

# Coastal Yukon association to sponsor dance festival

ALAKANUK — The Coastal Yukon Mayors' Association, at its annual meeting in Alakanuk earlier this month, agreed to sponsor the next Yup'ik Dance Festival tentatively scheduled to be held in Mountain Village in October 1989.

In addition to sponsoring the festival, the association will also attempt to coordinate an exhibit of artifacts from the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka to take place at the same time as the festival.

The concept of the Yup'ik Dance Festival originated in St. Marys. In October 1982 nine villages from throughout the region converged in St. Marys for the first festival.

Since that time similar festivals have been sponsored throughout the region.

The Coastal Yukon Mayors' Association, as a representative body for all of the communities in the coastal Yukon area, agreed that it was an appropriate organization to sponsor such a festival.

The members are the cities of Holy Cross, Russian Mission, Marshall, Pilot Station, St. Marys, Mountain Village, Emmonak, Alakanuk, Kotlik, St. Michael, Sheldon Point, Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay.

The exhibit of Yup'ik artifacts is still tentative but the association has agreed to sponsor an exhibit if sufficient funds can be raised.

During his travels in the late 1800s Sheldon Jackson collected hundreds of artifacts from the coastal Yukon region. Most of the artifacts are housed in Sitka. The association agreed that it would be a significant event for the region if some of these

artifacts could be returned to their place of origin for display to the people whose ancestors made them.

The association now begins the task of raising sufficient funds to sponsor both the festival and the exhibit. The representatives attending the meeting, however, were optimistic that sufficient funds could be raised. Representative-elect Richard Foster, also attending the meeting, kicked off the fund-raising effort with a \$50 donation.

Andrew Paukan, the former mayor of St. Marys and former chairman of the Coastal Yukon Mayors' Association, and Tim Troll of the Anchorage law firm of Beaty, Draeger & Troll and former city manager of St. Marys, were selected for the planning committee.

Troll will coordinate the fund-raising efforts for the festival and the exhibit of artifacts. Any person or organization who would like to help with or sponsor the event should contact Troll at 1400 W. Benson, Suite 1, Anchorage 99503 or call 276-2722 in Anchorage.