

Whiskey Song at Big Potlatch

The first Native song of the night at Saturday's Fairbanks Native Association Potlatch was titled "I Want to Drink Whiskey," and that lively piece set the tone of the evening.

Some 2,000 Natives and non-Natives dined on traditional moose, mukluk, beaver, Indian and Eskimo ice cream and similar foods at Lathrop High School before viewing games, dances and a Miss FNA contest in the gym. Steve Matthew was potlatch chairman.

Diane Benson, 19, of Sitka, dressed in traditional Tlingit garb, was chosen FNA queen. She will receive a college scholarship fund from proceeds of the Potlatch and represent FNA in the Miss World Eskimo-Indian Olympics contest.

Other winners are Dorothy Woods, 19, Athabascan, of Manley Hot Springs, first runner-up; Mida Savok, 18, Eskimo, of Buckland, second runner-up, and Sue Stevens, 18, Yupik Eskimo, Miss Congeniality. The outgoing queen is Anita Sheldon.

Native dancers from Minto, Barrow, Nenana, Huslia and Nulato performed, as well as the Oliver, Amouak family of Unalakleet. Oliver's son, Ralph, narrated the Amouak dances while Al Woods, Tanana, and Dr. W.A. Soboleff, University of Alaska professor, were masters of ceremonies. Mary Jane Fate directed the queen contest.

U.S. Congressman Donald Young of Fort Yukon joined in a Native dance with Minto dancers, and U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel was presented with a miniature



QUEEN FOR A YEAR — Diane Benson of Sitka, a Tlingit Indian, was chosen Miss Fairbanks Native Association at Saturday's Potlatch. She wore a Tlingit button blanket and headdress denoting the Fish Clan. (Courtesy Fairbanks Daily News-Miner).

dog sled and musher, symbolic of the Iditarod sled dog race.

Matthew was presented with a clock as a gift of appreciation for the work he put in to organizing the affair.

Matthew said the potlatch raised about \$1,700, some of

which will go toward scholarships, the United Good Neighbors and Native lobbying in Washington, D.C. Matthew couldn't figure out why he was given a clock, but guessed it was because he has been late to work recently.



BEATING TRADITIONAL DRUM — Andrew Isaac, traditional chief of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, beats a drum for dancers at the FNA potlatch Saturday. He apparently decided to live it up a little after speech-making and business at the TCC convention. (Courtesy of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner).