

Sessions test TCC feasibility as prime contractor of JOM

By BETSY BRENNEMAN
Staff Writer

One direct result of the current drive for native self-determination has been the decentralization of the Alaska Federation of Natives and their refusal to serve as prime contractor for federal services as of July 1 of this year.

That in turn meant that administration of the Johnson O'Malley Act was returned to the Bureau of Indian Affairs leaving the villages to contract directly with BIA for JOM supplemental education monies. In essence, self-determination on a sink or swim basis.

This month, in keeping with

their policy of letting villages within their jurisdiction decide how to be self-determined, the Tanana Chiefs Conference is conducting JOM workshops.

The sessions are part of a three-month technical assistance project funded by the BIA to test out the feasibility of using TCC (instead of AFN) as prime

sponsor of JOM while educating the villages on the procedures of budgeting, applying for, and using FY '77 JOM funds. As stated by TCC Executive Director Chris Anderson in the May 1976 issue of "Council," it is a way for the villages of "generally getting the facts and figures needed so that an

intelligent determination will be made as to whether the village will go with Tanana Chiefs Conference or with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Johnson O'Malley programs."

Passed in 1934, the Johnson O'Malley Act has been in effect in Alaska only three or four (Continued on Page 6)

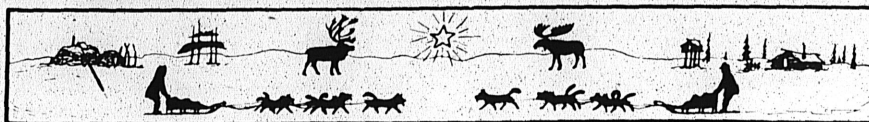
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Uk kah neek Informing and Reporting

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World Eskimo-Indian Olympics



1976 WORLD ESKIMO INDIAN OLYMPIC queen candidates arrive in Fairbanks for the competition. Front row, left to right, Miss Cook Inlet, Shurina Jager (Anchorage); Miss Arctic Circle, Bea Ballot (Kotzebue); Miss Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Sally Moses (Bethel); Miss Kobuk Valley, Salina Gooden (Kiana); back row, left to right: Miss Fairbanks Native Association, Roxanne Frank (Minto); and Miss Nuchalawoyya, Faith Peters (Tanana). Unable to be present for the photo was Miss Arctic Native Brotherhood, Florence Ahnangnatoguk (Nome).

—photo by BETSY BRENNEMAN

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The 1976 World Eskimo Indian Olympics open tomorrow evening with a tribute to Howard Rock in whose memory this year's games are being held. The three-day competition is expected to draw at least 200 participants and to fill Patty Gymnasium at the University of Alaska's Fairbanks campus to its 2,400-seat capacity each night.

Co-chairman John Heffle, Sr. says he has high hopes that this will be an especially big year due to the Bicentennial celebration and because the games are recognized more and more as a way for native people to support their culture and for Fairbanks people to support their city.

This year's games are being called the Howard Rock Memorial World Eskimo Indian Olympics in honor of the founder and former editor of the Tundra Times who died April 1975. Awarding of a Howard Rock Memorial Trophy will be inaugurated this year to be given to the outstanding athlete chosen by the judges and based on point scores, amount of competition and sportsmanship. The winner will keep a 12-inch

cup and will have his or her name engraved on a plaque which will temporarily hang in the offices of the Tundra Times.

Heffle said that before his death, Rock had plans underway to create a non-profit organization to sponsor the olympics which would return any money made to various native groups which are working for the betterment of native people as a whole.

Because of his support and his involvement in native affairs, we wanted to keep Howard's name in the games," says Heffle, "so we set up the memorial trophy."

The Olympics began in 1961 under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce as a way for native people to gather and compete in events popular only in their culture. Since 1971, the Tundra Times has sponsored the competition.

Starting tomorrow night spectators will be treated to various traditional contests such as the two foot high kick, the greased pole walk, the blanket toss, mukluk eating, native sewing, ear pulling, knuckle hop and drop-the-bomb.

Special features of the festivities are the native baby contest and coronation of the Eskimo Indian Olympic queen.

Queen committee member Mary Keller reports that seven contestants will be competing for the title: Miss Cook Inlet, Shurina Jager from Anchorage; Miss Nuchalawoyya, Faith Peters from Tanana; Miss Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Sally Moses from Bethel; Miss Kobuk Valley, Salina Gooden from Kiana; Miss Fairbanks Native Association, Roxanne Frank from Minto; Miss Arctic Native Brotherhood, Florence Ahnangnatoguk from Nome; and Miss Arctic Circle, Bea Ballot from Kotzebue.

There were hopes of starting a muskrat skinning contest this year but John Heffle reports that there were problems getting hold of 12 to 16 frozen unskinned rats and that next

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ADF&G announces August Arctic caribou meetings

A series of early August meetings in three Interior and arctic communities to discuss options for resolving the Western Arctic caribou herd situation was announced this week by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Game division director Robert Rausch said the meetings were up to allow Alaskans affected by a decrease in the caribou herd to comment on how they think the regulations should be changed. He said that comments are needed from all parties

concerned before making any decisions on new regulations.

The Barrow, Kotzebue and Fairbanks meetings will be open to the public and will be attended by Fish and Game State Board of Game officials.

Fish and Game officials who will attend the meetings include Commissioner James Brooks, Rausch, Regional Game Supervisor Robert Hinman, Management Coordinator Bud Burris, and caribou biologist James Davis. Game board member Samuel Harbo and possibly one or more other members will also attend.

Representatives from several agencies including RurAl CAP, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the respective regional and village corporations and others will attend to seek solutions to reducing the impact of reduced availability of caribou for human needs.

The Kotzebue meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3, at 10 a.m., in the elementary school. The meeting in Fairbanks will be

held at 7 p.m. on Aug. 4, at the Alaskaland Civic Center Theater. The Aug. 5 meeting in Barrow will be held at 7 p.m. in the borough meeting room.

The Western Arctic caribou herd, estimated at 240,000 animals in the early 1970s, declined to about 100,000 or less by 1975. Fish and Game personnel believe the current herd size is much lower than it was in 1975. Biologists believe important factors in the herd's decline include human use and wolf predations as well as possibly other as yet unknown causes.

Dedication of the new park and lighting of the symbolic bronze lamp honoring native culture will begin at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 29, east of the Commons building off the Old Nenana Highway on the west side of the main University of Alaska entrance. A reception featuring native foods will follow in the upper lounge of the Lower Commons prior to the opening of the Olympics at 6:00 p.m.

Barrow to get transit system

JUNEAU—Barrow, which is the northernmost community in North America, will soon have a public transit system as a result of a \$319,000 Rural Highway Public Transportation Demonstration Grant to the North Slope Borough, which was announced recently by H. D. Scougal, commissioner of Highways.

The funds have been provided by the Federal Highway Administration. The borough will manage the system and the department will provide technical support.

The grant provides for the purchase of four mini-buses and funds for the next two years to help meet expenses for evaluation, maintenance, and

driver's wages. The system will use several unique ways to best meet the transportation needs of the Barrow community. Only 10 per cent of the residents have access to a private automobile, and the severe climatic conditions make adequate transportation facilities a necessity. To provide the most efficient transportation, existing services, including school bus and taxi systems, will be incorporated into operations. In most cases door-to-door service will be provided at a cost substantially less than existing taxi rates.

"The department," Scougal said, "is committed to help provide adequate transportation (Continued on page 7)