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Eskimo Olympics, 1972 (KUAC) Interviews and Dances

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

Isaac Pescoya is talking with a committee member and former chairman, Laura Berg(?).

Isaac asks how long lighting of the lamps for the Olympics has been going on. Laura responds that they started using seal oil lamps as the official opening of the Eskimo Olympics in 1966 when Laura was first chairman. Seal oil lamps are traditional. There are two lamps out tonight. Edith Degosiak(?) and another woman will be lighting the lamps which use seal oil and a moss wick. The women will use a stick to keep the moss burning, as is traditional. The lamps are culturally appropriate and fitting for the Eskimo Olympics.

Edith Degosiak(?), from Barrow, has been the one to light the lamps for the Olympics since 1966. She is generally joined by members of one or two other tribes. Last year Pauleen Carlo(?) from the Athabaskan tribe and Mrs. Soboleff from the Tlingit tribe. Laura has not had a chance to talk to Edith and find out who the other lamp attendant is tonight.

The University of Alaska Museum has loaned the lamps in use tonight. There are lamps especially for the Eskimo Olympics made by Ron Senungetuk. Unfortunately Mt. Senungetuk is out of town now so the lamps used tonight had to be borrowed. One of the lamps in use tonight is from Barrow and the other from Point Hope.

The tape cuts out.

A man explains that the witch doctor would dance for good weather before the hunters went out to sea on their kayaks.

The tape cuts out.

A man announces that for the second dance, the men will come out dancing with loon headgear, traditional of Northern Eskimos. The dance expresses the wish that there will be plenty of ugruk. Pete Sovaluk(?) and Donald Ashuuk(?) of Barrow will perform the dance.

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A man describes the dance: two men go out hunting with kayaks. The dance will be performed by Robert [surname indistinguishable] and Herbert(?) [surname indistinguishable].

The tape cuts out.

Isaac Pescoya has a short interview with one of the high kickers from Barrow. The man gives his name. The man says the games are played the same here as they are in Barrow. The man has been playing these games for about 3 years. Some people have played longer. Athletic competitions are held in Barrow year-round, the biggest event being around Christmas and New Year.

The tape cuts out.

The crowd is cheering and clapping. A man is providing commentary for the one legged high kick. Reggie Jule(?) kicks a target at 7'10" and attempts 7'11".

The tape cuts out.

Isaac Pescoya interviews Reggie Jule(?). Reggie has been kicking for two years. He started kicking in Point Hope. Reggie says the kick is done by hopping on one leg and kicking at a suspended object. The foot you kick with is the same foot you hop on and land with.

The tape cuts out.

Singing and drumming are heard. Applause.

The tape cuts out.

The announcer speaks. More singing and drumming. Applause.

The announcer introduces the next dance. Singing and drumming are heard. The tape ends.