

Despite Wind and Cold—

Northern Games Progressed Enjoyably

By LOIS KEATING
 INUVIK, N.W.T. — July 26, 1974 — Despite the wind and the cold, I think I can safely say that most of the participants at Northern Games 1974 (July 19-22) thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

And Tuktoyaktuk never saw anything like it before. The sand-spit between the school and the ball field was turned into a campground, and the campers slept (or stayed awake, as the case may be) to the sound of the roaring Arctic Ocean only a few feet away.

Anyone trying to go by the schedule would have been totally frustrated, as everything happened by "Native time," which means whatever time seems to naturally fit the occasion.

The old-time dances and drum dances carried on way into the early morning. In fact, one of them didn't even get started until almost 4 a.m.! However, the daytime events didn't begin until some time in the afternoon, so it was possible to get a little sleep in between, if you really wanted to.

When it got too chilly to just stand around and watch the activities out at the ball field, where most of the outdoor events took place, you could sneak away for a few minutes to warm yourself by one of the many campfires surrounding the site.

And if you were lucky, you could even get a cup of hot tea. The concession booth sold fresh muktuk, dry fish and dry meat, chips, pop, and — alas — cold hot dogs.

The gym of the Mangilaluk School was jammed for all of the indoor events, and once a center space was cleared, the rest of the auditorium was filled with wall-to-wall people.

Two groups almost didn't get there. One was the Central Arctic participants from Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay — because of weather and other complications they arrived after midnight on Friday.

We had just about given up hope of seeing the Fairbanks group which, until the last minute, had been an on-again-off again proposition, when they suddenly appeared without warning about 5:30 a.m. Saturday morning, thoroughly exhausted from their long struggle to get an aircraft to bring them over, but very, very glad to finally be at Tuk.

Many of the hoped-for athletes were unable to make the trip, but we were happy to have the Interior Eskimo Dance Group of Fairbanks, which contributed much to the success of the Games.

It was good to see Guy Okakok again (the Tundra Times correspondent) and the rest of the Fairbanks group, which included Edith Tegoseak, Eva Heffle, Fanny Okakok, Mabel Pedersen, Arctic John, Esther John, Gene Numnik, Mary Darling and Jerry Woods.

All in all, there were 18 communities officially represented—14 from the western and central Northwest Territories, three from the Yukon and one from Alaska.

One of the most popular events was the Good Woman contest, and here are the results of the various categories:

In Muskrat Skinning, which was judged by the cleanest job and the fastest time, Mary Kendi of Aklavik was first with 54 seconds, followed by Rosie Stewart of Aklavik at 1 min. 5 sec. and Kathleen Hansen, also of Aklavik, at 1 min. 16 seconds.

There were three groups in the Tea Boiling contest. Winner of

the first group was Annie B. Robert of Fort McPherson, with Betty Cockney of Tuk, second, and Effie Thomas of Fort McPherson, third.

In the second group, Neil Colin of Fort McPherson was first, Cora Kimiksana of Tuk, second, and Alice Anablok of Coppermine was third. In the third group, Elizabeth Greenland of Inuvik was first, Christine Kudluk of Paulatuk was second, and Rosie Stewart of Aklavik was third.

In the Duck Plucking contest, Cora Kimiksana of Tuktoyaktuk was first, with 14 minutes and 15 seconds; Olga Ruben of Paulatuk was second, with 16 mins. 37 secs; and Christine Kudluk of Paulatuk was third, with 29 mins and 25 sec.

In the Fish Cutting contest, Alice Anablok of Coppermine was first with 35 seconds, Edith Haogak of Sachs Harbour was second, with 38 seconds, and Jeannie Analik of Coppermine was third, with 40 seconds.

In the Seal Skinning contest, which was judged on the cleanest skin, with time being secondary, Christine Kudluk of Paulatuk was first; Alice Aviogana of Coppermine was second; and Alice Anablok of Coppermine was third.

The best-tasting Bannock was made by Kathleen Hansen from Aklavik. Edna Elias of Coppermine had the fastest time, in 6 mins. 10 secs., and her bannock came in third in the best-tasting category.

In the Good Woman costume contest, the first prize was won by Margaret Havioyak of Coppermine; second by Mary Firth of Fort McPherson; and third, by Kathy Darbyshire of Whitehorse.

The Over-all Good Woman for 1974, chosen on the basis of her participation in the Good Woman events, as well as on her placings on the separate events, was Alice Anablok from Coppermine.

The dance awards were judged on the basis of originality, singing, costume and style. First place in Indian Dancing went to the Skookum Jim Dancers of Whitehorse.

This group of young people, ages 4-14, won a warm response from the audience whenever they appeared. Another group which did not win an award, but should be mentioned, is the Tlingit Dance Group from Teslin, Yukon. This group under the direction of Chief Sam Johnston has revived some of the old coastal Indian dances and their costumes are reproductions of those worn long ago.

In the Eskimo Dancing, the award for single dancing went to Patrick Qaqqutaq of Pelly Bay — and the group award went to our own Mackenzie Delta Drummers and Dancers.

In the Fiddling contest, the winner was David Ruben of Paulatuk. Second prize went to Tapwe Chretien of Yellowknife and third went to Noah Akhiatik of Holman Island.

In the Jigging contest, the competition went on for over two hours, and it must have been an exceedingly difficult contest to judge. The winners were Emmanuel Felix and Lily Gruben from Tuk; second place went to David Lucas and Rita Allen; and third to Alex and Elizabeth Greenland of Inuvik.

In the Blanket Toss, first in the Children's category was Darlene Cockney of Tuk. In the girls' contest, Laverna Komeak of Tuk was first and for the boys, it was Jerry Cockney, also of Tuk. In the Women's category Jennifer Rigby of Inuvik won first place. And unfortunately,

there wasn't enough time for a men's competition.

The canoe races were postponed for many hours because of the wind, but were finally held, with eight people to each

canoe, community vs. community. The Inuvik teams won first in both the men's and women's races.

And in the Tug-of-War, the men from the Central Arctic

won first place in their category. And for the women, Paulatuk placed first.

(Next Week: More Contests)

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RICHARD C. "DICKIE" CARROLL

(Paid for by Richard Carroll, Box 118, Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740)