

Laura to Lead Eskimo-Indian Olympics Performers at Folk Life

By MARILYN RICHARDS

Unofficial Eskimo ambassador Laura Bergt and four top Eskimo and Indian athletes will demonstrate Native games at the 8th Annual Festival of American Folk Life in Washington, D.C. July 1-15 sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute, a non-profit organization.

The four Natives were top winners in last year's Eskimo Olympics. They and Laura also made a guest appearance on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show

and presented the surprised host with an oosik. In the hilarious episode, an embarrassed Laura explained to Carson the oosik was not a walrus tusk but a male reproductive organ.

The four are Roger Kunuyak formerly of Diomedé now of Fairbanks, Reggie Joule of Kotzebue, Lester Bodfish of Wainwright, and Fred Titus of Minto.

Joule won the two-foot high kick with a distance of six feet eight inches last year. He also

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Folk Life Fest . .

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won the nalukutuk (blanket toss) in the men's competition.

Bodfish had won the one foot high kick.

The Native athletes will also demonstrate the Indian stick pull, drop the bomb, the ear pulling contest, the ear weight contest, the knuckle hop and possibly some dances.

Laura will also demonstrate the blanket toss and will emcee the group's demonstration.

The festival is visited by over one and a half million people every year. The Institute will also have their own video tape crew and two photographers recording the festival.

According to Laura, National Public Radio which has over 160 affiliates, the British Broadcasting Company, private and network film makers will also be presenting both live and on tape to many other millions not attending the festival.

The Natives have heard of a possible invitation from CBS after the festival.

Laura is also taking with her some Point Hope ice to Sen. James Buckley, who had recently been on a whaling adventure with her at Point Hope.

The ice is for their "Bow-head Mist," with a recipe including scotch and water and Point Hope ice concocted while resting during the hunt.