

Fairbanks Native Association Annual Potlatch Mar. 22, 1975

The Fairbanks Native Association's annual potlatch has been set for Saturday, March 22, 1975.

The potlatch is a colorful traditional gathering of Natives from all areas of the state.

"This year's activities show to be some of the most fun and

exciting for everyone wishing to attend," says Claude Demientieff, potlatch chairman.

There are four major activities planned for in this evening of fun: The potlatch, itself; the crowning of the FNA Queen for 1975; the Native dance competition and a raffle.

"Just like in past years, we have called upon people across the state to contribute Alaskan Native foods," Demientieff says. "Potlatches can't happen without people . . . we're going to need everyone's help and active

participation."

Donations can be sent C.O.D. to FNA, c/o Steve Matthews or Effie Kokrine, at 102 Lacey Street, Fairbanks, he adds.

The crowning of the FNA Queen is one of the highlights of the potlatch. The Queen will receive a scholarship prize and will represent the FNA statewide. She will also vie for the World Eskimo Indian Olympics, held in Fairbanks in August.

Requirements for the contestants are: Must be a single Native girl, between the ages of 16

and 25. Interested applicants should contact Mrs. Mary Jane Fate, c/o FNA, 102 Lacey Street, Fairbanks.

The Native dance competition is one of the most entertaining and enjoyable events of the potlatch. Village groups from all over compete and wear some of the most beautiful attire seen in the world. The end of the dance competition is the grand finale, where all the groups are on the floor. Amateur and professional photographers should have a field day, Demientieff exclaims.

This year's raffle will reward a first prize trip for two to Hawaii, 2nd prize will be a trip for two to Nome for the Iditarod races and 3rd prize will be one hundred dollars cash.

The potlatch will begin at six pm at the Lathrop High School Gymnasium.

The potlatch is scheduled to coincide with the Men's North American Sled Dog Championship Races, the Doyon stockholders' meeting and the Tanana Chiefs Conference's Annual Convention.