

FNA Potlatch This Saturday--

Native Foods of All Kinds in Menu Once Again

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

Honoring the North American Dog Races, the Fairbanks Native Association will host its annual potlatch at the Lathrop High School Cafeteria this Saturday, March 18, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Native games and dances follow at 8:00 p.m.

Drawing visitors from all parts of the state, from Barrow, Arctic Village, Bethel, and many of the interior villages, this event has become an established communi-

ty tradition.

Ralph Perdue, founder and past president of FNA, started the potlatch several years back as a place for visitors from the outlying villages to gather during the races, to talk and to share food, dance, songs, and friendships.

The potlatch, like the Association itself, grew from a small intimate gathering of a few people into a major event with guests numbering over 2500.

John Bergamaschi and Robert

Charlie, Co-Chairmen for this year's potlatch plan a variety of events. There will be Indian and Eskimo dance groups from Minto, Nenana, Barrow, Ft. Yukon, the Klingit Haida, and from Fairbanks.

Entertainment will also feature the blanket-toss and the highkick. A drawing will be held at the potlatch, the prize of which is an expense-paid round trip for two from Fairbanks to Mexico City.

Highlighting the evening's ac-

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Annual Potlatch...

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tivities will be the selection of the new Miss Fairbanks Native Association, who is chosen not only for her beauty but also for knowledge of her culture. All contestants must appear in full costume, the costume being an integral part of the competition.

Candidates for this year's title are Clara Andre of Kaltag, Josephine Johnson of Nulato, Donna Demoski of Galena, Mable Esknaika of Nulato, Janice Joseph of Fairbanks, and Barbara Albert.

In the tradition of sharing, foods from all over the state will be served; muktuk from Barrow, reindeer meat from Nome, whitefish from Rampart, moose from Galena.

King salmon and salmon strips will be plentiful. Other delicacies include beaver and beaver tail, she, humpies, caribou, sheep, and wild berries made into the legendary Indian and Eskimo ice cream.

It was also announced that Sam White will prepare his "famous pot of beans". For the village guests, ham, chicken, and other foods will also be served.

Donations of food are still needed and contributors may contact Chairman John Bergamaschi, 452-2653; for fish Marie

Taylor and Carol Gregg, 479-2741; for desserts Betty Ingles, 479-6842; for breads Mary McLean, 456-6326; for salads Darlene Billings; and for casseroles Ellen Line.

Native arts and crafts will be on exhibit and for sale throughout the evening: masks, dolls, willow baskets, mukluks, yarn work, bead work, and drawings, representing artists from many regions.

Admission to the potlatch is by a donation of \$4.00, the proceeds of which support many of FNA's projects from scholarships to youth programs, two kidney machines, the Boarding Home Program, hospital fund, and native language courses. The potlatch is open to the public but no one under fourteen will be admitted due to space.

Tickets are available at the Borealis Book Store, Jean's Fabric, Northward Barber Shop, Perdues, B & N Grocery, Fairbanks Native Center and from any FNA member.

As honored guests, all dog mushers are admitted free. The dogs? Unfortunately, they have to wait outside, just as in the old days.