



ESKIMO OLYMPICS QUEEN—Miss Leora Kenick, Miss Arctic Native Brotherhood, Nome, was crowned Miss Eskimo Olympics Queen of 1967 during August 9–12 performance of the annual native celebration.

Miss Sharon Olin was runner-up and Alice Foster of Kotzebue was second runner-up. Left to right, Alice Foster, Queen Leora, and Sharon Olin.



Leora Unfolds Poignant Story About Her Parka

A poignant story unfolded just after Leora Kenick was crowned Miss Eskimo Olympics of 1967. Leora did not expect to be chosen queen on the evening of August 11. During the interview in front of the audience, she made a few remarks and smiled as did 16 other queen contestants.

When John Teal of the University of Alaska, who was chairman of the queen contest judges, called Miss Kenick's name, the 19-year-old Nome girl wavered perceptively as if she was about to faint. She, however, regained her composure soon after amid tears of happiness.

The editor of this newspaper asked Leora a few questions after she was crowned.

How did she feel about being crowned queen?

"I just can't believe it. I'm very happy."

Your parka looks very nice. Is it yours or did someone loan it to you?

"Yes, it's mine. You see, this was mother's parka. I don't remember my mother. She passed away when I was three years old. Before she died, she told father to keep it for me. I started to wear it when I was around eleven or twelve years old. It's almost too small for me now. It's getting old and it's starting to get worn down."

Here, Leora showed her interviewer the worn parts on her squirrel skin parka. Some of the hair had worn off at the sleeves.

What did you think when you competed for the queen? Did you think of your mother?

Leora hesitated for long moments. She smiled but there was a cast of sadness in her smile.

"Yes—I thought of mother several times."

