



RENO HERE WE COME—Two excited young ladies at Fairbanks International Airport Friday night were Mary Keller of Nome, Miss Eskimo Olympics (right) and Joanna Harper of Fairbanks, Miss FNA. The two were off to Reno to com-

pete with Indian girls from across the country for the title of Miss NCAI. With them are their chaperone Sally Hudson (left) and Daphne Gustafson, Miss Eskimo Olympics Coordinator.

—Photo by MARY JANE FATE

Miss Olympics Enters NCAI Queen Pageant in Reno

When Miss Eskimo Olympics parades past the judges of the National Conference of American Indians beauty pageant this week she will have her many friends to Nome to thank for the opportunity to be in Reno meeting and competing against Indian girls from across the United States.

Thursday night, less than 24 hours before she boarded the plane for Fairbanks and then Reno, there was no money to send 17 year old Mary Keller to Reno.

Just a day before, Eskimo Olympics Queen Coordinator Daphne Gustafson had found out the Arctic Native Brotherhood in Nome would not be able to contribute the \$250 they had promised to send Mary to the Reno convention.

Before Daphne could contact Mary, Mary had found out

herself. Through Wednesday, Mrs. Gustafson contacted possible funds sources around Fairbanks, with no luck.

Then, on Thursday night, Mrs. Dave DeVries called Mary to tell her how sorry she was Mary would not be able to compete for the Miss NCAI title.

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Miss Olympics . . .

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In fact, she felt so bad that she planned to spearhead a drive in Nome to raise money for Mary's plane fare and expenses.

As Thursday evening rolled on, Nome's two radio stations competed in their spot announcements of the need for money to send the half Eskimo beauty queen to Reno. Donations, they said, should be taken to City Hall. Otherwise, the lovely Nome girl would be disappointed and there would be no Eskimo girl in the contest.

By the dozens, Nome citizens contributed their tens and twenties. — When Mary woke Friday morning, almost \$700 had been collected. Friday afternoon, she boarded the plane to join Joanna Harper, Miss Fairbanks Native Association to travel to the exciting week long Indian convention.