

# 4th of July In Villages

Independence Day has traditionally, since the early territorial years, been a festive occasion in Alaskan villages throughout the State. The Fourth of July celebration in the year 1969 will be no exception. One such program will be held in Kotzebue Friday.

Morning events will include footraces with classes open to children, teenagers, men, women, old men, old women, and even women packing babies on their backs.

Afternoon activities are just as colorful and diversified. In the Eskimo hi-kick contest, competitors will bind their feet and attempt to kick a ball dangling above their heads.

Eskimo hunters will display their skill in the seal hooking contest. In this event, they will compete from boats to hook a

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dummy seal weighted to sink rapidly out of reach of the hook and line.

Nalukatuk performers will test their skill in the blanket toss. Participants twist and kick as they jump high into the air from the walrus or oogruk hide blankets.

Drummers will maintain a steady beat, pounding with wooden sticks on drums constructed of intestine membrane. They will accompany the Eskimo Dancers as they perform the motion dances, or the ancient traditional dances.

Other contests include a tug of war, muktuk eating competition, and the Arctic Baby Beauty Contest which is open only to babies under one year of age.

Drawings will be held for such prizes as an outboard motor and a portable sewing machine. Cash prizes will also be awarded to the hunter who has caught the biggest beluga.

One of the greatest attractions will be the selection of Miss Arctic Circle of 1969. Contestants will compete in parkys for the title. The winner of this event will represent Kotzebue at the 1969 World Eskimo Olympics program, to be held in Fairbanks on August 8 and 9.

The day of celebration will be concluded with a community dance, attended by nearly everyone in town.