

Highlight of Northern Games

By LOIS KEATING

The athletic events are always a highlight of Northern Games. The one-foot high kick was won by Steve Cockney of Tuk, with 8' 1½". The two-foot high kick was won by Charles Komeak of Tuk, at 7'. And the Alaskan High kick was won by Ernie Bernhardt of Spence Bay at 6' 1".

The Ear Weight contest was won by Roger Lucas of Sachs Harbour, carrying 20 lbs. It was his first try at this contest. In the Kneel and Jump, Ernie Bernhardt of Spence Bay won with a distance of 31 inches. The Knuckle Hop was won by Peter Norberg of Tuk with a distance of 30 feet. Peter also won the One Hand Reach, at 4' 8".

In the Traditional Life Skill contests, the Bow and Arrow event, which was included for the first time at Northern Games, was won by Edgar Kotokuk of Tuk. Winner in the Harpoon Throw was Luke Nuleiyak of Gjoa Haven.

One hundred and thirty pieces were entered in the Handicraft contest, and again, this must have been very difficult for the judges, as there was much beautiful work displayed. The first prize for Purses went to Agnes Blake of Fort McPherson, who also won in the Slippers and Mukluks category. Mary Kassi of Old Crow came in first for Beading. Christine Felix of Tuk won first in Garment Sewing; and for a Garment Piece, Alice Agnaoyak of Paulatuk won first place. Lena Wolki of Sachs Harbour won first place for a Wall Hanging and also placed first for a Fur Sculpture. Mary Gruben of Paulatuk won first for Parkas and Vests; and Nellie Kanoyak of Coppermine won first in the category for Mitts. Four Artistic Talent Special Awards were given for submissions in other than the above categories. They were given to Jimmy Jacobson of Tuk; Margaret Len-

nie of Tuk; Nellie Kanogak of Coppermine and Sarah Kuptana of Sachs Harbour.

A lot of new friends were made at Northern Games – and there was also the chance to renew old acquaintances and to visit with relatives. Tuk is a friendly community, and the residents tried very hard to make the visitors welcome.

Most of the people who take part in the Games – and those who just come to watch – never even begin to realize just how much work is involved to make such an event a reality.

It takes a lot of work to organize Games like this – it is begun months in advance – and keeps building up right to the last minute of the Games itself – and doesn't end until the last participants is safely home again, the area is cleaned, and all the loose ends are cleared up.

Special thanks go to the Games committee at Tuk, and Charles Komeak, chairman, who worked very hard to get things ready for the participants. And to Caroline Kikoak and Naudia Lennie and the other girls who kept the office open, sometimes at very inconvenient times. Also thanks to Eddie and Bobby Gruben, Frank Cockney and Mark Noksana. And then there were the coordinators from Inuvik; Nellie Cournoyea, Doug Dittrich, Billy Day and Edward Lennie. And also Jenifer Rigby, Donna Sealy, Doug Pimlott, Marilyn Mercer, and Wallace King, Jr. And many, many others who worked very hard to help with whatever needed to be done. Many thank to all of you.