



Beating Around The Bush

by Steve Kakaruk

Tundra Times

JUNEAU

Tlingit and Haida Annual Meeting

The Tlingit & Haida Annual Meeting, April 16th at the ANB Hall was successful. "Understanding Our Heritage In Preparation Of The Future," was this year's theme. Election results are: President, Edward K. Thomas, Juneau; 1st Vice President (V.P.) David Leask, Metlakatla; 2nd V.P. Mark Jacobs Jr., Sitka; 3rd V.P. John Hope; 4th V.P. Douglas Luna, Seattle; 5th V.P. Raymond Roberts, Ketchikan; and 6th V.P. Ivan Gamble, Angoon.

24 new members were elected, 11 others have at one time or another been active members. Together, one-third of the delegation are new. President Edward K. Thomas said, "The convention brought forth new leadership, new direction and new strength to the council...."

SAVOONGA

Walrus Fest

The Felix Wongitillin Savoonga Walrus Fest begins Thursday May 8.

KLAWOCK

Life is Normal

The Klawock Heenya Annual Shareholders Meeting is scheduled for May 3rd. Three of the nine seats are available for the Board of Director position.

Klawock is developing homesites for the shareholders this year. Under ANILCA shareholders will receive equal in value up to 1½ acre homesites. The King Salmon Derby has begun and will be current until June 14th.

Also this year for the first time cruise ships will port of call every Friday, 8 to 12 a.m. The residents in Klawock will open up more to tourism throughout the summer months. Otherwise life is normal; they're cutting timber, shipping it out.

EKLUTNA VILLAGE

First Regional Potlatch In Years

Ikluat President, Lee "Guy" Stephan is planning to throw a potlatch for 1986 Alaska Native Leadership Project participants (May 4). Guy said, "I can't remember ever when Eklutna hosted a regional potlatch. It's for recognition of the ANLP, to give them a taste of the Athapaskan culture and to give our children a taste of their culture." Councilmen and Representatives from Copper Center, Tyonek, Kenai, Gulkana, and Knik are tentatively scheduled to bring either Elders or dancers to honor the ANLP group.

Eklutna Village is about 24 miles east of Anchorage. Tribal Elder, Peter Ezi said, "most of our traditional potlatches are for burial, for Elders or when we honor someone. This, however, is not a sorrowful potlatch as most are; we are having a social gathering for ANLP. We believe that our potlatches, once they begin, go on; I mean that when the potlatch starts it is when the sun comes up and does not stop until the sun goes down."

Stepan said, "Eklutna this summer, is doing other things in hopes of promoting tourism." He said, "we are trying to put an Alaska Native Gift shop together." Eklutna Village also will complete this summer a community recreation area along with a play ground.

KUSKOKWIM REGION

Spring Herring

Spring is sure to come. Reports have come to the *Tundra Times* telling us that every one on the coast is talking about the spring and summer subsistence fishing season. Herring fishing is first then fishermen wait for the salmon season to start. Although the ice and snow has not completely melted, many are already preparing for fishing season. Also hunters are taking seal around the Tooksook Bay area.

NENANA

Nenana Lap Race

The Nenana Lap Race is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7.

OLD MINTO

Yukon 800 Shake Down

Thursday May 8, starting in Fairbanks the Yukon 800 Shake Down race begins. Racers leave Fairbanks go to Old Minto and back.

"Beating Around the Bush" is a new column which we hope to be able to offer on a weekly basis. You can help us out! Is there anything of interest going on in your community? Write to: Bush Beat, c/o Tundra Times, P.O. Box 104480, Anch., AK. 99510. Or call Steve @274-2512. —Ed.