

Usually Rainy August Clears for Heavily Attended FNA Picnic

If ever an Indian did a dance for sunshine, the leaders of the Fairbanks Native Association must have done one. On the last weekend of an often rainy August, the sun rose hot and brilliant for the FNA's "Summer Celebration"—a picnic at Wilderness Park in Alaskaland.

From its scheduled start at 1:00 p.m. till long after the late afternoon sunset, over 1,000 Fairbanks natives and their friends enjoyed the food, native dancing, music and blanket toss.

People came from villages far and near—up and down the Alaska highway and points far distant to join the August 29 celebration.

Highlight of the Sunday picnic were free train rides for the children with Alaskan poet Larry Beck as conductor.

FNA also provided another highlight of the picnic—a side of beef which along with over 1,000 frankfurters, gallons of potato salad, jello salad and other goodies succeeded in giving everyone a picnic barbecue lunch. Guests were advised to bring your own bear. FNA and private donations provided the rest.

Jointly sponsored by the FNA and Fairbanks Native Community Center, the picnic featured entertainment by Charlie Moses, of Fort Yukon, on the violin, Ernie Evans on the guitar and a native dancing program led by Robert Charlie of Minto. Buses from the Native Commu-

nity Center transported celebrators without cars.

During the afternoon, Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) stop-

ped in to join the celebration. It was a beautiful, clear, hot, blue, sunny Alaskan day. Just before fall.