

Youth Alternatives getting ready for Arctic Survival trip

By Judy Balangue

Well, as March rolls around it has found Youth Alternatives busy at work getting prepared for an Arctic Survival Trip. That is, if old man weather will let up enough so we can get out to the campsite. Seems every time we try to go the weather decides to foul up again.

We had our first Games Night February 24, and the kids really enjoyed it. Nine of the youth participated in such lively activities as an "Ice Cream Eat-off" and a "Jello eating contest." Our new Youth Counselor, Jim Martin, showed the youths some "hand is quicker than the eye" tricks with quarters and then showed everyone how the tricks were

done. Seems the youths had some tricks to show him too!

Although some people seemed to be a little shy, the jello eating contest went off pretty good. A little messy, but fun. We also had a dart throwing game. We attached 30 balloons to a cork board, 17 of which had little pieces of paper inside with prizes written on them. Everybody got three chances at getting a prize by breaking the balloon with a dart.

Some of the prizes were for "a free dental experience," "1 free ride out to the Gas Well Road," "1 ride to the Fresh Water Lake," "1 bottle

of orange juice from Stuaq-pak," "a snow machine ride," "a sled ride" and so on. All in all it went very well with Clayton Sanders and Jim Martin leading the show.

Our Arctic Survival Teacher, Sam Leavitt, took two of the youths out to the Fresh Water Lake and taught them how to cut ice. Although everyone was a little damp when it was over, the Senior Citizens Program benefited by getting the 12 pieces of ice that they cut. This is something we would like to continue as long as the ice lasts.

Sam will be doing some more 1-day activities such as teach-

ing the youths something about reading the wind and snow signs, how to build an emergency shelter or igloo, and we would like to take the youths out on 1-day or overnight ski-doo trips.

The youths have started their Spring Break from school for one week. So happiness is in the air again, if only for a little while.

The Barrow Whalers are back from their Southern Tournaments. We are all proud of the Whalers. Congratulations go to Robert Panigeo and Curtis Hopson, who made the all-star team and also received awards for Good Sportsmanship.

