

Editorial Comment—

The Banquet People Are Talking About

In retrospect, the latest annual banquet of the Tundra Times is recalled with a most pleasant feeling because quite a number of people have evaluated it as the "Most friendly" event of the year. It was not only friendly, it was the largest social event of any year in the history of Alaska. That is quite a feather in the hat of the newspaper's board of directors, the staff of the Tundra Times and many people who worked so hard to make it a sparkling spectacle that it was.

And people . . . There were so many of them that many had to be turned away because the cavernous banquet room was filled to capacity. And this with more than one important get-togethers in the City of Anchorage on the very same evening.

During the series of banquets Tundra Times has had for several years in the past, we have always tried to make the event a light-hearted one and we have succeeded well along this line of presentation. What event can fail with such talented masters of ceremonies in the persons of Alfred Grant (Athabascan), James Thomas (Tlingit), Roger Lang (Tlingit) and some others? These men are not only comical but they are skillful in keeping large audiences amused. They jell the crowd into participating in a fun evening.

And our headliner speakers and performers . . . We have had such people as the former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall; Jack Anderson of the Washington Merry-Go-Round fame; Vincent Price, screen actor; Jeane Dixon, the famous seeress; Buffy Sainte-Marie and others. Such personalities cannot help but draw capacity audiences. And, of course, our Alaska governors have always attended and our congressional delegations as well and many Native leaders and other dignitaries. Each in his own way has impressed the large banquet audiences. What color they can provide to the occasion. What contributions they have made to the struggling newspaper — the Tundra Times.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to them and to all the people who have attended the banquets through the years.