

Merle Mays displays four sled dogs to be displayed Friday. At the left are two Siberian huskies. A pair of samoyeds are shown at the right. The exhibit is at Western Federal Savings.
—Photo for The Rocky Mountain News by Bob Machinski

8 Sled Dogs Featured as Exhibit Ends

The "Purebred Dogs From Around the World" exhibit ends its 2-week run Friday with a special program featuring eight lively sled dogs.

The free exhibit will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the main floor lobby of Western Federal Savings, 17th and California sts. It is sponsored by The Rocky Mountain News and Western Federal Savings.

The eight dogs will be in teams, or braces, of two. A pair of Samoyeds are owned by Merle Mays of Arvada. Dick Riefenberg of Idledale owns a pair of Alaskan malemutes.

A pair of huge St. Bernards will be displayed by Dick Johnson, while the Siberian huskies belong to Terry Barnhart and John Verbeek both of Lookout Mountain.

The dog owners are members of

Hardy Sled Dogs Supplied Vital Link

By EDNA TRAVINEK
Rocky Mountain News Dog Columnist

The land of the midnight Sun is also the harshly wondrous land of the sled dog, indeed a courageous creature who broke trails for Eskimos, pioneers and explorers alike.

Without the sled dogs, men like Peary, Amundsen, Nansen, Scott and Admiral Byrd could never have reached the poles.

The sled dog was the vital link between life and death in hauling food, supplies and equipment and, in more remote areas, he still is when weather conditions prevent the use of aircraft.

One of the most famous of Siberian huskies was named Balto and a bronze statute of him stands in Central Park, New York. Under the figure is a bas-relief of the 7-dog team with Balto as the lead dog.

The inscription reads: "Dedicated to the spirit of the sled dogs that relayed antitoxin over 600 miles of rough ice, across teacherous waters, through Arctic blizzards, from Nenana to the relief of diphtheria-stricken Nome in the winter of 1925."

For explorations, the Alaskan malemute was the choice of Adm. Richard E. Byrd for hauling supplies for the southern polar expedition. Nansen and Scott chose the samoyeds for hauling provisions in their polar expeditions.

Although not known as a sled dog, the St. Bernard has shared