

**Most Legendary—**

# Eagle-Wolf Dance May Be Revived

**WANTED—URGENTLY—ONE SHAMISH, FOUR MEN AND FOUR WOMEN SINGER-DANCERS, TWO MESSENGERS, ONE AUNGUTGUK, ONE DRUMMER AND ASSISTANT DRUMMER AND A SPECIAL ANNOUNCER. MUST BE WELL TRAINED IN ESKIMO DANCING.**

The Eagle-Wolf dance, one of the most legendary in Eskimo lore, may soon be danced again. The last performance in full was 1914 at Mary's Igloo which is now a ghost village. Only a few recall the ceremony and they are anxious to save it from extinction.

That's no small task. Five bald eagles, special costumes and housing are required in addition to talented dancers. The eagles have just been acquired through a special permit from the U. S. government. Donations of material goods are coming in. But that's just part of the solution.

The dance was originated by the Kauwerak Eskimos on the Seward Peninsula. Etorina, grandfather of William Oquilluk of Nome, was director of the last ceremony. He taught William and two other young men the difficult drumming rhythms of the dance but only William remains of the apprentices.

One other man—William's cousin, John Karkaruk—recalls the Eagle-Wolf songs. Together they have been working to revive the ceremony to record on film or video tape for preservation.

"I know we can find good dancers. People want to see this dance and they enjoy doing it," Oquilluk maintains. "Maybe the Diomedes would like to try. They still do parts of the dance today. They learned it when we used to live in Kauwerak village a long, long time ago. Maybe some of the young people will learn it too. That is how we will keep it

alive. Our forefathers said as long as the Eagle-Wolf dance was remembered and we told our children and grandchildren about it, we would remember the Eskimo way of living"

Reporting to us on Oquilluk's progress is Laurel Bland, a teacher at Alaska Methodist University who has been working with him the last two years helping prepare more than 500 pages of manuscript on the history of Kauwerak Eskimos for publication. She reports the eagles were just shipped frozen to Nome through the Fish and Wildlife Service in Juneau and that response has been imme-

diately and generous to requests for other items.

"Furs, fabrics, sewing notions and other articles as well as blank video tape and some money for airplane travel were soon pledged to William," she writes. "Additionally, the Arctic Native Brotherhood located two large black and two white wolf heads and the Nome Community Center provided plane fare to bring William and John Karkaruk together in Anchorage to renew and refresh their memories of songs and rhythms. Among the Anchorage people who assisted were Sears, Wards, Pennys, Anchorage Bedding and Furniture, Ben Franklin, Jonas, Martin Victor, David Green, Myron Wheeler, Barney Gottstein, British Petroleum, Alaska Airlines and Alaska Methodist."