

Citizen-run industry last hope for Mennonites

By MAURI MONTGOMERY
UD Staff

Seminole-Mennonite Enterprises, Inc., seems to be the only lifeboat left for the embattled Mennonite immigrants of Seminole.

The company was formed by American citizen businessmen in Seminole in an attempt to thwart the deportation of some 500 Mennonites who left their homes in Mexico and Canada to form a cohesive community in an area with adequate open land for settlement in the United States.

The major obstacle to their dreams is the red-tape-strewn immigration process, further complicated by the scant records kept by the Mexican government. Almost all the settlers are in the United

States on extensions of temporary visas while immigration officials in work on the backlog of cases.

Seminole-Mennonite Enterprises will provide jobs to the immigrants which may enable them to apply for labor certifications which will in turn qualify them to apply for permanent resident alien status in the United States. The U.S. Labor Department would have to affirm the certifications.

Mennonite immigrants obtaining the certifications will be allowed, with their families to remain in Seminole.

Dwayne Herman, a Seminole banker, said the "immigration process will

probably be the factor determining whether the Mennonites become a major (economic) factor in Gaines County." If the group loses the immigration dispute, all of them will be deported "from a place they only want to work and live in," Herman said.

He also explained, "The Mennonites are very excited about the potential of the community, seem happy to be here, and anxious to do something, but they are just reluctant to do anything until they get the visas worked out."

The Mennonites came to Seminole, Bishop Heinrich explained, to find large quantities of farm land and relative isolation which will allow them to raise and

educate their children in the traditional German heritage which is part of their religion.

The group bought 7,500 acres of farmland, some unbroken graze land and some irrigated land and that purchase, plus improvements such as mobile homes, tractors and other farm equipment, represent an investment of about \$6 million, according to Seth Woltz who has handled all the Mennonites transactions so far. Since that first purchase, the group has bought 4,600 acres more, worth roughly \$600 to \$800 an acre, plus several lots within the city itself. Plans call for the eventual purchase of about 15,000 additional acres.

Besides farming, the Mennonites plan to establish a

dairy operation to use the milk from a newly imported herd of Holstein cattle, a cheese factory, a foundry, a farm equipment plant, a canning and food processing operation to handle the farm's meat and vegetable crops, and a furniture making operation.

Financial backing for the initial purchases have come from Mennonite congregations in Ontario, Canada, though most of the 125 families in Seminole came from a Mexican colony.

The Mennonites from Mexico left that country to escape what they considered an unstable, often hostile government and devaluation of the peso, which make their accounts worthless.



Heimer



Farming aid

While the Seminole Mennonites came to the U.S. to be able to maintain their Old World traditions, New World farming methods enable them to produce sufficient quantities

of food to supply themselves and to become a factor in the Seminole economy. (Photo by Darrel Thomas.)

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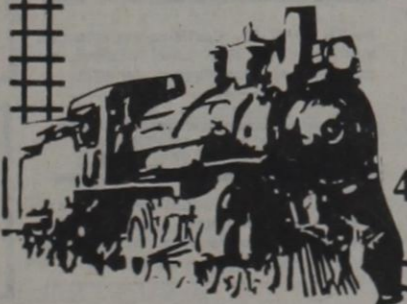
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Alaskan secession?

Many people in Sitka, the former capital of Russian Alaska, want the 49th state to secede from the United States. Arguing that the federal government is meddling in local affairs, the people of this lumbering community are especially angry

over H.R. 39, a bill in Congress which would designate 114 million acres in Alaska as national parks and wilderness areas.

Forest bill opposed by Alaska

(c) 1977 N.Y. Times News Service

SITKA, Alaska — Few people in this former capital of Russian Alaska would want to join the Soviet Union, but there are many here who want the 49th state to secede from the United States.

They think the federal government meddles too much in local affairs. Specifically, they are angry over a bill in Congress called H.R. 39, which would designate 114 million acres in Alaska as national parks and wilderness areas.

About 3,000 people in the Sitka area make their living in lumbering, and they are opposed to wilderness areas because logging operations are forbidden in them.

"H.R. 39 Stinks," reads an inscription on a log that serves as playground equipment for an elementary school. Bumper stickers proclaim that "Alaska has wilderness, needs jobs."

The bill was drawn up by environmentalists in Alaska and was sponsored by Rep. Morris K. Udall, Democrat of Arizona, who is chairman of the House Interior Committee. Udall and Rep. John F. Seiberling, Democrat of Ohio, have been holding hearings throughout Alaska on the proposal.

When Seiberling held a

hearing here, the Chamber of Commerce offered local businesses signs that said they were closed in protest.

The controversy centers on the 16-million-acre Tongass National Forest, which encompasses most of the Alaska panhandle and is the nation's largest national forest.

The Udall bill would designate only five areas in the forest as wilderness areas, and that alone would not have a significant impact on employment, according to John Sanders, the regional forester for the United States Forest Service.

"But H.R. 39, coupled with other proposed wilderness areas, would have a substantial impact on employment," Sanders said, "and H.R. 39 would preclude any increase in the development of new timber industries."

Not everybody is against the proposal. One of those who favors the establishment of wilderness areas is Jack Calvin, the 75-year-old grandfather of the Sitka Conservation Society. He came to Alaska in a canoe from Tacoma, Wash., in the early 1930's, and still uses the same canoe.

This summer, he strapped the canoe to a light plane and took off with friends to float

down the nearby Stikine River, which runs through a proposed wilderness area that abounds in bear, wolves and deer.

Calvin has retired from his printing business, but he still works with the Sierra Club, escorting tourists to the glaciers and mountains that surround Sitka.

He concedes that the pulp mill, which employs 1,300 people, has made Sitka more prosperous, but he says he resents "the fact that every tree is viewed as a log."

"If the mill closed down," he added, "Sitka would still be a good place to live."

Much of the good life here centers on the picturesque old harbor and its fishing boats, tour vessels, float planes and sailboats. Tourism has become an important business, with people coming from around the world to fly into the wilderness, visit the Sitka National Historical Park or just savor old Sitka, which is in an island-studded sound surrounded by mountains and spruce forests.

The city was founded as Fort Archangel Gabriel in 1799 by Aleksandr Baranov, a Russian who was the first Governor of Alaska. In 1802, the Tlingit Indians destroyed the fort, but Baranov rebuilt it two years later and moved his headquarters here from Kodiak.

Long before San Francisco became a cosmopolitan center, Sitka was the leading post on the Pacific coast with a flourishing fishing industry,

shipyards, sawmills and foundries.

When the United States purchased Alaska from Russia, the formal transfer took place here on Oct. 18, 1867, and from then until 1900 Sitka was the capital of Alaska.


Part of the Russian flavor of the town lingers on, especially around the old Russian Orthodox cathedral, where the streets veer off in odd directions to comfortable hillside houses.

About 7,000 people live in Sitka, and, while there is heavy rain throughout the year, they enjoy a climate that brings little snow and temperatures that range from a monthly mean of 33 degrees in January to 56 in August.

Not all the arguments against the wilderness proposal are based on money. Bill Royce, a lawyer here, voices an objection heard frequently from people in Sitka. He says that outsiders who want large national parks in Alaska are preventing local citizens from making decisions about their own future, and contends that the interests of both industry and conservation can be accommodated through citizen involvement.

He also voices another belief often expressed here. He says he has ignored opportunities to move elsewhere and build a more lucrative practice.

"In Sitka," he says, "you have more time to do things, besides practice. I think you can live better in Sitka."



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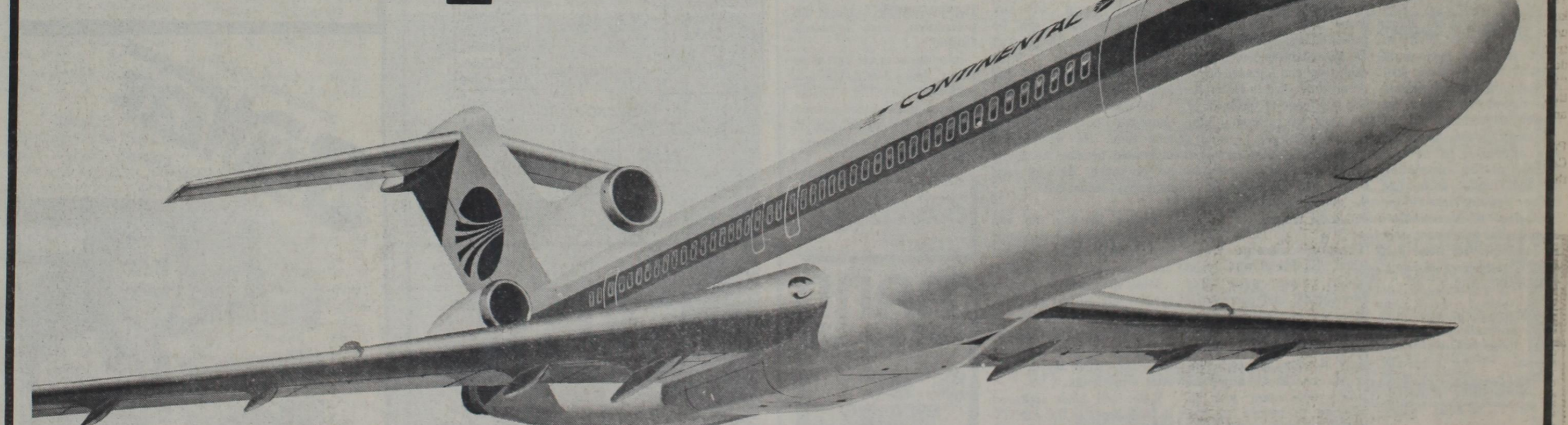
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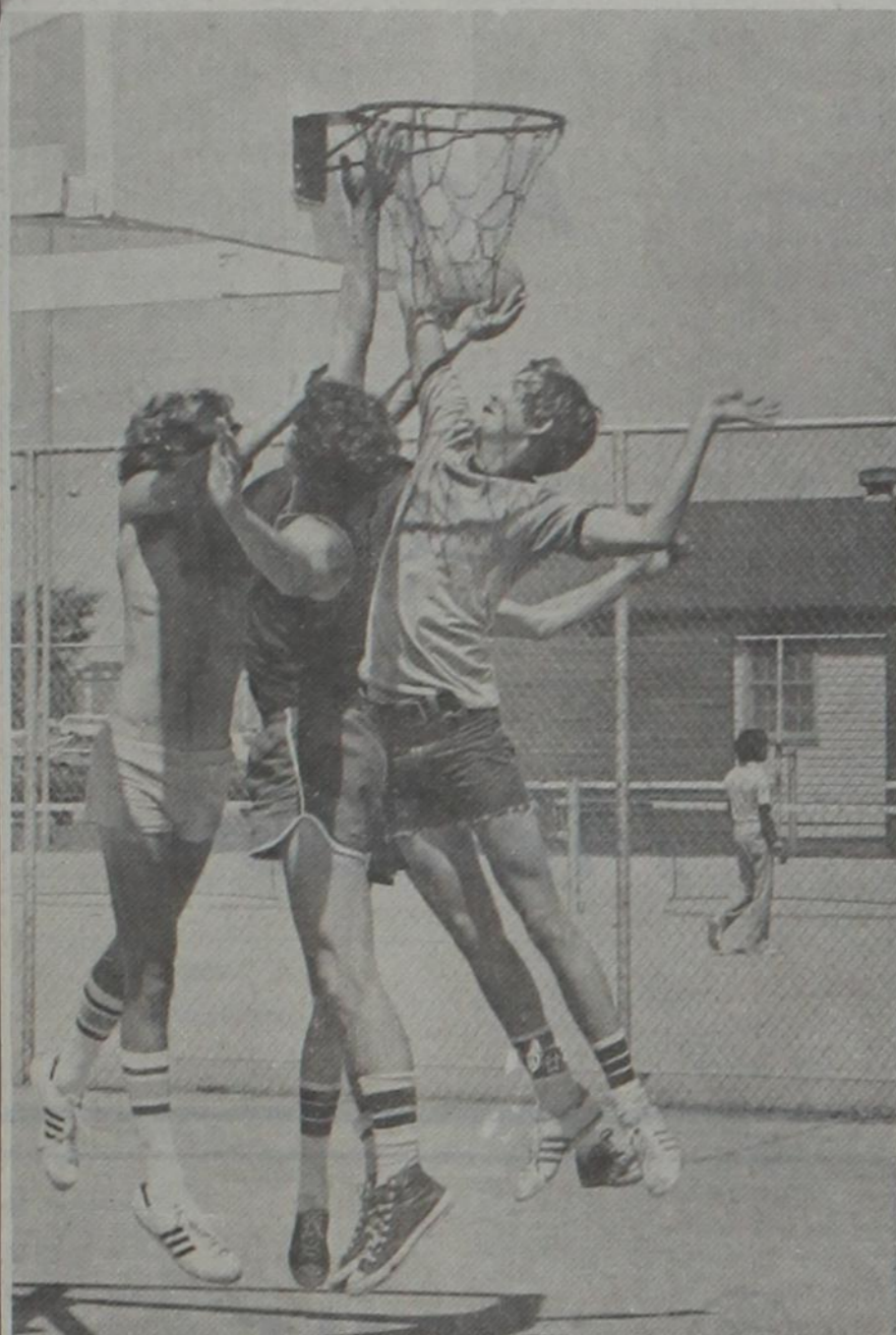
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Recreational Sports



Together

The Wells team and L, X and Y team, pictured above, met in the finals of the playground basketball tournament during the first "Saturday Morning Live" Event. The next "Saturday Morning Live" is scheduled for Oct. 8. It will be a double handball tournament. Entries are due Oct. 6. (Photo by Dennis Copeland)

Coming soon ...

MEN'S PROGRAM		
	Entries Due	Play Starts Tournament
Archery Doubles	Sept. 23	Oct. 1
Handball Doubles	Sept. 26	Oct. 3
Tennis Doubles	Sept. 26	Oct. 3
Badminton Doubles	Sept. 26	Oct. 3
Horseshoes Doubles	Sept. 26	Oct. 3
Paddleball Doubles	Sept. 26	Oct. 3
WOMEN'S PROGRAM		
Badminton Doubles	Sept. 28	Oct. 5
Table Tennis Doubles	Sept. 28	Oct. 5
CO-REC PROGRAM		
Badminton	Sept. 21	Sept. 26
Archery	Sept. 21	Sept. 26
CAMPUS COMMUNITY		
Racquetball Doubles (Men)	Sept. 26	Oct. 1-2
Handball Singles (Men)	Sept. 26	Oct. 8-9

Equipment to be displayed

Have you ever seen a smart camper without a backpack? That's because he knew to rent his outdoor equipment from the Outdoor Equipment office of the Recreational Sports department. A display of the outdoor equipment will be shown today in the University Center from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This display includes canoes, kayaks, backpacks and tents that are available for rental through the recreational office.

Beginners to advanced

Swimming lessons offered

The second tennis clinic and the first about Water polo will be this week with tips on better play and rules. Former Tech water polo player and official Richard Sybesma will headline a free water polo clinic Saturday at the Recreational Aquatic Center. The seminar will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 11 a.m. Game regulation, hints, and a probable practice and demonstration game will be included at this clinic. Sybesma will show techniques to use when officiating. Students planning to be water polo officials are urged to attend.

The second clinic sponsored by recreational sports will be Thursday at 6 p.m. on the recreational tennis courts. Mark Hamilton, a student men's tennis coach, will conduct the clinic, at which, the emphasis will be on the backhand and volley. The clinic is free and open to all students. Both clinics are free and open to all students, faculty and staff. No pre-registration is required. A tennis racket will be needed for the tennis clinic. Balls will be furnished.

Recreational Sports Briefs

THE NEWS IS OUT!—Schedules for fall Intramural leagues and tournaments are available at the Recreational Sports Office, Building X-17. Schedules for archery, men's doubles tennis, men's and women's golf doubles, flag football, Campus Community golf and tennis doubles, league bowling, and Co-Rec volleyball are not available.

NEEDY NETTERS—Beginners at tennis looking to improve their skills are being offered a free tennis class beginning Monday at 6 p.m. The class will run four consecutive nights. The class will be taught by Joneen Cummings, former top seed on the Tech women's tennis team. Registration for the class can be completed at the Recreational Sports Office or by calling 742-3351.

DIFFERENT STROKES—Registration for advanced stroke mechanics lessons begins Monday. The class will be Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Recreational Aquatic Center. The class is designed for advanced swimmers. Films, demonstrations, and discussions will allow evaluation of strokes. To call 742-3896.

AQUA ADULTS—The Recreational Aquatic Center will offer an adult night swimming class. The class will be taught by Lynn Samples. The classes will be Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. A \$10 registration fee will be paid at the Aquatic Center upon registration.

Registration begins Monday.

HEY, SAILOR—The Tech sailing club will demonstrate sailing techniques at the Recreational Aquatic Center at 6 p.m. Sunday. The demonstration includes an audio visual program, salty songs, and free sailing lessons for students, faculty, and staff. Information will be available for membership in the sailing club. The pool will remain open beyond the normal closing time for persons wishing to try sailing.

KAYAK—Free kayak lessons will be Tuesday from 9-10 p.m. at the Recreational Aquatic Center. The lessons will be conducted four consecutive Tuesdays. Greg Henry of the Sport Haus will teach the class. Registration begins Monday. To register call 742-3896.

OFFICIAL MEETING—Women's flag football officials preparation meeting will be today at 5:30 p.m. in Building X-17. All officials should attend. Technique films and discussion will be the focus of the meeting. Assignments will be given also.

RACLINIC—A beginning Racquetball clinic will be conducted at 6 p.m. Tuesday on the outdoor courts near the Intramural Gym. The clinic is free and balls and racquets will be provided. For further information contact Recreational Sports at 742-3351.

WATER BALLET—or Synchronized Swimming, you interested. A meeting will be Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Aquatic Center. Persons interested in learning or performing Synchronized swimming may attend.



Raining footballs

An intramural flag football player, pictured above, reaches for a pass during scrimmages sponsored by Recreational Sports Sunday. The regular season begins today. Schedules are still available in the Recreational Sports Offices. (Photo by Ed Purvis)

Chitwood pair wins putt-putt

Cindy Falls and Sharon Russell topped 65 other entries in the Womens Golf Doubles Tournament to claim the championship Sunday. Falls and Russell, representing Chitwood, came in with scores of 32 and 31 for a total of 63. Stangel's Holly Burrell and Jan Nix accumulated a 69, good for second, and Carla Halfield and Tricia Hunt placed third with a 71 total.

Tennis, water polo clinics offer professional instruction

Registration is now open for Saturday morning lessons in beginning and advanced swimming, lifesaving and synchronized swimming to be taught at the Recreational Aquatic Center in October. The lessons will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis and in person only. The fee is \$10 per person. Two sessions each Saturday will be taught, one at 9:30-11 a.m. and another from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Swimmers under age 5 through adult years will be taught by Red Cross Certified and Water Safety Instructors. Cards will be given to those children successfully passing the lessons. The classes will be conducted from Oct. 1 through Oct. 29.

We're trying to provide each Tech student, faculty

member and his children with a chance to learn how to swim or improve their swimming skills," said Joyce Grimes of the Aquatic Center. "We have a pool that everyone should take advantage of especially since it is year-round," she said, adding "By the end of October our bubble will be back on and the water temperature will be 82 degrees and very comfortable for these lessons."

Grimes also said she anticipates the program this year will be better than last year's, which had each class file. "Our staff is also very experienced and everyone on it has their Water Safety Instructor's papers." More information can be acquired by calling 742-3896.



Drop-back kick

Tech soccer player Vance Cheatum stretches to kick ball away from a Richland defender in action Sunday. The Tech soccer team will be in action again Saturday against the University of Houston on the Raider field. (Photo by Dennis Copeland)



Strain or feign?

KA's Buck Rogers and Larry Draehn make it a photo finish in their effort to capture second place in the mile-run. Draehn nosed out Rogers for second place. (Photo by Karen Thom)

Superstars in final stretch

A single event separates the next Tech Intramural Superstar from his title. And there are still four men who have a shot at the title. The swimming competition to be held tonight will decide the winner among the leaders. Paul Nathanson has the highest point total with 30.5. His closest challenger, Pete D'Acosta has a total of 26.0. The next two highest totals belong to Ken Thomason, 24.8, and Larry Draehn, 24.0. Russell "Rusty" Kiefer, representing Carpenter Hall, is in fifth place with a point total of 20. Kiefer won the mile-run Monday. "Rusty" was unable to post a good time in the 100-yard dash and he is too far back to be a serious challenger for the Superstar title. Duane Cunningham took first place in the 100-yard dash, but he is not among the total points leaders. Draehn finished second with a 10.5. Ken Wood, an independent, stepped in third with 10.9. The high times in the 100 were partly contributed to the fact the runners did not use starting blocks. Nathanson takes a large lead into the final event, but a poor showing could leave him behind when the final totals are counted.



Superstars...

In the final stretch of the mile-run of the Superstars competition, from left to right, Roy Lewis, Larry Draehn, and "Rusty" Kiefer fight for position. Kiefer

was the eventual winner of the event. (Photo by Karen Thom)