

ESKIMO-INDIAN OLYMPICS ON

Ella Vernetti Passes Away

KOYUKUK — Ella Vernetti, an Athabaskan woman who for years has operated the trading post in the Yukon River village of Koyukuk, died July 16 at Stanford Hospital, in Oakland, Calif.



Ella Vernetti

She had lived in Koyukuk since 1925 and was married to the late Dominic Vernetti, whom she met and married in that village.

Ella Vernetti had gone to Oakland to the hospital for heart surgery, but died there before surgery could be completed, the Tundra Times learned from friends of Ella at Galena. A story on the life of Ella will appear in the next issue of Tundra Times.

Great Annual Spectacle Begins Tomorrow at UA Patty Gymnasium

FAIRBANKS — Native athletes and dancers from all parts of Alaska and the Northwest Territories of Canada arrive in Fairbanks this week, to participate in the 14th annual World Eskimo-Indian Olympic Games.

The three-day kaleidoscope of traditional Native games of strength and skill and dances of Northern peoples begins Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the University of Alaska's Patty Gymnasium, with the lighting of seal oil lamps by the winner of the torch race that precedes the game.

Then comes the colorful march of all participants in the games into the gymnasium, an array of men and women from throughout Alaska skilled in the traditional sports, songs and dances of the Native cultures of Alaska and parts of Canada.

Masters of ceremony for the 1974 Games are Al Grant of Tanana and Roger Lang, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

Last minute preparations for the Games meanwhile continue in earnest, not only by the Olympics Committee, but the participants themselves.

While a Barrow woman was in Fairbanks shopping for

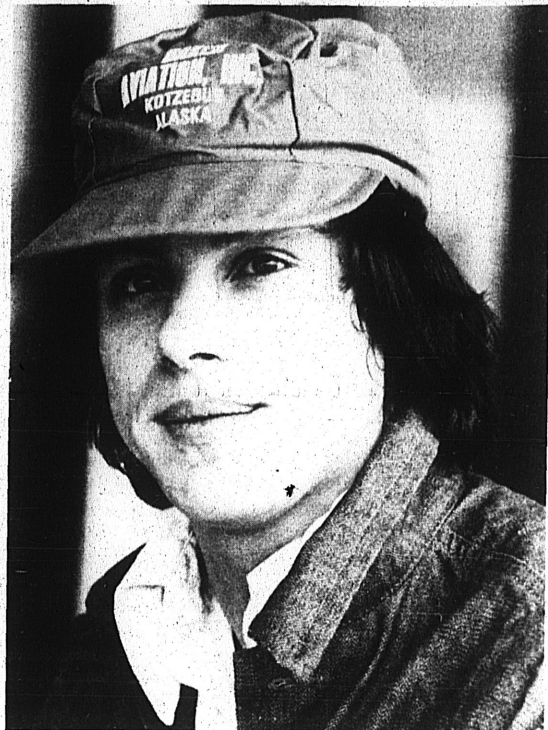
kuspuk materials for a new Eskimo dance team planning to compete this year, members of the Olympics Committee were busy distributing tickets for sale to various outlets in Fairbanks.

(The prices are \$2 per child and \$4 per adult for single night admission and \$4 per child and \$10 per adult for a season ticket good for all three nights of the Games. Profits go to the Tundra Times, the only statewide Native newspaper in Alaska.)

Olympics Committee chairman Chris Anderson, on a business trip to Tok during the past weekend, said he met two educators from New York state, who had come all the way to Alaska just to see the Olympics.

In addition to much publicity from Alaskan media, the Games last year were photographed for National Geographic Magazine and Alaska Maga-

(Continued on Page 6)



PERENNIAL FAVORITE in the Olympics Games is Reggie Joule of Kotzebue, who gives the competition a rough time in the blanket toss and high kick events. Joule was part of a recent contingent of Alaska Natives that participated in the 8th Annual Festival of American Folk Life in Washington, D.C. — Photo by MARGIE BAUMAN

Koyukuk Gears Up for Annual Meet— Mineelghaadzha Gathers Proxies

By MARGIE BAUMAN

KOYUKUK — A long-flat bottomed river boat moved swiftly up the Yukon River toward the Bishop Mountain fish camp, as smoke from a forest fire miles to the north at Huslia moved in, blurring the rail behind.

Overhead the evening sun, clouded by smoke, was an eerie red and those in the boat relaxed, talking over the noise of the boat motor and rush of air created by the speed of the boat through the calm waters.

Aboard were Ragine Pilot of Koyukuk and Merrelaine Kangas of Galena, in the midst of a last trip to gather proxies before the first annual meeting of Mineelghaadzha, Limited, the Native village corporation of Koyukuk.

It was late Sunday, July 14 and the annual meeting was set for mid-afternoon the next day, at the community hall of the Athabaskan village, more than 40 miles down river from Galena on the Yukon.

The two women had set out Friday evening from Galena for Koyukuk, arrived there early Saturday to make last minute preparations for the meeting.

Now, to be sure all eligible stockholders of Mineelghaadzha,

(Continued on page 6)



MERRELAINE KANGAS, left and Ragine Pilot prepare for the first annual meeting of Mineelghaadzha, Limited, at Koyukuk. The two young women went over 100 miles up and down the Yukon to get to the meeting and help collect proxies. — Photo by MARGIE BAUMAN

Mixed Feelings at Convention

By MARILYN RICHARDS

Mixed feelings were the result of the educational conference jointly sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives' Human Resources Committee, the Center for Northern Educational

Research, the Alaska Native Human Resource Development Program and the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Attending the three-day conference, entitled "Education and the World of Our Children," were representatives from AFN, Alaska State Operated Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the North Slope Borough, the Department of Education and the Coalition of Indian Controlled School Boards.

Mitch Demientieff, conference chairman, called the conference "a continuing analysis in the issue but if things work out well the conference will be the last of its kind."

Demientieff, Robert Schaeffer, Gordon Jackson — AFN's Human Resources vice president, are planning for a bill drafting session for the next legislature to improve the atmosphere of rural education.

Demientieff also called for and demanded the resignation of Stanley Friese, superintendent of state-operated schools, for his gross neglect of the education of Alaska Native children.

Friese was to attend the conference but was called away on another commitment according to Dave Lanigan, his representative and assistant superintendent. Demientieff said Friese was

(Continued on Page 6)

Hammond Pushes Transportation

Though largely concentrating on the state's urban centers, Republican gubernatorial candidate Jay Hammond is campaigning for improved transportation and education in the rural areas.

Hammond and his lieutenant governor running mate, State Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. are running on a platform supporting 100% local control of schools.

Hammond is proposing increase of state funding for construction for basic education needs because under the present foundation program, schools only get half as much as they need.

"By increase funding, we decrease state involvement and increase the involvement at the local level," he explained.

"Local people want a greater say."

"To do something to or for yourself is easier to take than when somebody else does something to or for you," he added.

The cost of living differential

(Continued on Page 6)