

# Chilkat Dancers to perform

The internationally known Chilkat Indian Dancers are an exciting featured dance group in this year's Fur Rendezvous Show at West High School Feb. 19, 20 and 21.

Colorful headdresses of the various Tlingit clans are part of the costuming and include wood carvings inlaid with mother of pearl, abalone and other bright shells. Ermine and sea lion whiskers add to the exotic headgear. Deer hooves strung together along with shells adorn the dancers leggings and make a rhythmic sound as the team dancers act out ages-old stories passed down through generations.

One of the most popular dances features one dancer dressed as a giant bear in an actual bear skin complete with claws and a symbolic wood carved bear mask with shell teeth. Carl Heinmiller, who

organized the team many years ago, will emcee the dances along with his son, Lee. "Traditional Native Alaskan dancing is a great way to educate our young ones, and new Alaskans. It's also a way of keeping Alaska's great heritage alive," Heinmiller said.

The group will be a part of a cast of more than 60 which will assemble from all parts of the state for the shows.

Others performing include the Northern Lights Eskimo Dancers and Eskimo Olympic performer Reggie Joule from Kotzebue, New Archangel Russian Dancers from Sitka, Anchorage's Midnight Sons, Can Can Dancers from Alaska Contemporary Dance Co., Miss Alaska Laura Trollan, and emcee Larry Beck. Tickets and information may be obtained by calling 278-2664 or Tickets Inc.



Founded in 1962 by HOWARD ROCK