

Dancing feet charm Selawik people

By PAM STARK
Special to the Tundra Times

The months of September and October brought the pleasant sights and sounds of dancing feet to the village of Selawik. On September 18th and 19th, the town was honored to have at its guests a modern dance troupe called the "5 By 2 Plus." The dance company has visited various villages for the purposes of performing and instructing. It is currently in residence in Alaska, and is being supported by the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The dancers, who were from New York, conducted a mini-workshop and also had a performance in the high school gym on the 19th. Mats were laid out, and the home economics room served as a dressing room for the costume changes. The dances varied from very modern and esoteric to a light rendition of songs from the Old South, such as "John Henry," and "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho." Both the very young and some of the village elders were in attendance.

On October 7 the high school got its chance to be on stage. A dance was sponsored by the Future Farmers of America, headed by teacher Nick Galaday, former Arizonan-turned-Alaskan. The students arranged for records and sound equipment, set up lights made and sold popcorn and punch at the affair which started at eight in the evening and ended reluctantly at midnight.

An admission of \$1.00 for high schoolers, and \$1.50 for others was taken at the gym door, with a grand total of two hundred dollars being made. That money will be used to purchase FFA jackets and patches for the organization's members. Both students and faculty had the enjoyment of dancing to the records announced by the Selawik-famous "Wolf Man Nick" or just tapping their feet to the beat and munching popcorn in rhythm to the music.