

Alaska Native Heritage Festival at Anchorage Museum Mar. 20-23

Traditional and contemporary Alaskan Native art, music and dance will be the focus of the third annual Alaska Native Heritage Festival at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. This four-day event takes place Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 20, March 21 and March 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 23 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Museum visitors will have the opportunity to observe Native craftsmen representing all of Alaska's Native culture groups. They will be able to talk to the artists about the materials they use and their techniques as they create their work. In addition to continuous crafts demonstrations several groups of performing artists will present programs in the Museum auditorium at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and on Sunday at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Athapaskan Indians invited to participate include Belle Deacon, a birchbark basketmaker from Grayling, and her daughter, Daisy Demientief of Anchorage; Howard Luke of Fairbanks, who makes sleds and fish traps; Hannah Solomon, a beadworker originally from Fort Yukon; and Kathleen Carlo, a contemporary Athapaskan artist from Fairbanks.

Featured Aleut artists are Gertrude Svorny of Unalaska who carves in soapstone and whalebone; and Agnes Thompson, Pariscovia Wright and her daughter, Margaret Lokanin, all presently of Anchorage, who weave traditional rye grass baskets.

Southeastern Alaska will be represented by Nathan Jackson, a wood carver from Ketchikan; Esther Littlefield from Sitka who creates traditional button blankets and beadwork; Ernestine Glessing who will demonstrate traditional weaving and basketmaking from Hoonah; and Mabel Pike, an Anchorage beadworker.

Eskimo artists will be Dolly Spencer, a dollmaker originally from Kotzebue; Rita Blumenstein, a basketmaker and skinsewer originally from Nelson Island; Susie Bevins, a contemporary sculptor living in Anchorage; and Isaak Koyuk, an ivory carver now living in Anchorage.

Performances will include six members of the Geisaan Dancers of Haines: Charlie Jimmie, Senior, Matilda Lewis, Rick Johnson, Verna Erickson, Ronald Jimmie and Ann Keener. Old Time Athapaskan music will be provided by fiddler Vincent Yaska from Rampart; guitarist and singer, Art Joseph from Fairbanks; and Bill Stevens, a fiddler from Fort Yukon. Eskimo performers will be Benedict Snowball and William Tyson. Audrey Armstrong, from the Native Dress Review, will be the interpreter for all of the performances.

The 1986 Alaska Native Heritage Festival is funded by the Municipality of Anchorage and a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Cook Inlet Region, Inc. through the state of Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the Anchorage Museum Association and Polaris Travel.



AFN's near-winning team lost to the Alaska State Legislature by the slim margin of only two points, 92-90. The game was held in Juneau Feb. 19.

photo by Margaret Nelson



We'll get 'em next year: Some of the AFN players in action at last Wednesday's game.

photo by Margaret Nelson