

# Colorful History of Eskimo Olympics

(Continued from page 1)

games, like the ear weight contest and the knuckle hop, are harsh tests of pain and endurance and had been outlawed in some villages.

Others test practiced skills like the blanket toss and seal skinning, and participants must have a good grasp of their Native heritage to participate in them.

The first year only villagers from Barrow, Unalakleet, Tanana, Ft. Yukon, and Noorvik attended but enthusiasm ran high and a large crowd of spectators turned out to cheer them on.

After that attendance snowballed and Indians began to appear enmass to challenge their Eskimo neighbors.

Last year the Tundra Times took over sponsorship of the games from the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, broke all records and made enough profit to offer a scholarship for a Native Student.

Now it's hoped the Olympics will become international with the attendance of Greenland and Canadian Eskimos.

The Canadians, who have competed since 1967, have arrangements pretty well lined up and the Greenlanders have been promised one way fare by Mrs. Lillian Von Kauffman, wife of the owner of the Palace Hotel in Copenhagen.

A long list of dignitaries, including the Vice President of the United States and his daughter, have also been invited.

This year's list of events in-

## Firefighter...

(Continued from page 1)

really hard because we were climbing a steep hill. Now the Pulaski (a single headed ax with a digging blade) doesn't feel so heavy."

There was plenty of kidding about the all-girl crew, she reported.

"One of the fellows told us he used to come home to nice, clean, fresh girls and now pretty soon we'd all smell alike...like smoke. But actually the men were very nice. Some said they hoped we'd get another job."

The women were classed as Emergency Fire Fighters and have been refused further assignment until an evaluation report is made by their crew boss, Dan Rody.

"If the evaluation shows the girls are capable, and it appears from verbal reports that they are, I'm not sure how we'd go about hiring," BLM's director told the Tundra Times. "We have 18 village crews trained and organized. Other villages have contacted us asking for the same program but we've been turning them down because we have enough."

In an emergency situation additional crews are hired on a first come, first serve basis through State Employment.

"If I accept them as an organized crew, what am I going to tell the other villages?" Krumm puzzles. "And yesterday I had a call from a crew of women in Tanana saying they're all ready and want the next job."

As for hiring women with established crews, Krumm worries about a portion of the Equal Opportunity Act which says that if there are two sexes, separate facilities must be provided when it is reasonable.

"If the women keep insisting we may have to think of that," he said.

Miss Herbert assures us they will insist.

"They're a good crew. We're all together and we want to go fire fighting and keep on fire fighting all summer long!"

cludes all the traditional games; blanket toss, ear weight, arm pulling, high kick, stick pull, tug o' war, greased pole contest and many others, as well as Eskimo and Indian dancing. To make things more lively for the spectators, some of these contests will be staged two-at-a-time.

Here are the records they'll be trying to top: (first place winners only)

### 1970 OLYMPICS

FOUR MAN CARRY - About 600 pounds.

Morgan Saseak of Barrow - 42 feet.

### KNUCKLE HOP

Ray Mendenhall of Kotzebue

### BABY CONTEST

Michael Galbraith of Tok

### EAR WEIGHT COMPETITION

Charlie Kaswok of Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada. 16 pounds for 20 turns

### ONE-FOOT HIGH KICK

Joe Kasak of Inuvik, Northwest Territories - 7 feet 2 in-

ches.

### TWO FOOT HIGH KICK

Joe Kasale - 6 feet six inches

### MUKTUK EATING

Valorie Jennings of Barrow

### INDIAN STICKPULL

Gareth Wright of Fairbanks

### MEN'S BLANKET TOSS

Tom Fields of Kotzebue

Earlier records show our Native athletes have been improving steadily over the years and that the Eskimo games are certainly not being forgotten. We'll carry these records next week and think you'll find them interesting for comparison.

We will readily admit this research is not complete. It's limited to newspaper accounts which, in some years, were very sketchy. The only note we have on the 1964 meet, for example, is the name of the queen winner. That apparently was the beginning and end of the seal throwing contest but we just don't know who entered or won.

## Satellite Communication

(Continued from page 1)

corkscrew.

At first the university broadcast to itself. Then it aired worldwide an interview with Ralph Nader which they think was a first. The state Department of Public Works asked for some time. Then the university suggested a biomedical program to U.S. Public Health Service.

In cooperation with NASA, the Division of Communications of the state Department of Public Works, doctors from Alaska. Native Health Service and medical aids from Venetie and Allakaket, they set up an experiment demonstrating satellite communication had great potential for solving medical communication problems in remote areas. Medically trained health aids in the bush could rely on the system to communicate with experienced doctors at times when an emergency went beyond their medical training.

Due to the severity and unevenness of the Arctic terrain and extreme ionospheric disturbances in northern latitudes, high frequency radio transmission (currently used by the villages) is not too reliable.

The satellite experiment provided good quality voice communication between the bush and Fairbanks in all but four out of 80 tries while high frequency radio contact scored only 25 percent of the time.

"It gives people a chance to practice medicine instead of radio calling," Stanley maintains. "We want to learn how much broadcast time is necessary for good health care. And we want to know what other things can be sent to the villages that provide important health aids. This satellite is not capable of TV on our current budget, but we can send printed pages and electrocardiographs."

Lister Hill, which is part of the National Library of Medicine, one of the national institutes of HEW, decided the answers are important and has provided funding for a program connecting remote villagers to six public health service hospitals and private doctors.

Participating are Allakaket, Arctic Village, Barrow, Barter Island, Chalkyitsik, Emmonak, Ft. Yukon, Homer, Hooper Bay, Huslia, Kanakanak, Nulato, Ruby, Sand Point, St. Paul, Stevens Village, Tanana, Venetie and Anaktuvuk Pass if the terrain will permit transmission.

Cities involved are Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Nome, Kodiak, Kotzebue and Bethel.

Stanley said in picking sites

they concentrated on northern latitudes where auroral disturbances constantly interrupt high frequency broadcasting. They also determined to cover the three major cultures.

As the program was being planned, HEW, Education office, became interested and decided to utilize the system in rural schools for teacher to teacher contacts, communication with outside centers and educational broadcasting.

Bob Arnold, executive director of the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission, reports the program thus far is funded for \$56,474, and that an additional grant of Title 3 funds is expected in six months.

The program will be set up under a consortium which includes Alaska Federation of Natives, Rural CAP, Alaska Methodist University, SOS, Alaska Education Assn., Division of Public Health, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sheldon Jackson, Center for Northern Education, Department of Education, U of A, and Alaska Education Board.

Merritt has improved his antenna design so the whole unit can be disassembled and shipped in a small plane. The Geophysical Institute has built 23 of these units to date and plans to start installation July 15.

Broadcasting will begin in September over taxi radio units which, scientists are happy to discover, work very well and can be purchased off the shelf.

Alaska will share its satellite time with other experimental groups such as the University of Hawaii broadcasting to American Samoa and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

NASA does the scheduling and the time is free if users keep within a five day week.

NASA has made it clear it will only loan its satellite for experimental not long term projects.

"Ours is for nine months and may or may not be extended," Stanley said. "I think that full time satellite communication is seven years away if we start today."

But the research that's being done should pay off, then. It appears that high frequency communications has gone about as far as it can, he speculates, and satellite will be the next logical step.

"I'd like to have one of those Snoopy cartoons," Merritt concludes. "Happiness is a working satellite."

## Defends Seal Harvesting—

# Secretary Stans Backs Pribilovians

Maurice H. Stans, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce has spoken out strongly in defense of seal harvesting.

Stans described the seal harvest as "a humane operation, fully consistent with the best principles of wildlife management," noting that the ecology movement which condemns it in many cases has gone to extremes.

To cease Pribilof Island sealing operations would deprive 635 Aleut residents of their main source of gainful employment and force them to become wards of the government, he warned.

The seal herd, which faced extinction in 1911 due to indis-

criminate killing, now numbers 1.3 million, which Stans said "is considered to be their maximum productive level."

The current method of killing the animals with a single blow from a hardwood club, then spearing them through the heart, is the quickest, most humane way known, the secretary added. But new, more humane methods are being sought by his department.

Stans dismissed any suggestions that the Aleuts be moved off the islands as inconsistent with their rights as citizens.

"We're not going to do it," he said.

## Aspinall Cools Claims...

(Continued from page 1)

defining the terms of the proposed act.

Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash) won close votes to amend definitions of Native and Native Village to bring them more in line with what was desired by the AFN.

Sources indicate that Interior Committee Chairman Wayne Aspinall (D-Colo) was angered by Meeds' action, viewing it as a threat to his control over the subcommittee.

AFN president Don Wright indicated that, while the AFN is not pleased that further meetings aren't scheduled, the definition amendments may have been test votes reflecting favorably on the Native position.

Generally, there is increasing dissatisfaction among many committee members, Native leaders and AFN proponents because of the veteran legislator from Colorado and inaction on Native land claims.

Little of this surfaces publicly, however, because of fear that Chairman Aspinall may react to such criticism by obstructing the land claims bill altogether.

In spite of an intensified lobbying effort by Natives, oil interests, and the administration, the willingness of Chairman Aspinall to sanction progress on the claims bill is still widely questioned.

Younger members of the subcommittee, such as Rep. Meeds, Rep. Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii), and Alaska Congressman Nick Begich believe the issue to be one of life and death for Alaska Natives and attach the highest priority for rapid action to settle the claims.

Some committee members are reported to fear that national scandal may result from continued inaction.

Native proponents warn that suffering and death plague Alaska villages while the Indian Affairs Subcommittee meets behind closed doors to engage in per-

sonality clashes, or doesn't meet at all.

Prior to Wednesday's session, optimism was at it highest level in the history of the land claims fight.

Chairman Aspinall was hinting discreetly that he would no longer consider his own proposals, but was willing to proceed using the administration bill as the mark-up vehicle.

The administration was being credited with maintaining a vigorous effort to encourage Republican members of the committee to bring the Alaska Native land claims closer to a legislative settlement.

Oil company representatives here in Washington were calling their home offices with the good news that progress was about to be made on native claims.

The optimism has abated, but that in itself isn't really new. Observers recall that, when House action was anticipated on Alaska Native land claims during the last congress, Chairman Aspinall took his new bride on a European holiday.

Some sources report that Chairman Aspinall is retreating to figure out how to keep the claims from turning into a Republican victory for the Nixon Administration; or that his tactics are directed toward the preservation of his leadership on this issue; or that he simply will retire and let someone else inherit the question.

If the Alaska Native land claims bill ever gets moving again this year, Chairman Aspinall will still have the responsibility of shepherding a bill through the floor of the House and, perhaps, a joint conference committee.

For this reason, and for the time being, Natives and the proponents on the Indian Affairs Subcommittee appear content to play the waiting game, until the threat of inaction becomes more serious.

Answer to Puzzle No. 3

