

# FNA ANNUAL POTLATCH GREATEST EVER



**YOUNG DANCERS CONFER**— Two of the younger members of the Titus family of Minto, already having performed with the Minto Dancers, appear eager to discuss the performance of the Barrow Eskimo dancers. The youngsters later responded to an invitation to dance from the

Barrowites and gave a try to the Eskimo style of dancing. Although most of the dance groups consisted of members of the older generation, the Minto and Nenana dancers, as well as the group from St. Mary's, had several young dancers.

**POTLATCH WELCOME DANCE**— At the beginning of the entertainment for the Fairbanks Native Association Potlatch last Saturday, three different dance teams are performing a welcome dance for the audience. Dancers from Juneau, southeastern Alaska, to Barrow, Top o' the World, and interior Alaska performed at the potlatch. Young Eskimo dancers from St. Mary's were particularly impressive to many people.

*(Photos by Thomas Richards, Jr.)*

## Record Crowd, Eats, Fun at FNA Potlatch

The honored guest of the evening sampled caribou, moose, salmon, and sheep. Governor Keith Miller was one of 3500 persons who were in attendance for the Fairbanks Native Association's Annual Potlatch.

The Governor was not the only one to travel a distance for the event, held March 22 at Lathrop High School. There were Tlingits from Southeastern Alaska, as well as Eskimos from Barrow, and Alaskan natives from virtually every locale between.

Featured at the native fest were such relished dishes as beaver tail and muktuk, and for non-native stomachs, there were non-native foods. Yet, most non-natives did bravely sample the delicacies, and were pleasantly surprised.

Following the dinner, potlatch participants were treated with native dances from six dance groups. The Minto dancers got the evening off to a lively start.

They were followed by the dance group from Nenana, which featured some of the younger

members of the Lord family. Then the Mark Trail Tlingit Dancers from Juneau took the floor, welcoming the spectators with their Canoe Dance.

One of the most interesting dances was performed by the St. Mary's Eskimo Dancers. They blended the old with some of the new, incorporating the two step with a traditional dance.

"We saved the best for last," Master of Ceremonies Ralph Perdue said as he introduced the Barrow Eskimos. The Barrow people were one of the most well received groups. They invited the audience to participate, and over one hundred persons accepted the invitation. Among them was Governor Miller who performed admirably, following the instructions given by Tom Brower of the Barrow Eskimo group.

FNA President Gerald Ivey declared the event a success. "We had enough food," he said. "The only problem was the wait in line. The longest was about 20 minutes. We hope to eliminate that next year."