

# Big, Colorful Golden Days Set For July 21-25

Starting July 21 and ending on July 25, Fairbanks will stage Alaska's largest and most colorful celebration — the Golden Days of 1965. This is an annual celebration commemorating the July 22, 1902 discovery of gold near Fairbanks by an Italian immigrant, Felix Pedro.

Fairbanks was just a small supply center on the Chena River but within two or three years after the discovery of gold, it grew to a bustling city of 10,000 gold-seeking people. To the Fairbanksans today, July 22 has become a romantic date and has been accepted as the birthday of the Golden Heart City.

During the five-day celebration, the farthest north parade will be held. Last year, it was estimated that approximately 15,000 people witnessed the spectacle — a crowd nearly equal to the whole population of the city of Fairbanks.

Floats as splendid and colorful as those elsewhere will wind their way through the streets crowded with people. They generally depict the carefree days of the turn of the century. Twenty or thirty people, including live bands and dancers, are not an uncommon sight on the larger floats.

The men of the city grow beards and the people are encouraged to wear old fashioned costumes. Store windows are decorated in the turn of the century motif. Customers by the hundreds will be served by clerks wearing colorful costumes including swim suits and can can outfits.

A large midway will be built. "Gold in the Hills," a fine traditional melodrama, will again be performed. Street dances, games, contests, prizes will be the events. Sourdough pancakes will be served for breakfast from street kitchens and a gigantic "mug up" where old-timers in Fairbanks prepare a "feed" in old fashioned style featuring sourdough biscuits, beans and beer.

Growing in significance, and already the important single attraction for Golden Days, is the biggest Arctic spectacle in Alaska, the World's Eskimo Olympics.

The Eskimo Olympics brings Eskimos from all over Northern Alaska to participate in Native skills, including the famous blanket toss, seal skinning, the Eskimo high-kick, seal hook throwing, and, of course, plenty of Eskimo dances.

This year, for the first time, special awards have been prepared for winners of the various athletic events in the Eskimo Olympics.

Awards for first place winners will be beautiful solid gold medalions designed with the newly adopted Eskimo Olympics insignia. Identical awards in silver and bronze will be given to second and third place winners respectively.