

Canadian Villages Hold Carnivals

By LOIS KEATING

INUVIK — May 5, 1974 —

The Spring Jamborees have taken place again this year. The Beaver Jamboree in Arctic Red River; The Fort Good Hope Easter Carnival; the Mad Trappers Rendezvous in Aklavik; the Peel River Jamboree in Fort McPherson; and the White Fox Jamboree in Sachs Harbour. Again, Inuvik had no special spring festival.

Puddles are appearing on the streets of Inuvik, and there's lots of mud. However, the ice roads on the river are still being used although they are no longer officially open.

The section of the new Dempster Highway between Inuvik and Arctic Red River, which has been open for a few months this winter, has now been closed, due to thawing conditions.

All land use operation in the Mackenzie Delta region (including Tuktoyaktuk) ended the first week in May. This means that all overland exploration travel must stop for the summer.

The only exception is at Sachs Harbour, where brief extensions have been given, due to extremely bad weather on the island, which prevented the crews from getting off the land by April 30.

Early on Palm Sunday morning, fire broke out in the historic All Saints Anglican Church in Aklavik. When the fire was discovered, it was already out of control and there was a strong wind blowing. Nothing was saved. Lost were many irreplaceable works of art.

A preliminary hearing regarding the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline inquiries was held April 22 in Inuvik. Justice Thomas R. Berger presided at the meeting, which was held mainly to determine where and when the inquiries should be held. It was generally agreed that Justice Berger should hold hearings in each of the communities which will be affected by the pipeline.

The main question now seems to be when? Some of the groups wanted them to be as soon as the end of this coming summer, whereas other groups, particularly C.O.P.E., the Indian Brotherhood and the Inuit Tapirisat, all feel that it will take at least another year to do work on all the information which has already been collected and to get this information to the people in a form that they can understand.

One hundred and nine Eskimo people from this area have now begun to receive checks under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement. Almost a thousand applications had been

sent in, but only a small number of those were accepted.

The Land Use and Occupancy study being conducted by the Inuit Tapirisat is nearly finished in the Delta area. Peter Usher is now putting together all the information which he, Bertram Pokiak of Tuk, Victor Allen of Inuvik, and Peter Thrasher of Aklavik, collected.

He is making maps to show the land-use for each community. When these are finished, they will be going back into the communities to show the people the finished maps and to see if they are correct.

When the project is completed, they will have a true record of the land that the Inuit people have traditionally used for trapping and hunting, because it will be the people's own record. This is the first step in working toward land claims.

The ITC is also doing the same kind of work in the central and eastern arctic and this will be finished later this year.

A group of senior citizens in the Delta area have been given a grant for \$9,438.00 under the government's New Horizons program, to hold two workshops to study and record traditional Loucheux and Hareskin Indian games. At these workshops, the games will be talked about and played and photographs will be taken.

Afterwards, it is hoped that a set of posters will be made up similar to those which have already been done for Eskimo games. Some of the Indian games have been forgotten by all but a few of the older people.

The Loucheux-Hareskin Games Group hopes to bring these people together at the workshops and in this way the games will be recorded and kept for future generations.

Alex and Hope Gordon made a trip by skidoo from their home in Inuvik to Kaktovik on Barter Island. It took them three days each way, averaging 100 miles per day. They spent several days with relatives and friends in Alaska and then returned home. Alex and Hope are known to many Eskimo Olympics fans, as they are members of the Mackenzie Delta Drum Dancers.

The trappers at Sachs Harbour have had an extremely good trapping season this year. Thousands of white foxes have been caught. With the high prices which are being obtained the average full-time trapper on Banks Island will be making more than \$20,000.00 this year.

David Nasogoloak has already caught over 1700 white foxes, which is more than anybody can ever remember one person getting in a season, and which will net him around \$67,000.00.

The average price being paid at the auctions for a white fox pelt is \$50.00 and some of the best furs are getting more than

We've now got the midnight sun and twenty-four hour daylight.