

Kotzebue trade fair scheduled

Kotzebue's historic role as a center for Native trading and barter will be recognized this summer with the first Northwest Trade Fair. The week-long event will begin July 4.

Nana Regional Corporation President John Schaeffer made the announcement after a \$25,000 appropriation was received from the Alaska State Legislature to help pay for transportation and fair equipment for participants from the Arctic Slope, Bering Straits and Nana Regions.

The fair theme will be "Sharing." Natives will have the opportunity to barter their art work, skin sewing and traditional food with their neighboring regions, as well as with visitors from other parts of Alaska.

The week-long fair begins with the Independence Day Celebration sponsored by the Arctic Circle Chamber of Commerce, July 4 and will last

through July 10. The annual July fourth event attracts many visitors from all over the State, as well as an unusual number of tourists from across the Nation.

On July 5, the trade fair will host Eskimo dance teams from other regions, as well as NANA, who will perform welcome dances following the fair invocation. Welcome speeches will be made by dance participants and fair officials.

Natives will compete all week in traditional events. They include competitions for the best parky, mukluks, beadwork, baskets, bread, Etc. Other events are the Eskimo high kick, Kayak racing, dancing and singing, seal-hooking, seal skinning, fish cutting, blanket toss and much more. Artists will be able to display their work throughout much of the fair. Various competition will be held on an individual, village and regional level. Ribbons will

be awarded for the top three competitors in every category.