

TIMES PLANS OCT. BANQUET

All Native Leaders and Dignitaries Throughout Alaska Will Be Invited

Tundra Times is laying plans to celebrate its six

years of publishing in Alaska with a banquet in October. The tentative date of the banquet has been set to take place on October 5.

The board of directors of Tundra Times discussed the upcoming event when the members met at their monthly meeting last Friday.

The chairman of the board Howard Rock, editor of Tundra Times, was asked to appoint a committee to prepare for the banquet by the members and he named the following persons to serve on the banquet committee:

Bill Demmert, chairman; Mrs. Mary Jane Fate, Mrs. Dorothy Perdue, and Mrs. Frieda Mackowiak.

Demmert will coordinate the preparation and the group will handle invitations, correspondence, procurement of a suitable and adequate location for the banquet, and other related duties.

Special invitations will be sent out to all the native leaders.

Prominent citizens of Alaska throughout the state will be invited and this will include the Congressional delegation, Gov. Walter J. Hickel, candidates for public office, and many other well known Alaskans.

Some prominent persons outside the state may be invited.

"Why don't we try to get a native conference held in Fairbanks around that time?" asked Mary Jane Fate during last Friday's meeting.

This possibility met with agreement and native leaders will be consulted to see if this might be possible.

The Times' sixth anniversary banquet will be patterned after the one it held on December 11, 1965, the third anniversary of the paper. That

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GRANT HITS FUNNYBONE—Alfred Grant, right, Tundra Times' master of ceremonies at the banquet on December 11, 1965, is hitting the funnybone of the then Governor of Alaska, William A. Egan, center, and his 1966 opponent for the governorship in the primaries, Wendell Kay, left. The two jovial public figures later conducted a sizzling running battle for the primary election which Gov. Egan eventually won.

Alfred Grant of Tanana kept the banquet audience in fits of laughter throughout the evening. Many excellent addresses were made by Gov. Egan, Kay, Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett and other prominent men and women of Alaska. Similar scenes are expected to be repeated in the October Banquet of the Tundra Times.

—TUNDRA TIMES Photo

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banquet was labeled as "The event of the year" at the time.

Around 200 people attended including the then Gov. William A. Egan, Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett and many other prominent citizens. Joe Rothstein, executive editor of the Anchorage Daily News keyed the event. Many fine addresses by private citizens and politicians were presented.

The success of the 1965 banquet was attributed to many dedicated persons who worked hard but its light-heartedness and humor throughout its progress was the work of its master of ceremonies, Alfred Grant, a full-blooded Athabascan Indian from Tanana.

Alfred Grant kept the audience in stitches all evening. Gov. Egan and his

future primary election opponent, Wendell Kay, who sat side by side at the head table, were kept in loud guffaws frequently as were the rest of the audience.

During the following year, the two men went at it hammer and tong for the nomination for governor which Gov. Egan eventually won.

Grant, a long-time Alaska National Guard member, taking note of the presence of Egan and Kay, commented:

"If I had known Wendell Kay and Gov. Egan were going to be here, I would have come with my National Guard helmet on."

Sen. Bartlett, who enjoyed the banquet immensely, commented:

"This is the most amazing collection of politicians and statesmen that's ever

been assembled under one roof at once."

Alfred Grant will again be sought to handle the master of ceremonies slot at the October banquet according to the board of directors of the Times.

The board members expressed confidence that the October affair will draw over 400 people from all walks of life.

Succulent prime rib roast has been suggested as the main item on the bill of fare along with trimmings. Prime rib was served at the 1965

banquet much to the delight of everyone.

The support of the Tundra Times will be stressed and the sale of stock will be available as well as subscriptions. Admission price to the banquet will be decided at a later date and it will be made available to the public.

Brief native entertainment has also been suggested during the proceedings.

Persons who wish to make inquiries about the banquet may contact Tundra Times at 452-2244, or write Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.