

Alaska Historical Society

Pouch G

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Eskimo Olympics Tonight at UA Patty Gymnasium

The lighting of the seal oil lamp and marching of the contestants will signal the start of the 1969 World Eskimo Olym-

pics at 7:30 p.m. this evening at the University of Alaska in the Patty Gymnasium.

Eskimo and Indian athletes

and dancers have gathered from many parts of the state for the annual competition. Signaling the start of the games, Edith

Tegoseak will light the moss wick of the stone lamp and tend the seal-oil fueled lamp.

The annual event will contin-

ue throughout Saturday evening. The Eskimo Olympics, initiated in 1961, has enjoyed widespread

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Eskimo Olympics . .

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popularity. The games have been annually attended by representatives from a multitude of Alaskan villages.

An early highlight of the games tonight will be the introduction and review of queen candidates in traditional native costumes. Miss 1968 World Eskimo Olympics, Audrey Ambrose of Huslia, will oversee the activities from her throne until

the coronation of the new queen Saturday. Nineteen girls, from a number of Alaskan villages, have entered the contest.

Entrants are: Joyce Roberts, 18, Tanana; Nita Sheldon, 17, Norvik; Louisa Stine, 18, Anaktuvik Pass; Grace Ann Jacobs, 18, Bethel; Sarah Seeberger, 17, Miss Arctic Circle; Dorothy Napoleon, 21, Hooper Bay; Vera Silas, 18, Minto; Cynthia Ahwinona, 16, Nome;

Sally Woods, 19, Miss Nuchalawoyya; Helen Nicholia, 17, Miss Tanana River; Mary Gabriel, 16, Fort Yukon; Penny Lie, 16, Kotzebue; Denise James, 16, Miss Hospitality House; Marie Irwin, 18, Nenana; Annie Saunders, 18, Fairbanks; Edna Apapiki, 19, Gambell; Anna Marie Westdahl, 18, Miss Kuskokwim; and Linda Cook, 20, Metlakatla.

Three Judges have been selected for the queen competition. Johnny Anderson, Mable Hopson, and Lorenz Shuerch will review the queens and make their decision Saturday evening.

Another major event this evening will be the native dance team competition. Barrow, Kotzebue, Nenana, Minto, Tanacross, Mentasa, and Northway have indicated that they would send representatives to the games.

Master of Ceremonies for both evenings of competition will be Bill English, a veteran Wien pilot. He is described as a welcome addition to the program because of his familiarity with the games and many events.

Six seals and fifty pounds of muktuk have been flown in from Barrow for the seal skinning and muktuk eating contests, which are scheduled for both evenings. Muskrats have been brought from Minto for the muskrat skinning contest, held tonight.

Other games will include the nalukatuk (blanket toss), knuckle hop, ear weight, high kick, leg hop, Indian stick pull, and Eskimo yo-yo.

A special feature Friday evening will be the parky contest. Two events, canoe racing and seal hooking, have been cancelled due to high water in the Chena.

Native dancing exhibitions, open to the public at no admission, will be performed Saturday afternoon at the University. Evening events, beginning at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday evening will cost \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.



MISS ESKIMO OLYMPICS—Miss Audrey Ambrose, 1968 World Eskimo Olympics queen, will be succeeded by her 1969 counterpart on Saturday evening. Charming Audrey is from Huslia. Nineteen contestants for the crown will parade

during the Olympics being held here starting tonight. There will be many other events at the Olympics.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph