

TT BANQUET GREAT SUCCESS



COFFEE WITH THE GOVERNOR—Governor William A. Egan is trying to discourage Rocky from drinking too much of his coffee. Governor and Mrs. Egan were obviously amused by the antics of the five week old malemute puppy.

presented to Mrs. Jeane Dixon as a gift of the Husky Corporation of Anchorage during the ninth annual Tundra Times banquet. Rocky was named after Tundra Times editor Howard Rock by Mrs. Dixon.

Dubbed 'Fock' Festival Tundra Times Annual Feast Sparks Season

By MADELYN SHULMAN

As Rock festivals go, it was a great success. Tickets were sold out and going at scalpers prices four days in advance. Despite the overflow crowds, nobody called the police and the merriment carried on at other locations till the wee (or not so wee) hours of the morning.

In short, Howard Rock's Ninth Annual Tundra Times Banquet was a great success.

"It's a lot different from the first TUNDRA TIMES banquet I attended," quipped Senator Mike Gravel as he surveyed the elegant new Travelers Inn banquet room filled with more than 600 merry-makers.

Ex TUNDRA TIMES secretary Sally Smith flew to Fairbanks from her Juneau home to attend the banquet this year.

"I had such a good time last year," she said. "I couldn't see missing this for anything."

The elegance of the setting and the huge turnout was one sign of the importance today of native politics, commented Gravel.

The setting was elegant, the decorations beautiful and the entertainment witty and diverting.

Featured speaker Jeane Dixon was thrilled by Alaska, Alaskans and the whole proceeding. In a Monday morning phone conversation with editor Howard Rock, she voiced her desire to perhaps buy some land in Alaska for a vacation home. She

was also temporarily missing her newly acquired five week old white malemute puppy "Rocky" (after Howard Rock, of course) a gift from the Husky Corporation. His plane to Los Angeles missed a connection.

This personality filled puppy, which was winningly presented by Miss Eskimo Olympics Mary Keller is the direct descendant of the well known Alaskan canine movie star—"Mikki-Wild Dog of the North".

Jim Thomas, the newly established Indian Public Relations magnate kept the crowd in stitches with his witty Master of Ceremonies patter. In his own affable manner, he introduced Alaska Congressman Nick Begich as a man who wishes he had the office space Mike Gravel has—a well recognized repeat of Begich's problems with being the state's only Congressman.

For the occasion, Eskimo singer John Angaiak composed a song. He sang in Eskimo and English, breaking the monotony of politicians speeches.

One highlight of the evening,
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'Rock' Festival . . .

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for whom AFN president Don Wright gave up any speech time, was a performance by Sioux singers Floyd Westerman. Westerman is a nationally known author and singer of Indian protest songs including the well known "Custer Died For Your Sins."

He dedicated his famous song "In Our World Without Tomorrow," to Howard Rock and to the Alaska Federation of Natives.

"In Alaska, I sincerely feel, we are learning to live as one people in fulfillment of the ideals on which America was founded," Alaska Governor William Egan keynoted the banquet.

The Governor called the banquet, which has become an Alaskan tradition "one of the most eagerly awaited annual events in the state."

"While the land claims are progressing towards a settlement in Congress, there are various areas of consideration ahead toward which we can already be directing our energies," said the Governor.

"In this regard, the theme for tonight's banquet—the theme "Children: Our Innocent Heirs"—sums up very completely what is at stake.

Through cooperation now among all Alaskans, our children and grandchildren can inherit the kind of state which we are all dedicated to building—a society of people who genuinely care about each other as brothers and sisters and cherished human beings."

At this annual occasion to raise money to continue publishing the TUNDRA TIMES, many Alaskans paid tribute to Howard Rock, the Eskimo editor who has shepherded this native weekly through close to a decade of publication.

Congressman Nick Begich tributed the editor for his following of the best publishing traditions and his lack of "edi-

torializing on the front page."

Though the banquet turned out a success, by last week it seemed as though a million problems had arisen. With the convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives in town, the banquet quickly oversold and many village delegates were unable to obtain tickets. For days, the TUNDRA TIMES board pondered solutions to the problem.

Then, as the phones rang constantly Friday afternoon there was a desperate call. Jo Putnam was at the airport with 140 pounds of berries and reindeer. How was she supposed to get it to town? There was massive panic as the office realized Tommy Richards, Jr. had left an hour before to pick her up. Finally, she found him.

As the speeches rang to a close at the banquet, Jeane Dixon offered eight dozen long stemmed yellow roses an admirer had given to her to be auctioned off to benefit Tundra Times.

Famous auctioneer Jimmy Bedford took the podium and the roses went furiously—for \$10, \$20, \$35 and a giant \$100

Fairbanks sauna owner Joe Shockey had bought the whole bunch as a present for his wife—Rose.

In a burst of enthusiasm, Laura Bergt took off her quiviut vest and offered it to the auctioneer. Mike Musick ended up with the hand made top of her famous quiviut hot pants ensemble for the grand sum of \$75. The borealis blue vest and hot pants has been worn on nationwide T.V. by Laura.

All in all, it was an exciting evening—one seen only once a year. Tundra Times secretary Diana Cartier threatens a nervous breakdown. Howard Rock is taking a two week vacation and all may survive—until next year's Tundra Times banquet in Anchorage.