

Eskimo Olympics

One of the really fine spectacles to see in Alaska is the annual Golden Days celebration in Fairbanks. This exciting event will take place this year starting July 21 and it will last for three days. The celebration is uniquely Alaskan because it has spontaneity arising from the fact that it draws its ingredients from our state's rich heritage—its romantic past of the gold rush era and the colorful customs and traditions of its Native inhabitants—the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts.

The Eskimo Olympics section of the Golden Days has more than come into its own in the past few years and has become a definite must as a spectacle to see. It is exciting, unique, and a memorable performance.

The Golden Days Committee of Fairbanks has now wholeheartedly recognized the uniquely colorful value of the Olympics and has, this year, planned to make it even more exciting. The committee, of course, will have to have assistance from the villages and towns that will be involved so this can become a reality. One significant change the Golden Days group made was that the Olympics performances will be held indoors. This arrangement should help to give dignity to the Native beauty pageant which it deserves.

A beautiful Native girl will be selected to reign over the Eskimo Olympics events and she should be the fairest of them all in Alaska. Some of the candidates will be those picked during Fourth of July celebrations in villages and one of them will be the queen of the Midnight Sun Festival at Nome. It is not too early to sharpen one's eye for beauty and the appraisers of the comely lasses should keep their wary eyes open in places like Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow, Fort Yukon and other places. To be the elected queen of the Eskimo Olympics has become a rewarding experience for the winners and it should be the most sought after title by our beautiful Native girls. Let this be the harbinger of spring when beauty oglers turn their fancy into thoughts of girls with pleasing personalities, intelligence, contour, and a nice turn of the ankle.

As usual, Eskimo dance contests will be held and the villages represented should endeavor to add to their repertoire and come up with some really fine dances. There should also be some additional performances, besides the popular high kick, like the hand-hop that is done by putting one's legs over each elbow and balancing with one's hands on the floor and hopping forward to see how far the performer can hop without losing his balance. This is a difficult sport but it is highly amusing to see. There are other Eskimo sports that should be introduced and they would surely please the audiences.

The Eskimo Olympics promises to be even better this year and villages and towns can play a big part in making it a reality. It is none too early to plan to present a really fine performance by each of the participants. The idea of putting on best performances ever, could perhaps be done with the thought of looking ahead to the Alaska centennial celebration in 1967.