

Galena Farmer's Market is a successful event

By BETSY HART

Galena Correspondent

GALENA — Galena's first Farmer's Market attracted about 50 people from the villages who came to look at, sample, buy and trade vegetables grown in private gardens and on those plots provided by the University of Alaska's experimental agriculture program in Galena.

Almost every kind of vegetable was displayed except corn, cucumbers and squash, which the exhibitors said were almost too precious to be taken out of the house, and had been eaten immediately.

Blue ribbon prizes for best vegetables were awarded to Charlene Strassberg for Best Head Lettuce, to John and Darlene Billings for Best Onions, to Angela Quirk for Best Head Lettuce, to Betsy Hart for Best Peas and Best Beans, and to Danny and Margaret Patrick for Best Cabbage, Best Carrots, Best Broccoli, Best Cauliflower, and Best Flowers.

The Patricks' artistically arranged display, surrounded by home-grown flowers, made them look as though they had been veteran prize-winners of many a country fair, but Margaret Patrick admitted this was the first time they had ever displayed their produce in public.

Max and Bev Huhndorf donated a pet rabbit in a cage, which was eagerly taken away by kindergarten teacher Jeanie Olsen. Nancy Schave, Galena school principal, gave away a free watermelon, and Nancy Schupp donated three bright purple Coleus plants.

Village children sampled fresh snap beans and just-shelled peas, many for the first time in their lives, and apparently liked the taste, for one exhibitor turned around to find her display of



GRAND PRIZE WINNERS Margaret and Danny Patrick display winning vegetables and flowers at the First Galena Farmer's Market. —BETSY HART Photo



LADIES SAMPLE FRESH BEANS at the Farmer's Market. From left, are Dorothy Hertlein, Albertha Pitka and Doris Paul. —BETSY HART Photo



ADMIRING THE PET RABBIT at the Farmer's Market are, left to right, Joshua Peters, Jeanie Olsen, Annie Olsen, Christine Johnson and Annie Burset. The rabbit was donated by Max and Bev Huhndorf. —BETSY HART Photo

peas whittled down to the three worst pods, and a pack of children looking up at her, saying, "Those tasted just like candy!"

People said they wanted to see a Yukon River Harvest Fair for next year, and possibly a

Farmer's Market every week once the gardens start to produce.

This first Farmer's Market was sponsored by the University of Alaska's Galena Regional Learning Center and by the Snowshoe Messenger.