

# Times' Reporter Tom Richards, Jr. Chosen Olympics Chairman

The 1969 World Eskimo Olympics acquired a new chairman this week in the person of Thomas Richards, Jr., a talented and young reporter-photographer for the Tundra Times.

Richards wasted no time in getting a list of names for his as yet tentative Eskimo Olympics committee.

"You want to be a member of the committee?" he asked his boss Howard Rock, editor of the

Tundra Times. "They said you were a committee member last year."

The young man paused a moment and added: "I think I'll try to get my dad on the committee also."

The prospective committee lists as follows:

Guy Elliott, last year's Olympics chairman; Dorothy Perdue, Georgianna Lincoln, Wally Olson, Olive Anderson, Peggy Anderson,

Thomas Richards, Sr., Laura Bergt, and Howard Rock.

Richards said that the Seward Hall, the gold domed structure at the Alaskaland, has been reserved by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce to stage this year's Olympics.

The dome was used last year. It can seat about 1,500. A large stage was built on the floor portion of the large circular building. Portable chairs were used to seat the audience.

Chairman Richards said he will be inviting performers for the Olympics in the very near future. These will include Barrow Eskimo dancers, some Indian dancers and other performers or contestants.

"It looks as if we will have to operate on a rather low budget," Tom Richards disclosed. "We will not be able to offer transportation but we will provide lodging and meals for those who come to perform."

Richards said he was interested in inviting the MacKenzie Drum Dancers from Inuvik, N.W.T. along with some con-

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# *Olym. Chairman*

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testants and a Olympics queen entry. The Drum Dancers have lent international flavor and color for the past two years of the Olympics performances.

The current reigning 1968 World Eskimo Olympics queen, lovely Audrey Ambrose of Huslia, formerly of Galena, will be handing over her crown to her successor during the waning hours of this year's Olympics.

The queen contestants and the localities where they will come from are not yet known but this will be publicized at a later date.

The dates of the Olympics have been set for August 8-9.

"There is something that has been puzzling me lately," Tom Richards, Jr. reflected.

The young reporter was sent to Point Hope by his editor and his father, Tom Richards, Sr., to cover the traditional whale hunting celebration that took place last week.

"While I was there, an old Eskimo lady about 70 years old told me that I was going to be in charge of the Olympics. Another old lady also told me the same thing. When I got back, I found out that my name had been mentioned. How did they know? How did they find out?" Richards wondered.