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Eskimo Olympics, 1972 (KUAC) Thahetan Potlatch.

Summary created by: Summer Dougherty

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Notes: Originals on 7 inch reels. Master and circulation copies on CD.

Isaac Piscoya with KUAC interviews several students on the lower commons on the University of Alaska campus. He interviews Agnes Pete, Terry Tomsak(?), Roger Kunayak [Sr.], and Allen Walunga who are in charge of the Thahetan Youth Potlatch that will be held later in the evening. There will be Native dancing, sports, introduction of queens, and a camera raffle. Terry says that Native dance class students will be doing Aleut, Tlingit, and southern Eskimo dances.

Allen(?) describes the games. The games that will be played are the knuckle hop, elbow walk, stick bend, high kick with one foot and with both feet, ear pull, back push, head push, kneel jump, and wrist pull.

Three people, Roger Kunayak, Louis Palkin(?), and Reggie Jewls(?), will demonstrate the games and the audience will be asked to participate in the competitions.

Terry explains that six people will participate in the dances: Ernie Heebe(?), Jimmy Akarin(?), Roger Kunayak, Kate Lowen(?), Dee Kumikuk(?), and Terry herself who will fill in since two of the girls can't come tonight.

The Aleut dances are from Unalaska and Akutan, the Tlingit dances are from the Chilkat Indians from Point Chillkoot the Eskimo dances are from St. Mary's and from Fairbanks taught by Mr. and Mrs. Amouak.

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A man is heard announcing that Terry's dancers will be starting the program out but first he invites Agnes to explain what the campus Thahetan Youth Group is, which was organized this fall. Agnes explains that the Thahetan youth group consists of all the Natives on campus though only a small portion of them that are active. Agnes explains that the group is a social and political organization on campus that gives students a chance to participate and gives them experience in political life. This potlatch is one of the first social events put on by the group.

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A man introduces Terry. Terry thanks Agnes and thanks Harold. Terry explains that about two years ago she had been teaching a folk dance class on campus when her student Sharon asked Terry to teach Alaskan dances. Sharon and other students talked to the dean of the college of behavioral sciences and

got enough support for a petition to form the class. Terry was elected to teach the class but did not know any Alaskan dances herself. So funding was obtained to bring people onto campus to teach the dances.

Terry introduces the first dance, an Aleut dance taught to the dancers by Adfisha Shastnikoff(?) and Willie Cherkanooff (?). The dance is a partner dance called "Heni, Heni" (?). The dance is about a person who is thinking about the person who is very dear to him and makes him very happy, not necessarily his wife as he may not have had any choice in the matter of who his wife is. Terry introduces the dancers by name, saying where each of the dancers are from.

Music and singing are heard. The dance ends.

Terry introduces the Eskimo dance was taught to the dancers by Oliver and Olga Amouak who live in Fairbanks but were born in St. Michaels and Stevens Village, respectively, and who danced for Alaskan Airlines, and worked for the chamber of commerce in Fairbanks. Southern Eskimo dances are performed with the men kneeling and the women standing behind them. The women do not make eye contact with the audience. The dance tells the story of a boy who walks and then flies to his grandmother's house to help her clean the house.

Music and singing are heard. The dance ends.

Next dance is the seal hunting dance. It was also was taught to the dancers by Oliver and Olga Amouak. The dance tells the story of a man walking over the ice, looking for seal. He spots the seal through a blowhole in the ice. He walks back to get his kayak, returns to the seal, paddles his kayak, shoots the seal and harpoons it before it sinks underneath the ice.

Music and singing are heard. The dance ends.

The next dance is the ptarmigan dance, a Tlingit dance, learned in Point Chilkoot, Alaska from the Chilkat. This dance represents a male ptarmigan performing his courting dance for the female. The men start the dance and the women join in later on.

Music and singing are heard. The tape cuts out.