



TO SELL ALASKA—Mrs. Laura Bergt is slated to go to Los Angeles in February along with Jim Binkley of Fairbanks and Len Lawrence of Ketchikan to do pre-promotional work for Alaska's part at the Century City Alaska Travel and Trade Fair in Los Angeles on March 7-15.

A charming Eskimo young woman, Laura sprung from a prominent Kotzebue family. Laura is expected to return to Los Angeles around March 10 to demonstrate the blanket toss and other native cultural facets.

—DOLORES McCUTCHEON Photograph

Pert Laura Bergt to Promote Alaska at Los Angeles Fair

Laura Bergt, nee Laura Beltz, is a beautiful Eskimo young woman and a prominent citizen of Alaska.

It was no accident why Laura was picked by Anchorage Mayor George Sullivan and his group to represent her people and Alaska at the Century City Alaska Travel and Trade Fair to be held on March 7-15 in the great City of Los Angeles.

Laura radiates the natural charm of her people. She also has extensive background of able achievements. One of these was her promotion and staging of the famous World Eskimo Olym-

pics in Fairbanks, the spectacle she managed for two successive years of 1966 and 1967.

"I'm very happy to have known Laura, a beautiful young person, and she'll do Alaska a great deal of good at the Century City in Los Angeles," said Mayor George Sullivan last weekend over the telephone from Anchorage.

Sullivan is the executive manager of the Alaska Business Council that is coordinating the program in Los Angeles.

Sullivan said that Laura is expected to travel to that city around February 20 to do pre-

promotional work along with Jim Binkley of Fairbanks and Len Lawrence of Ketchikan.

"Laura will be interviewed on radio, television, and she'll be interviewed by the press," said Sullivan. "She will also make appearances before civic and fraternal organizations in Los Angeles. The folks will sell Alaska all the way."

Laura, Jim Binkley and Len Lawrence will be promoting Alaska for about a week.

Sullivan said that around March 10, he hopes to have Laura Bergt return to Los An-

(Continued on page 6)



CHARMING HUNTER—Laura Bergt, a beautiful Eskimo girl, is demonstrating the art of harpooning. Straying considerably from her traditional Eskimo attire, Laura is wearing a bathing suit, a common Los Angeles attire, especially on the beaches, in the best manner of feminine pulchritude. Laura does not have any trouble in absorbing the best of the Western Culture,

including refrigerators, fine rugs, hi-fi sets, color television and many other fine things. Laura also finds it easy to revert back to her parkas, nalukatuk (blanket toss), in which she's an expert, Eskimo dances and other fine facets of her native culture.

—DOLORES McCUTCHEON Photograph

Laura to Promote . . .

(Continued from page 1)

geles for demonstrations of the Eskimo blanket toss (nalukatuk) and to demonstrate the tricky yo-yos and other things.

During some time of the promotional effort, Laura may depart from her traditional Eskimo attire and don a cheesecake outfit and demonstrate such things as harpoon throwing and fashioning of arts and crafts of her people.

Laura will feel right at home demonstrating the blanket toss having had captured the World Eskimo Olympics crown more than once for stellar performances in that tricky and difficult sport.

She had won this on grace, skill, height and form sometimes attaining the toss height of about 30 feet and then land on the walrus hide blanket on her feet without falling or losing her balance.

George Sullivan, or Laura herself, did not say how the cheesecake versions of harpoon demonstrations will go but they should be pleasing to the viewers in Los Angeles.

This is borne out by the skillful photographs for promotional purposes taken by the Anchorage photographer Mrs. Dolores McCutcheon.

"They were going to have me wear a white fox fur Bikini outfit but they made me look too fat," said Laura recently.

When told that someone should have thought of using ermine skins for the Bikini outfit, Laura mused:

"Hmm, we never thought of that. I think you have something there."

Ermine Bikini or not, Laura

and her fellow salesmen at the Century City Alaska Travel and Trade Fair, should make a notable impression at the Los Angeles promotion.

Laura sprung from a prominent family in Kotzebue. The late State Senator William E. Beltz, first president of the State Senate when Alaska became a state in 1959, was her uncle.

Jim Binkley is the captain of the riverboat Discoverer, a stern-wheeler he operates in summers for tourists river tours on the Chena and Tanana Rivers.

Len Lawrence is in travel service business in Ketchikan.

Laura's latest job has been as office manager and secretary to the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Emil Notti. She has worked for Tundra Times and has been an executive committee member of the newspaper's officials.

Laura's husband, Neil Bergt, is an airline pilot and vice president of the Interior Airways, the airline firm that is doing extensive freight hauls for the major oil companies on oil discovery sites on Alaska's Arctic North Slope.

Laura and Neil have four children.

