

Lekanof Calls for Retention of Aleut Culture

The Toonoosum Kaleeka, Aleut League Newsletter, authored by its President Flore Lekanof, made a plea this month to the Aleut country and its people that cultural heritage of the Aleuts should be retained and revived.

"Concerning our cultural heritage," writes Lekanof, "we are hopeful that during our May trip to the Aleut country we will be able to pick up some information as to the old Aleut dances and songs.

"If any of you know of some oldtimers who can do the Aleut dances, send us their names and addresses so that we may contact them in advance of the trip.

"Our intention is to take a movie camera and a tape recorder along on the trip. We all realize that if we do not do this soon, we will lose the little that we have

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Culture . . .

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left of our Aleut culture.

"According to most recent information, we have learned that the Aleuts have occupied the Aleutian area, or Aleut country, for at least 8,000 years! As far as proof is concerned, no other race in the world has occupied any one place for any longer period of time.

"The Aleut culture has made important contributions to the dominant culture. We need to learn more about these."

We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.

Charles Francis Kettering