

# OLYMPICS HEAD CHOSEN

## Charming Laura Bergt to Guide 1966 Fabulous Eskimo Games

A charming Eskimo lady has been picked to head the fabulous Eskimo Olympics that have thrilled thousands of spectators during a 3-day

### *Feature Story Will Replace Lost Data*

During the rush of things for the contents of this week's paper, the data on Flore Lekanof, the newly appointed coordinator for the Office of the Economic Opportunity program for the Fairbanks area, disappeared—and Flore is now in Juneau for a series of meetings.

In order to rectify the delay of the story of the new coordinator, we will gather new data and write a feature story for publication in the near future.

performance in conjunction with the great Golden Days celebration in Fairbanks in July.

Mrs. Laura May Bergt, who was born in Candle but who now resides in Fairbanks, was appointed by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. Last week, Laura was asked by the Chamber President Dave Galloway whether she would be interested in taking the job.

"I was surprised to be asked because it will take a lot of work and it will require a lot of organizational ability," Laura said. "Along with the people who will help me, we will try to put on the best one ever."

#### ESKIMO OLYMPICS

The Eskimo Olympics was started in July of 1961 with good success but each succeeding year it has grown in

stature with improved quality of performers from the outlying villages as well as from local Eskimo communities.

"Each year, the Olympics has improved and it is getting more dramatic," Laura continued. "I would like to see this next one better than last year and even better and more dramatic in the Centennial year."

Annually since 1961, Eskimo performers are flown to Fairbanks by Wien Air Alaska that are comprised of dancers, hi-kickers, seal hook throwers, seal skimmers, the famous Nalukatuk or blanket toss, mother and baby parka back demonstration, the charming Native beauty pageant, and other events.

Laura Bergt stressed that the program was important to keep the Eskimo culture per-

(Continued on Page 8)



*Mrs. Laura M. Bergt*

# Laura Bergt . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

petuating by the Native people who perform authentic and traditional cultural facets of the Arctic way of life.

"I would like to see the people in villages make suggestions to us and to the Chamber of Commerce here," Laura said. "In that way, perhaps we can add some interesting new events for the next Eskimo Olympics."

Laura herself is an exceptional Eskimo Olympics performer and has rated high in the Nalukatuq event. She has been the Arctic Circle blanket tossing champion at Kotzebue.

Some years ago, she was featured on the Lowell Thomas "High Adventure" series. She was also featured on the Ed Sullivan show.

In 1959, her picture appeared on the cover of Holiday magazine.

"As a result of that picture, I heard from people all over the world," Laura said.

Laura is married to Neil Bergt, a partner in Interior Airways here. She and Neil have four children. She is 25 years old. She is active in the Young Republican Party of the state and is a national committeewoman for that group.

She is the daughter of Frederica Beltz of Kotzebue. Her father, Bert, died a few years ago. She is also the niece of the late and famous Alaska state senator, William E. Beltz.

Laura may be contacted at the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, 550 1st Avenue, Fairbanks, or at her home at 1210 Wilbur Street, Fairbanks.

When asked what she thought of the appointment to be chairman of the Eskimo Olympics, Laura said:

"It's quite an honor, of course, and it will be interesting as well as challenging."