

# Pageant Judge Jim Thomas Performs Job

Jim Thomas completed a most pleasant duty last week after judging the Miss Dillingham Pageant during the Beaver Round-up Activities.

Thomas discusses the pageant work rather casually now days as he has judged many pageants over the years from Miss Juneau to Miss Nome.

"I work with the Miss Alaska Scholarship Pageant Association because it is a part of the Miss America program," Thomas explained.

"These are not beauty pageants, but competition which produces young ladies who are judged by their total personality, with great emphasis on talent and the ability to meet the public."

Local pageants of the Miss Alaska Scholarship Pageants Association take place all over Alaska each year, with young ladies selected to represent their communities at the Miss Alaska Pageant held in Anchorage usually in February.

This year, the Miss Alaska Pageant will take place on the 25th, 26th and 27th of March with a Miss Alaska Ball on Saturday the 28th.

Coming from the small community of Yakutat on the Gulf Coast, Thomas has chalked up much experience to make him a capable and effective judge at their pageants. In 1962 at Evanston, Illinois, he was named as one of the top ten Collegiate Orators in the country.

He is also accomplished in music, having been a concert baritone with a list of concerts from



**MISS DILLINGHAM**—Miss Gloria Thorson was crowned Miss Dillingham at the Miss Dillingham Scholarship Banquet held in that town on March 14.

Puerto Rico to Alaska.

In Alaska, he has been the Public Relations Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, former Radio station manager of KLAM in Cordova, and former president of the Cordova Chamber of Commerce.

When asked why he chose to donate his time to these pageants, he explained:

"It's always a pleasure to see the young ladies of Alaska, particularly those in remote areas, develop their total personalities as a result of these pageants.

"From shy little girls come the lovely young ladies at the State Pageant who walk with grace in high heels, who demonstrate grace and poise in Evening gown and Swim Suit competitions, and above all, who pleasantly surprise Alaskans with their ability to perform so excellently their talents before hundreds of people in Anchorage."

Asked if he expects to continue judging pageants, Thomas concluded most interestingly:

"Very much so, my aim is to one day judge other State Pageants and maybe someday, when I'm nearing the sixties I'll be able to judge Miss America—and possibly by that time I'll also have some other titles behind my name—like Governor?"