



**OLYMPICS QUEEN, 1968**—Miss Audrey Ambrose of Galena is happy over her winning the crown of World Eskimo Olympics Beauty Queen Pageant. She was crowned last Saturday evening by Miss Leora Kenick of Nome last year's Miss Eskimo Olympics. Audrey is 20 years old. She plans to go to the University of Alaska in the fall semester. An effort will be made to send her to All American Indian Days Miss (Indian) America Pageant in Sheridan, Wyoming next year.

—Photo by BUD NELSON

## Eskimo Olympics Score Success

The 1968 World Eskimo Olympics is history and the impression it made this year will probably evaluate it as the most exciting in the eight years of performance.

The three-day event was held in the spacious Seward Hall, the gold domed structure at the Alaskaland with turn-away crowd at each of the three

(Continued on page 4)

# Olympics Successful...

(Continued from page 1)

evenings. The crowds approached 2,000 at each of the performances.

Although number of events were reduced from former performances, the response they received from the audiences was enthusiastic, bringing out the fact that the Olympics is one of the most popular events in Fairbanks.

Seal skinning contest, one of the most popular, was missing this year. Water sports was cancelled. The number of men performers was cut down because some were out firefighting.

Reduced or not, the unique program proved its worth to Fairbanks. Tourists and dignitaries from far away places came. Life and Time Magazine photographers were present as did the National Geographic Magazine.

Barrow dancers once again proved their superlative routines and walked away with the first place rating. The MacKenzie Delta Drum Dancers once again gave fine performances and very ably represented Inuvik, N.W.T. in Canada.

Jenny Felder of Fairbanks gave a beautiful demonstration of the nalukatuk (blanket toss) and came out a winner. Laura Bergt, last years toss champion, but sprained her ankle on the first series of tries.

Danny Thomas of Kotzebue along with Sylvester Ayek, the latter serving as an able master of ceremonies, tried at hi-kick with both feet at the seven-foot mark, breaking the Olympics record at six feet eight inches set by Harry Kaleak of Barrow.

Danny Thomas also won one-foot hi-kick at seven feet four inches.

Morris Wilson of Kotzebue won the knuckle hop contest covering approximately 60 feet.

Tough little young man, James Itta of Barrow, won the ear weight contest carrying 15-pound lead weight on a thin string for the approximate distance of 325 feet winning thousands of fans in doing it.

## BEAUTY PAGEANT

The World Eskimo Olympics Beauty Queen Pageant picked beautiful 20-year-old Miss Audrey Ambrose of Galena who entered the contest as Miss Fairbanks Native Association.

Miss Ambrose also won Miss Congeniality voted for by her fellow contestants.

As in all queen contests, this year's Olympics pageant was no less emotional. Miss Ambrose was happily in tears.

"I'm so happy—I just can't believe it," said Audrey. "I'm

really going to tell everyone the importance of our native culture."

Miss Leora Kenick of Nome who was succeeded by Miss Audrey Ambrose was also in tears.

"I have to give up this crown," she said with tears in her eyes. "I hate to give it up. I've had the most wonderful year of my life."

And then there was the muktuk eating contest in which everyone, including Caucasians. Scores of people took part in this unusual event much to everyone's amusement. It was won by George Taylor of Kotzebue who devoured his three-inch by two-inch morsel in 21 seconds flat.

The Minto Stick contest was won by Morris Wilson of Kotzebue, an Eskimo. The stick contest is the Athabaskan Indian game.

Parka contest was won by Mrs. Poldine Carlo of Fairbanks. Second was Mrs. Isa Sovalik, Barrow, and third was Mrs. Rhoda Nageak, also of Barrow.

Color? There was plenty of it in this year's Olympics, although unavoidably reduced. It has to be classed as the most interesting and colorful native programs in Alaska.