

Walrus Carnival

Soon at Savoonga

The main diet of the people of St. Lawrence Island is the meat of the walrus. The people of the island are concentrated in two main villages, Gambell and Savoonga.

To commemorate the main subsistence item, the people of Savoonga under the leadership of its village council president, Jerry Wongittilin, has started within the last few years a celebration called The Walrus Carnival.

The unique event will be held this year on April 27-28.

VISTA Volunteer, Linda Schneider, writing from Savoonga said:

"Village council president Jerry Wongittilin said that the village council will build an oldtime Eskimo summer house of walrus hide which will house a display of artifacts and Eskimo hunting gear."

The Savoonga Fun Club is

making preparations to serve hot lunches to the expected visitors from Nome and elsewhere.

"Special events at this year's Carnival," writes Miss Schneider, "include skinboat rides in search of walrus, seal hook contests, snowshoe races, Eskimo blanket toss, dogteam races, Eskimo Story Dance, with interpretation in English, demonstration walrus hunts, etc."

Overnight accommodations will be available "for visitors who bring their own sleeping bags and free parking space will be provided for those who come in private planes."

Wien Air Alaska will make charter arrangements for interested people who wished to attend the Carnival.

The general admission ticket for all events is \$5.00 and may be purchased at Wien Air office at Nome or other offices, or at the village council office at Savoonga.