

Centennial Year Opens in Sitka

By J. L. Laughlin

Alaska's Centennial year opened with a whoosh and a splot as wind and rain plagued Alaska Day officials in Sitka recently.

The big day opened with the cornerstone unveiling of Sitka's Centennial Building, now under construction. Brief Memorial services at the National Cemetery followed and in the afternoon the Baranof Castle Hill flag ceremony took place.

During this re-enactment of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States, the Russian Double Eagle

flag was lowered and then replaced with a 37-star U. S. flag. This flag was a gift from Nebraska, the last state to enter the union before Alaska's purchase in 1867.

The Alaska State flag was unfurled next, followed by the new Centennial flag. It was the first time the Centennial flag has been flown and marked the official opening of Alaska's Centennial year.

After the Governor's Tea at the Sitka Pioneers Home, there was a dinner at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall with entertainment and tribal dancing.



DANCERS HONOR CENTENNIAL OPENING—Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood tribal dancers performed in Sitka re-

cently in honor of the official opening of the Alaska Centennial.

—Photos by J. L. Laughlin