



Beating Around The Bush

by **Steve Kakaruk**

Tundra Times

KAKE DAY! On January 7 over 500 people attended Kake Day, a day of Indian dancing/dinner honoring Elders. **Quadra Engineers** and the **City of Kake** provided funding for the event.

People had a real nice time! **Reginald Skeek**, Master of Ceremonies and **Mayor Henry Smith** welcomed all to the event. Septuagenarian **Tom Jackson** interpreted as 90-years-plus Elder **Chester James** (key speaker), told in his language the chronology of events when Kake moved from the traditional ways to the white man's Western ways.

James spoke in his traditional tongue, Tlingit, about the old days when people lived in tribal houses. He witnessed the taking down of the traditional totem poles to the living of white man's ways. James also described when the boardwalk was placed down and a seal (stamp) was put down along with a silver spike which was placed near there. James was among the 15 youngsters that started school and were watched closely on attendance.

James also told the audience of when Tlingits were fined for throwing used water out the front door of their homes. People had to take their garbage across to another island in order to get rid of waste and trash.

Coming up in **Kake** is the **Christian Festival, February 6-12.**

ALLAKAKET cancelled their **Tribal Government Workshop** until January 30. On Christmas an annual **sled dog race** took place. The winners are: **Steven Bergman**, Men's race; **Millie Bergman**, Women's race; **Russell David**, 2-dog race and **Deena Sam**, three years old, 1-dog race.

NOME's Region 1 Boys and Girls division are excited about the upcoming **basketball competition January 23-24.**

People have been "crabbing" that not many crabs have been caught. **Crab fishing** is usually best right about now in the **Bering Straits**. The reason it's not picking up is because the crabs are out below the "old ice" right now which is further out from the land. The new ice isn't thick enough to support people to walk out to the "old ice" and there is water between them.

Coming up in mid-February is the **Elders Conference** which will go for about five days. Also in mid-February the **Iditarod Trail Committee** will meet. So as they say, "There's no place like Nome."

LARSEN BAY's Youth in Action Group is "naturally high" The youths are helping each other by utilizing positive esteem created within the program. The group draws in youngsters seeking positive alternative activities to drugs and alcohol.

1985 was their first year as an organization and the lack of funds this year will not stop them from continuing on with the organization. No funds have yet been allocated for 1986. But the group has been raising funds from popcorn sales at bingo and cake walks.

The monies are used to help the youth help the community. The youth learn about boat safety, the handling of guns, work with elders in the community and Native cultural awareness. Also the Youth in Action core would like to purchase equipment like a camera to train themselves in the fields of photography and a stereo to host dances.

Coming soon to **Larsen Bay** are **Public Hearings**. The scheduled date are the 23rd of January with **Koniag** shareholders and the 27th with **U.S. Fish & Wildlife**.

The **Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race** is scheduled for January 21 which is five weeks before the **World Championship Sled Dog Race**. The **Kuskokwim 300 Race** is scheduled January 22 and will continue until Sunday. The **Fairbanks Association for the Education of Young Children** begins January 23 thru 25. And in **Sitka**, the **Alaska Native Publishing Conference** features Alaska's own **Fred Bigjim** and **Andrew Hope**.

"Beating Around the Bush" is a new column which we hope to be able to offer on a weekly basis. You can help us out! Is there anything of interest going on in your community? Write to: **Bush Beat**, c/o **Tundra Times**, P.O. Box 104480, Anch., AK. 99510. Or call Steve @274-2512. —Ed.