

AFN presents 7th annual Quyana Alaska

The Alaska Federation of Natives will once again present "Quyana Alaska."

For the seventh consecutive year, "Quyana" is held as a special thank you from the residents of rural Alaska to the residents of urban Alaska for the support urban Alaska provides to rural residents year round, according to AFN.

"Quyana" is presented in conjunction with the AFN convention.

"We at AFN are very pleased to once again provide the Anchorage community with some of the finest Alaska Native performing groups," said AFN President Janie Leask. "We hope that this sharing of cultures will bring all residents of Alaska closer together."

Six performing groups will be on hand at the Sullivan Arena Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 7-10 p.m. Admission to the program is free.

The performers represent the divergent Alaska Native cultures with groups from both the Inupiaq and Yup'ik Eskimos, the Interior Athapascan Indians, as well as the Southeast Tlingit and Haida Indians. There also will be a display of tradi-

tional Alaska Native dress.

The groups include:

•**The Yukon Fiddlers** — made up of Bill Stevens on fiddle, Artie Joseph on guitar and vocals and Mike Demientieff on guitar.

Fiddling has been popular throughout the Yukon region for generations. The Yukon Fiddlers have performed in villages all along the Yukon, from Eagle to the mouth of the river. They have appeared at the Festival of Native Arts at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, as well as at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics.

Stevens learned to fiddle as a youngster in Fort Yukon. Joseph grew up in Tanana, and Demientieff is from Holy Cross.

•**The Akula Dancers** — high school students at Akula Elitnaurvik.

Their dances are based on traditional Yup'ik style. Early missionaries banned Yup'ik dancing from the village. In 1980, the school and the elders of the village who are now the group's drummers, reintroduced Eskimo dancing.

The Akula Dancers have performed at the Festival of Native Arts at UAF, at the statewide meeting of regional school boards in Anchorage, at the

Bethel "Cama-i Festival," the Chevak Dance Festival and throughout the Lower Kuskokwim School District.

The Akula Dancers play an important role in the promotion of Eskimo dance within the Kuskokwim Delta.

•**The Wainwright Dancers** — traditional Inupiaq Dancers whose appearances include the 1984 Olympics Arts Festival in Los Angeles.

In Alaska, they are a well known dance group, which consistently receives honors in the Eskimo dance team competition at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics. They are frequently featured at the Festival of Native Arts at UAF.

This year's group spans three generations, featuring the community's elders and a number of school age youth.

•**The Alaska Native Heritage Review** — a collection of Alaska Native and American Indian outfits made by students and volunteers for the Johnson O'Malley Program of the Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

The Native Heritage Review enhances students' knowledge of Native dress and sewing skills. In modeling the outfits, the students gain a higher self-esteem.

•**The Tlingit and Haida Dancers of Anchorage** — exemplify the desire of Southeast Alaska Natives living in Anchorage to keep their heritage and music alive.

The group was organized in 1986 to provide an opportunity for Tlingit and Haida children to learn about their culture through traditional song and dance.

Some of the songs have been borrowed from the former Marks Trail/Gei-sun Tlingit Dancers of Juneau.

The group has reached many Native children and has helped instill a sense of appreciation and pride in their rich heritage. The dancers perform throughout the year in Anchorage.

•**The Nenana Native Dancers** — led by drummer Paul George.

The songs the dancers sing are Athapascan Indian songs composed by Tanana River Indians. The dancers are accompanied by the Nenana elders.

Narrating for the dancers is Mitch Demientieff, president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference. The dancers, who perform widely in the Alaska Interior, are organized for the preservation of the Athapascan Indian culture.