

Galena Spring Carnival—

Preserve Old Games

On April 5, 6 and 7 Galena held its Annual Spring Carnival. The basic theme of the carnival this year was the perpetuation of the old Indian sports.

With the onslaught of civilization, many of the old Indian ways are being changed or forgotten. The people of Galena are trying their best to prevent this from happening.

The highlight of the carnival was a 5-mile Men's Cross-Country Snowshoe Race. New to the event, it is perhaps one of the most grueling contests in Alaska.

Years ago trappers would tend their traplines on snowshoes, and this race was a test of their endurance. Younger boys and men in the villages would train for months to compete.

Each family would be represented by their most accomplished snowshoer.

Nowadays snowshoes are rarely a part of everyday life, so the race is all the more difficult. In spite of this, 13 of the 14 entrants finished the entire five miles.

The top honors were taken by Howard Albert of Ruby, William Solomon of Kaltag and Billy Demoski of Galena, respectively.

The ladies also had a chance to show off their snowshoe prowess in a one-mile race on the river. First place winner was Marilyn Demoski of Koyukuk, while second and third places went to Joyce Pitka and Betty Huntington, both of Galena.

Another big attraction was the Men's Dog Sled Race. It was a two-day, 16-mile event with

prizes for first heat, second heat, and total time. Mushers entered from all the surrounding villages.

The Best Total Time Winner was John Folger of Tanana. Second was Leonard Kriska of Last Chance, third was Kenny Sam of Huslia and Emmitt Peters of Ruby was fourth.

Not to be outdone, the women had an exciting 8-mile dog race, in which Ann Green of Galena and Fairbanks proved to be the best woman musher this year. Second place went to Eleanor Yatlin of Huslia and Galena, third place to Dee Dee McCarty of Ruby, and fourth to Lois Huntington of Tanana.

One of the concessions to modernization was a series of snow mobile races, including Men's and Women's Speed Races, and the main event a 100-mile Cross-Country Race.

Four classes of snow machines competed in the ten 10-mile laps. The over-all winner with best time was Gary Williams of Galena, with an average speed of 58 miles per hour over the tough course.

Two weeks earlier the young people had their own carnival with much the same events as the senior carnival.

The great turnout for the junior carnival showed that the young people are just as concerned with preserving many of the old ways as the adults are.