

W·E·I·O· attracts international media . . .

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sewing which continued for the three nights of the games, while the contestants jumped to a qualifying height of 5'9".

M.C. responsibilities the first night were shared by Roger Lang, Tommy Richards Jr., Alfred Grant and Willie Hensley. Hensley explained to the crowd that Eskimo and Indian games test strength, agility and endurance and traditionally were a way to help pass long winters and to keep in shape.

Since Camille Conwell (Kotzebue) went unchallenged in the Women's Two Foot High Kick, Hensley tried his hand, "in his heels," as Roger Lang joked. Both reached a height of 4'5".

The men's Greased Pole Walk brought squeals of laughter and amazed gasps as Tommy Smith of Inuvik, NWT, slid to a 9'6" victory. Women from the audience asked if they could compete and the judges agreed, allowing Camille Conwell to take another win with her "walk" of 5'6".

Queen candidates made their first appearance in their heavy hand-sewn fur and leather

dresses and coats. Each modeled their outfit while Mary Keller of the Queen Committee told about the clothing and a bit of background on each contestant. Then, the candidates were asked to speak to the audience about their jobs, families, hobbies, or their outfits.

In order they were Sally Moses (Bethel), Miss Yukon Kuskokwim: Delta; Roxanne Frank (Minto), Miss Fairbanks Native Association; Florence Ahnangnatoguk (Nome), Miss Arctic Native Brotherhood; Faith Peters (Tanana), Miss Nuchalowoyya; Shurina Jager (Anchorage), Miss Cook Inlet Native Corporation; Sandra Hopson (Barrow), Miss Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; Bea Ballot (Kotzebue), Miss Arctic Circle; and Salina Gooden (Kiana), Miss Kobuk Valley.

With 20 minutes each to compete, Wainwright, Barrow, and Tanana began dancing, ending with the popular invitational dances when spectators could come out of the bleachers to join in. Mary Rexford explained the Barrow dances and Anthony Sarren announced for Wain-

wright which also sang "Oh How I Love Jesus" in memory of Howard Rock.

Preliminaries for the One Foot High Kick were held, and four men qualified as finalists by kicking 6'2½". A crowd-pleasing favorite, the blanket toss, had to be cut short during the women's competition when the skin blanket began to tear.

About 25 people gathered in a circle on their knees for the muktuk eating contest. Neither taking time to cut or chew the large piece of whale blubber, Roy Harding Katairoak (Barrow) took a first place which caused a commotion among the judges. Steven Mathews, appointed chief judge in case of a tie, felt it was unfair for someone to win who had not done anything to the muktuk except pop it in and swallow.

The judges agreed that there were no ground rules for the "fun" game and most said that they felt any way the contestant could get it down would qualify. Chairman John Heffle agreed saying "if you got guts enough to choke to death, that's okay."

Steven Mathews was still not

satisfied and angrily resigned as a judge saying "I am the chief judge and if they disagree with me, I refuse to judge," and stalked out. Heffle commented later that it shouldn't have caused a controversy, but that if the organizing committee wants to make guidelines beforehand for next year that's fine."

The evening ended outdoors with the Tug of War between the white men and the native women. As usual, the women won easily. Heffle was reminded of last year when a bunch of pipeliners got pulled out the door by the women and tore up the gym floor trying to hold themselves by the heels. "Between pulling and skins and fish nets, those women are tough," said Heffle.

A special treat of this year's games was the presence of Danjuuroo Kikkawa and the Tokyo Broadcasting System Inc., one of Japan's large commercial television stations. Their film record of the Olympics will be taken back to Japan to become a part of a series on games around the world.

It will be shown in a studio to a large audience while Danjuuroo, a popular Japanese folk-singer, demonstrates what he learned by competing in the Alaskan Olympics.

He was more than a good sport as he kicked at the ball Bruce Lee style, swallowed muktuk, grunted under the Four Man Carry and grimaced through the Ear Pulling Contest, and the crowd rewarded his efforts with delighted laughter and loud applause and cheers.

Sam Demientieff replaced Mathews on the judging team of Chris Anderson, Theresa Peoples, Buzz Fitzpatrick and Glenn Horseman on Friday night as the second evening of competition began in a cooler gym. Reigning Queen, Tina Shinn of Fairbanks took her place on the throne, Al Grant offered an opening prayer and the Red Cross First Aiders took their

positions. The first aid team was made up of Jack Murphy, Instructor of First Aid and Advanced CPR, and Civil Defense Chairman for Fairbanks; Fran Frey, First Aid Instructor; Robert Frey, Red Cross Disaster Chairman; and Loretta Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Red Cross.

Happily, most of their work was mending cut ears and smashed hands although they went into action during the Men's and Women's Blanket Toss contests when both Reggie Joule and Karen Adams ended up in university ambulances with injured legs. (See Reggie Joule story on page 1).

Dancing, faster and more intense than the previous evening, led off the contests, with Barrow's presentation of a Kalutak dance using a box-type drum suspended between two poles.

Male lead dancers wore special beaked and feathered "gool" headdresses. The Tanana invitational dance brought in lots of spectators when Al Grant offered the audience a chance to "dance with your Indian brothers. Show unity in the state of Alaska."

Andrew Issac, traditional chief of the Tanana Chiefs and Doyon appeared on stage and spoke to the crowd saying "I am one person, but I can make you smile." Whereupon he joined the first night of dancing for Minto which presented a memorial "washtub" dance for Howard Rock.

Finally, Oliver and Olga Amouak and their daughter Bernice appeared for the first time, beating out time and movement with feather dance fans to the sound of Oliver's strong chant and drum beat. The couple have been dancing together for many years and, according to Al Grant, have been all over the world demonstrating their dancing. Oliver is 85 and

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Joule named Trophy winner . . .

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But a freak slip at the end of the Men's Blanket Toss on the second night of competition sent Reggie off the floor toward the Red Cross station dragging his right leg, face contorted in pain. An ice compress applied by both the Red Cross workers and the university ambulance team could not mend what turned out to be a broken ankle nor the broken dreams of winning the remaining events.

"He was really disappointed," said his wife Linda. "He had been aiming for that trophy and he was really hurt because he thought he would be out of the competition for it."

Reggie had entered almost every event possible on Thursday and Friday nights, taking third in the Greased Pole Walk and second in the Two Foot High Kick. As he sat waiting his turn to compete, he could be seen advising those before him how much they had missed by and how they could make it on the next try, shaking hands with those who had been eliminated. Competition, to be sure, but not at the expense of enjoyment or friendship.

Then the accident. And Saturday night, pale, still sporting his trademark black felt hat and his bright blue warm-up suit, he re-entered the gymnasium in a wheel chair. Leg propped on a pillow he smiled weakly at the cheering crowd.

So Reggie Joule watched the

last night of competition quietly, nearly motionless, from his wheelchair positioned directly in front of the officials' table, Linda and his sister Margaret constantly at his side.

Finally, the tense One Foot High Kick finals were over. Reggie had watched his own 1972 record of 7'10" broken by the three finalists. Then Anthony Sarren of Wainwright, judged the winner, smiling ecstatically and perhaps a little apologetically, ran over and pumped Reggie's hand.

Suddenly, M.C. Alfred Grant called for attention and announced that the judges had already decided on the outstanding competitor and

sportsman of the 1976 Olympics. Reggie Joule had won big after all.

Awarded the coveted gold cup and a kiss from Queen Bea Ballot, he said he was very proud to have been chosen the outstanding athlete in memory of Howard Rock, and in this his sixth year at the Olympics he philosophized, "records will be broken and people will be people."

His wife says, "he's not the type to sit around and watch," so Reggie Joule plans to be back. As he said, with the memorial trophy shining in his lap, "I'm looking forward to next year, seeing old friends. It's like comin' home."

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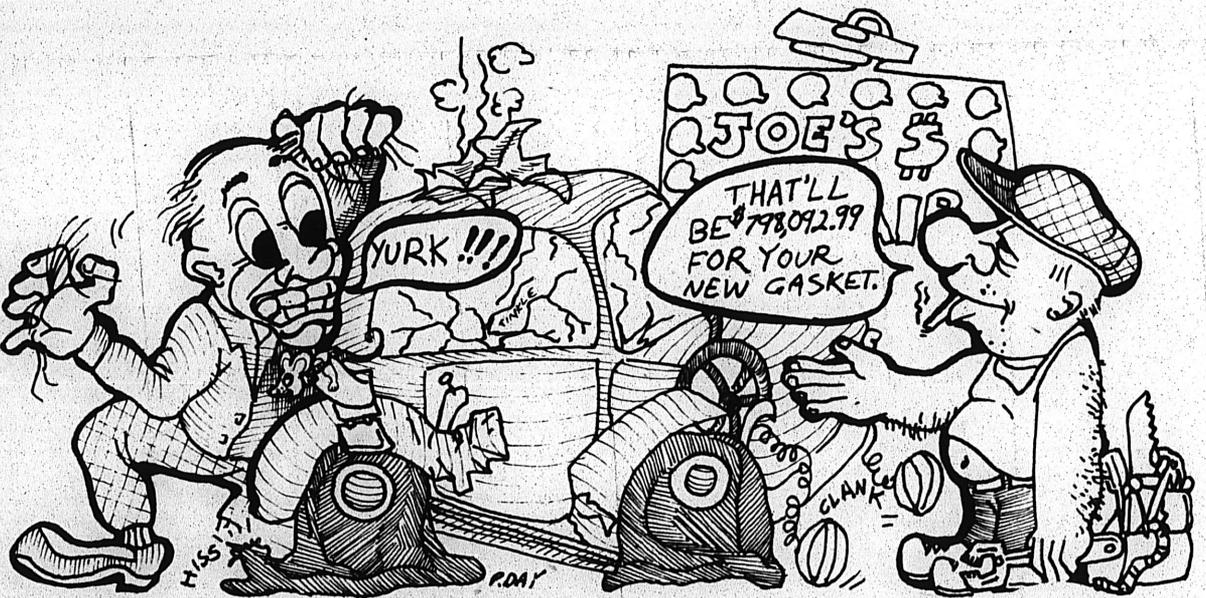
POSITION VACANCY

Alaska Court System Magistrate position vacancy. Galena, Alaska, part-time position. Salary: \$6,464 annually. For job description and duties contact M.C. Forbis, Area Court Administrator, 604 Barnette Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, 456-4387.

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