

Festival contract awarded

An Old-Time Athabascan Fiddlers Festival featuring at least 20 Athabascan fiddlers plus back-up musicians and a "caller" will be held in Fairbanks in November.

The Festival, the first of its kind in the state, will recognize the unique style of the Athabascan fiddlers who have blended the style of the Cajun fiddlers with the Hudson Bay fur traders who taught them, with their own Athabascan style of music, according to the Institute of Alaska Native Arts which will coordinate the festival.

IANA was awarded the con-

tract for the festival by the Alaska State Council on the Arts which is supplying the \$48,000 to pay for the festival.

Although the bid has been awarded to IANA, it must now be signed by state officials. The appropriation for the festival has been made, but there always is the chance that the state may not sign, stressed Jean Flanagan, IANA executive director.

IANA was one of four bidders on the project. One of the other bidders was the Tundra Times which came in second.

IANA will contract with well-

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Festival would bring together fiddlers

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known fiddler Bill Stevens of Fort Yukon to do prime research for and coordinate the festival.

Stevens has recorded and produced an album called "Bill Stevens — Yukon Fiddle Favorites," and has coordinated other fiddle shows in California.

He will be contacting and interviewing fiddlers from throughout the state to gather information and audio recordings of their music. This research will include information on the history and cultural significance of Athabascan fiddling.

All field research, date, recordings, tapes and transcripts will be deposited with the State Library System and copies will be made available to the Archives of the UAF.

The two-day festival will be held in November at the Eagles Hall.

Artists will come from Interior Alaska and Old Crow,

Canada. They will be selected by Stevens and the IANA staff and board members. IANA anticipates that 20 fiddlers, 10 back-up musicians, four dancers and one caller will be provided honoraria for the event.

During the event, workshops will be held for the fiddlers and back-up musicians. All events will be videotaped by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Video Center which will develop a 30-minute taped presentation from the event.

IANA was established in 1976 to provide programs and services to encourage Alaska Native artists and art forms, both traditional and contemporary.

Although the event is being paid for by the State Council, IANA director Jean Flanagan said the amount is not enough to cover the costs of the event. She said she will be seeking outside help to produce the event.

"We won't make money on

it but it was too good an opportunity to pass by," said Flanagan.

She asked that anyone who knows of Athabascan fiddlers interested in attending such an event to contact IANA at Post Office Box 80583, Fairbanks, Ak., 99708.

Fiddlers already mentioned for participation in the event are:

Edward Pitka, Galena; Berchman Esmailka Sr., Nulato; Tony Sam Sr., Huslia; Moses Henzie, Allakaket; Sanders Cleaver, Galena; Sebastian McGinty Sr., Kaltag; Moses Johnson, Fairbanks;

Harold Woods, Fairbanks; Vincent Yaska, Galena; Charlie Peter, Fairbanks; Lester Erhart, Tanana; Richard Derendoff, Huslia; Victor George Sr., Nulato; Jimmy Malemute, Galena; Walter Newman, Fairbanks;

Charlie Peter Charlie, Old Crow, Yukon Territory; William Peter, Kaltag; Cerosky Charlie, Minto; Berchman Silas, Minto; Art Frank,

Minto; Frank Gurtler, Manley Hot Springs; Sam Pitka Sr., Fairbanks.

Guitarists are: Gilbert Trimble, Arctic Village; Joslin Olin, Huslia; William Ambrose, Nulato; Tony Sam, Huslia; Louis Demoski, Galena; Billy Demoski, Galena; William Peter, Kaltag;

Raymond Stickman, Galena; William Koyukuk, Hughes; Jerry Evans, Fairbanks; Artie Joseph, Fairbanks; Charlie John, Ft. Yukon; Leo Stickman, Fairbanks; Jim Stickman, Anchorage;

Louis Sommer, Fairbanks; Johnny Evans, Fairbanks; Toddy Kozevnikoff, Tanana; Carlos Frank, Tanana; Kenneth Carie, Minto.

Singers are: Louise Demoski, Galena; Billy Demoski, Galena;

William Ambrose, Nulato; Sebastian McGinty, Kaltag; Raymond Stickman, Galena; Eddie Carlo, Galena; Jim Stickman, Anchorage; Johnny Evans, Fairbanks.

Dancers are: Angela Huntington, Galena; Emily Sam, Huslia; Harry & Rose Ambrose, Huslia; Marylene Esmailka, Kaltag; Raymond Stickman, Galena; Romeo Stickman, Nulato; Lawana Sommer, Nulato;

Hannah Solomon, Fairbanks; Mary Smith, Fairbanks; Poldine Carlo, Fairbanks; Charlie Peter Charlie, Old Crow, Y.T.; Eliza Pitka, Fairbanks.

Callers are: Ralph Nelson, Galena; Romeo Stickman, Nulato; Moses Cruikshank, Fairbanks.

Mandolin Player: Roy Folger, Tanana.

