

Editorial Comment—

The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics

World Eskimo-Indian Olympics! An extraordinary, exciting — a completely Native culturally oriented program of dances, Eskimo and Indian games, flavored with some events involving Native food tidbits, will be unfolding starting tomorrow ending on Saturday — July 25, 26, 27. The three days of colorful events will be staged in the confines of the University of Alaska's Patty Gymnasium. If past performances of the Olympics can serve as measuring sticks, there will be large audiences eagerly absorbing some highly competitive games carefully aimed and attuned toward the unique environment of Alaska's Native people, reflecting the true cultural activities of past generations.

The Olympics, a truly Native game spectacle of which the people themselves can be justly proud, is an occasion where old cultures can be perpetuated along with some rather strenuous competitive games, amusing events and ever interesting performances. The unique show, 14 years old now, has captured the curiosity of much of the world's interested peoples. It infuses memorable activities and oftentimes charming memories. It is a lively event where people of all races can get a glimpse of rich heritages that enabled the original peoples of Alaska to face their stern surroundings with spirits of competition and fun.

And then there is the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics Pageant, although a rather recent innovation that has been instituted into the yearly event, that has become a charming addition. It is the time for the fairest young woman of the Native land to be chosen queen for a year and reign over her peoples' cultural presentation. To be selected queen has become a prestigious achievement which can always be a feather on her head as long as she lives. A beautiful queen can enhance the charm of the Olympics. She can personify the beauty of her peoples' cultural heritages. If she lives up to the expectations of her people, she can gain a memory that will dwell with her during her lifetime.

And then there are dances, Eskimo and Indian. These performances forever invoke spiritual and aesthetic experiences for there are skill and thoroughly intuitive dancers at the Native event. There is joy and vigor that excites the viewer. Their rhythm and beat invites spontaneous participation. They are beautiful and timeless. They are expressions of rich heritages and traditions. They infuse joy and spiritual strength. They are beautiful.

Tundra Times is proud to be a part of the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. The newspaper and its staff, its board of directors and its Olympic committee work hand in hand to produce the spectacle and glean from it satisfaction and pleasure because of belief and desire to perpetuate our peoples' cultures and traditions. As a moving force of the program, we are also aware that the success of the Olympics would not be possible without the ever willing participation of the Native people themselves. Our sincerest gratitude goes to the Native people of Alaska and other interested people.