

Reception Exceptional—

Village Youngsters Enjoy Live Entertainment

Hap Ryder of the Fairbanks Drama Association, came back with the group of players recently from the outlying areas full of praise for the fine reception they received in the villages.

"For some reason I'm now known by the kids in Kotzebue as Rumpel "seal" skin," Ryder told Tundra Times last weekend.

On the swing of the drama group last year to the villages, Ryder directed a play based on Rumpelstiltskin.

"Up in Ft. Yukon," Ryder added, "I'm known simply as Rumpel "steal" skin. I wasn't even in the play. I just directed it."

This year, the group present-

ed "Kings and Things" in Nome, Kotzebue, Tanana and Ft. Yukon. They were not able to perform at Unalakleet because of inclement weather and Barrow because of the recent explosion of a gas facility there.

Ryder said that the drama group was thoroughly sold on the idea of bringing live enter-

tainment in villages.

He said the native children thoroughly enjoy the plays and can't quite believe that the players were real people.

"After the plays are over," Ryder explained, "the kids come to feel if you are real and then put their arms around you."