

# BETHEL, PHS HAVE UNIQUE DOG MUSHING FUN

BETHEL, (Special)— The Bethel Dog Musers Club sponsored two races on March 29. There was an unusual twist to these races.

In the men's race in the morning, the dogteam owners rode in the sleds while the doctors and

pharmacists from the PHS Hospital took over as the mushers.

In the afternoon, the nurses tried their luck at driving the dogs while the dogteam owners got another free ride in the sleds.

The day's activities ended with a pot luck dinner in the Kusko-

kwim Klub House in the hospital. Almost all the participants attended the evening's festivities.

The Dog Musers Club gave native artifacts as prizes to the hospital personnel that placed both first and last in the races.

The racers that happened to be lucky enough to pick Peter Jacob's team were the winners. Peter's dogs led the group both in the morning and the afternoon.

Dr. Vogel won the men's race and Mrs. Loretta Wyatt, a Registered Nurse from the hospital, won the women's race.

After the awards, Nick Ashepak and Peter Jacob entertained everyone with their Eskimo dances.

Paul Gregory, a supervisor at the hospital, was responsible for organizing the races. Although Paul has owned a snow machine, he is one of the supporters that is trying to keep dogteams a part of the Eskimo way of life.

Paul, Peter Jacob and Ella Sallaffie have been instrumental in forming the Bethel Dog Musers Club. They hope to expand their group and bring in members from the surrounding villages.

Their next race will be on April 12 in Bethel. Anyone with a dogteam is welcome to enter.

The hospital personnel will remember this past weekend with fond memories. They enjoyed being included in the club's activities.



**ELDERLY ESKIMO WOMEN**—Kuskokwim City of Bethel goes for dog sled races in a big way. Sometimes, more than 100 teams converge there from the outlying villages. Recently, Bethel put on races for the Public Health Service personnel there which resulted in great fun. Two elderly Eskimo women reflect the fun had by all.

—All Bethel Photos by JOHN TOOMER

## Jane Wallen Utilizes Museum Culture Value

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.  
Staff Writer

Under the leadership of Jane Wallen, the Alaska State Museum is aiding the Indians of Southeastern Alaska to achieve an appreciation for their cultural heritage. The museum is presently engaged in several programs aimed to that goal.

"Our main concern is toward making the museum useful to people; making it a thing of the future instead of the past," the museum director told the Tundra Times. "Passing on information is important."

The museum has become a place where young Chilcats and Tlingits can come to learn about their past. Recently, in the Juneau Neighborhood Youth Corps program, the enrollees were allowed to come to the museum as part of the program.

"The girls who would hardly ever come to class, came to the museum almost every afternoon and evening," Mrs. Wallen explained. "It was a source of pride for them to become aware of their heritage."

Among the many visitors are a number of young Indian children. They come to study the totem poles and learn how to go about carving. They studied it, and learned it right.

"To know what colors to use, and how to carve different figures is important," stated Mrs. Wallen.

She also indicated that native art is becoming much more in demand.

"There really is a role for the native population of Alaska to profit economically from their background, without sacrificing quality. This is something that really deserves a long look because of the tourist trend. They will be wanting to buy more things."

In the field of native artwork, Mrs. Wallen believes that the older generation of Alaskan natives, those who are now grandparents, will be most instrumental in preserving their culture. She cited a presentation by David Williams, of Hoonah, as an example.

Williams explained the reasoning behind the design of Tlingit art and carvings.

"He told of how the canoe paddle is carved a certain way in order that it will not drip water and make noise. And in the way he explained it, people who had lived in the area amid these things all their lives finally began to understand."

Mrs. Wallen hopes to use a grant from the Office of the Aging to employ the older people who are familiar with the many facets of their culture so that they may work in the museum.

There are other programs affiliated with the museum which work toward similar achievements. Dr. Walter Soboleff now teaches a special class intended to teach native students of their heritage.

It has been proven very successful, with the class being packed with eager pupils. The course has even been given college credit.

Funds permitting, the pro-



MRS. JANE WALLEN

grams may become more diversified.

"There are other ways in which the museum could be used. This could be expanded to the teaching of languages," Mrs. Wallen said.

The teaching of native languages is considered by many to be of extreme importance.

The awakened interest in reviving the cultural heritage of Alaska's natives is credited, to a great extent, to the Centennial by the museum director.

"This and the Eskimo Olympics, and other programs, have played an important role in bringing about this awareness of native culture," she continued.

Another matter which has helped to bring about the museum's popularity is the attitude of the staff toward collecting materials.

"As far as I am concerned, the museum will not use anything that isn't agreeable to both sides of the fence," Mrs. Wallen stated. "The days of paternalism are over, in my thinking."

This is demonstrated in the manner that the museum wishes to conduct a program for the preservation of totem poles. Museum personnel will be traveling through Southeastern Alaska collecting totem poles and fragments for preservation.

Permission of the families who traditionally own them will be sought before they are obtained.

The museum's greatest asset may be in its director. Mrs. Wallen travels extensively collecting artifacts for the museum and working to preserve important historical sites. She is enthusiastic in explaining the role of the museum and in winning support for its many projects.

"I have worked with the museum for four years," the director told the Tundra Times. "You wouldn't believe this, but I majored in Brazilian Studies in college. When I finished school, I had the choice of going to Brazil and living with my parents, or of following my husband to Juneau. I chose to come to Alaska."

There she stayed to become director of the Alaska State Museum. She resides with her husband, Bob, who is a Juneau artist.

When Mrs. Wallen was asked to comment on her attitude toward the museum, she concluded, "I enjoy it very much and continue to be fascinated with the work."

**SNO-GO TUMMY ACHE**—Nick Ashepak of Bethel in his Eskimo dance is innovating the stomach pain that comes from the not-so-gentle ride on a snow machine. Eskimos make up songs and dances based on modern events. Drummer is Peter Jacob. Little boy enjoying the dance is Billy Wyatt.



**RACE PARTICIPANTS**—At the sled dog races recently at Bethel, PHS personnel and Bethel people had the racingest fun. Some of the participants were: Top row, left to right: Miss Janice Howe, Mrs. Jeanette Morton, Miss Louise Willman, Miss Nancy Churchill, Mrs. Carla Lang, and Mrs. Loretta Wyatt. Front row, left to right: George Beaver, Elia Sallaffie, Golga Chief, Moses Anvil, Paul Gregory, Peter Jacob. Sitting on the floor is Gusmak Alexie.

