

Open Air Olympics at Alaskaland, 5,000-seat Capacity Being Planned

The 1969 World Eskimo Olympics will be held in Fairbanks at Alaskaland on August 8 and 9, it was announced today by the Olympics committee. The decision was made after a meeting with Alaskaland Manager Jack Tripp.

Plans call for an outdoor arena to be set up with a seating capacity of 5000 persons. The two evenings of presentations by native dance groups and competitive games will be set aside as special "Eskimo Olympics Nights" by Alaskaland.

Col. Lincoln E. Ost, commander of Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks, was considered by the Olympics committee to be the master of ceremonies at the annual program but declined.

"I appreciate being considered for the important activity of Master of Ceremonies for the Eskimo Olympics," Col. Ost said. "However, due to the press of military business, I will be unable to accept this responsibility."

Col. Ost was singled out as being a lifelong Alaskan and who grew up around the Seward Peninsula and has wide knowledge of Alaska and the native people.

Further efforts to engage a master of ceremonies will be made by the Olympics commit-

tee.

Interest in the annual event appears to be growing. With many more villages to be heard from, Barrow, Kotzebue, Minto, and Nenana have indicated that they would like to send representatives.

Pending transportation arrangements, the villages of Point Hope and St. Mary's have also expressed a willingness to attend.

Olympics Chairman Thomas Richards, Jr., accompanied by committee members Olive Anderson and Peg Anderson, were in Minto this past weekend and met with the Minto Dance Group. The Minto Dancers were reported to be enthusiastic about competing in the Olympics.

Any villages which would be willing to send dancers, a queen contestant, or other representatives to the Olympics are request-

ed to contact either Thomas Richards, Jr., c/o Tundra Times, or the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

The Kotzebue Chamber of Commerce notified the Olympics committee in a telegram Tuesday that it will send three contestants to compete in the games and events.

These were chosen during competitions held in Kotzebue as part of its Independence Day celebration. Miss Penny Lee was chosen Miss Kotzebue and will compete in the 1969 Miss World Olympics Contest.

Champion-High Kicker Wilfred Lane will represent Kotzebue in that event. Tommy Field won the blanket toss contest and will also attend the Olympics.