

Barrow Spring Festival full of fun and games

By Hjordis Lomborg-Parkinson

Friday, April 15 was a day with lovely sunshine, but far too much wind. The arrangers of the Spring Festival, the Barrow Chamber of Commerce, had to start the day by cancelling the hot air balloon that was scheduled to come up from Anchorage.

The North Slope Borough celebrated Spring by giving all employees half a day off. And sure enough, about 12:05 all the fire engines in town blew their sirens as the parade began. Floats were made by businesses in town, the junior class and many others. For the next hour you could see animals like whales and polar

bears twist and turn their way through downtown Barrow. Soon the parade had an emergency tail of cars and trucks that spontaneously had tied tinsel paper on their cars and joined in the fun at 30 below zero.

The next event took place on the ocean ice, where everything was set up for Mukluk Races for all ages. Lots and lots of mukluks ran — and a whole lot of boots too. After a couple of hours on the ice the onlookers were ready for a cup of coffee and a piece of pie at the Top of the World Hotel's restaurant.

Three o'clock brought sled dog races with one or three or more dogs. Diane and Ray

Dronenburg had brought their dogs up from Anchorage to compete with a local team owned by Abel Akpik. Lots of yapping and real excitement.

Friday night was Monte Carlo Night with games, a parka contest, and much more.

Saturday started with the Eskimo donut bake-off for breakfast, and the afternoon had cross-country ski races and snowmachine races. I was happy to see that most of the participants wore helmets, for their own sake and for ours, when they took a spill at 80 mp/hour.

The prizes varied from a whale bomb and a drum of gas to binoculars or 50 lbs. of flour or \$300 worth of grub.

There were no losers those two days — everyone was a

winner, with plenty of good fresh air and clean fun.