



**WISTFUL VISTA**—Native students do the snowball dance in a special orientation program for VISTA volunteers at the University of Alaska Wednesday night. Performing this traditional Chevak dance are, left to right:

Elizabeth Bean's, St. Marys; Anna Stickman, Nulato; Cecilia Ulroan, Chevak; Martha Okitkun, Kotlik; and Martha Woods, St. Marys.

—Photo by MERV MULLINS

## ***U—A Theata Club Welcomes New VISTA Workers***

By KATIE EGOWA

The University of Alaska, beginning its training program for the VISTA organization, welcomed thirty-two Volunteers on Wednesday, April 27. As part of the welcoming ceremonies, the Theata Club presented an evening of native dancing, singing, and telling of legends.

The meeting was the initial contact of the Volunteers

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- BERNARD KATEXAC -

# Theata Club Welcomes...

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with Alaskan natives. Included in the program were two from the Chevak area, a song from Chevak, and a legend from the Athapaskan village of Cantwell.

The purpose of the meeting was to expose the Volunteers to the people with whom they will work. Bernard Katexac performed two dances and spoke the King Island dialect of the Eskimo language. Cecilia Ulroan, Elizabeth Beans, Martha Okitkun, Anna Stickman, and Martha Woods did the Snowball Dance. They also sang the Jump Rope Song, which they had made up themselves.

two dances from King Island.

At the end of the evening, one of the dancers made a comment which revealed her feelings about the meeting. "I'm very proud of our students. I wish we had more chances to do our dances for those who have never seen them. It gives me a happy feeling inside to perform our kind of music and dances."

After the program, the Volunteers and Theata members had an informal gathering. The Volunteers had an oppor-

tunity then to talk with the Native students. Typical questions were: "Where is your village? Could you teach me a dance? Could you teach me how to say 'hello,' 'thank you' in your dialect?"