

Ketzler Again Named to Head

1965 Nenana Ice Classic

Named to head the 1966 Nenana ice classic is Alfred Ketzler, who successfully guided the state's favorite guessing game to new heights

in 1965.

Ketzler was named manager of the classic along with a committee of directors including Robert Coghill, Don Clark, Vern Hensley, Dan Ketzler, Milton Jauhola, Bill Monroe and Norman Suckling.

The famous classic has awarded about \$1,000,000 since 1955 to Alaskans who correctly guess the day, hour and minute of the ice breakup in the Tanana River at Nenana.

Under Ketzler's guidance, ticket sales showed a marked increase last year—nearly 20,000 in the Anchorage area alone—and a good run on the popular game is anticipated during 1966.

The classic holds state wagering permit number one through "ancestral rights." It began in 1917 when a group building The Alaska Railroad took chances on guessing the ice breakup time. It has continued since that time and won official sanction from the first legislature under Statehood.

For the village of Nenana, where temperatures drop to 70 below zero, the guessing game is a winter diversion and industry. It has built their community hall and offered employment.

Ketzler was born in Nenana in 1933—just a few days before the ice went out. Besides the ice classic, Ketzler operates a potato farm, runs the village airport and heads street work and other projects for the City of Nenana.

For two years he was chairman of the Tanana Chiefs Conference and was publisher and vice president of the Tundra Times, an all native newspaper printed in Fairbanks. In the military he was a squad leader of an oversnow platoon with the 53rd Infantry.