Harold Gronningen. Ciga has a tremendous desire to win for his country at the Olympic games. When his heart growth catches up with the rest of his growth then this could become a possibility. A tremendous worker with a very outgoing personality. However, he seems to need a little extra time to adapt to changes in environment.

Herbert Bullock - Home Inuvik, N.W.T. Born October 1955.
Height 5'6", Weight 130 lbs.

Herbert is known as "The New One" and is probably Canada's fastest juvenile skier. Will this Canada's "Gjermund Eggen" someday produce Olympic Gold? Obviously the potential and desire is present. At the age of 13 he was beating members of the U.S. National Biathlon on 15 k.m.

David Cook - Home Fort Good Hope, N.W.T. Born May 1953.
Height 5'1", Weight 100 lbs. Grade 10.

David has the largest heart of any person his size that ever has been tested by C.A.S.A. His technique is excellent. The day he develops strength and size he will be of Olympic calibre. This little big skier has a fantastic personality - always happy, joking and smiling. Only his appetite for work changes. David is, on the whole, an excellent worker in all aspects of life.

Harold Cook - Home Fort Good Hope, N.W.T. Born September 1949.
Height 5'6", Weight 137 lbs.

The senior of the team and a true fighter at heart, when in the right mood. Has many personal problems but is normally able to cover them up well. Usually an outgoing personality with lots of laughter and jokes.

Trainees - Cont'd

Fred Kelly - Home Fort Good Hope, N.W.T. Born November 1951.
Height 5'7", Weight 140 lbs. Grade 9.

Fred has been nicknamed the "Kelly Express" and may be said to be the best technique skier on the continent. He is a grade 9 student at Inuvik and probably is Canada's biggest cross country potential for the 1976 Olympics. Fred has developed greatly during the last year, but still lacks aggressiveness in life as he has in his biggest races. However, a great deal of treasured personality traits are hidden in this boy.

Ernie Lennie - Home Fort Norman, N.W.T. Born December 1953.
Height 5'6", Weight 130 lbs.

Ernie is Canada's greatest cross country potential. Last Easter, at the age of 15, Ernie was beating the U.S. National Biathlon Team. He has developed a technique similar to that of the "Kelly Express" and a training attitude similar to that of "Ciga Gronningen". To me this 15 year old boy has an uncomparable personality. He reasons well - good morals - leadership qualities - excellent worker - and a success at everything he tries.

John Turo - Home Fort Good Hope, N.W.T. Born December 1951.
Height 5'7", Weight 140 lbs.

John, with his limited education, in Opportunity class sometimes has a problem keeping up with the rest of the well travelled team. However, a hard worker and a good skier. John worked as an assistant instructor during the past season.



ABOVE: The Inuvik Ski Team with Prime Minister Trudeau at Ottawa, during their return from their successful European Tour. From left: Anita Allen, Sharon Firth, Roger Allen, Fred Kelly, John Turo, David Cook, Bjorger Pettersen, Roseanne Allen, Prime Minister Trudeau, and Shirley Firth.

BELOW: At Mt. Aleyaska, Alaska, the site of the 1969 U.S. National Junior Ski Championships, Inuvik and Old Crow skiers with the founder of T.E.S.T., Father Mouchet.



E. OBSERVATIONS

1. Head Coach

I believe that the skiers in the TEST Program at Inuvik have benefitted greatly as individuals, skiers, leaders and personalities.

This personal observation on these northern youths, I feel, is very valuable and unique. After daily training and guiding young Northern youngsters for 2½ years, one learns to understand more fully their culture and values. Firstly, they are ordinary people, some with great abilities and some with lesser, just as Southern Canadian youths, only some of their problems are different. They come from a nomadic culture where every person was equal. Henceforth, the Northern people of today have difficulty in accepting anyone of their own people rising above average - they seem to try to find faults in them and they try to bring them back to their own levels (this is why TEST is working with teams of larger numbers). To our Western culture this might sound very trite. But it means that when we work with these people WE MUST UNDERSTAND that they have a different culture and values. The Northern people have been taught some things differently. Their behaviour and appreciations are different and it is wrong for us to say, bluntly, they are wrong. When I first came to the North I used to think "It must be hard for the young students to realise their parents hadn't been to school".

Today, I realise that some of the older natives in the North are very great people, but they do value and behave much different than I do. True, many older and younger Northerners are both disturbed and confused by the cultural change that is now taking place. TEST is a motivation program using cross country skiing as an activity where Northerners have the ability and cultural understanding to be competitive and succeed to greatness.

I see the TEST members sometimes being very confused by Northern problems at other times mastering these problems with the confidence, pride and understanding they have gained through skiing with TEST. How successful will TEST programs be in assisting with problems, in developing pride in Northern people, in raising physical fitness in the North, in developing Northern youth, and in winning Olympic Gold Medals for Canada? Some of the answers to these questions we will know within 6-10 years. Without this time TEST Program will have only a minimum impact and a great deal of money and effort will be wasted.

Is there, really, any other way to measure the motivation gained through TEST, than by observation over a long period of years? Is there any other concrete way to measure motivation? Only persons living in the North and understanding Northerners will be able to measure the motivation gained through TEST.

Observations - cont'd

It is true that we can already see great changes in the skiers that have been with the TEST program since the beginning. They have obtained more self-confidence, more self-discipline, more understanding, and more personality than they had 2 years ago. And, most important, they are learning that only extremely hard work will obtain the things they want in life.

2. Comment from the school principalReport on 'TEST' students enrolled at Samuel Hearne SchoolA. Achievement

All of the TEST students passed their year although some failed in individual subjects. The extremes in their achievement are marked by Fred Kelly, who had an average in the 70's and Shirley Firth, who was just above the pass line. In light of the fact that these students missed about 20% of the school year, their achievement is noteworthy. In general, I estimate that their achievement this year was equal or better than what it would have been if they had not been on the TEST program.

B. Personal Development

In terms of personal development, the effects of the TEST program has been excellent. The students in the program had become more poised, self-assured, self-disciplined, alert and outgoing. They have gained in personal confidence and, as a result of their travelling, have become more aware of their future plans and have set personal goals for themselves. None has been a discipline problem at school.

Their attitude towards their school work was very good. They did their best to catch up on missed work when they returned from trip.

C. Recommendation

Last year TEST students missed about 20% of the school year. Although they made good use of their time on trips and worked hard to catch up on their school work on their return, the amount of time they missed this year definitely affected their achievement. If they were to miss such an amount of the school year for two or three consecutive years, I estimate that there would be a definite deterioration of their school work.

As a result, I wish to recommend that if it is planned that the TEST students will be travelling and missing a considerable amount of school over the next year or two that more adequate provision be made for their studies. This might take the form of a full-time tutor or a special summer session for the TEST students.

Observations - cont'd

All in all I think the TEST program is an excellent one and hope to see it continued. Yours sincerely, Jim Maher.

3. Comment from the hostel supervisor

It is the end of a great ski season and the time for annual reports. I feel privileged in being asked to contribute my opinions on the ski program because I like to think that my position as senior boys supervisor in the hostel and my close association with the skiers give me a fair idea of what is going on. I have over forty boys under my care for ten months and I have been with them for over two years. Since I have skiers and non-skiers among my students, I must admit that there are some general differences between both groups and that these differences become increasingly appreciable as the years go by.

One of the noticeable differences is that the skiers seem to have a sense of purpose after these years of training: they realize that hard work and dedication work for the native as well as for the white man. In all fairness, I would have to add: providing that the circumstances are right. And, for the natives of the North, the circumstances have not always been right. We must try to provide more incentive programmes. TEST is such a program and moreover, it works! Our representatives at the different levels of government should realize this and assure the future growth and development of this program.

Another general difference between my skiers and non-skiers is that the skiers train harder, study harder and work harder. Hence, they live a fuller life and they seem far happier than the gutless wonders whose days are filled with apprehension for the future and regret for the past. It seems that the boys who wonder what they will do tomorrow or cry over what they missed yesterday never get anything done for today. Happily, the skiers, with their dedication and sense of purpose do something positive everyday. Living such a full life, they do not seem to have any need to escape reality with booze and pot. These fellows will not dream of a better North, they will carve one!

However, the most important difference is that the ski program builds character and this is sorely needed in the North at this time. More and more, it seems to me that during the past ten or twenty years, we have placed all our bets on the grade 12 certificate. This is certainly one of the safest investments, but, sooner or later, we will have to realize that without character and self-discipline this grade 12 is not worth too much. We already have far too many students who have a grade 12 and wander aimlessly around town because they are still looking for the job that would allow them to work one day a week and party for six. This past year, the skiers have proved that with character they could spend two months in Europe and still keep up with their studies. With self-discipline, they can miss

Observations - cont'd

favourite television programs and good movies in favour of skiing. With character and self-discipline they can live happily without booze and fights in the midst of a population which thrives on both. I have lots of confidence in these youngsters. They have guts. They're tough. They are dedicated. If the TEST program keeps on growing under the able guidance of its superbly well-qualified coach and, if it keeps on developing the mind as well as the body, these native youngsters will go anywhere and do anything with the tremendous pride of knowing that they are as good, or better, individuals than any other Canadian anywhere. With such a shining example in front of their eyes, the native population of Canada will regain its lost pride and take its rightful place as the first citizens of this great nation.

During the course of a busy year, there is little time available for emotions or personal feelings. However, I find it appropriate at this time to express to you, Bjorger, and to all your splendid skiers and associates, my heartfelt respect and boundless admiration. Yours sincerely, Paul Leroux.



THE 1969 TEST-INVUIK RACING TEAM

SHIRLEY FIRTH

Bonnie Rose Kudluk

Sharon Firth

Roseanne Allen

Roger Allen

Anta Allen

Eric Jensen

Patrick Endig

Rex Cockney

William Linklater

Fred Kelly

Herbert Bullock

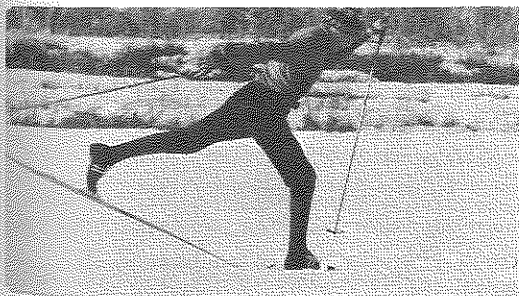
Harold Cook

Paul Graham

David Cook

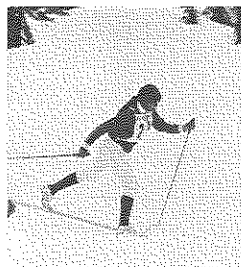
Björn V. Pettersen

Captain/Manager

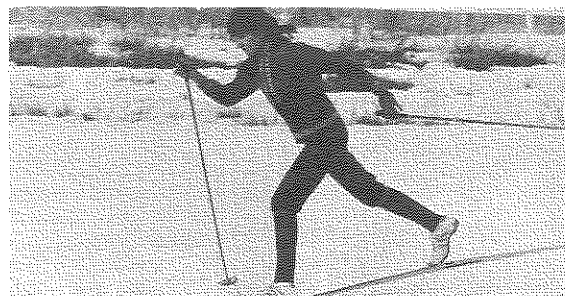


Skiing Techniques of the Inuvik Ski Team

Herbert "The New One" Bullock



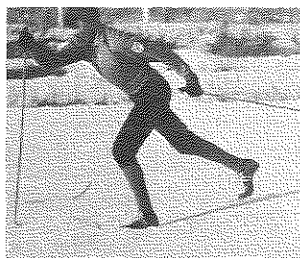
Roseanne "Nanny" Allen



Shirley Firth.



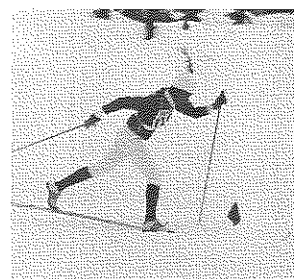
Roger "Ciga Gronningen" Allen



William "The Link" Linklater



Sharon Firth



Fred "Express" Kelly

F. THE TEST, INUVIK 1968-69 RACING STORY

TEST, the partially Federal Government financed program on athletic motivation of native athletes north of the Arctic Circle dealing with cross country skiing, had a very successful first year of operation in 1967-68. A year that procured two Canadian Junior Championships and one American Championship.

The 1968-69 season was planned as a learning year for the TEST skiers, a year when they were given the opportunity to compete against the best in the world without being trained, or geared, for this type of competition. For two months they actually lived, trained and competed against the best cross country skiers in the world. Our skiers were highly motivated by the cross country atmosphere that was created for them in Scandinavia. The question of the future will be - "Was the motivation enough for these youngsters to be able to train hard and long enough to compete with the best in the world?".

As planned the past season was a year of realization - not a year of success but a year used to prove to team members that our training program was much too timid if we were to reach our goals. I succeeded in proving my point to the team. We certainly were far behind in Europe and we even had (in my opinion) the very welcomed defeats in Canada. True, during the season, we did win 6 Canadian Championships, 3 American Championships and Canada's first win in a F.I.S. sanctioned race in Europe, but this was not enough success to defeat my purpose of the 1968-69 ski season.

Having a brief look at our racing season, it began with the Invititation races at Fairbanks in November where TEST skiers took clear sweeps in all classes.

On December 23 we left the North for our two month tour. First we spent 5 days at the Christmas training camp at Prince George, B.C. Here, at the final race, three young TEST skiers placed well ahead of last year's Olympic Team member, Rolf Pettersen.

After brief stops in Montreal, Paris, Copenhagen and Stockholm we arrived at Bergsjö, Sweden. The Bergsjöloppet, in which we participated, is an international race sanctioned by the F.I.S. A very special determination was evident in the team members as I wished all nine "Good luck and give an extra push for Canada". It is because of this very special determination, which is always evident when called for in the bigger meets, that I believe that TEST has the potential to develop world champions. It would be unjust to our results to say that the Bergsjöloppet had drawn all the best juniors in the world, but the majority of the best in Sweden were there. Our results with the special determination were younger junior men - 1st Fred Kelly and 3rd John Turo; older junior men - 6th Harold Cook; junior women - 2nd Shirley Firth, 6th Sharon Firth and 7th Anita Allen.

The following day we raced at one of Sweden's national sanctioned competitions at Hassela. It was here Sharon Firth first started to show her teeth. She won the Younger junior class 2 seconds ahead

The Test Inuvik Racing Story - Cont'd

of twin sister, Shirley, and Roseanne Allen was 5th. Anita Allen placed 11th in the senior 7 k.m. The younger junior boys class was a very close race with only 6 seconds between the winner and Roger Allen and Fred Kelly, who placed 3rd and 4th respectively.

We moved on to Harmanger where we spent two days training and then participated in the race which officially opened their new lighted ski trail. We were built up quite a lot in the press prior to this meet - Fred Kelly's skiing was described as an Indian dance on skis and the twins were named the present biggest favourites in Swedish skiing. Well, Sharon Firth and Shirley Firth procured another double victory, with Roseanne Allen in 4th place. Roger Allen won the boys 16 year old class. Anita Allen placed 3rd in the ladies class. Fred Kelly and Harold Cook placed 3rd and 4th in the open junior class. Again we made the headlines and the luggage was building up at a tremendous rate, for prizes we received everything from ski equipment to carpets and lamps.

Then we really ran into tough competition at Delsbo, where the Swedes had their trials for the team to represent Sweden at the European Junior Nordic Ski Championships. Here our younger skiers were competing against all the best in Sweden 20 years and down. We didn't do too well, partly because the race to us was not considered a major one. Fred Kelly placed 19th but 15 year old Sharon Firth stunned everyone placing 3rd only 2 seconds behind the second place finisher while Shirley placed a respectable 5th.

By bus and train to Trondheim, Norway, to participate at Trondheimsrennet, Norway's second largest annual International ski competition. This race was on January 18th; we arrived on the 16th, went to try the track but could not find it. It was not even marked and the ground was bare. When we returned to the race site 18 hours later, it was marked and sufficient snow was shovelled in all round the course. The Norwegian Army had 1,200 soldiers working on the course overnight!

Trondheimsrennet turned out to be a waxing race - everyone had problems. I daresay the wax our last racers used later in the day was by far the fastest wax of the day. It had to be otherwise our girls would not have beaten the whole Norwegian elite - juniors and seniors. As the story goes, Fred Kelly placed 6th in the junior class. Anita Allen placed third in the 17 year girls class. Roseanne Allen was 7th in the 14 year old class. Sharon Firth placed 4th after obtaining a $3\frac{1}{2}$ minute penalty for starting late while Shirley Firth placed 14th with a 7 minute penalty. Without the penalty Shirley Firth would have gotten the fastest time of all the women racing at Trondheim, but then we did have very good wax by the time these last two girls started.

On January 22nd Oslo greeted us with a real mixed up race - the Skallum Sprinten. We arrived late, after being misinformed by the Norwegian Ski Association about the starting time, and were not allowed to race in the actual competition but raced in a special invitational class all to ourselves.

The Test Inuvik Racing Story - Cont'd

From Lysebu, in Oslo, we moved to Ringebu in Gulbrandsdal where we again had to race in a special quest class by ourselves. But, by this time, we had caught up to the National Senior Cross Country Team and met old acquaintances.

After three days of rest - and we were getting pretty tired by now - from our headquarters at Pellestova we moved on to Falun, Sweden, for the Swedish International Ski Games, one of the world's annual three largest ski meets. The individual junior races on January 31st were another of these races on wet heavy snow - the type of conditions in which we don't do too well. Shirley and Sharon placed 9th and 10th, while Malcolm Hunter, of Ottawa, placed as the best Canadian among the boys - he was 15th.

The following day the temperature had dropped, and the tracks were fast and well prepared. With special permission we entered our junior team in the senior men's relay competition. Our team came last but gained valuable experience and Fred Kelly had the second fastest lap time of all the Canadians only 6 seconds behind Risto Santala.

On Sunday our three girls, ages 15, 14 and 15 years, were given special permission to race in the senior women's relay. On the first leg Shirley Firth skied to an excellent 14th position. On the second leg Roseanne Allen procured the 16th fastest leg time. On the last leg Sharon Firth skied a brilliant race, obtained the eight fastest leg time only 12 seconds behind Tone Dahle of the Norwegian National Senior Team. Sharon's race at Falun is, without doubt, the finest race ever done by any Canadian Cross Country racer in Europe.

Our last race in Europe was a district race at Lillehammer without any real tough competition. Roseanne Allen, Shirley Firth, Anita Allen, Fred Kelly and John Turo all procured wins in their respective classes.

By car to Oslo, SAS to London, and by the armed forces Yukon plane to Ottawa, where the National Department of Health and Welfare held a dinner in our honour at Rideau Gate with the presence of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Minister Jean Cr tien and Health Minister John Munroe. After Ottawa we felt like celebrities, but we were on the way to Prince George, B.C. for the National Junior Nordic Ski Championships.

We meant business - we wanted to win - but we were tired. Two months of heavy travelling had taken the snap out of our skiing and it showed both at Falun and at the Nationals at Prince George and Camrose.

I was truly happy when Malcolm Hunter skied circles around us at Prince George - it made the TEST skiers think and Canada has, in my opinion, never had a more deserving Junior Champion. But the TEST skiers made their marks on the result lists. Behind Malcolm we got 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th. Seven skiers in the top 10. We won the boys' relay by more than 2 minutes and our second team

The Test Inuvik Racing Story - Cont'd

placed 3rd.

Something else happened at Prince George too, North America's No. 1 female cross country skier in 1968 found her racing shape again. Shirley Firth won two solid victories at Prince George as TEST skiers took 10 out of the top 11 in the individual race and the 3 first positions in the relay competition.

Anxious to get home, we skied our last races of the tour at the National Senior Championships at Camrose, Alberta. Here Shirley Firth totalled 5 Canadian Championships for 1969 as she won the 5, 10, and 3x5 k.m. relay. Statistics show the first 4 places in the 5 k.m. the first 3 and 5th in the 10 k.m. and first in the relay. In the mens' competition Fred Kelly proved himself as Canada's fourth best skier and Harold Cook proved that he belonged in the top 10.

What a difference two weeks at home did to our skiing. When we arrived at Anchorage, Alaska, for the U.S. National Junior Championships, I knew we had that spark in our kick again - the will to win was back, the determination was evident and this was the meet that we, last Fall, had set as our goal of the season.

The first race was the boys' relay. We came second 27 seconds behind the Alaskan team after John Turo had broken a pole and Ernie Lennie had shot way into the bush on a downhill. Fred Kelly obtained the fastest lap time of the day - John Turo 4th and Roger Allen 7th.

Next, the girls' relay: Again Barbra Britch was built up sky high. The Americans had her on the first leg. I knew Shirley Firth was skiing faster than ever before so I put her on the first leg too. Shirley was told to stay behind until the first long climb - after all, I had respect for Barbra Britch who had just returned from Bollnas, Sweden, where she had raced close to Eva Olsson in the European Junior Championships. The 5 k.m. course was very icy and fast and probably required just as much technique as conditioning. But, after the first long climb, the legend of Barbra Britch was over, for the 1969 ski season. Shirley Firth freezed home 36 seconds ahead of her nearest opponent, not even breathing hard. Boy! This was the Shirley Firth I would have liked to seen racing in Europe. Our girls' team won by 2½ minutes and our second team placed third.

Then came our day of proof - our goal for the season, the American Individual Championship. Wet, fresh and slushy snow ... I tried dozens of different waxes and decided on a safety wax, a mixture of two types of red klister that wasn't the best wax of the day but I was sure that it would work fairly well on all portions of the track. If someone had put a brick wall in front of Fred Kelly that day then I think he would have skied right through it. Wet, slow snow certainly does no justice to Fred's elegant gliding technique, but this was the same determined "Kelly Express" racing as at Port Arthur and Bergsjö. His skis were much slower than those of the members of the Eastern Division of the U.S. but his determination was unlimited and he won with a comfortable 40 seconds. In the

The Test Inuvik Racing Story - Cont'd

girls' 5 k.m. Shirley Firth won her 7th National Championship of the year. Sharon Firth got 2nd and Roseanne 4th.

The following day, at Mt. Aleyaska, there was a USSA National sanctioned senior cross country race, which some of the team members entered. Here, on the 10 k.m., Sharon Firth beat Barbra Britch by $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes! In the senior men's competition, where the U.S. biathlon team was entered, John Turo and Fred Kelly could do no better than 6th and 7th. Of course this was a day after the season's biggest push for TEST skiers, but still the showing in the 15 k.m. wasn't too impressive, so I set out to do my best to get the U.S.A. Olympic Biathlon Team to come and participate at the TOP of the World Ski Championships at Inuvik during the Easter week.

The following weekend we had an exhibitional race during the Caribou Carnival at Yellowknife. Promotion-wise good but, in a racing aspect zero, poor tracks and no competition.

Then! time for promotion at home - Top of the World Ski Championships, Inuvik's yearly Easter meet - a time for promoting the North when I believe we have the best skiing conditions in the world. Present were the Old Crow Team, the Whitehorse Team, the Fort McPherson Team, the Sachs Harbour Team, the Fairbanks Team and, of course, the U.S. Biathlon Team. One week of racing and 6 races, Fred Kelly and Shirley Firth again outstanding. Furthermore, Fred Kelly won the 16 k.m. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes ahead of the fastest biathlon skier and John Turo was second. In the relay of the last day of the meet Shirley Firth caught up to and passed the man rated as third best on the American Biathlon team - of course she psyched him out at the point when she passed him. As one report from the Toronto Telegram said - "I've just seen a bunch of teenage Northerners snowball the American Olympic Team".

The last race of the season was on May 14th - Roger and Roseanne Allen won.

The season totalled 33 different races for the TEST skiers, which resulted in 81 victories, 60 seconds and 59 thirds. The top skier of the season was Shirley Firth with 21 victories. Fred Kelly and Sharon Firth had 11 victories each.

TEST's main purpose is, of course, to instil pride and motivation in Northern people, but the last two ski seasons have proved that the TEST program also adds a lot to Canadian skiing. During the last two seasons TEST has done more promoting for cross country skiing in Canada than has ever been done before. It has helped raise the calibre of cross country skiing in Canada. The gauntlet has been thrown as a challenge for the rest of the skiers in Canada. Overall, TEST will, and should, add tremendously to the improvement of cross country skiing in Canada.



Shirley Firth, David Cook, and Ernie Lennie with old friends during the Cariboo Carnival at Yellowknife in March. The two Yellowknife skiers in the centre are John Ross and Eva Tourangeau.



Det glatt gäng eskimåer och indianer skall visa hur det går till att åka skidor i Bergsjö-loppet. T.v. ses ledaren Björger Pettersen, chauffören Bertil Engman och "Bergsjö-bossen" Egil Sandbacka. 15-åriga David Cook har fått sitt eget lilla välkomnande av fröken Sandbacka.

INDIANER OCH ESKIMÅER ställer upp i Bergsjöloppet!

Bergsjö-loppet arrangerar kunde nästan inte tro sina öron på fredagen, när de fick detta meddelande: En skidtrupp bestående av 9 åkare från Canada — indianer och eskimåer + en norsk skidledare är genom Svenska Skidförbundet anmälda till söndagens Bergsjö-lopp. Truppen anländer till Hudiksvalls järnvägsstation ikväll, fredag kl. 18.13 med tåg från Stockholm.

Sagt och gjort "Bossen" gil Sandbacka med dotter och chauffören Bertil Engman gav sig förväntansfullt iväg till Hudiksvall för att välkomna de långväga gästerna. Det var inte med lite spänning de väntade och till slut fick syn på ett glatt sällskap i pigga, färgstarka rockar. De glammade och stöjade, så det riktigt syntes på dem att humöret var i topp. Egil Sandbacka välkomnade

henuna i Inuvik, nordvästra Canada, och eftersom de bor i närheten av Norra Ishavet, är den omgivande terrängen tundra. Väderleken är för det mesta mycket pressande, vilket ibland kan lägga hinder för träningen. Under hela november var det exempelvis aldrig varmare än -40 grader, men trots detta tränade man nästan dagligen!

Flera av medlemmarna i truppen canadensiska juniormästare, men har aldrig fått tillfälle att möta krafter med skandinavisk konrens. Det blir således premiär i söndagens Bergsjö-lopp, och man får anta att gästerna inte blir några strykpöjkar precis. 14-åriga Roseanne Allen har bl.a. åkt distansen 4,5 km på 14,25 min. Inga dåliga grejer...

Aldrig i truppen är John Turo, som annars bor i Fort Good Hope. Denne

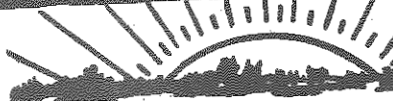
19-åring kallas "Big John T" och har distanser över 30 km som specialitet. Försök att plocka fram en svensk junior som med liv och lust ger sig ut på en runda som överstiger 3 mil....

Ungdomarna har aldrig fört varit i Skandinavien, och deras program efter helgen är inte helt bestämt. Troligtvis fortsätter de direkt till Norge för några tävlingar. I slutet av januari är de tillbaka igen för att delta i Svenska Skidspelen i Falun.

Det sista indianen "Big John T" anförtrödde signaturen innan det var dags att lämna det glada gänget var: Det får helt enkelt inte bli plusgrader. Vi kan inte åka då. Det var över ett och ett halvt år sedan vi hade tävlar sist....

— HANS-GUNNAR FORSSTRÖM

NEWS of the NORTH



Thursday January 9, 1969

Skiers win for Canada

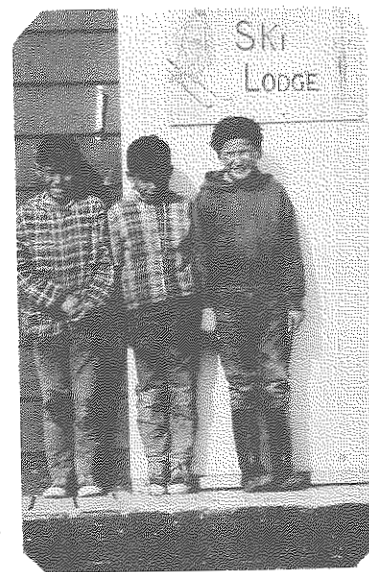
From Bergsjö in Hälsingland, Sweden, we hear from Björger Pettersen coach and manager about the success of the Canadian team which is sponsored by the National Fitness Office and the Canadian Amateur Ski Association.

Canada won its first international cross-country ski competition ever last Monday, January 6 as Fred "Express" Kelly won the Junior Boys 7-12 km class at the International Fis-

Sanctioned Bergsjö race in Sweden by 1 1/2 minutes. John Turo placed third in the same class while Shirley Firth who last year won the American title placed second in Junior Women's class. The following day at the National competitions at Hassala, Sharon and Shirley Firth skied away from the rest of the field by 1 1/2 minutes in Junior Girls 5 km race. Roseanne Allen was fifth while Roger Allen and Fred Kelly obtained third and fourth

spot in Boys 7 km only 6 seconds behind the winners. In both races, Canadian juniors greatly impressed the spectators with their excellent techniques. The Canadian team has received considerable attention from news media in Central Sweden and the teams performance is a great improvement on that of previous Canadian cross-country teams which have participated in Scandinavia.

On the bottom left, David Cook in the Senior Championships at Camrose, being cheered on by Shirley Firth and Anita Allen. On the right: three young skiers we expect great things from, Georgie and William Greenland and Big Sam Bullock.



G.

RACING STATISTICS

The following is the total of the 15 best placings of 15 best races of each member of the Inuvik Ski Team who has raced 15 races or more during the past season.

Some of the placings included in these statistics are placings in international and senior competitions.

JUNIOR WOMEN

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No. Races</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Placings</u>
1	Shirley Firth	34	15	20/1, 7/2, 2/3
2	Sharon Firth	33	19	11/1, 12/2, 5/3
3	Roseanne Allen	34	36	2/1, 5/2, 13/3
4	Anita Allen	27	43	3/1, 3/2, 2/3

JUNIOR MEN

1	Fred Kelly	34	19	11/1, 9/2, 2/3
2	John Turo	32	30	6/1, 3/2, 6/3
3	Roger Allen	34	39	2/1, 5/2, 5/3
4	Harold Cook	21	43	4/1, 1/2, 4/3
5	David Cook	33	72	1/1, 1/3
6	Ernie Lennie	21	79	2/1, 1/3
7	Paul Andrew	19	114	
8	Patrick Edgie	16	185	
9	Rex Cockney	16	206	

These points are for the whole season combined - starting from the first race on November 2nd and ending with the last race on May 14th.

Total winnings of Inuvik skiers:-

81 firsts)	
60 seconds)	Team has been at 34 different races
59 thirds)	

H. TEST PROMOTION INFORMATION

TEST Program's ski team have progressed far since its formation in August 1967. Last season the Eskimo, Metis, and Indian ski team was named as the best single ski team ever to come off the North American Continent.

The young teenage skiers from above the Arctic Circle, have during their two seasons, under the guidful eye of TEST won more than 150 victories, including 9 Canadian and 4 American National titles, and Canada's first win ever in a F.I.S. sanctioned cross country race in Europe.

TEST has been a success story right from the very beginning and this success story is increasingly gaining momentum. The publicity of the program has grown beyond the scope where I am able to collect copies of all the vast material published, filmed, and broadcast. However, I can mentioned we made Time Magazine three times within one year; a number of radio programs have been done on TEST in Canada, in the U.S., in Sweden, and in Norway and at the present two National T.V. networks are working on films of the TEST success story. To translate an adequate picture of the TEST Program let's look at some of the headlines we made during the past season - Alaska Sportsman, FATHER MOUCHET'S REMARKABLE INUVIK SKIERS (4 page story). News of the North, INUVIK SKIERS WIN AGAIN-THE POTENTIAL OF PEOPLE OF THE NORTH WHEN GIVEN A PROPER CHANCE-BJORGER PETTERSEN AND HIS SKIERS-SKIERS WIN FOR CANADA. Pole et Tropiques-LANCEE PAR UN MISSIONNAIRE OBLAT, UNE EQUIPE INDIENNE DE SKI, DE CLASS INTERNATIONALE (8 page story).

Anchorage Daily Times-Two Canadians Swept the individual titles-OUR GIRLS LOSE TO CANADA-CANADIAN XC SKI TEAM ARRIVES TONIGHT-SHIRLEY FIRTH IS FAVOURITE TO WIN IN CROSS COUNTRY. Idrottsbladet, Stockholm, Sweden-OUR FRIENDS THE INDIANS AND ESKIMOS UNABLE TO RETURN BECAUSE OF POOR FINANCES. Aftenposten, Oslo, Norway-INUVIK CROSS COUNTRY CENTRE IN CANADA'S ARCTIC-GRONNINGEN FANS FROM CANADA-RESEARCH BEHIND THE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION. The Drum, Inuvik-THE SKIERS WITH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU-GOLIATH, SURPRISE IN FIRST SKI RACE-BIG JOHN T WINS. The Calgary Herald-INUVIK JUNIORS SHINE AT CAMROSE-FIRTH TWINS PREVAIL. The Vancouver Sun-PROGRAM PAYS OFF IN SKIING. The Prince George Citizen-INUVIK KIDS ARRIVE-INUVIK KIDS SKI SURPRISE-EX CITY MAN COACHES TOP CROSS COUNTRY TEAM.

Dagbladet, Norway-INDIANS IN THE SKI TRACKS. Borlange Tidningen, Sweden-SENSATIONAL SKIERS-FUN BUT WARM. Demokraten, Falun, Sweden-YOUNG ESKIMOS AND INDIANS THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION AT THE COLORFUL OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL SKI GAMES. Svenska Dagbladet, Stockholm-ONLY ROADSALT CAN STOP THE NATIVES. Lillehammer, Norway-INDIANS AND ESKIMOS AT PELLESTOVA. Dagningen, Lillehammer, Norway-FROM 50 BELOW TO SUMMERLIKE OYERMOUNTAIN-AN ESKIMO IN THE SPOTLIGHT. Adresseavisen, Trondheim, Norway-CANADIANS DO WELL AT TRONDHEIMSKRENNET. Hudiksvall Tidningen, Sweden-HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL CANADIAN DEBUT-THE FIRTHS THE BIGGEST FAVOURITE-DELSBO AND CANADA MADE SKIING HISTORY AT HARMANGER. Sundsvall Tidningen, Sweden-FRED KELLY AN INDIAN DANCE ON SKIS. Halsingland, Sweden-A CANADIAN DEMONSTRATION. Kuriren, Sweden-LOOK UP FOR NORTH AMERICA-HARD TRAINED CANADIANS ATTRACTION AT BERGSJO-DOUBLE FIRTH VICTORY. Special Telegram, Toronto-SURVIVAL IS THEIR BEST TEACHER. Montreal Star-URBANIZATION PAINFUL PROCESS

Test Promotion Information - Cont'd

BUT SAW POTENTIAL IN TEST. Edmonton Journal-SKIER'S OF INUVIK EYE WORLD TITLE-WORLD TRAVEL OFFERED FOR NWT SKIER'S-TEST ONE OF THE BEST MOVES BY GOVERNMENT SINCE WINTER WORKS PROGRAM-YOUNG NATIVES SHOW THE FLAIR THAT SPELLS OLYMPIC GOLD. Boston Globe, U.S.A.-FIFTEEN YEAR OLD TWINS FROM INUVIK IN CANADA WINNERS. Ottawa Journal-INUVIK SKIER'S WIN NATIONALS IN SWEDEN. The Whitehorse Star-THE UNBEATABLES. Time-PROUD BEGINNING-CHALLENGERS FROM THE TUNDRA. Ski, U.S.A.- IS THE ROAD AHEAD PAVED WITH GOLD FOR THE FIRTH TWINS. Daily News, Alaska-SHIRLEY FIRTH IS UNBEATABLE-THE CANADIAN INUVIK SKI TEAM WON THE CHEERS OF EVERYBODY. The Progress, Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan- INDIAN GIRL WINS. Hufveltsbladet, Finland-15 YEAR OLDS FROM CANADA AT THE SENIOR INTERNATIONALS AT FALUN. The Canadian Amateur Ski Association's Bulletin-TEST, OLYMPIC MEDALS FOR CANADA. Star Weekly-HOW THE KIDS FROM INUVIK BECAME THE POAST OF SCANDINAVIA. Western Division Bulletin, Vancouver-INUVIK SKIER'S CLEAN UP AT FAIRBANKS. Prince George Progress-INUVIK KIDS STAR. V.G. Oslo, Norway-INDIANS ON THE SKI TRAILS AT TRONDHEIM. The Northian (scholastic magazine)-RACE TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS. Canada Ski, Calgary-TEST PROGRAM. Sams Year Book (Mackenzie Delta)-ON THE WAY TO THE OLYMPICS. The Daily Times, Fort William-INUVIK TEAM DOMINATES SKI RACES-TEAM OF 5 GIRLS TAKES 5 TOP SPOTS. Journal-INUVIK SKIER'S WIN U.S. TITLES. Canadian News Time (scholastic magazine)-N.W.T. SKI CHAMPS. Fairbanks Daily-INUVIK SKIER'S SHOWED ALASKANS SOMETHING.

In the form of personal letters during the past season I can quote the following: (Murray/Alaska Advertising)-Terrific performance your kids put on during the U.S. Junior Nationals. From comments I have heard many people here in Alaska were impressed not only by their performance, but by their charm and the way they conducted themselves during the race as well; (Alaska Sportsman, Ed Fortier, Executive Editor)-Please accept these photos of your great Canadian cross country skiers with the compliments of the Alaska Sportsman. They were taken at the recent 1969 Junior Nationals (U.S.) at Mt. Alyeska near Anchorage, and in which the Inuvik and Old Crow skiers pretty well ran away with the Nordic races-no pun. Anchorage News editor Bill Fox described Miss Firth as "unbeatable". In his segment of the relay race, Fred Kelly ran 5 k.m. in 17 min. 12 sec. believed the fastest time ever run this distance by an American skier. The Alaska Sportsman was thrilled by the performance of these fine young Canadians, and YOUR NATION SHOULD BE PROUD OF THEM. (Hon. Minister John Crétien, Indian Affairs and Northern Development) - My sincere good wishes and success in your fine program. I was delighted to read about them once again. Robert Orange, M.P. for N.W.T. - Needless to say we are proud of your accomplishments. Although their stay in Ottawa during the banquet held for them in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Ministers, and the National Amateur Sport Directorate at Rideau Gate was very short I hope they enjoyed their visit and from the very favourable comments that we received, both my wife and I are very proud of them. Commissioner S.M. Hodgson of the N.W.T. - The success of the Inuvik Ski Team is having a tremendous effect on the Northwest Territories and I extend to you the best wishes for the coming year.

Test Promotion Information - Cont'd

From the people of the Mackenzie Delta, received in an 850 word telegram prior to the races at Falun, Sweden-Congratulations to you and the skiers, whom we are so proud of. We expected good results, were happy but not surprised. All luck goes with you. Hoping to soon see the team that is to replace Nancy Green. Douglas Hogarth, M.P. for New Westminster-As an ardent skier I appreciate the tremendous accomplishment of these young people - my congratulations to them.

The accomplishments of TEST has not come without hard work and tremendous determination. The hardy young skiers have learned to train daily the whole year round and to encounter in their training one month of complete darkness and three months when the average daytime temperature varies from 20 to 70 below zero. The TEST skiers of today have set themselves a goal of winning Olympic Gold Medals for the North and for their country. In the two years of operations TEST has proven without doubt that it has large numbers of potential Olympic Gold Medal winner skiers. It has the coaches and staff to carry out such a goal. It has the necessary geography and climate and it has developed an attitude, atmosphere, and desire for such a goal in the North.

The problem in the far North with respects to its native population, of lacking motivation, pride, and self assurance, are well known throughout the continent. Millions of dollars have been invested in the North, with the objective of solving these northern problems, but have few positive results. TEST was initiated as a research program on the study of the motivation of northern youth. The study involves participation in competitive athletics, in this case cross country skiing, and how this provides greater general achievements and determination in school, at work, at play, and in life itself. We have already, in these early research stages, come up with some astonishing positive results. It is evident how the skiers influence the rest of the northern population and how the skiers as individuals are improving. I have heard people in the North say - "The only pride we have left is our skiers".

The TEST program is today in spite of its success, the tremendous potential shown, its public support, the spotlight it has brought upon Canada, and its great importance to our land of the future, the Northland, at a point of collapsing. Why? Because of the limited finances available. The Department of Health and Welfare has partially sponsored the program with a yearly research grant. As TEST has grown larger and larger on its success, the grant has become a smaller and smaller portion of its operation costs. Today the program has grown so large with its expansion in the N.W.T. and the Yukon that its budget is beyond that which can be raised by the Inuvik and Old Crow ski clubs. Hence, TEST is on the first stepping stone of turning to individuals and commercial enterprises for support and sponsorship.

ALASKA SPORTSMAN

Monthly Alaska's Magazine of Life on the Last Frontier

THE MILEPOST

Annually THE Guide to the Alaska Highway and the North Country

Editorial Offices

Box 1271 • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Advertising Offices

130 • 2nd Ave. So. • Edmonds, Wash. 98020 • Phone 774-4111

P.S.--When through with photos, would you please send them to:
Bjorger

Mrs. Flo Whyard
Editor
Whitehorse Star
Whitehorse, Y.T.
Canada

Dear Mrs. Whyard:

THE OLD CRO
RELAY TEAM
AT INUVIK

Please accept these photos of your great Canadian cross-country skiers with the compliments of the Alaska Sportsman. They were taken at the recent 1969 Junior Nationals (U.S.) at Mt. Alyeska near Anchorage, and in which the Inuvik and Old Crow skiers pretty well ran away with the Nordic races--no pun. Close-up shows Shirley Firth, left, and Fred Kelly, both members of Inuvik team. Anchorage News Sports editor Bill Fox described Miss Firth as "unbeatable." In his segment of the Relay Race, Kelly ran 5 km in 17 mts., 12 seconds, believed the fastest time ever run this distance by an American skier.

The Alaska Sportsman was thrilled by the performance of these fine young Canadians, and your nation should be proud of them.

If photos used, just credit--Alaska Sportsman

Sincerely, Ed Fortier, Executive editor

MURRAY/ALASKA Advertising



121 WEST FIREWEED LANE / ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, 99503

April 10, 1969

Mr. Bjorger Pettersen
Box 1651
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
Canada

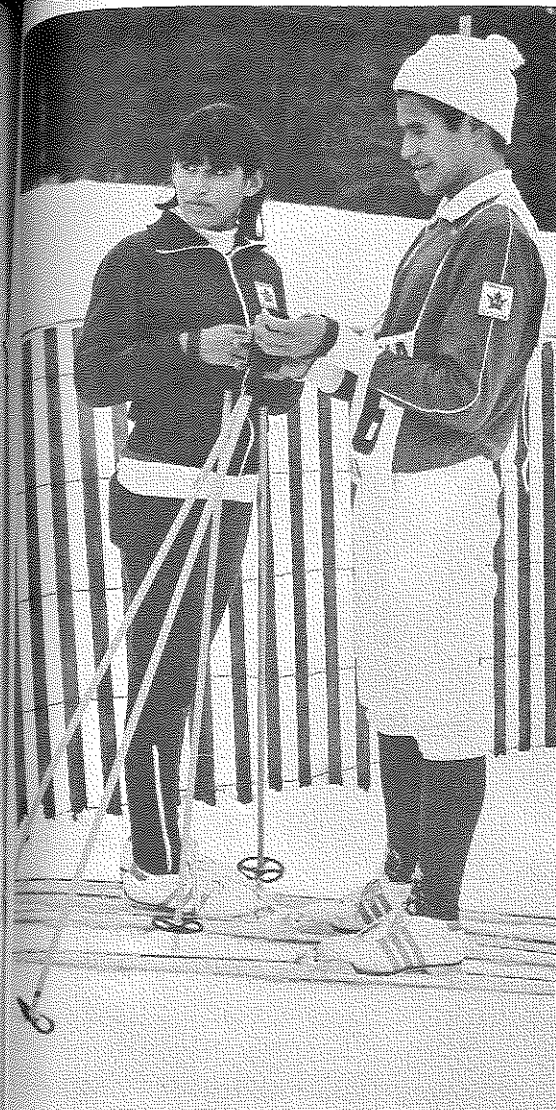
Dear Bjorger:

Here's a couple of news clippings relating to the terrific performance your kids put on during the Junior Nationals. From the comments I have heard, many people here in Alaska were impressed not only by their performance, but by their charm and the way they conducted themselves during the race week as well.

Very truly yours,

Jay Massey

Jay Massey, Public Relations Director
Murray/Alaska Advertising



THE "UNBEATABLES": Shirley Firth, left and "Express" Fred Kelly, members of the Inuvik cross country ski team, took first place in the boys and girls United States Junior Nationals championships held at Mount Alyeska, Alaska, last Friday. It is Shirley's second consecutive title, competing against 38 of America's best cross country skiers, and Kelly's first U.S. Junior National title, against 71 contenders. They also led their respective relay teams to victory, the girls from Inuvik coming first and the boys' team second. An Alaska Sportsman writer said he was thrilled by the performance of these "fine young Canadians, and the nation should be proud of them." Alaska Sportsman photo

United Press International

ALASKA, Alaska—The "Express" Fred Kelly, 15, and Shirley Firth, 14, of Inuvik, Northwest Territories, took first place in the boys and girls United States Junior Nationals championships held at Mount Alyeska, Alaska, last Friday. It is Shirley's second consecutive title, competing against 38 of America's best cross country skiers, and Kelly's first U.S. Junior National title, against 71 contenders. They also led their respective relay teams to victory, the girls from Inuvik coming first and the boys' team second. An Alaska Sportsman writer said he was thrilled by the performance of these "fine young Canadians, and the nation should be proud of them." Alaska Sportsman photo

A mixture of rain and snow showed the next-to-last day of competition at the 1969 Junior Alpine and Nordic Skiing Championships on this mountain 45 miles from Anchorage.

Shirley spent the morning packing 18 inches of wet snow which had fallen on the courses during the night.

Skating, in winning the boy's giant slalom, received competition from fellow-New Englander Steve Lathrop, Plymouth, N.H., who finished three-hundredths of a second behind with a time of 89.58. Bruce Jacobsen, Jackson, Wyo., finished third in 90.55.

Fifteen-year-old twin sisters from Inuvik in Canada's

Northwest territory led the competition in the girls' cross-country event.

Shirley Firth finished the five-kilometer course in 21:32, beating out her sister, Sharon, who was timed in 22:02. Sixteen seconds behind Sharon was Mary Pendleton, Lyndenville, Vt.

The boy's cross country event was taken by Fred Kelly, Inuvik, Canada, in 37:55. Tim Caldwell, Putney, Vt., was second in 38:35 and Richard Giberson, Rumford, Me., third in 39:12.

cross country

Girls

1-Shirley Firth, Inuvik, Canada, 21:32

2-Sharon Firth, Inuvik, Canada, 22:02

3-Mary Pendleton, Lyndenville, Vt., 22:18

4-Roseanne Allen, Inuvik, Canada, 22:41

5-Barbara Ritch, Anchorage, Alaska, 22:51

Boys

1-Fred Kelly, Inuvik, Canada, 37:55

2-Tim Caldwell, Putney, Vt., 38:35

3-Richard Giberson, Rumford, Vt., 39:12

4-Bela Bodnar, Anchorage, Alaska, 39:29

5-Steve Ashley, Plymouth, N.H., 39:35

U.S. JUNIOR NATIONALS

MARCH 16-22, 1969

MT. ALYESKA, ALASKA

GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY

1 Shirley Firth, CAN	21:37
2 Sharon Firth, CAN	22:02
3 Mary Pendleton, VT	22:18
4 Roseanne Allen, CAN	22:41
5 Barb Ritch, CAN	22:51
6 Shirley Frost, CAN	24:43
7 Anita Allen, CAN	25:04
8 Allison Owen, PNDA	25:10
9 Tami Varentine, PNDA	25:50

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY

1 Fred Kelly, CAN	37:55
2 Tim Caldwell, VT	38:35
3 Richard Giberson, VT	39:12
4 Roger Allen, CAN	40:31
5 John Fure, CAN	41:51
6 Paul Andrew, CAN	42:51
7 David Cook, CAN	42:59
8 Ernie Lennie, CAN	43:23
9 Jim Dorris, PNDA	47:36
10 Herbert Baillie, CAN	48:00
11 Ernie Morrison, PNDA	53:29
12 Mark Koenig, PNDA	54:49
13 Ever Olson, PNDA	60:04
14 Eric Owen, PNDA	65:31

BOSTON
GLOBE
3/23/69

Boston Globe 3/23/69

I. IN CLOSING

The TEST Program at Inuvik has progressed far beyond anyone's dreams - the program has become the pride of the entire North.

It has been amazing to witness the racing success of the TEST skiers. Especially when one considers the low relief at Inuvik for both summer and winter training; the 30° below zero average temperature from October until April; the extremely dark winters and one month without any sunlight; the burnt Tundra and all the insects during the months of summer training.

Evidently the TEST Program has found a tremendous potential for Olympic Gold Medals and for the development of human resources in the Far North - MUST NOT THESE DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUE? And, continuing means expanding and specializing more - the costs will be great but the results likewise!

In closing I would like to extend special thanks for valuable assistance during 1968-69 to Father J. Adam, Father M. Ruyant, Sister Pinet, Sister Herbert, Sister Phillips, Paul Leroux, J.O. Jensen, J. Boyd, K. Tologanik, G. Menarik, P. Curtis, E. Binder, H. Cook, J. Turo, A. Allen, S. Sarson, J. Stack, J. Casubiac, J. Maher, M. Coady, J. Van-Pelt, D. Sutherland, Dick Hill and the staff of the Inuvik Research Laboratory.

Bryce V. Peterson

Two Canadians swept the individual cross country titles Friday at the Junior National Ski Championships being held at Mt. Alyeska. Shirley Firth won the girls competition over a five kilometer course and Fred Kelly won the Boys' 10-kilometer race. Shirley's twin sister, Sharon, placed second in the girls' event.

Anchorage Times, U.S.A.

Times are changing — Today we see real genuine Indians in the ski tracks! And it was even a beautiful sight. The sweet and charming Indian twins, Shirley and Sharon Firth charmed everyone as they diagonalled around the 5 km. course.

Aftenposten, Oslo, Norway

Both in the girls and boys classes the Canadians won everyone's hearts. They became the spectators' favorites everywhere they went, and must have signed at least a thousand autographs during the games.

Kuriren, Falun, Sweden

The National Fitness Council's two-year-old TEST Program paid off Friday as the team members took seven of the top 10 spots in the boys' class and ten out of the top 11 spots in the girls' class during the Canadian Junior Nordic Championships.

Vancouver Sun, B.C. Canada

I hope that you get to the Polar Games in Whitehorse so that they will be able to see the team we hope will replace Nancy Green.

Patrycia Jones, Inuvik, N.W.T.

In the girls' competition, unbeatable Shirley Firth of Inuvik raced to true form and finished the course in 20 min., 1 sec. She looked as though she could have raced another five kilometers as she hit the finish line. She was barely winded.

Anchorage Daily News, Alaska

Fred "Express" Kelly, 17 years, and Canadian Junior Champion last year, is the best technique skier we have seen from Canada and should go a long way.

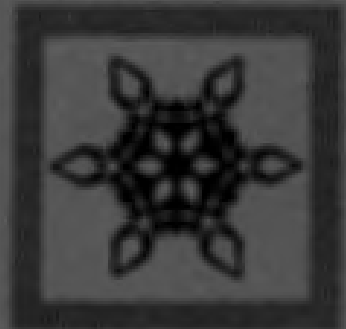
Norway's Largest Daily

The most colorful attraction at the Swedish International Ski Games where the team of Indian and Eskimo skiers from the Northern most part of Canada. And they could really ski! Oddly, funny that we have not heard about them or have had the privilege to see them around our latitude years ago. Who knows, maybe we will see an Indian as a winner during the 30 km. at the Olympic Winter Games in 1976.

Svenska Dagbladet, Stockholm, Sweden



t·e·s·t



the key to a human resource





PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

Development of our northland depends heavily on the quality and spirit of our northern peoples. Programs such as T.E.S.T. are incentives to building hardier and healthier Canadians.

The contribution of T.E.S.T. to sport has been significant. Enthusiasm for cross-country skiing in Canada has grown immensely and our athletes have been increasingly successful in international cross-country skiing competitions.

I wholeheartedly approve of the T.E.S.T. program and wish it increasing success.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'P. E. Trudeau'.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau

O T T A W A,
1 9 6 9.

T.E.S.T. - A Story of Courage

In 1972, Canadians will compete for Olympic gold medals in cross-country skiing, a field which has traditionally been dominated by the Scandinavian teams.

The fact that most of these potential gold medallists will be of Eskimo, Indian or mixed heritage will seem incidental because they will be competing as Canadians, and their honours will be the pride of all Canadians.

The competitors will come from the Northwest and Yukon Territories. They will be young, and they will be among the most determined and disciplined athletes this country has ever produced. They will be young athletes who have been training every day over a period of three to four years, in temperatures to 70 below zero, in conditions that would surpass the breaking point of most men. Their ranks will include youngsters who, now 14, will ski 20 miles in 45 below weather without giving up.

In training, these young athletes, who will represent the cream of hundreds in the T.E.S.T. program, have developed incredible physical stamina and, more important, qualities of mental alertness and leadership that were thought to be beyond the capacity of our non-white Canadians for too many years by too many people.

Lest there be any doubt about these statements, the following pages will prove them wrong.

T.E.S.T. - Its People

Bjorger V. Pettersen

BJORGER V. PETTERSEN, the dedicated Coach and Program Manager who returned from his native Norway to develop a victory team.

Father J. Mouchet

FATHER J. MOUCHET, the man whose endless devotion to the people of Canada's Yukon and Northwest Territories led him to the founding of the T.E.S.T. program.

Some of the members of the Inuvik Ski Team that has already won international recognition in the U.S. and Europe. With them a friend – our Prime Minister. Among the team members are Sharon and Shirley Firth, 1st and 2nd place winners in the Swedish National sanctioned Hassela Competitions (Shirley also won the U.S. junior five-kilometer title) and "Express" Fred Kelly, U.S. Junior National Champion in a meet which pitted him against 71 of America's best skiers.

Dubbed the "Unbeatables", Shirley Firth and Fred Kelly, both champions, will probably lead a Canadian cross-country team to victory.

Lena Kuptana, one of the youngest members of T.E.S.T., is the Pee-Wee champ.



T.E.S.T. - And the World Press

The T.E.S.T. program has received attention in Time magazine three times within one year, been featured on radio programs in Canada, the U.S., Sweden and Norway and is the subject of two films being made by national TV networks. The following headlines in the world press are only a fraction of all the publicity T.E.S.T. has earned.

AFTENPOSTEN, OSLO, NORWAY:

*Inuvik, cross country centre in
Canada's Arctic
Gronningen fans from Canada
Research behind the Canadian participation*

ANCHORAGE DAILY TIMES,
ANCHORAGE ALASKA:

*Two Canadians swept the individual titles
Our girls lose to Canada
Canadian XC ski team arrives tonight
Shirley Firth is favorite to win in
cross country*

BORLANGE TIDNINGEN, SWEDEN:
Sensational skiers, fun but warm

BOSTON GLOBE, BOSTON, U.S.A.:
*Fifteen year old twins from Inuvik in
Canada winners*

DAGNINGEN, LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY:
*From 50 below zero to summerlike
overmountain
An Eskimo in the spotlight*

DEMOKRATEN, FALUN, SWEDEN:

*Young Eskimos and Indians the centre of
attraction at the colorful opening ceremonies
at the International Ski Games*

EDMONTON JOURNAL:

*Skiers of Inuvik eye world title
World travel offered for NWT skiers
Test One of the best moves by government
since Winter Works Program
Young natives show the flair that spells
Olympic gold*

HUDIKSVALL TIDNINGEN, SWEDEN:

*Happy and successful Canadian debut
The Firths the biggest favorites
Delsbo and Canada made skiing history
at Harmanger*

HUFVELTSBLADET, FINLAND:

*15 year olds from Canada at the Senior
Internationals at Falun*

NEWS OF THE NORTH:

*Inuvik skiers win again
The potential of people of the North when
given a proper chance
Bjorger Pettersen and his skiers
Skiers win for Canada*

OTTAWA JOURNAL:

Inuvik skiers win Nationals in Sweden

STAR WEEKLY, TORONTO:

*How the kids from Inuvik became the
toast of Scandinavia*

TIME:

*Proud beginning
Challengers from the Tundra*

How the kids from Inuvik became the toast of Scandinavia By Dan Proudfoot

Things may well be back to normal, by now, for the nine kids from Inuvik, N.W.T. But don't bet on it. They've been the toast of international cross-country skiing in Sweden, Norway and Finland and, because they returned to Inuvik little more than three weeks ago, they're probably still sorting out their prizes.

Not that winning is anything new for these teenagers, who are the best of more than 250 Indian, Eskimo and Métis youth taking part in a program known as TEST (Territorial Experimental Ski Training). They've been busy gaining glory for Canada in a sport unknown to most of this country's ride-uphill-ski-downhill skiers — racing across distances up to 30 kilometers, or almost 20 miles. And it was more than a year ago that TEST's Shirley Firth became the youngest-ever U.S. national junior girls' champion, winning at the age of 14.

They go where the competition is best. That's why they were in Scandinavia, where cross-country races attract as many as 40,000 spectators, and why all nine of them and their coach, 27-year-old Bjørger Pettersen, packed themselves into a rented Volkswagen bus to chug between races. The tiny bus grew increasingly crowded, as Inuvik's champions captured prize after prize.

Fred Kelly, a 17-year-old, became the first Canadian to win a men's cross-country race in Europe—the 7½-kilometre junior event at Bergsjö, Sweden. He was presented with a new pair of skis. Later, the TEST team's baggage began to swell as Sharon Firth, Shirley's twin sister, got an electric bread and meat slicer for a win, Shirley won a rug, Anita Allen, 18, won an iron and her sister, 14-year-old Roseanne Allen, won a lamp.

But coach Pettersen was also happy with the team's losses, during the 12 races. "They saw that you have to ski thousands of miles a year in training," says Pettersen, "if you want to be an Olympic champion." Next year, cross-country skiing's world championships will be held in Czechoslovakia, and Pettersen figures the four TEST team girls will be among the Canadian representatives, along with two or three of his boys.

The team will be anxious to travel, too, after their experiences in Sweden, Norway and Finland. As 19-year-old Harold Cook reports, "We were treated like movie stars." The reason, of course, was that the young Canadians were the stars of the skiing show. They were surrounded for autographs at every event, and promoters credited them with attracting extra-large crowds.

"Everyone seemed to love Canadians," 16-year-old Roger Allen relates, "though they used to mistake us for Japanese in Norway. But they asked us about it in such a nice way, we got a real kick out of it."

Scandinavian cross-country champions offered advice and hospitality both on the courses and *après-ski*. After the Swedish International Ski Games, Pettersen told his athletes that as a treat their curfew would be extended to 11:30. Came 11:30, however, Anita Allen and Sharon Firth were still missing. "I found them at the dance at the Grand Hotel," Pettersen explains, "where the men were in tuxedos and they were in blue jeans. Anita was in the arms of Gjermund Eggem, the only skier who's won three world championship events in one season, and Sharon was surrounded by admirers."



Team's youngest, Roseanne Allen, 14.

Anita Allen, a Grade 10 student, and Harold Cook, who's in Grade 12, were in charge of school lessons between races. Teachers back at Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik had prepared work for the trip, which lasted from Dec. 23 to March 1. The TEST team was in Europe for five weeks, returning to Canada in early February, but once back they competed in the Canadian junior championships, in Prince George, B.C., and the senior championships in Kamloops.

How did they do? Well, Shirley Firth, Sharon Firth and Roseanne Allen placed one-two-three in the girls' 5-kilometre Canadian championship race. Defending boys' champ Fred Kelly placed second in his race, behind Ottawa's Malcolm Hunter, and Harold Cook was third. Anita Allen, Roger Allen, John Truro and David Cook all finished high in the standings.

"By now," coach Pettersen said after the races, "we're all pretty well worn out."



Puzzle picture, on top: Find a certain non-TEST skier among the beaming kids in Ottawa after their prizewinning trip. Others are, left to right, Anita Allen, Sharon Firth, Roger Allen, Fred Kelly, John Truro, David and Harold Cook, coach Bjørger Pettersen, Roseanne Allen and Shirley Firth. Below, the team competing in Canadian junior championships in Prince George, B.C. after their return.

The Inuvik team's big achievement has been to make the rest of Canada aware of cross-country skiing. Until the TEST kids' return, and the official dinner in their honor at Ottawa with Prime Minister Trudeau present, we'd considered cross-country skiing as something strictly Scandinavian.

Now, it's ours. Even the Swedes agree, because one Swedish club started a fund for 15,000 kronor (about \$3,000) to bring the TEST team back for more racing. That's how successful the Canadians were in their first overseas visit.

Inuvik's cross-country skiing got started in 1965, when Father Mouchet of the Roman Catholic church introduced it as recreation for the teenagers who live in hostels there while attending school. Fred Kelly, for example, is from the Indian village of Fort Good Hope, some 250 miles south of Inuvik. Then, in 1967, the National Fitness Council of the federal Department of Health and Welfare financed the TEST plan, with Father Mouchet at Old Crow, in the Yukon, and Pettersen coaching at Inuvik. Pettersen, who had coached at Inuvik spring clinics, moved back to Canada from Norway,

his birthland, when the TEST position was offered to him by the fitness council.

They skied six days a week, before the European trip, even though the warmest days offered nothing better than 35 degrees below zero. Inuvik has a month and a half of total darkness, but the skiers practised after dark over a 2½-kilometre course illuminated by 150-watt light bulbs set up on log tripods (there are no trees tall enough to use for light posts).

After seeing the European competitors' superior conditioning, the teenagers are even more determined. They train eight months a year, normally, and this year coach Pettersen hopes to organize an extra session during the summer, at a B.C. mountain camp.

Now, though, there's school work to catch up on. Inuvik's secondary school has about 400 students, including approximately 75 per cent who board in the hostels operated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. Among those 400, the kids in the TEST program consider themselves lucky, and the nine international racers luckiest of all. But even heroes have to pass.

T.E.S.T. - An Appeal to You

We hope that, in the foregoing pages, we have given proof of the athletic success of T.E.S.T. The infinitely more important story will be that of human success, which will be measured in years to come.

Skiing, as we said, provided the key that opened the door for the development of our people of the Northland – a door which will ultimately admit them as participants in all Canadian endeavours.

The Canadian government has given its support to this end by approving annual grants of \$25,000 for ten years. The NWT government has done the same, pledging \$5,000 per year. To ensure success, additional support is required from the private sector of Canadian industry – your support.

t·e·s·t

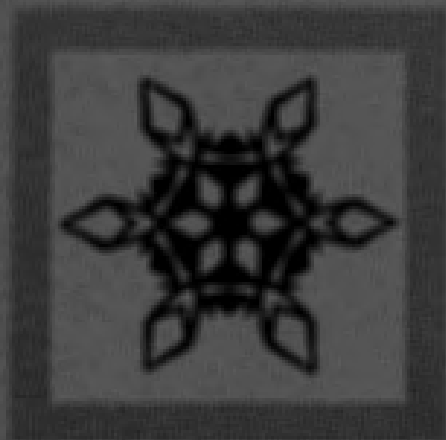


Illustration and text layout: Design: Michael Fennell, Montreal