

**Karen Jim Elected—**

# **Impressive NCAI Queen Pageant**

By LIBET JOHNSON

Karen Jim, 18, a proud and lovely young Yakima Indian from Washington State now reigns as the new Queen of the National Congress of American Indians for 1970-71. Standing tall and noble in her traditional beaded dress, she was crowned by the former Queen, Tina Manning, a graceful, bird-like girl, who is a Shoshone from Owyhee, Nevada.

Tina opened the contest by reciting a Shoshone legend in sign language. Her fluid, magical gestures and serene expression left all who watched her spell-bound.

Assisting Tina with the coronation was Ginny Walker, Miss Alaska 1970.

The first runner-up was Audrey Ambrose, 22, an Athabaskan Indian. Formerly from Hulsia, Alaska, she now lives in Fairbanks.

Glenna Jenks, a Ute Indian from Fort Dequesne, Utah was the second runner-up and Carol Holt, a Cherokee from Tahlequah, Oklahoma was voted Miss Congeniality.

All of the girls wore the ceremonial costumes traditional in their tribes. Many of the dresses were made by mothers and grandmothers especially for this occasion. The bead and leatherwork was extraordinary and each dress was unique among the others.

The contestants were judged according to their beauty and poise, the authenticity and symbolism of their costume and their own understanding of this and the history of their people.

During the following year Karen will travel throughout the United States representing the NCAI.

The Queen crowning ended a week of NCAI meetings, a grand parade, the likes of which Anchorage has never seen, a delicious Pot-Latch dinner, tribal dances and dance contest, several pow-wows, and Olympic Games of Eskimo and Indian Skill.

With representatives from almost every American Indian tribe, many dressed in traditional clothing, the events were extremely colorful.

The dances, especially, were

inspiring. So much so that many of the audience invariably ended up joining in as well.

Aside from the Queen Contest, the NCAI had its annual elections. Earl Old Person will be serving the second of his two year presidential term. Frank Ducheneaux was voted the next executive director and Dorothy Davis was re-elected treasurer. The first vice-president will be John Rainer, and Secretary will be Veronica Murdock.

On Sunday, forty delegates from the NCAI and eight Board members flew to Prudhoe Bay oil field. The trip was courtesy of British Petroleum Inc., one of the two controllers of the field. After the inspection tour by bus the group was supposed to have gone on to Barrow, but was forced to cancel the trip because of hazardous weather conditions.