



**POINT HOPE DANCERS**—Breaking something of a tradition, Point Hope dancers are slated to perform some of the very ancient traditional dances at the Patty Auditorium on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. performing their part of the University of Alaska Festival of Arts. "We'll do what we can with the few people we have," said David Frankson. Some of the dances require more than

seven people that will be performing. Some of the dances are seen only around the Christmas holiday season each year. From left to right: Chris Tingook, Patrick Attungana, Eva Attungana, Dinah Frankson, David Frankson, Mrs. Irene Tooyak, and Jimmy Killiguvuk, the dance leader.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

## Point Hope Group to Perform Ancient Dances

For the first time in the history of the State of Alaska, the ancient traditional dances of the Pt. Hope Eskimos will be performed publicly outside of the Point Hope Village.

The presentation is to be held at the University of Alaska's Patty Gymnasium on Tuesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. The event is in conjunction with the University's Festival of Arts.

The dances to be performed are two types. The first are the Otookuk dances, meaning the

old or traditional dances. These dances are truly authentic in

that they are passed from genera-

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# Dancers . . .

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tion to generation without changing even the smallest detail.

Previously, these dances were performed only once every year, on New Year's Eve in Point Hope. The first photographs ever permitted of the dances were taken in 1965 by the Tundra Times.

The Point Hope group will also do a second type of dance termed the Saiyuk or motion dance. Among these are newly created dances.

The dancers travelling to Fairbanks from Point Hope for the presentation include Jimmy Killigvuk, famed whaler and dance leader. Other dancers who arrived on Wednesday are Patrick Attungana and his wife, Eva, David and Dinah Frankson, Mrs. Irene Tooyuk, and Christopher Tingook.

The group hopes to join with other Point Hope Eskimos so that they will have enough team members to perform some of the traditional dances.

One of the dances in the traditional category is Enangejies Chouploose, meaning the "Spirit of the Dance" which is done as a prelude or introduction to the other dances.

Another Otookuk dance is the Choyaqluga or "Marionette Dance." The dance involves an almost life size doll which is manipulated expertly with strings. The figure keeps time to the drums, opening and closing its mouth to the chants.

The marionette unsuccessfully reaches for a morsel dangled in front of it throughout the dance although, in the end, it grabs the enticing ball.

Also in the traditional category is the Ooyalu, the dance of the rejected suiters. It tells the story of a woman who rejected all suiters. She rejected men, one by one, until she was taken by a monster as punishment for her behavior.

In publicly performing these dances, the Point Hope group will be skirting ancient tradition. The event will be a rare opportunity to view what is often considered the most truly authentic Alaskan native dancing groups.