The Vision

"Our land and people are today divided by a political boundary. We are members of two great nations, both of which maintain powerful weapons pointed across the Bering Straits at each other. We share the same language, the same culture, and for some of us, the same parents.

"Five hundred years ago, our people chose to end all war among us and we have not fought each other since. We are known as a peaceful people. We would like to achieve peace between our nations."

Chuna McIntyre, acclaimed Yup'ik Eskimo artist and performer.

FROM:
CAMAI
1991 Hughes Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801

CAMAI

"Hello" in Yup'ik

SIBERIA-ALASKA CULTURAL EXCHANGE

A Short History

In everyday terms, this vision is founded on geographic, cultural, linguistic, and historical ties between Alaska and the Soviet Union. A map of the northern latitudes reveals that only 2.5 miles separate American Little Diomede Island from Big Diomede, a Soviet-controlled island in the Bering Straits. People on both sides, squinting through binoculars, watch the comings and goings. Sometimes they wave. Further to the south, on St. Lawrence Island, Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimos can tune their radios to Siberian stations just 30 miles away and hear broadcasts in their native language.

Alaska was part of Russia for over 100 years. The Russian-American Company, involved in trading and exploration, had colonial interests from Kivalina all the way to California. Ice was shipped to San Francisco, furs to China, and timber back to Siberia. Old world names like Golovin, Romanzof, Yakobi, and Baranof were scattered across the map of Alaska by Russian explorers, and the Russian Orthodox Church remains a powerful influence within the state.

Today Soviet and Alaskan Eskimos are separated by a political boundry brought about by misunderstanding and fear at the close of WWII.

In October 1986, 67 Alaskans, calling themselves "Alaska Performing Artists for Peace," made a groundbreaking three-week tour across the Soviet Union. A multi-racial contingent of performers including Eskimo dancers and mimes from villages in western Alaska, black gospel singers from Anchorage, and a white choral group from Juneau carried a message of peace and friendship to their Soviet neighbors. This tour brought together Alaskan and Siberian Eskimos for the first time since the "back door" border was closed in 1948.

Camai is co-chaired by Yuri Rytkheu, a prominent Soviet author from the coastal village of Eulen, who is both Chukchi and Eskimo; and Dixie Belcher, Camai founder and artistic director based in Juneau, Alaska. Camai's members and performers include people of all races, but its focus is on the reunification of the Native peoples of Alaska and Siberia and their wisdom gathered through centuries of peaceful coexistence.

Indigenous people are rediscovering their voices, adding that wisdom to the cultural stream. Experience gathered in our first tour validates the belief that music and dance transcend political, ideological, and language barriers. Soviet audiences on the 1986 tour received the Alaskan's performances with standing room only crowds and spontaneous outbursts of "We Shall Overcome" in English. At Camai, we believe voices of the heart—music, laughter, and dance—foster sincere communication and are needed to balance the demands of competing political ideologies.

Current Directions and Goals

As a bellwether, Camai's efforts to open the Bering Straits over the last several years has attracted international attention and directly contributed to the current negotiations on cultural exchange between the two countries.

Alaska's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., the corporate offices of Alaska Airlines, and the Soviet government are collaborating to make air travel between Alaska and Siberia a reality again. Formal announcements regarding discussions are expected soon. This realization has been anticipated by Camai and will lead to further opportunities for cultural, commercial, and humanitarian exchanges.

Dixie Belcher and friends of Camai plan to travel to the Soviet Far East via Tokyo and Khaborovsk in 1988. The trip is being organized as a talent search for Soviet performing artists. Groundwork is being laid that would combine Soviet and American talent into a 130-member troupe that would tour major world cities with a message of hope and conciliation.

Fairbanks, Alaska in August 1988 is the site for the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. Native people from all corners of Alaska and northwest Canada pilgrimage to Fairbanks for fellowship and unique sporting contests at this annual gathering. Camai, in concert with Governor Cowper of Alaska, has invited Soviet Eskimos to attend. The addition of Siberian sport and folklife to this traditional North American festival will foster new appreciation and understanding for our western neighbors.

The northern landscape is a major influence for visual artists. Art produced by people of the North has a sparse and elegant quality. Circumpolar Native artists can gain valuable hard currency through the sale of their work. Camai is working to develop a cooperative venture that will market and promote individual artists in Alaska, Siberia, Canada, Greenland and the Nordic countries.

1986 tour performance at Khaborovsk in the Soviet Far East.

CAMAI

DONATIONS

If you share these beliefs and wish to offer your energy and support to this project, we welcome your gift of commitment. All donors will receive periodic newsletters and updates on the progress and activities of Camai.

☐	Honorary Founder	$5,000 and over
☐	Patron	500
☐	Sponsor	100
☐	Donor	50
☐	Supporter	25

All donations are tax deductible.

MAIL TO:

Camai
1991 Hughes Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Ph 1-(907) 789-0449

KYUK-TV Documentary Video

Mike Martz, with public television station KYUK in Bethel, Alaska, has produced a program that tells the story of the Alaksa Performing Artists for Peace tour of the Soviet Union in 1986. This production is available for home VCRs and can be purchased through Camai. Please write or call for details.

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LETTERS

Thanks, Dixie, for Friendship Flight

Dear Editor:

The Friendship 1 flight from Nome to Provideniya is a long-worked-for dream come true. This opening of our borders is a major breakthrough in sharing knowledge, culture and visions of peace.

One person who has worked non-stop on this vision for past four years is Dixie Belcher. She has poured every ounce of determination, money (all of her personal savings and home) and time into this peace bridge and reunification of the Native peoples of Alaska and Siberia. Her efforts led to multiple work trips to the Soviet Union establishing cultural exchanges, the hosting of high Soviet officials here in Alaska and a recent cross-country tour in the United States with Gennady Gerasimov (chief spokesperson for the USSR). The trip with Mr. Gerasimov was intended to raise money for producing a movie entitled, "One People" and to establish a performing troupe of Soviets and Alaskans to tour both countries.

Dixie's dedication also created the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace, which toured the Soviet Union in October of 1986. Among the performers on that tour were Eskimos from Eek, Chevak, Tooksook Bay, Savoonga, Gambell and Bethel. Joining them were the Black Gospel Singers (Anchorage) as well as performers from Juneau, Anchorage and Homer. Soviet response to the tour was overwhelmingly positive. The languages of the heart (music and dance) quickly transcended political, ideological and language barriers and greatly facilitated a deep level of communication. I was fortunate enough to be a member of this life-changing experience and to feel that "oneness" of humanity.

I wish the news coverage of the Friendship 1 flight had emphasized the Peace Bridge and reuniting of the Eskimos that Dixie has dedicated her life to, rather than one Nome resident's dream for improving the local economy. Increased trade, joint business ventures and tourist excursions between Nome and Siberia are positive goals but this issue goes far beyond those purposes.

I would like to publicly thank Dixie Belcher (peace activist extraordinaire) for her vision and hard work on reuniting the Native peoples of Alaska and Siberia. Her perseverance with the legislature, governor, news media and Soviet officials has finally blossomed into major opportunities between our two countries.

Thank you, Dixie, for your strength, vision and the courage to help create "oneness" in the world. When you began your work, few people thought it possible and now look at the overwhelming flood of enthusiasm and accomplishment of your goal. I want people to know who was an integral part of that vision and creator of the Friendship 1 flight! Thank you, Dixie, from the deepest part of my being.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Arvold
Juneau

June 9.

We ran out of time before I could sh my comments regarding the ent years of "record salmon harsts" and concerns over timber rvest.

Basically what needed to be ought out is this: people have a al short memory – since they em to have forgotten last year's ry low level of salmon harvest. is extremely bad catch was due to nter freeze-outs plus die-offs of spawned pink salmon because of wered stream flow levels in summer months. These problems were e worst in southern S.E. Alaska Prince of Wales Island) where the ost intensive and extensive logging as occurred.

Researchers are pointing at the oss of streamside cover as the cause of reductions in pink salmon. Old growth holds these streams together. Disruption of this habitat greatly reduces nature's way of moderating the extremes of weather.

Thank you,
Bart Koehler
Executive Director
Southeast Alaska
Conservation Council
Juneau

Friendship Flight work of many Alaskans

To the Editor:

It was a thrill to hear a headline story one recent morning on the radio about the reunion of Alaskan and Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos! To get more details, I contacted a friend in Juneau, who sent me a copy of the newspaper reports.

Although it was exciting to read more about the reunion, I was very disappointed that there was no mention of the background of the event.

About four years ago, Dixie Belcher was trading dreams with Marty Behr, then a part-time Juneau resident and businessman. Marty's dream was a reunion of the Eskimos and on-going cultural exchanges between Alaska and Siberia. Dixie took up the dream as a personal project.

There was a tremendous amount of preparation, including several trips to the Soviet Union by Mrs. Belcher, others from Juneau, and various people from other parts of Alaska. As you know, this resulted in the Alaska Performing Artists' tour in October, 1986. Sixty-seven people traveled on that tour with a grueling schedule of performances from one end of the Soviet Union to the other. Performances in every case produced highly enthusiastic audience response. A small reunion of Yup'ik Eskimos occurred at the first concert in Leningrad.

Within a year after the A.P.A.P. tour, the port of Provideniya in Siberia was opened up to research vessels from the United States. Work has continued quietly to assure that the Eskimos in Alaska and Siberia will be able once again to visit one another as they used to do. Work also has continued to continue cultural exchanges between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

On the occasion of the reunion in Siberia, it is appropriate that we salute not only Marty Behr and Dixie Belcher, but all those who made the A.P.A.P. tour possible. That includes those who donated money, time, services, and all sorts of other support, it includes some members of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace who went the extra mile to make the 1986 tour possible by selling their cars and mortgaging their homes, it includes the rest of the members of that group who contributed endlessly of their time and energy, and it includes those like Senator Murkowski who supported the vision of a bunch of "dreamers." All of you, all of Juneau, and all of Alaska should be cheering for yourselves, for you have helped promote understanding between the Superpowers. That understanding can lead only to better chances for our collective future.

Thanks to The Juneau Empire for letting me fill in the background on this story just a bit.

Aloha!

Russ Josephson
Kailua, Hawaii

Berry's World

"How about a cigarette? Er ... on second thought, never mind."

Anchorage Daily News Sunday, July 3, 1988 f-4

Belcher worked for flight

Media reports have appeared for weeks regarding Provideniya, the Friendship Flight and Gennady Gerasimov's (Chief of Information for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S.S.R.) visit to Anchorage and Little Diomede. I wonder why they were misleading.

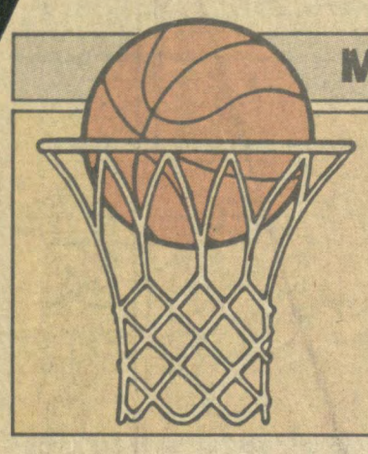
A Nome man was credited for the Friendship Flight, the culmination of his dream. He was not solely responsible. If it were not for the unrelenting drive of Juneau's Dixie Belcher, founder and president of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, it might still be a dream instead of history.

Numerous times, starting in 1985, she traveled to Moscow and Washington, D.C., seeking permission for 67 Alaskan performers to tour the U.S.S.R. Her goals were to unite Eskimos of both countries, promote travel between Alaska and Siberia and lay groundwork for future joint ventures. In May 1986 she brought Gennady Gerasimov, then editor of the Moscow News, to Alaska where he spoke to the Siberian Alaskan Gateway Commission. In October 1986 the tour became a reality. Ms. Belcher put heart, soul and personal finances into this project. She continued working toward opening travel between Alaska and Siberia and in February 1987 brought a renown Siberian author here. In March of 1988 the Baha'is of Alaska honored her with the Kempton Award for her work in the arts, health, education and peace. Mr. Gerasimov's trip to Little Diomede in April 1988 was the culmination of a national speaking tour Ms. Belcher arranged and not implemented by anyone else as implied by media reports.

Let's give credit where credit is due.

— *John and Joan Glenn*

MARKETING SALMON: Prices are up; sales are down, Business, B-4



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Anchorage Daily News

VOL. XLIV, NO. 54 116 PAGES | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1989 | PRICE 25 CENTS

Strings pulled; Soviet goods go on display

Alaskans may get a chance to shop at trade show today

By LARRY CAMPBELL
Daily News reporter

Politicians and local businessmen pulled some American strings to wrest Soviet furs, dolls, leather jackets and hats, boots, linen and a ton of postcards from the U.S. Customs Service, and the goods finally went on display at the Soviet trade show Wednesday afternoon.

And, today, maybe, people will even be able to buy some of it.

The three tons of merchandise were brought by Magadan business delegates, some of the 94 Soviet citizens visiting Anchorage this week. They want to peddle as much of it as they can to Alaskans.

But the whole shipment was held up by a stiff $50,000 tariff until late Tuesday night, according to Dave Cannon, project director for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce's Siberian Gateway project. Political influence and practical consideration solved that problem late Tuesday night.

The tariff dilemma delayed the opening of the trade show for 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon, leav-

Please see Back Page, **GOODS**

Governments not obliged to protect citizens, court says

Ruling refers only to duty under Constitution

By DAVID G. SAVAGE
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, acting in the case of a 4-year-old boy who was severely beaten by his father, ruled Wednesday that governments and their employees have no duty under the Constitution to protect citizens from danger or to intervene to save their lives.

While calling the case "undeniably tragic," the court said that county welfare officials in Wisconsin could not be sued for violating the rights of Joshua DeShaney, who was under their supervision at the time of the beating that left him severely brain-damaged.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for the 6-3 court majority, said: "A state's failure to protect an individual against private violence simply does not constitute a violation" of the

Please see Back Page, **ABUSE**

Soviet meets with Israeli, PLO's Arafat

By NICOLAS B. TATRO
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met with his Israeli counterpart and PLO chief Yasser Arafat on Wednesday, and he said peace in the Mideast is impossible without Soviet help and Israeli good will.

Shevardnadze, in his new role as Middle East matchmaker, held separate three-hour meetings with Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Arafat, who came to the Soviet Embassy dressed in military fatigues and packing a pistol.

Radio Moscow attacked the United States on Wednesday for what it called "an attempt to undermine Shevardnadze's peace mission."

The radio's Hebrew-language broadcast, monitored in Jerusalem, said the United States encouraged Arens to adopt a tough stand at his meeting with Shevardnadze. It also criticized President Bush for his statement Tuesday that Moscow's role in the Middle East peace talks should be limited.

Arafat, in a departure from previous positions,

Please see Back Page, **TALKS**

WEATHER

Sunny this morning; increasing clouds this afternoon. Light winds. High in the upper 20s. Cloudy tonight. Low 20 to 25. Chance of rain or snow Friday. High near 35.

High Wednesday	33
Low Wednesday morning	23
9 p.m. temperature	24
Barometer	30.11
Humidity	38%
Normal high Feb. 22	27
Normal low Feb. 22	11
Record high Feb. 22 (1943)	50
Record low Feb. 22 (1932)	-17

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WELCOME TO ALASKA, MR. PRESIDENT

Anchorage Daily News/Bob Hallinen

President Bush enjoys applause at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Rep. Don Young and Gov. Steve Cowper are at right.

Thousands turn out to greet Bush

Soviet views of president's visit

Warm gathering at Hangar One

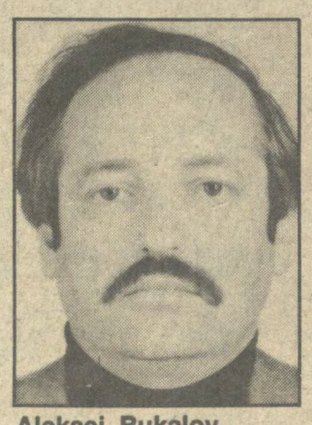
By NATALYA DAVYDOVA
Moscow News correspondent

One of the things we Russians can't help but admire when we meet Americans is the way they make very informal and friendly happenings out of what we used to consider rather dull and "official" meetings.

Although the meeting with the leader of a state is a great event indeed, we have no such tradition to turn it into a kind of festivity. We have no tradition to express our feelings as openly as

Please see Back Page, **WARMTH**

Natalya Davydova



Aleksei Bukalov

A word for grassroots diplomacy

By ALEKSEI BUKALOV
Political observer, New Times, Moscow

Just once have I seen this beautiful Air Force plane, Air Force One. It was last June, during the visit of President Reagan to Moscow. And today, I saw for the first time the new U.S president, and observed his sure manner of speaking and moving. I appreciated his humor and oratory art.

I wouldn't like to compare our and American ways of greeting a national leader, because it's a question of different traditions. I'll say only that

Please see Back Page, **BRIDGE**

■ **SECURE CITY:** The American delegation bound for Toyko and the emperor's funeral will find a city in a security cocoon. **A-8**

By MARILEE ENGE
Daily News reporter

President Bush spoke to a cheering crowd of about 7,500 in a huge airplane hangar on Elmendorf Air Force Base Wednesday morning, making a rare Alaska appearance for a U.S. president.

Air Force One, the presidential airplane, landed in a steady snowfall at 9:30 a.m. and Bush gave a 10-minute address to a largely military audience, touching on the Pacific Rim, Alaska's strategic location and oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As expected, the president made only general remarks, saying, as he has in the past, that he supports opening the coastal plain of ANWR to oil development if the environment is adequately protected.

He made no mention of a delegation from the Soviet Union that is in Anchorage for a week-long series of diplomatic, business and cultural events that has been

Please see Back Page, **BUSH**

■ **ANN LANDERS:** Son on steroids / E-3 ■ **THIS WEEK IN ANCHORAGE:** Special events, club meetings, self-help / E-4

LIFESTYLES

MONDAY
SECTION E Feb. 20, 1989

The Heat Exchange

Stas Namin

Anchorage Daily News/Fran Durner

Dixie Belcher

Soviet Union's hottest rocker looks to West for guidance

By ANDREW PERALA
Daily News reporter

The phone call to Moscow was destined for the impresario of Soviet rock, Stas Namin. He's a member of the new breed of Soviet citizens who have ventured into free enterprise. He's also the Russian heavyweight entry in Saturday's Superpower Rock Concert at Sullivan Arena.

After a byzantine routing, a Pittsburgh telephone operator connected the call to the Stas Namin Music Center in Gorky Park. The phone, at a private table in the music center's cafe, rang once. Stas Namin picked up the phone.

It was after midnight, Moscow time. Sitting with Namin, smoking cigarettes and drinking cranberry juice, were his American business manager, members of a Soviet rock band soon to leave for a recording session in Los Angeles, and a guest — who got on the line.

It was Frank Zappa.

Zappa — the original rock 'n' roll anarchist, the guy who told U.S. senators' wives where to stuff their plans to censor record albums. Zappa was in Moscow to do business. To do that, he needed Stas Namin.

Namin and Zappa had just come from a rock concert and, earlier, a reception at the U.S. ambassador's residence. They say lots of great things about each other. Mutual fans, they are.

"Get two things straight right away," said Zappa. "The guy's name is pronounced NAH-min, not NAY-min. And two, insiders know this guy is the most powerful man in Russia today next to Gorbachev.

"This guy can get things done. He has connections. Here's this guy with hair sticking out all over the place and he knows everyone: ministers, ambassadors, everybody.

"You should be honored he's coming to Anchorage."

Oh yeah, said Zappa. He can also play guitar.

□

Who is Stas Namin?

At age 47, with his Rod Stewart hairdo, leathered face and Mick Jagger body, Namin is the Soviet Union's premier advocate of rock and roll. He is equally at ease shepherding a wide-eyed Siberian rock band through a practice session as he is cruising embassy-row cocktail parties.

Because of his extensive contacts in the top levels of the Soviet Ministry of Culture, Namin can leapfrog midlevel bureaucrats. Music-industry bigwigs know this. Quincy Jones, Jon Bon Jovi, Peter Gabriel and others have all gone to Moscow to do business with Namin.

> *"(Stas Namin) can get things done. He has connections. Here's this guy with hair sticking out all over the place and he knows everyone: ministers, ambassadors, everybody."*
> — Frank Zappa

Please see Page E-2, **STAS NAMIN**

Dixie Belcher heats up U.S, Soviet Union connections

By DUSTY RHODES
Daily News reporter

Dixie Belcher's telephone never rings. It can't, because she's always on it. With Dixie, a five-minute conversation gets interrupted at least seven times by call-waiting.

So when the producer of this weekend's Superpower Rock Concert and Glasnost Folkfest arrives in Anchorage on a late-night flight from Juneau, I kidnap her and a friend, Joan Glenn, and take them both to my apartment. That's the only way to keep Dixie safe from The Phone. On the way, we stop at the store for saltines and ginger ale. Dixie's suffering from strep throat, a touch of the flu and exhaustion.

It takes a lot out of a 48-year-old woman, this business of melting the ice curtain. Dixie has been working for four years to open the Alaska-Siberia border, which has been frozen shut since the Cold War era.

Today, though, the ice curtain is reduced to a puddle. Ninety-two Soviets — government officials, rock stars, folk singers and dancers, journalists, businessmen, educators, students — will be flying across the once-forbidden Bering Strait to spend a week in Anchorage celebrating the newly opened border.

Which explains why The Phone has been so busy that it can't ring. "I asked the Soviets initially for 36 people, and every single time I've talked to them, they've put more people on the plane," says Dixie.

"We've been trying so hard to get Eskimos and all kinds of Soviets across the border, it's like we've been pulling and pulling and pulling. And now, it's like somebody pulled the cork out of the bottle and they're just coming out over the top," she says.

An open border and a huge Soviet-American reunion is what she's been dreaming of since February '85, when a California peace activist happened to tell Dixie that he wanted to take a bunch of Alaskans to Siberia some day.

"I just had an explosion in my head," Dixie says. "I said you know, we have to take musicians and dancers and comedians and Eskimos. . . ." And 20 months later, she actually did take a troupe of 67 Alaska performers on a three-week tour af the Soviet Union, even though she had to cash in her savings and mortgage her house to do it.

The thing about Dixie that convinces me she's human is that she does yearn for normalcy. Occasionally. The last time it happened was the summer after the tour. "I decided I was going to stop doing this stuff and I was going to settle down and get a job and act like a normal person," she says.

> *"We've been trying so hard. It's like we've been pulling and pulling. And now, it's like somebody pulled the cork out of the bottle and they're just coming out over the top"*
> — Dixie Belcher

Please see Page E-2, **DIXIE BELCHER**

STAS NAMIN: Soviet rocker develops strong Western ties

Continued from Page E-1

"He's perhaps the major promoter of Western rock music in the Soviet Union," said Victor Jackovich, cultural attache to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

Since perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev's radical attempt at restructuring of the Soviet economy begun three years ago, citizens can form private co-operative businesses.

"There's a new sort of movement," said Jackovich. "For operators who are quick enough and smart enough, small operations soon develop into pretty big operations."

Like Namin's music center in Moscow.

His operation has dozens of Soviet bands on contract, and they practice in the center's 20 rehearsal rooms. Namin introduces these regional bands to Western rock styles and is their promoter when they return home to perform.

But that's not all. Namin's music center also houses a graphic arts company to design concert posters, a modeling agency and, soon, a factory to build electric guitars.

Rock concerts are big draws in the Soviet Union. Recently Zappa and Namin attended a rock festival at Lenin Stadium. The four bands on the bill drew 25,000 chanting fans.

"Problem is, they just kind of wiggle," said Zappa. "They don't know how to dance."

In interviews, Namin spoke freely in fair English about the current state of Soviet rock 'n' roll.

"Now we can do what we want. (I am) independent, not under the Ministry of Culture anymore. It is music for a new generation ... Rock and roll is a universal language; there are the same vibrations in Moscow as there (in the U.S.)."

Perestroika's arrival on the rock scene a year ago gave Soviet musicians the ability to earn royalties. Before perestroika, Namin was paid a state salary equivalent to a few thousand dollars each year for his work. Now he collects the equivalent of 10 cents in royalties for each $2 album sold. He has sold 40 million albums in the Soviet Union, most before royalties.

> *'It's gonna take a heap of perestroika to fix rock 'n' roll in the Soviet Union. They have no equipment.'*
>
> **— Frank Zappa**

Neither Namin nor his groups will be paid for playing at Sullivan Arena. "My attitude toward profits from music is rather strange," said Namin. "It's not necessary to have money all the time for playing music." Namin last summer proposed the concert be held New Year's Eve, but that date wasn't available at Sullivan.

Though he is an independent businessman, Namin still works in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. The minister, he said, approved Zappa's proposal to produce an hourlong, weekly, MTV-style show on Soviet television, although the timetable is still uncertain. Namin had introduced Zappa to the Soviet minister at a reception at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Moscow. Zappa left the reception with a pocketful of business cards.

Anchorage concert-goers can expect the Stas Namin Group to bring a show of traditional rock to town. The other Soviet group in Saturday's concert, Rondo, "is like Duran Duran," said Namin, "only more wild.

"I think we have a talent for Western music. (The Stas Namin Group) used to be called the "Soviet Beatles" — we were not a copy of them, but because of our popularity. Now for sure our music has changed style. (Now) it's melodical hard rock. Sometimes like Huey Lewis, sometimes like Joe Cocker, sometimes like Rolling Stones. Our group is more traditional."

A Boston Globe review of a 1986 Stas Namin concert in the Boston Opera House raved: "The Stas Namin Group was a real eye-opener, helping smash all stereotypes ... they played a little bit of everything — from rap music to heavy metal, from slick funk to Chuck Berry — and they played it with a genuine excitement that had the crowd on its feet, dancing and swaying as though they were hearing Bruce Springsteen or Bob Seger."

Like his grandfather Anastas Mikoyan, who survived 50 years in the top levels of Soviet government, Namin endured more than a decade of official repression of rock.

His band has been together for almost two decades, but for half that time it played only in small clubs and university pubs. "We were forbidden for 10 years," said Namin. "In the press, TV and radio ... nobody accepted (it).

"It's difficult to logically explain why I didn't give up (playing rock and roll during that period). But it was sort of my soul. I play guitar and my first influence was Jimi Hendrix."

The divorced father of an 8-year-old daughter, Namin takes his stage name (he won't reveal his real name) from his mother's first name, Nami. She was a musician and music critic at the prestigious Moscow Conservatory of Music. His mother, he said, thinks "rock 'n' roll is good and bad, like all music."

Namin uses his apparent business acumen to take advantage of the perks of perestroika. He's a regular visitor to the United States and will arrive in Anchorage Tuesday. After the concert here, which also will star American rocker Eddie Money, he will meet another Soviet band he manages, Gorky Park, in Los Angeles for a recording session with Polygram Records.

The money Namin now earns and the financial backing of his American business partner, Dennis Berardi, support the Stas Namin Music Center. A big obstacle to developing Soviet talent, though, is the antiquated state of Soviet electronics.

"They don't have anything available here," said Berardi. "The musical instruments are like those from 1945."

Frank Zappa is more succinct.

"It's gonna take a heap of perestroika to fix rock 'n' roll in the Soviet Union," he said. "They have no equipment."

Namin's planned guitar factory might remedy that shortage. But for now, Berardi plans to import hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment to make the Stas Namin Music Center fully operational.

Although Gorbachev's leadership has helped break barriers for rock music, said Namin, there is still major resistance in some echelons of the massive Soviet bureaucracy.

"You know the difficulties before perestroika," Namin said. "We still have big problems. Difficult problems. Bureaucracy. There are different words now, but the people are the same."

Still, "we have big changes; it's really opened, really blossomed. In our press, our TV, now everybody can say what we want. Controversial lyrics are very popular; it doesn't matter if it's punk music or folk-rock."

Observed Zappa: "(The fans are) very aware of what's going on in politics here. Like in America, we know there's an election and a new president. Here they know there's glasnost and perestroika.

"But they don't give a ---; they just want to party."

With his constant travel and far-flung business empire, Namin rarely plays with his band anymore. But since jamming with Zappa in Moscow, he said he's had his practice and will probably appear on the Sullivan Arena stage for a few songs.

"Rock 'n' roll," said Namin, "is a symbol of freedom. And young people like to feel the freedom."

DIXIE BELCHER: Working tirelessly to thaw U.S.-Soviet relations

Continued from Page E-1

But the moment soon passed.

"Once I made that decision, I thought: I'm going to spend the rest of my life working at a job so I can save a house? For a *house*? Is this what my *life's* going to be *about* is a *HOUSE*? So that put everything in perspective," Dixie says.

Indeed. And she went back to the business of melting the curtain.

On the Alaska side, she organized a grass-roots letter-writing campaign. On the Soviet side, she pressed her highest-ranking connection, Gennadi Gerasimov, into joining her crusade.

Gerasimov, who had been editor of the Moscow News when Dixie first met him, was, by this time, chief spokesman for General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. When Dixie arranged to take him to the Alaska island of Little Diomede, from which he could easily see the Soviet island of Big Diomede, Gerasimov pledged to do what he could to thaw his side of the ice curtain.

A month later, when Dixie traveled to Moscow to check on Gerasimov's progress, he told her the idea was hopeless, that nobody was even interested. But Dixie talked him into giving her dream one last try. "Then I met with him again two days later, and he said we have it," Dixie says.

She had to listen close to notice her dream was coming true. Gerasimov approved Dixie's idea of a "friendship flight," re-uniting Alaska and Siberian Eskimo families across the Bering Strait. "But I also had this idea about a boat and a whole bunch of other ideas and projects," Dixie says, revving up to a fast rattle, "and he kept saying, 'Well, yes, that's fine, that's fine.' And I said, 'Well, if all these ideas are fine, that must mean that the Bering Straits are open.' And Gerasimov said, 'Well, yes, must mean that.' "

> *Today, though, the ice curtain is reduced to a puddle. Ninety-two Soviets — government officials, rock stars, folk singers and dancers, journalists, businessmen, educators, students — will be flying across the once-forbidden Bering Strait to spend a week in Anchorage celebrating the newly opened border.*

So now, Dixie wants the world to celebrate. In the midst of the current chaos of organizing this week's "Soviet-American Reunion" along with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, she is already planning a more mammoth project.

"It will involve 130 performers, half Soviet and half American, from all over the U.S. ... We'll start in Japan and we'll go to Korea. We are going to work on getting into North Korea, which is not quite as wild as it sounds. And we'll go to China, then across the Soviet Union, and Eastern and Western Europe, including Berlin, both sides of the wall, and then to the U.S. And that will start April 15 next year," Dixie says, all very matter-of-factly.

But I have to ask: Dixie, are you *sure* all this is going to happen?

And just as matter-of-factly, she answers: "I'm not sure of anything."

The reason she's not sure has less to do with the whims of the superpowers than it does with money. Dixie doesn't have any. And Camai, the non-profit organization sponsoring this week's concerts, doesn't have any money either, because Camai is basically just Dixie. Oh sure, she has a board of directors. That board voted to pay Dixie a salary of $3,000 a month. But the board might as well have voted to pay her $9,000 a month, because all parties understand that her salary is essentially hypothetical. It's what she would receive *if* Camai had money. And so far, that has never happened.

"It's like tap dancing on the edge of a cliff all the time. You never ever know where money's going to come from, or *if* it's going to come," Dixie says.

She gets $900 a month from her late husband's pension, and she rents out some rooms in her house. But her phone bill alone averages $1,500 a month. And there's a land payment of $3,000 due every six months. Last year, her accountant figured Dixie's net for the year was *negative* $4,000.

Finally Dixie's friend, Joan, who has sat silently during the entire interview, speaks up. "Tell the rest," she nudges Dixie.

"Tell the rest?"

"Yeah," Joan says. "About what's happening to your house."

"Oh, I'm losing it," Dixie shrugs.

"It's being foreclosed upon," Joan says, "and that's important because that's the kind of person she is, the kind of person who pushes it to the wire."

"But you know what I think all that stuff proves is that, if somebody, anybody wants to do anything badly enough, they can do it," Dixie says. "A lot of times people say, 'Well, I'm just one person,' or 'I can't do this because I don't have the money.' Well, that's baloney."

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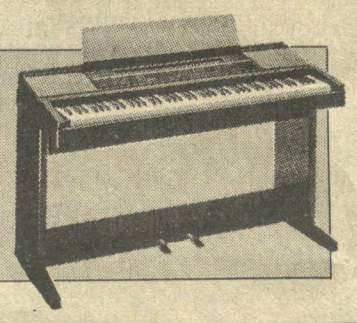
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NIGHT LIFE

RUSSIA ROCKS ANCHORAGE

Photos courtesy Stas Namin Music Center

Stas Namin Group (above) are veteran Soviet rockers. Rondo (right) plays contemporary pop.

By ANDREW PERALA
Daily News Weekend editor

Bag the revolution.

An invitation to join the Party used to be a loaded request. But these days, thanks to perestroika, glasnost, Mikhail Gorbachev and yes, maybe even Ronald Reagan, the Soviet Union is a kinder, gentler nation. Red tape has been cut. People can and do speak out; some private business is encouraged.

Soviet rock bands now exult in their new-found freedoms.

Soviet rock fans could care less.

"They just want to party," says American rock renegade Frank Zappa, who recently returned from an extended trip to Moscow.

After decades of surviving underground — enduring ancient equipment and the omnipresence of officialdom's heavy hammer — rock has resurfaced in the giant land of our neighbors to the west.

Saturday night at the Sullivan Arena, the Superpowers of Rock Concert will present the Stas Namin Group and Rondo to Anchorage. Anyone who buys a ticket gets the chance to listen to these two premier Soviet bands plus U.S. rocker Eddie Money.

Money recently returned to U.S. music charts after a several-year absence. His past hits include "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Baby Hold On." Music critics from around the country have praised his most recent album, "Nothing to Lose" as another solid rock album.

While Money is a known performer, the Soviet bands are unknown quantities in concert.

But clues do exist.

Tuesday night, the groups went to dB Music to try out equipment. The lead guitarist for Stas Namin played a fuzz-laden rock riff before suddenly switching to a soft jazz solo. That head-turning trick was followed by a duo from the drummers of both groups that left the two dozen folks at the private bash stunned.

"It was fantastic," said employee Debra George, 22. "They sounded just like a high-quality plain old rock and roll band."

The Soviet bands then went on a tour of Spenard Road nightspots before going back to their hotel in the early morning hours.

Take a close look at the photos on this page. They're reproductions of Russian rock posters. The Stas Namin Group has been a band in Moscow for almost 20 years, struggling through 10 lean years of official repression by playing small clubs and university coffeehouses. Rondo was formed two years ago, just before rock became acceptable again, and won the country's main rock-festival contest in its first outing.

Soviet rock impresario Stas Namin, who brought both bands over for the Anchorage concert, says his group plays traditional rock, founded on the sounds of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and more contemporary rockers like Huey Lewis and Joe Cocker. Rondo plays contemporary pop, says Namin, "like Duran Duran, only more wild."

A preview tape of the Stas Namin Group revealed songs ranging from an obligatory nod to world peace to light metal tunes that really roll. Rondo is a hot band that likes heavy-metal makeup and stage showmanship.

Not understanding the Russian language shouldn't be a barrier to Anchorage audiences, even if the song lyrics do sound like comedian Robin Williams talking backwards.

Just remember that Soviet rock songs usually aren't about broken hearts, fast cars or rocketing to fame.

The lyrics of one Soviet rock song, as related by Frank Zappa, go like this: "Chair, chair, everyone is sitting down."

"I don't think it's a subtle political statement," said Zappa. "More sociological than political — how everyone is glued to their chairs."

Some songs will be in English, Russian versions of U.S. and British classics.

So go ahead, toss out those outdated, Cold War images of Russian rock 'n' roll. These musicians aren't a bunch of guys in fur hats singing tuneful lyrics about turnip harvests.

In one regard, the Soviets are a lot like American rock stars. You should have heard the teen-age squeals when Sasha Losev, lead singer for the Stas Namin Group, walked out of U.S. Customs and into the public lobby of the international terminal at the airport Monday.

Groupies. International rock stars. Loud music.

In Anchorage, Saturday night at the Sullivan Arena.

☐ Daily News reporter Dusty Rhodes contributed to this story

Soviet rock impresario Stas Namin, who brought both bands over for the Anchorage concert, says his group plays traditional rock, founded on the sounds of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and more contemporary rockers like Huey Lewis and Joe Cocker. Rondo plays contemporary pop, says Namin, "like Duran Duran, only more wild."

Folk festival combines best of two cultures

While Saturday night's Superpower concert is a time to explore the universal language of rock 'n' roll, Friday night's Glasnost Folkfest will take a decidedly multicultural approach.

The Pokrovsky Singers will be the main attraction in a full evening at the 2,100-seat main theater at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts downtown. According to Victor Jackovich, cultural attache of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, the group's leader, Dmitri Pokrovsky, studies music from the remote Russian provinces — "ethnic Russia as it was 100 years ago in the villages" — and re-interprets the songs in a modern vein.

"His group has been copied by many others," said Jackovich. "It is one of the premier groups of ethnic music in the Soviet Union."

Also scheduled to appear are a group of Siberian Eskimo dancers who will match dances with their kin from St. Lawrence Island, a 130-voice Anchorage children's chorus, a black gospel choir, acclaimed Native storyteller Chuna McIntyre, singer Sharon Osbourne and a rock band.

Friday's performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are $10 and are available at the center box office.

■ **GLASNOST FOLKFEST** beings at 8 p.m. Friday at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $10 and are available at the center box office.

■ **THE SUPERPOWER ROCK CONCERT** begins at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Sullivan Arena. Tickets are $23.50 and $19.50, including a $1 service fee and are available at the Arena box office.

An Eskimo's Vision of Hope

I am Chuna, a Yup'ik Eskimo born in the village of Eek, Alaska. Our village is located near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, where it empties into the Bering Sea. There are about 200 people in my village, all of whom speak the Yup'ik language and who carry on today the ancient traditions of my ancestors.

Except for some commercial salmon fishing in the summer, our economy is based on subsistence. My people hunt for food, the walrus and the seal, all kinds of waterfowl, and land animals such as moose, beaver, muskrat and mink. In the short summer months, many different kinds of berries and greens are gathered from the land.

I was raised by my grandmother who is now 85 years old. From her I learned of our ancient traditions—the dances, songs and stories of our Eskimo ancestors. I enjoy performing for Native and non-Native groups so that they may experience some of the richness of my people's culture. I am founder and director of the Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Dancers. I helped organize the Tuma Theatre, a Native dance group at the University of Alaska, which has traveled the world sharing Alaska's Native cultural heritage.

In ancient times, the Yup'ik people had many wars. There is a lake in our land that is named "blood" because it once turned red with the blood of our people. About 500 years ago, our people chose to end all war among us, and we have not fought each other since. We are known as a peaceful people.

Our land and our people are today divided by a political boundary. We are now members of two great nations, both of which maintain powerful weapons on our ancestral lands pointed at the other's land and people. We share the same language, the same culture, and even, for some us, the same grandparents. We feel that we can make an important statement to the world about peace. We have successfully achieved peace among our people. We may be able to help achieve peace between our nations.

We would like to try.

CAMAI

"Hello" in Yup'ik

Planned For Next Summer

Alaska Peace Group to Visit Russia On Cultural Exchange

by Karleen Grummett
Special to CAPITAL CITY WEEKLY

PLANNING TRIP TO USSR are local peace activists Michael Orelove, Marty Behr and Dixie Belcher. 75 fellow Alaskans are planning to visit Soviet Siberia on a cultural exchange next summer, including several Native dance and theatre groups.

Alaskan performers are in the midst of planning a three-week tour to cities and Eskimo villages along the Trans-Siberian Railroad in Russia. The 75-member group, which includes staff and technical crew, is targeting August 1986 for the trip. Many of the performers will be from Juneau.

Calling themselves the Alaska performing artists for peace, the group recognizes the strong cultural and historical ties between Alaska and Siberia. Through music and dance the performers hope to foster goodwill between the two regions, and the philosophy that war is no longer a viable means for resolving conflict. They also plan to encourage and arrange for Siberian performing groups to visit Alaska in 1987.

The peace group represents a wide cross-section of Alaska including former governor Jay Hammond and his wife Bella; Yup'ik Eskimo artist and dancer Chuna McIntyre; UAJ music professor and recording artist John D'Armand; the Savoonga Players; and members from the Juneau Folk Ensemble. Author James A. Michener, who is currently researching a book about Alaska in Sitka, hopes to travel with the group and said he would narrate part of a planned one-hour documentary about the trip.

The idea of the Juneau-based group originated with Dixie Belcher and Martin Behr. Belcher was musical director and arranger for the former local St. Paul Singers performing and touring group, which disbanded in 1980. Under Belcher's direction, fifteen from the former group will join with ten other local singers and musicians for the Siberian tour.

Behr owns an Alaska tour company and is an active member of World Beyond War, an organization supporting the conflict resolution alternative to war. Belcher and Behr are president and vice-president of the group's board of directors.

Although recognizing several bureaucratic hurdles need to be bridged before their plans can be realized, Behr and Belcher received encouraging signs about the tour last month when their proposal was favorably received by the U.S.S.R. Friendship Society and U.S.S.R. Peace Committee.

A December advance trip to Moscow and Siberia will give further indications of Russia's receptability for such a trip. Meanwhile, in September the performers will begin rehearsals, take history, culture and language classes, prepare for local concerts, and funraise for the tour.

Those interested in supporting the group either with donations, volunteer time or information can call Dixie Belcher at 789-0449. □

Anchorage Daily News Saturday, November 30, 1985

Alaska artists plan tour of Russia

By JOHN LINDBACK
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — A number of Alaska performing artists are planning a friendship tour of the Soviet Union they hope will culminate in the reunion of some Alaska Eskimos and their Siberian relatives.

"It looks really good. We've received enthusiastic responses from the Soviets," said Dixie Belcher of Juneau, president of the newly formed Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

The group's plans call for beginning next August's tour with performances in Moscow and continuing with appearances in Soviet cities along the Siberian railroad, Belcher said. The end of the trip would include a flight to Anadyr, a community on the Siberian coast where some of the Eskimo performers could meet their relatives, she said.

Anadyr is about 8,000 miles east of Moscow, Belcher said.

One of the most difficult tasks ahead, Belcher said, is obtaining permission to go as far east as Anadyr. Foreigners are not normally allowed to travel in the far reaches of Siberia.

The beginning of the Cold War that followed World War II put an end to visits by Alaska Eskimos to their Siberian relatives.

"What we're trying to do is get into places that have been closed," Belcher said.

Martin Behr, vice president of the group, has visited Moscow to talk to Soviet authorities. A planning group is scheduled to visit Moscow again early next year.

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace has asked Terry Sanders, a filmmaker from Santa Monica, Calif., to

Alaskans plan to tour, perform in Soviet Union next year

Continued from Page C-1

of the tour. They also have submitted a proposal to the Public Broadcasting System to have the documentary broadcast.

Author James Michener, former Gov. Jay Hammond and his wife, Bella, are planning to accompany the group, Belcher said. Michener, who currently is researching a book about Alaska and the land bridge that once connected the state to Siberia, has agreed to narrate the documentary film, she said.

The performers planning to go are:

• Nunamta Yupik Eskimo Dancers, a group composed of residents from southwest Alaska villages. Directed by Chuna McIntyre, the group performed at last year's American Folklife Festival at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

• Savoonga Comedy Players, a group whose performances depict the life and legends of Yupik Eskimos. Their village is on St. Lawrence Island, just 75 miles from Siberia.

• Chevak Players, a group whose performances include extensive audience involvement in legendary Yupik dances and songs. Directed by Josh Weizer, the group is named for its home village on the Bering Sea.

• Alaska Folksingers, a Juneau group composed of 25 singers that performs a variety of upbeat folk and rock tunes. Belcher is the director.

• Fairbanks Bluegrass Band, a four-piece band that was invited to perform typical American folk music. Bluegrass music is apparently popular in Russia, Belcher said.

• Alaska Folk Dancers, a group of eight dancers directed by Bruce Bellor of Juneau. The group will perform and teach squaredancing, line dancing and other traditional American footwork.

Costs for the proposed cultural exchange, including expenses for travel, public relations and the documentary film, are estimated at $540,000, according to a written proposal assembled by the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. About $190,000 of the total would be paid by participants, while fundraising events and grants are expected to finance the remainder.

Organizers to try 1986 space bridge

By RON POST
Log Staff Writer

The International Year of Peace lasts one year, but Southeast artists and other Alaskans building cultural ties to Soviet citizens hope it's forever.

Undaunted by the failure of Soviet broadcasting officials to plug into the Space Bridge, a New Year's Eve event that offered 40 minutes of direct telecommunications between live celebrations in Moscow and Juneau, Alaskans plan an in-person cultural exchange this fall. And organizers said the Space Bridge is scheduled for a go-ahead next New Year's Eve.

The satellite hookup never materialized because Soviet sponsors had technical problems meeting the New Year's Eve date, said Juneau resident Dixie Belcher, a member of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace and one organizer of the event. Belcher returned in February from the Soviet Union, where she said a tape of the Juneau celebration finally made it onto local airwaves and was warmly received.

Artists for Peace joined with KTOO-TV officials and Alascom crews December 1985 in Juneau to promote the planned 40-minute Space Bridge, which featured Southeast artists as well as Eskimo dancers, whose Native Soviet counterparts live in Siberia.

"The concept was to arrive (in Moscow) on New Year's Eve 15 minutes after the hour of midnight, on the new 6-story (Diamond Vision) screen in Moscow's Kalinsky Prospect," said KTOO producer Jim Mahan. Images of the Soviet celebration would have been simultaneously displayed on Juneau screens with reactions from the local artists, singers and celebrants who took part on this end of the bridge.

Had it proceeded, another KTOO official speculated that many Soviets would have been much happier with the resulting program than with a controversial Phil Donahue show airing about the same time. That show linked Seattle and Soviet audiences.

"We did not want to invite any political statements at all," said Greg Pease, station development director. "We weren't aware of the Phil Donahue show until two weeks from the date of the event."

The focus of the program was shared cultural performance, and providing a special window between holiday celebrants in both countries, Pease said. Other KTOO officials and corporate and community sponsors of the Space Bridge also stressed the non-political nature of the New Year's Eve event.

On the final half-hour tape that aired on two Soviet television programs, a Juneau citizens' choir sang a Soviet peace song following several performances by dance troupes, including Sitka's New Archangel Dancers.

Station personnel said the airings in January and February have left participants more hopeful than ever about future satellite programs.

"I couldn't be happier about the whole thing," Pease said. "It looks like we're getting things going. (Soviet sponsors) made a verbal commitment to hook up with us next New Year's Eve.".

Belcher said the Soviets' first try at a satellite bridge from Siberia to the screen in the Moscow square went awry, but that Soviet news officials, pleased with the airing of the Juneau tape, have agreed to try the U.S.-Soviet Space Bridge again if the technical problems are solved.

She deplored the "incredible breakdown in communications and the images we have of each other." Many citizens, Native and non-Native, have incomprehensible attitudes toward each other because of national boundaries, Belcher said after returning from the Soviet Union.

She accompanied several Chevak Eskimo dancers and a filmmaker on a tour of several areas, while setting up a cultural exchange with Soviet artists for next fall. The filmmaker is taking footage for a one-hour documentary focusing on the exchange and the similarities between Eskimos in Siberia and Alaska, she said.

"It would be a picture of a people to people exchange," she said. While American author James Michener is in Alaska, the filmmakers hopes to tap him as a narrator for the documentary. The help of a well-known Soviet author is also being sought.

Artists for Peace is seeking support for the exchange program from the Legislature as well as private donations. Donations to help offset travel costs can be sent to Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, 1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

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Saturday, December 28, 1985, The Anchorage Times

Moscow calling Alaska

JUNEAU (AP) — A two-way, electronic "space bridge" is in the works for New Year's Eve between Juneau and Moscow so people from both nations can exchange televised holiday greetings, organizers say.

The satellite hook-up is being arranged by a Soviet newspaper and Juneau television station KTOO.

The program is to be televised live at noon Tuesday from the lobby of the State Office Building in the capital city. That would make it midnight, Moscow time.

Don Rinker, KTOO general manager, said the program will feature a 15-minute greeting from the people of Alaska to Soviet citizens watching on a seven-story television screen in Moscow.

The Juneau portion of the telecast also will feature performances by the Chevak Dancers from Chevak, near Bethel, the New Archangel Dancers from Sitka and the Savoonga Comedy Players from Savoonga, near Nome, Rinker said.

Juneau viewers, meanwhile, will see a group of Eskimo entertainers from Siberia, and live pictures of the crowd and speakers on Kalinsky Prospect, one of Moscow's major thoroughfares, as the Soviets ring in 1986, he said.

The project is a great, people-to-people way to begin the New Year, Rinker said.

"Working together to bring this program to the United States and the Soviet Union may not go far toward solving the larger problems we face, but it is a nice first step for 1986," he said.

JUNEAU EMPIRE

"The Voice of Alaska's Capital City"

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Juneau-Moscow 'space bridge' on Tuesday

By LESLIE MURRAY
The Juneau Empire

A satellite "space bridge" with Juneau on one end and Moscow on the other will allow people in both cities to wish each other a Happy New Year – or, as it is said in Russian, "S Novim Godom."

Juneau's public television station, KTOO-TV, and the Moscow News, a weekly newspaper in the Soviet capital, are working together to organize the live people-to-people broadcast.

The entire broadcast will last about 40 minutes, with 15 to 20 minutes of live programming from each of the two locations.

On the Moscow end of the bridge, the show will be seen at midnight in that city, as Muscovites welcome the new year. The live greeting from the people of Alaska will be aired on a seven-story-tall television screen on Kalinsky Prospect, one of Moscow's major streets.

On the Juneau end of the bridge, the show will originate from the eighth-floor lobby of the State Office Building at noon Tuesday.

While those in Juneau watch the celebration on Kalinsky Prospect, those in Moscow will watch the events going on at the State Office Building.

As of this morning, details of the unique broadcast were still being worked out.

In addition to airing the show on a screen at the State Office Building, the program will be carried live over KTOO-TV, a station spokesman said.

He said the broadcast also is being offered to the statewide LearnAlaska educational network and to the state's Rural Alaska Television Network (RATNET) and may be carried around the state on cable television. Whether either or both of the state networks will carry the New Year's show has not yet been determined.

In Moscow, viewers will be able to watch only the huge television screen, said KTOO general manager Don Rinker. He said the show is likely to be taped in Moscow, however, for showing again later in some manner.

Besides New Year's greetings from the crowd in Juneau, the Juneau end of the bridge will broadcast live performances by Sitka's New Archangel Dancers, the Chevak Dancers, the Savoonga Comedy Players, a Russian peace song sung by a choir of local residents, and a segment on the Russian era in Alaska history.

Anyone who wishes to learn the peace song in English and Russian and sing it during the broadcast should attend rehearsal at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Northern Light United Church. The song – "May There Always Be Sunshine" – is not difficult and sheet music will be available, said Dixie Belcher, chairwoman of

Continued on Page 12

TV 'summit' links Seattle, Moscow

By RENEE SCHOOF
The Associated Press

SEATTLE – Marilyn O'Reilly was delighted with the job offer: Go to Leningrad and Seattle and find about 350 ordinary people willing to talk about United States-Soviet relations on television.

Talk show host Phil Donahue will host the program Sunday in Seattle, linked by satellite with his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Pozner, in Moscow. The one-hour show will give 176 people from each country a chance to talk with each other.

The program is produced by the Documentary Guild, an independent producer in Massachusetts. The satellite will link studios at KING-TV, an NBC affiliate in Seattle, and Gosteleradio, which is Soviet television.

The program will be shown at various times on TV stations across the United States and the Soviet Union.

Earlier this month, O'Reilly, freelancing for Multimedia Entertainment, Donahue's production company, and two co-workers spent a week each in Seattle and Leningrad selecting the participants.

In Leningrad, the Soviets gave the Americans free rein to choose the audience, O'Reilly said in a telephone interview from Chicago.

In a factory, for example, she was told she could interview anyone as a prospective participant. The workers were surprised, she said. "I could tell they didn't know that I would be there."

Seattle-Moscow 'summit'...

Continued from Page 1

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

She said the broadcast from Moscow, in addition to greetings from the crowd, will include a 150-voice choir singing an American peace song, a performance by a Russian dance troupe, and a performance by an Eskimo troupe from Amadyr, in Siberia.

Belcher said the Juneau crowd also will greet the Muscovites with "S Novim Godom, Moskva," which means Happy New Year, Moscow. Greetings also are planned in English and Yupik.

The broadcast from Juneau will inaugurate the huge television screen on Kalinsky Prospect, which has been erected for the United Nations Year of Peace, in 1986. Belcher said the Soviet Union plans to set up screens elsewhere for television events to promote better international understanding.

In a prepared statement, KTOO general manager Rinker said the idea for the space bridge began as a proposal to KTOO-TV from Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, which will tour Siberia this summer along with the Savoonga and Chevak Native performing troupes.

Artists for Peace members Greg Pease, who is KTOO's development director, and Marty Behr, owner of a Juneau-based tour company, suggested the two-way broadcast early this month.

Behr made the initial contacts with officials and communications people in the Soviet Union earlier this year, while traveling in that country.

"Alaska is close to the Soviet Union, historically and culturally, as well as geographically," said Behr. "The Soviet people understand and welcome the unique role Alaska can play in building better relations between the U.S. and Soviet Union."

In arranging the special broadcast, KTOO-TV officials have worked closely with Gosteleradio, the state committee for television and radio in the Soviet Union, and with the Moscow News. The weekly newspaper is published in more than five languages and distributed in more than 100 countries.

Rinker today said the coordination problems "have been immense and still are immense. But we are 100 percent go on this." He said he knows of no other similar effort for the New Year going on anywhere else in the world, and American television networks have already expressed an interest in the Juneau-Moscow space bridge.

One key to the effort has been a commitment from Alascom to provide free use of its facilities. Alascom also is paying for international satellite charges for this end of the program.

"It's my understanding that Alascom has 15 people working on this. They've made a substantial contribution of people and time," Rinker said.

Technicians are now working to set up the complex connections which will beam the show from Juneau to Alascom's satellite, then across the Lower 48 and up to Intelsat, the European satellite, then across Europe to Moscow.

Several companies are contributing transportation and lodging to bring the Sitka, Chevak and Savoonga troupes from their communities to Juneau for the live broadcast. Contributing companies include Alaska Airlines, Sheffield Hotels, Mountain Air of Sitka and Ryan Air of Nome.

Chevak is located about 100 miles northwest of Bethel. Savoonga is on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea.

KTOO-TV and KTOO-FM staff and volunteers with Artists for Peace also have been donating time toward the New Year's broadcast.

"All the people involved in this – the production staff, the management staff, Dixie and her group – have given up their time during the holidays to do it. They're the ones making this a go. It's a people-to-people thing, rather than government to government," Rinker said.

He said that as of this morning, everything was ready on the Moscow side of the broadcast, except a final sign-off on expenditures for satellite time for that end of the show. Rinker said KTOO also is awaiting final word on what entertainment will be provided from Moscow.

Rinker said, "Every piece of paper we've received to date indicates it's all on."

EAU EMPIRE
"The Voice of Alaska's Capital City"
JUNEAU, ALASKA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1985
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Soviets unplug 'space bridge'

Local show will still go on; statewide broadcast planned

By LESLIE MURRAY
The Juneau Empire

At least half the show will go on, though the Moscow portion was canceled without explanation early this morning by officials in the Soviet Union.

The show was to be a New Year's Eve two-way television "space bridge" between Juneau and Moscow, featuring people-to-people greetings and cultural performances. This end of the bridge was – and still is – being organized by KTOO-TV, Juneau's public television station.

KTOO spokesmen said this morning that although just about everything was in place for the space bridge, they received word at 3 this morning, Juneau time, that the Moscow end of the bridge was called off.

Peter Frid, KTOO assistant general manager, said he was informed of the cancellation by representatives of the Moscow News, a weekly newspaper circulated internationally. KTOO had been working with the Moscow News as its primary contact in arranging for the unique broadcast.

Frid said he assumes the decision not to give the final OK was made by officials of Gosteleradio, the state committee for television and radio in the Soviet Union. He said there was no reason given for the cancellation.

He said there was a reason given for the lateness of the cancellation, however. The Soviet official who had to sign-off on satellite charges on the Moscow end of the bridge had been delayed in returning to the Soviet Union from India.

After being notified of the cancellation, "we wondered if we did something wrong" in working out the complex arrangements for the show, Frid said. But after KTOO checked with the U.S. State Department and others who have been involved in similar efforts, "we found out that was not the case. The State Department and the others said we had followed the appropriate procedures."

Don Rinker, KTOO-TV general manager, reported that State Department officials said the Soviet cancellation without explanation "is pretty typical."

"There was a chance this could happen," Rinker said. "It's not like picking up the phone and calling PBS, or NBC, or CBS."

Although the broadcast to and from Moscow won't occur, Frid said KTOO still plans to broadcast the Juneau end of the special program here and throughout Alaska.

As first planned, the show will still originate at noon Tuesday from the State Office Building lobby. Noon in Juneau is midnight in Moscow, when people there will welcome the New Year.

It will be aired live over KTOO-TV. Frid said other public television stations in Alaska and the Rural Alaska Television Network (RATNET) have been offered the program, but all had not responded as of this morning.

Originally planned to last about 40 minutes, including the Moscow entertainment portion, the Alaska-only show will last 30 minutes, Frid said. He said some of the acts will be expanded.

The show will feature live performances by the New Archangel Dancers of Sitka and the Savoonga Comedy Players from St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea. It also will feature a tape of the Chevak dancers from northwestern Alaska, provided by public television station KYUK in Bethel.

Frid said a chorus singing a Russian peace song also will perform, as

Continued on Page 12

Photo by Mark Kelley

KTOO's Don Rinker

Juneau 'space bridge'...

Continued from Page 1

originally scheduled. The chorus is being organized by Dixie Belcher, chairwoman of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

Frid said the chorus of local residents also is learning a Siberian song for the occasion.

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace and the Native troupes are scheduled to tour Siberia this summer. The artists' organization first suggested that KTOO try for a New Year's space bridge as a people-to-people link for better international understanding.

Other events Tuesday will include some brief presentations on Alaska-Russian history, and a short greeting from state Rep. Mike Miller, D-Juneau.

Frid said the companies that had agreed to help cover expenses of the space bridge are continuing their commitment, even though the Moscow portion has been called off.

He said Alascom will continue to provide use of its Alaska facilities, technical assistance and pay satellite charges. The long-distance communications company had provided staff and money to arrange for the technical links with the Soviet Union.

Alaska Airlines, Sheffield Hotels, Mountain Air in Sitka and Ryan Air in Nome are still contributing air transportation and lodging for the entertainers, Frid said.

"We're still very positive about the fact we have the talent here and have a very good program," Frid said. "It shows the breadth of cultural legacy in Alaska.

Volunteers from KTOO-TV, KTOO-FM, Artists for Peace and others in the community have worked on putting the show together. "The people involved are still excited – and happy we're pursuing it," Frid said.

The Moscow end of the space bridge was to have included performances by a Soviet choir, Eskimo dancers from Siberia and other cultural presentations live from Kalinsky Prospect, one of Moscow's major streets. The show was to have inaugurated a seven-story-tall television screen on the street, erected for the United Nations Year of Peace in 1986.

JUNEAU

"The Voice of Al

VOL. 79 NO. 255 JUNEAU, ALASKA, TUE

'Alaska bridge'

Peace program goes on without Soviet Union

By LESLIE MURRAY
The Juneau Empire

The sound of hundreds of voices singing songs of peace swelled throughout the State Office Building atrium today, followed by a shout of well wishes to Muscovites who didn't hear it.

The refrain of one song was simple, and written by a 6-year-old boy in the Soviet Union many years ago: "May there always be sunshine, may there always be blue skies, may there always be mama, may there always be me."

A 50-voice choir, mostly children, sang the refrain in English, while several hundred others in the atrium echoed it in Russian.

It was all part of the Juneau end of a two-way television "space bridge" that only happened on one end, after officials in the Soviet Union early Monday morning canceled the other end, planned for Moscow at midnight on New Year's Eve.

But the exuberance on the Juneau end seemed undampened by the cancellation. At the noon-hour celebration here today, it was obviously the thought that counted.

Program host Tom Jensen, Alascom public affairs director, noted that 1986 is the United Nations International Year of Peace, and the space bridge – whether one-ended or two-ended – was offered in that spirit.

Regarding the Soviet cancellation, he said, "Unfortunately, a unique opportunity was lost, though we hope only for the present time."

The 30-minute Juneau program was produced by KTOO-TV, the local public television station, with volunteer support from Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, KTOO-FM, Alascom and other corporate supporters, and other community residents.

Jensen said the program was being aired live throughout Alaska, and will be broadcast at 8 tonight on KTOO-TV.

The Savoonga Comedy Players, from St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, kicked off the show with 10 minutes of hilarity, spoofing seal, walrus and polar bear hunters and throwing in a simulated "blanket toss" for the delight of the crowd, which included many children.

Sitka's New Archangel Dancers, reflecting the Russian-era history of Alaska, performed two folk dances with acrobatics, to the hand-clapping rhythm of the crowd.

Taped portions of the program featured the Chevak dancers from northwestern Alaska and vignettes on Russian-Alaska history.

The community sing was led by Dixie Belcher, chairwoman of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, with accompaniment by a group of local folk musicians. Among those joining in on the sing were the Mount Juneau Tlingit Dancers, most of the Auk-Quon tribe of Juneau, in Native costume.

Troupe leader Rosa Miller said the hats worn by the group were a throwback to the era when Russian schooners plied local waters. The hats worn by the Russian sailors were admired by the tribe, which adopted the style, she said.

KTOO spokesmen said the satellite link to the Soviet Union was kept open until the very last moment.

Alascom donated its Alaska facilities, staff and satellite charges to the space bridge effort, and kept the satellite lines open to Moscow throughout the program just in case Soviet officials decided to change their decision at the last minute, said KTOO-TV assistant manager Peter Frid.

Frid said Soviet officials were contacted to tell them that the show could be sent via satellite up to the last

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'Alaska bridge'...

Continued from Page 1

possible second. They asked the officials to send a Telex if they changed their minds. Frid said that as of late this morning, no such message had been received.

KTOO spokesmen have reported that in declining the final go-ahead for the Moscow-Juneau program, Soviet officials gave no reason.

KTOO-FM manager Bill Legere said Marty Behr, a member of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, plans to visit the Soviet Union in January and at that time hopes to talk to the contact people there as to why the Moscow portion was canceled. The artists' group, which originally suggested the space bridge concept to KTOO, will perform this summer in Siberia, along with the Savoonga and Chevak troupes.

Legere said KTOO will send along with Behr gifts – mugs, T-shirts – to those in the Soviet Union who worked with KTOO in trying to arrange for the two-way live program.

The Moscow end of the two-way program originally planned was to have inaugurated a seven-story-tall television screen in that city, erected for the International Year of Peace. Entertainment from Moscow was to have included an Eskimo troupe from Siberia, Russian dancers and a choir also singing peace songs – all a complement to the Juneau program.

The midnight celebration from Moscow was to originate from Kalinsky Prospect, one of Moscow's major streets.

Transportation to Juneau and lodging for the Sitka and Savoonga performers was donated by Alaska Airlines, Sheffield Hotels, Ryan Air of Nome and Mountain Air of Sitka.

EMPIRE

aska's Capital City"

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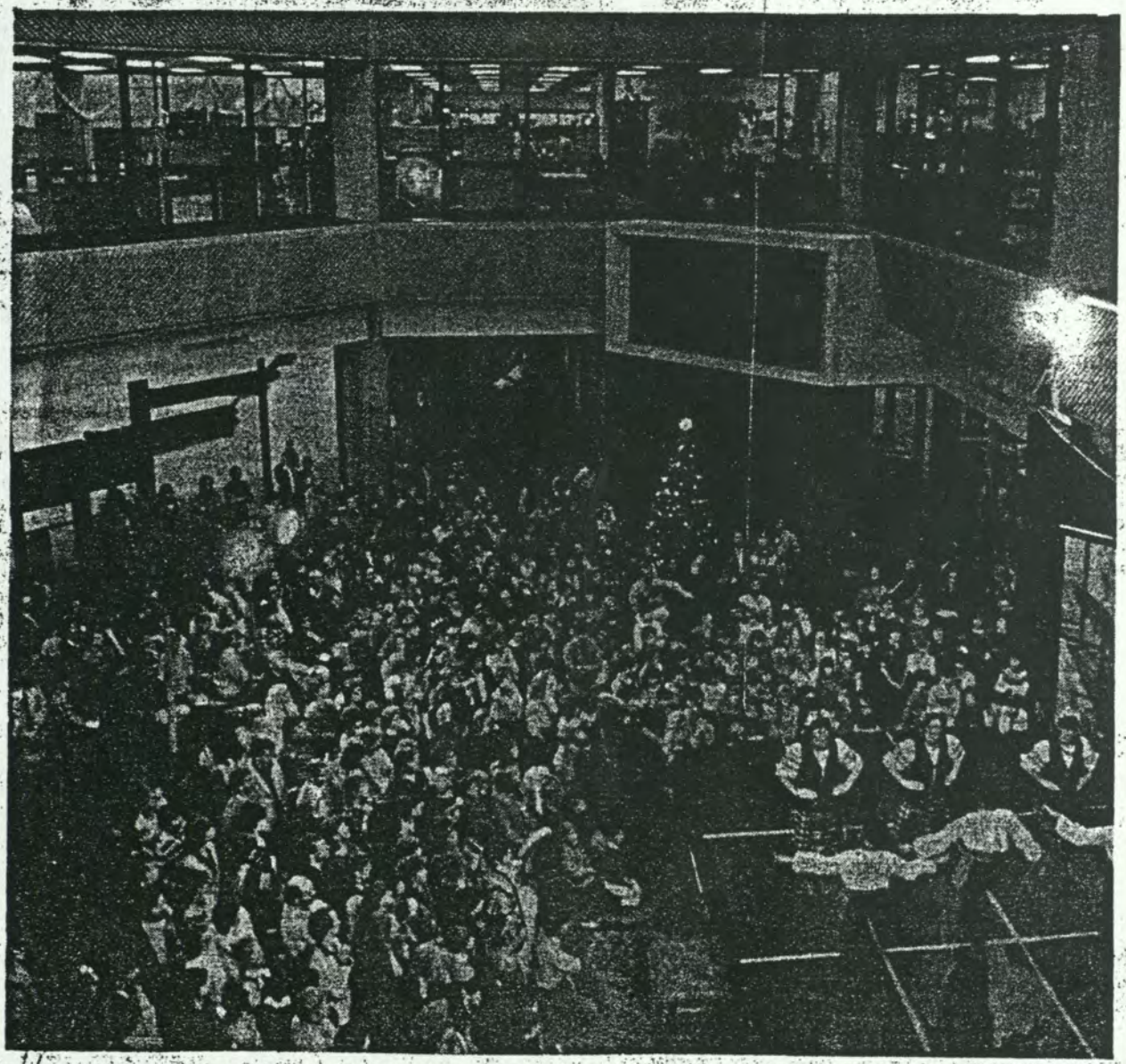

Photo by Mark Kelley

'Alaska bridge': Sitka's New Archangel Dancers perform for state.

JUNEAU EM

"The Voice of Alaska's Capital City"

VOL. 80 NO. 2 JUNEAU, ALASKA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1986—WEEKEND EDI

Photo by Mark Kelley

Savoonga Comedy Players performing: 'We take some traditional stories, but we make them funny.'

Savoonga...

Continued from Page 1

Three years ago, the group played in Juneau, Haines and Gustavus as part of a swing through Southeast Alaska.

Noongwook said the women like to perform outside Savoonga, a Siberian Yupik village of about 500 people on St. Lawrence Island west of Nome. But there is a catch.

"Sometimes people tell us to pay our own way, but we don't have the money to do that," Noongwook said. "If they pay our travel, we will go."

When they hit the road, the players take a special and different brand of humor with them. Mixing slapstick with traditional Eskimo stories, the troupe gets laughs everywhere.

Skits about such generations-old activities as seal hunting feature the use of traditional items like harpoons and Eskimo drums. But modern goods like black-framed eyeglasses and pantyhose are just as likely to pop up in the routines.

"We take some traditional stories, but we make them funny," Noongwook said.

Other skits in the group's repertoire touch on the traditional Eskimo blanket toss, Eskimo dance, and whale and polar bear hunting. If the original stories had a message, the versions performed by the Savoonga players add another – laughter.

Noongwook said the group never worries about audience response as it is performing.

"No, we never think about that, we just do it," she said.

A Juneau woman who is leading the group bound for Siberia next summer said she picked the Savoonga Comedy Players as part of the traveling ensemble for two reasons.

They are related – at least through ancestors – to Siberian Eskimos, and they offer a unique message through performance.

"The difference is, they are funny, and people need to laugh," said Dixie Belcher, chairwoman of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

Arctic humor

Savoonga group brings smiles to audiences around Alaska

By BRUCE SCANDLING
The Juneau Empire

From a makeshift stage in the State Office Building, the comedy troupe worked quickly through a 10-minute performance of skits. Hundreds of onlookers howled in unison.

There was a unique twist to this kind of humor, however. It wasn't political satire that had the crowd laughing, or the raunchy one-liners that have made so many American comics rich and famous.

Instead, Juneau residents were laughing at a sort of offbeat Eskimo slapstick offered by a seven-member band of performers known as the Savoonga Comedy Players.

Their performance Tuesday in Juneau was to be part of a two-way satellite "space bridge" between the Capital City and Moscow. Because of a last-minute decision by the Soviets to pull out of the project, however, the performance was not beamed overseas.

But the Savoonga Comedy Players took it all in stride. If all goes well, they will still get the chance to perform next year for Soviet citizens – as part of an Alaska-based touring troupe bound for Siberia.

Not bad, for a group of Savoonga women who took to the stage in their village more than 10 years ago for a supposedly one-time performance to raise money for a local children's program.

"We were just Head Start parents trying to raise money for the Head Start program," said 58-year-old Kathy Noongwook, spokeswoman for the comedy group.

"We played the Savoonga Walrus Carnival, only one time we were going to do it," she said. "But the mayor came to my house the next year and asked if we could do it again."

The group agreed, and the rest, so to speak, is history.

Since that unlikely start, the Savoonga Comedy Players have been invited to perform all around Alaska. Noongwook said the group has played at several Alaska Federation of Natives conventions in Anchorage, and has played in Fairbanks, Palmer and other areas off the state.

The Savoonga players – there are 10 in all, but only seven made the recent trip to Juneau – have toured villages in the Bristol Bay area and also performed in Canada at Frobisher Bay.

Continued on Page 12

OPINION

A Christian look at Spacebridge, Beyond War

Dear Editor:

Dixie Belcher wrote a very positive letter of thanks to the community for supporting the efforts of the Spacebridge project and for the World Beyond War group tour and cultural exchange with Russian groups during this year. I believe that the group from Alaska is to be commended for its efforts to bridge cultural gaps with the Russian people. Dixie stated in her letter that the group was clearly not a political group.

Basically, my differences with the group are philosophical rather than with the goodwill action in and of itself. I have for the last year been in the midst of quite a bit of soul-searching and thought on where my priorities are in the area of bringing "peace" into the broken world we all live in. As a Christian in a main-line Protestant denomination, I feel a responsibility to understand my "roots" in the Christian church as well as my Jewish heritage. I also have a strong commitment to faith in the salvation of Jesus Christ.

As a Christian I am called to serve and grow spiritually and this often means suffering with the imperfections in myself and in other people around me. The church in which I am part has a strong missions ministry to the Third World and is strong in its social gospel. We have been strongly criticized by more conservative Christian denominations who accused us often of being socialistic in our views and uncommitted to fundamental teachings in the Bible. The unfortunate truth is that my denomination is filled with pew warmers on Sundays who do not know their roots, Biblical history, denominational story or have any idea where they are in their relationship with God.

Nevertheless, we open our doors to all people and, consequently, are very diverse. Though this church is diverse, we do have Jesus Christ at the center and we do believe that in the world of today dialogue must become an alternative to more hostile ways of relating to other human beings of other countries, races, creeds, etc. One way to recognize a mature believer among us is by how well a person is sincerely able to reconcile differences with other brothers and sisters and how well a person can apply the words of Christ, "love your enemies." Of course, we all mess up royally at times, but that is why we have Christ at our center to help us. The strongest among us are those who have very strong prayer lives.

There are many religions in this world today, as well as secular philosophies. One of the advantages we have in this country is the freedom to choose from a large smorgasbord of belief systems. World Beyond War stems from a secular philosophy. The roots of this philosophy and its beliefs, goals, dreams and presuppositions can be found in the Humanist Manifesto I and Humanist Manifesto II, edited by Paul Kurtz in 1933 and 1973. In the study of the Manifesto II one can become acquainted with its 17 propositions, which can be divided into six main groups of religion, philosophy, mankind, society, one-world government and science. World Beyond War, here in Juneau, is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds, religious beliefs and some who embrace an atheistic viewpoint. The organization does not affiliate itself with any traditional religious group exclusively. The common goals and dreams are shared by a group of people who want to actively pursue ways of bridging gaps between people of other nations and cultures outside the United States.

Many people in our Western society are turning to the idea of "one world government" as a solution to the problems of mankind. What this means is transcending the limitations of national sovereignty and moving toward a world community in which all parts of the human family can participate. Many believe that war is obsolete and that the use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons must be completely dissolved. We must free ourselves from human exploitation of natural resources and pollution of the environment. Many are now in America declaring that world poverty must cease. World Beyond War is certainly attracting those who want to see change in the depressing human situation NOW.

Every good deed, every action of goodwill that is done by any human being, the God of all is pleased with that good deed or action. However, it is evident by looking around us that human beings have not made the choices that are long term life giving choices on this planet. We have ourselves in quite a mess indeed. I personally believe that only a life which has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and whose will has been surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ and whose hearts have been transformed by unconditional love and forgiveness as well as towards living the life of a disciplined believer, can have an eternal life-giving effect on human beings.

The traditional Christian church does not have the best track record. It is divided and broken. The world sees our ineptness because we are a reflection of what human beings are. It is the invisible that makes us great. It is the invisible power of a resurrected Christ that is so strong, stronger than an atom bomb, that holds us together. It is a power which envelopes all of creation totally and fully in unconditional love and which judges us for all we could have done to bring life on this planet, but didn't. The church is far beyond war and is connected with the Prince of Peace, hypocrites and saints. Our story is the story of the human family. The story of Christ is the story of God. He will indeed return. Will I be able to face him? That is really the question. ... He will be holding the crippled, the poor, the prisoner, the downtrodden, the helpless and homeless, the hungry in His arms with the convicting light of love looking in my face. The hardened heart will not see His presence.

May God's light and wisdom be with you, Dixie, as you tour Russia.

Sincerely,
Sharon K. Cooper
8317 Aspen Ave.

Show of support for a favorite bus driver

Editor's Note: A copy of the following letter to John Kern, head of Capital Transit, was submitted for publication.

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that an excellent bus driver is being deprived of a promotion due to his need to take sick leave in order to support his wife when their son is sick. As you already know, I am speaking of Don Barletta. If you have ever ridden his bus when he has been on duty, or if you have spoken to his regular passengers, you will find that he is a very favored driver to the public. I once had the honor of riding to work with him every morning from Lemon Creek on the express and I used to leave work late in order to catch his bus home again at night. Unfortunately for me and the other regulars, he was changed to another route. I am sure that the people on his current route realize what an excellent driver he is and a wonderful person in general. He is a very considerate person, going out of his way to wait an extra minute for a regular who isn't at the stop, but running down the road a ways to catch him.

I would like to point out to you that Don is not responsible for his son's delicate health. The boy was born with collapsed lungs and now every time he catches a cold, accompanied by a light fever, he can have respiratory seizures. When the boy is sick this requires constant care for him at home. Since no human can be expected to watch a boy 24 hours a day for three to five days at a time, it is only natural to realize that Don, as a parent, must help his wife take care of the boy. In order to do this, he must stay from work every other day while the boy is sick. Because of this call to be a parent, he is apparently being held back from promotion to a full-time job. The decision is being appealed through the state Human Rights Commission.

This letter is an appeal to you to please grace the people of Juneau with Don as a full-time bus driver. Not to do so would never fulfill the capacity Don can donate to his job. This, as an open letter, is also an appeal to Don's regular riders, both past and current, to come out of the closet and support Don as a bus driver and a person. Mr. Kern, I would like you to realize that this letter will come as a surprise to Don, too, for I have not spoken to him in over six months, not having had the pleasure to ride his bus.

Your full consideration to this letter, and hopefully the others which may follow from other concerned riders, will be greatly appreciated from those of us who are waiting to see Don added as a full-time driver.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Melissa Museth
P.O. Box 453
Juneau, 99802

Now's the time for a nuclear test ban

Dear Editor:

The Juneau Empire has not yet printed the news about recent congressional action on a nuclear weapons comprehensive test ban (CTB). Perhaps this letter will help us all to realize its importance.

For almost 30 years, our presidents have sought an end to nuclear testing as a first step in halting the arms race – until President Reagan. Now, the Soviet Union has refrained from testing any nuclear weapons for over eight months, challenging the seriousness of President Reagan's dream of a nuclear weapon free world. General Secretary Gorbachev has recently indicated that on-site inspection is negotiable as well. What has been our president's response? In that same eight months the U.S. government has conducted seven nuclear tests and has shown no sign of stopping.

Now Congress is taking charge. On Feb. 26, the House of Representatives approved a resolution, 268 to 148, urging the president to resume immediately negotiations with the Soviet Union on a CTB. The Senate sent the same message in 1984, voting 77-22 for speedy resumption of CTB talks. Congress is now on record in overwhelming support of these negotiations: the people want a test ban agreement and they want it soon.

Unfortunately, our Rep. Don Young voted against this resolution. In the past Rep. Young has opposed this type of treaty because the Soviets would not allow on-site inspection. We should all inquire why he now opposes it. Is it to protect the Star Wars nuclear pumped X-ray laser defensive weapon development? Are Don Young and Ronald Reagan willing to dismiss out of hand these two gestures from the Soviet Union?

An enforceable, verifiable comprehensive ban on all nuclear weapons would be in everyone's best interest. It would limit the spread of nuclear weapons to additional nations. It would limit the superpowers' development of new, destabilizing weapons. It would bring us closer to realizing a world free of nuclear weapons. If your readers think it is now time to have President Reagan follow the will of Congress, perhaps they will call (202) 465-1414 or write to the White House Office, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington D.C., 20500.

Sincerely yours
David A. Spence, M.D.
Box 1034
Juneau, 99802

DOONESBURY **BY GARRY TRUDEAU**

Pilots' Corner

Space bridge

Members of a Juneau community choir, led by Dixie Belcher of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, prepare a musical greeting on stage in front of K-TOO-TV cameras just before noon on New Year's Eve. The hoped-for "space bridge," a telecommunications link between Moscow's Kalinsky Prospect street celebration and Alaskans in Juneau, never materialized because the image never made it to the Soviet viewers.

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Anchorage Daily News Saturday, November 30, 1985

Carl Sampson

Alaska artists plan tour of Russia

By JOHN LINDBACK
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — A number of Alaska performing artists are planning a friendship tour of the Soviet Union they hope will culminate in the reunion of some Alaska Eskimos and their Siberian relatives.

"It looks really good. We've received enthusiastic responses from the Soviets," said Dixie Belcher of Juneau, president of the newly formed Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

The group's plans call for beginning next August's tour with performances in Moscow and continuing with appearances in Soviet cities along the Siberian railroad, Belcher said. The end of the trip would include a flight to Anadyr, a community on the Siberian coast where some of the Eskimo performers could meet their relatives, she said.

Anadyr is about 8,000 miles east of Moscow, Belcher said.

One of the most difficult tasks ahead, Belcher said, is obtaining permission to go as far east as Anadyr. Foreigners are not normally allowed to travel in the far reaches of Siberia.

The beginning of the Cold War that followed World War II put an end to visits by Alaska Eskimos to their Siberian relatives.

"What we're trying to do is get into places that have been closed," Belcher said.

Martin Behr, vice president of the group, has visited Moscow to talk to Soviet authorities. A planning group is scheduled to visit Moscow again early next year.

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace has asked Terry Sanders, a filmmaker from Santa Monica, Calif., to produce a documentary film

See Page C-3, ALASKANS

Alaskans plan to tour, perform in Soviet Union next year

Continued from Page C-1

of the tour. They also have submitted a proposal to the Public Broadcasting System to have the documentary broadcast.

Author James Michener, former Gov. Jay Hammond and his wife, Bella, are planning to accompany the group, Belcher said. Michener, who currently is researching a book about Alaska and the land bridge that once connected the state to Siberia, has agreed to narrate the documentary film, she said.

The performers planning to go are:

• Nunamta Yupik Eskimo Dancers, a group composed of residents from southwest Alaska villages. Directed by Chuna McIntyre, the group performed at last year's American Folklife Fesitval at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

• Savoonga Comedy Players, a group whose performances depict the life and legends of Yupik Eskimos. Their village is on St. Lawrence Island, just 75 miles from Siberia.

• Chevak Players, a group whose performances include extensive audience involvement in legendary Yupik dances and songs. Directed by Josh Weizer, the group is named for its home village on the Bering Sea.

• Alaska Folksingers, a Juneau group composed of 25 singers that performs a variety of upbeat folk and rock tunes. Belcher is the director.

• Fairbanks Bluegrass Band, a four-piece band that was invited to perform typical American folk music. Bluegrass music is apparently popular in Russia, Belcher said.

• Alaska Folk Dancers, a group of eight dancers directed by Bruce Bellor of Juneau. The group will perform and teach squaredancing, line dancing and other traditional American footwork.

Costs for the proposed cultural exchange, including expenses for travel, public relations and the documentary film, are estimated at $540,000, according to a written proposal assembled by the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. About $190,000 of the total would be paid by participants, while fundraising events and grants are expected to finance the remainder.

Inuit group asks Reagan, Gorbachev to lift 'ice curtain'

By JEFF BERLINER
United Press International

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have been urged to lift the "ice curtain" that divides Eskimos in Sibera and Alaska from each other.

A letter sent to the two world leaders by the leader of an organization of Inuits in Alaska, Greenland and Canada says the cold war has caused "the separation of our brothers and sisters in Siberia from the rest of the Inuit world."

Hans-Pavia Rosing, a Greenlander who is president of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, wrote, "For years we have been trying to establish contacts across the Bering Strait between Alaska and Siberia, but so far without any success. The 'ice curtain' has been impossible to penetrate so far."

He appealed to Reagan and Gorbachev to "consider uniting the separated Inuit families of the Bering Strait region and make it possible for our relatives to take part in the cultural exchanges" of the ICC.

"Please end the cold war for the sake of the world's 100,000 Inuit whom I represent as well as for the rest of mankind," Rosing concluded.

The contents of his letter were made public Monday night.

Rosing also told Reagan and Gorbachev his organization opposed the use of Eskimo-inhabited areas for nuclear activities.

"A truly cold war is being fought in the Arctic," he wrote. "Since the 1950s, radar stations, listening posts and satellite tracking stations have dotted the ice and snow-covered landscape near the top of the world.

"And a large number of nuclear-armed submarines are operating under the protective ice cover of the polar sea."

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference, which has been recognized as a non-governmental organization at the United Nations, is seeking to have the world body adopt a policy calling for a nuclear-free zone in the Arctic.

The Anchorage Times

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1986

Times

25¢

Group plans Soviet tour

Continued from page A-1

closed cities.

Belcher said Artists for Peace hopes to raise $540,000 in donations and grants to pay for the trip.

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The 79-year-old novelist is recovering from heart surgery, and his health also may prevent him from making the trip, King said. Michener is writing a book set in the North Pacific.

Artists' Soviet tour OK'd

by Sue Cross
Associated Press

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See Group, page A-12

THE DAILY SENTINEL

OCTOBER 18, 1867

Monday, February 24, 1986

Alaska Peace Group Sets Tour of USSR

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Ketchikan Daily News,
Sunday, February 23, 1986

Local-Alaska

Siberian exchange

Alaskan peace group gets nod from Soviet Union

By SUE CROSS
Associated Press Writer

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ANCH TIMES

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John Pingayuk
Chevak Mayor, lead APAP performer

Yuri Ryktieu
Soviet author and poet,
Chukotka Peninsula

MOSCOW NEWS weekly No. 5, 1986

Even the editor-in-chief's spacious room wasn't big enough for this animated friendship dance performed by Chuna with his friends John and Teresa Pingayak.

Photo by Artur RIKKELMAN

ALASKA PERFORMING ARTISTS FOR PEACE

1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801 USA Telephone (907) 789-0449; Telex 090 45380

Warm wishes from a cold region

I was working in the quiet of my room, when my ears caught sounds that were not exactly usual for our office. Going into the corridor, I found myself in the centre of a peculiar procession. Its participants wore fur parkas and trousers, embroidered fur boots, colourful beaded headdresses, and were singing to the accompaniment of a tambourine!

"These are American Eskimos from the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace group," said Dixie Belcher, its President, as she later introduced herself. "We know that Gennady Gerasimov, **Moscow News** Editor-in-Chief, is the only Soviet journalist to have visited the northernmost point of Alaska, Point Barrow, and we are eager to meet him."

"What differentiates American Eskimos from Soviet Eskimos?" I asked Chuna McIntyre of the Yupik tribe, when we entered the editor's office.

"There's practically no difference. Some of our tribes speak the same languages as Soviet Eskimos. We even still have Russian names. There are Russian names also on the geographical map — the Chichagof or Baranof islands. According to old Russian tradition we celebrate Christmas on the night of January 6, and on January 7.

"On New Year's eve," said Dixie Belcher, "We filmed a video cassette showing how the performing artists and 360 other residents of Alaska went down to the ice of the Bering Strait to perform a symbolic dance of peace and unity with the Soviet people. At the end we all sang your 'May There Always Be Sunshine' song in Russian and English. The cassette is our New Year's present to you. Next August I'm planning to take a new group to the Soviet Union — 70 artists from various folklore companies."

"The C.U.S. Public Television ordered for me a film about your country, the life of the peoples of the North, their meetings with American Eskimos and their folk pop-session," said Terry Sanders, a Hollywood film director who accompanied the group of Eskimo artists. "It will be telecast in all 50 states of America. I'm sure that the picture will be a success. First, because there have been no such films on our film market. Second, because we'll show positive aspects of our countries. Enough film describing the negative aspects of our countries has already been shot to pave a road from Washington to Moscow. Third, and this is the main thing, ours will be an antiwar picture — meaning that it will leave no one indifferent. Everyone understands today that in the event of nuclear holocaust no one will escape its consequences — even those who live in the most remote parts. Does a nuclear mushroom need a visa?!"

"There is a legend in my country," Chuna McIntyre rejoined the conversation. "Once upon a time there was a lake in Alaska that was so transparent that schools of fish were visible in it. On one occasion it turned crimson because of the blood shed by the Eskimos' internecine wars. Since then the lake has become known as Bloody. At that time our ancestors decided to make peace, and for five hundred years since, we have not violated it.

"Today Eskimos live partly on Soviet land and partly on American. There was a time when we used to visit our Soviet brothers across the Bering Strait on dogsleds in winter and in light boats in summer. But in 1948, the cold war grew unbearably 'cold'. We were denied the chance to contact our relatives.

"But who if not us, Soviet and American Eskimos, should get together to 'smoke the "peace pipe" together'? We have brought warmth with us from the North and we want our heads of state to conclude the same kind of peace pact as my ancestors did long ago."

Yelena KHANGA

Eskimo group plans trek across Siberia to greet Soviet relatives

United Press International

MOSCOW — A troupe of 75 American Eskimos will sing and dance its way across Siberia in August on a journey aimed at bringing together Alaskan Eskimos and their Soviet relatives, a group spokesman said Wednesday.

"We're here to set up a long-term cultural exchange," spokesman Martin Behr said.

Behr, who arrived in Moscow on Jan. 8, brought some members of the Eskimo group with him on a two-week visit to organize the excursion and said that in August the full group hopes to meet with some of the estimated 1,500 Eskimos that live in northeastern Siberia.

"There are Eskimo families living in both countries that are related, and they've had little contact since the Cold War years of the 1950s," he said.

Behr emphasized that there will be no attempt to seek permanent family reunification.

The group, part of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, has been funded privately. It will be performing across Siberia as part of a theatrical cultural exchange ratified at the Geneva summit in November by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The difficult part is that we want to go to the shores of the Bering Sea, where the Soviet Eskimos live, but it's not normally open to tourists," he said.

A letter campaign was carried out in Washington to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrinin. In Moscow Behr met with members of the Soviet Composers' Union's Folklore Commission.

Chuna McIntyre, a performer from a village near the Bering Sea, told the audience his interest extended beyond a cultural exchange, back 500 years when intertribal fighting threatened to extinguish the Eskimos.

"We are here not only to exchange cultural activities but in the greater interest of peace between our people. We Alaskans are your neighbors and would like to be your neighbors in peace," he said.

Funds to be raised for peace bridge

June 27 1986

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

A celebration in Juneau will begin a national campaign to raise funds for the Alaska-Siberia Peace Bridge, a project of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

Beginning Sept. 8, the Alaskan group will be the first to travel to the Soviet Union in a reciprocal cultural exchange under the 1985 Geneva Accord signed by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Performing Artists will tour the Soviet Union for three weeks.

The Peace Bridge kick-off will be from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Capitol Cloakroom at Second and Seward streets. The public is welcome.

Contributions also may be sent to Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, 1991 Hughes Way, Juneau 99801.

In their fundraising, the group hopes to "figuratively pave" the two-mile distance between the Soviet Union (Little Diomede Island) and the United States (Big Diomede Island) in the Bering Sea with American currency – which would require more than 20,000 bills placed end to end.

The money raised through the Peace Bridge will help support the September tour, which will involve 70 performing artists plus 15 other people.

The group includes 25 singers and folkdancers from Juneau, three troupes of Yupik Eskimo dancers, singers and comedians, plus other performers from throughout Alaska. Five Siberians also will travel with the Alaska group.

Siberian artists, in turn, will tour Alaska and other areas of the United States in 1987.

Juneau resident Dixie Belcher, artistic director of the Alaska group, said besides being the first American-Soviet exchange under the 1985 agreement, the exchange marks "a re-uniting of the only people common to both the United States and the Soviet Union."

Please turn to Page 14

Peace group...

Continued from Page 1

As noted in a Performing Artists release, the Yupik Eskimos of northern Alaska and eastern Siberia speak the same language, have the same cultural heritage and share relatives. Some now living on the American islands of the Bering Sea were born in Siberia.

Performing Artists "have pledged themselves to renewing the cultural bridge between Alaska and Siberia," the release says.

Belcher said part of the program in September will include performances of the ancient Yupik dances of the seal Bladder Festival, which she described as "a welcoming back of those gone from the village for a long time."

Performing Artists organizers and their counterparts in the Soviet Union have been working for months to arrange the exchange, and are seeking permission for special clearance to visit the Chukotka Peninsula, where the Soviet Yupiks reside. The peninsula has been closed for more than 40 years to any American visitor.

Belcher will go to the Soviet Union in about two weeks as a guest of the Novosti Press Agency to work on tour details and help select 65 Siberian performers for the United States tour next year.

Her co-leader in the exchange effort is Gennady Gerasimov, editor in chief of the Moscow News, who recently was in Juneau as a guest of Performing Artists. Belcher said a Soviet board of directors is forming to work as a counterpart to the exchange board of directors here.

The Performing Artists release said the group has already received a $75,000 grant from the Alaska legislature, plus grants from other sources, but still hopes to raise more funds for their tour. The group is seeking help from peace groups and others around the United States.

"We want the Soviets to feel that the American people sent us," Belcher said. "We want our trip to be proof positive that the average person on the street is thinking about peace."

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Ketchikan Daily News,
Sunday, February 23, 1986

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Soviet editor in Bethel & Chevak

Speaking and touring Bethel and Chevak was Gennady Gerasimov, editor if weekly newspaper, *Moscow News*. Accompanying him during his brief stop in the Delta was Dixie Belcher, Juneau, of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, sponsor of the event. See related story.

(Photo by Burt Neimeyer)

Reagan's nuclear shield a 'pipe dream,' says Soviet editor

by Michael Fagan

Gennady Gerasimov, editor of a weekly Moscow newspaper, the *Moscow News*, spoke to a group of about 30 Bethel residents last week about the failure of Russia and the U.S. to come to terms on arms control.

In Alaska as a participant in the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace project, Gerasimov told the group that the American news media did not support recent Soviet peace initiatives.

Noting that relations between the two countries is "at a very low ebb," the editor said that the Russians "had some hope" following last year's Geneva summit between Gorbachev and Reagan. Soviet journalists returned from the summit on an optomistic note, he said, after the two leaders agreed "to stop the arms race on earth and to prevent an arms race in space."

Gorbachev then met with the Soviet Politburo to hammer out a plan for liquidating nuclear warheads by the year 2000, said Gerasimov. A plan was then

announced Jan. 15.

The plan was labeled a "fantasy" by Britain's Margaret Thatcher, he said. The editor of the state-owned newspaper with 900,000 circulation, then ribbed President Reagan for announcing his "dream" of wanting to see the world free of nuclear weapons within his lifetime.

Referring to Reagan's plan to create a nuclear weapons shield over the U.S., Gerasimov said that "we are not concerned with you trying to establish this kind of shield because we're not going to attack you in the first place." He referred to a USSR pledge made in 1972 to not initiate a first nuclear strike.

Further, he referred to the shield idea as a "pipe dream." He argued that Reagan would not be in a position to personally neutralize a nuclear warhead because that decision would have to be made in a matter of seconds. The decision to activate the shield would be one delegated to a subordinate, contended Gerasimov.

He also criticized the nuclear sheild idea because of the reliance on "imperfect technology." He cited two recent technological failures as examples - the destroyed Challenger spaceship and the nuclear power plant disaster in his country.

That is, in order to "prevent war you must prepare for it."

Turning away from the nuclear race topic, Gerasimov said that the Soviets are "very well disposed to Americans. We have a special feeling for Americans." Further, the Soviets don't have any territorial claims over America, "which cannot be said of your legislature in Juneau."

In response to a question, he said that Soviet citizens can travel anywhere they want in the USSR. On the contrary, he noted, Soviets cannot travel freely in America. In order for Soviet citizens to travel abroad, they simply need an invitation, he stated. "There are thousands of Russians going abroad to visit relatives."

In the context of a separate question he noted that Alaska is "heavily militarized."

In response to another question, he noted that American correspondents in Moscow are biased. They don't report what is happening, he alleged, but instead what their bosses want. The majority of U.S. journalists in the USSR can't speak the Russian language and aren't acquainted with Russian culture. He called Moscow correspondents' reports "superficial," and added that they rely on interpreters for the news.

In continuing to talk about his country's peace initiatives, the Soviets moved to counter Third World countries' arguments that both nations share equal responsiblility for the ever-growing arms race. USSR officials decided in March 1985 to test "American good will" by stopping all nuclear tests. When the U.S. declined to join the moratorium, the USSR resumed testing in April. The announcement to resume tests came a day after the U.S. exploded a nuclear device 1,300 feet underground in Rainier Mesa, 93 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nev. A previus test had occurred there March 22.

Gerasimov argued that the U.S. does not need to continue its testing to "catch up" with the Soviets. "Statistics speak otherwise," he argued.

Gerasimov contended further that arms testing is now 99 percent verifiable with new available technology.

The editor-in-chief posed a rhetorical question as to how countries around the world will view the U.S.' alleged lack of allegiance to a non-proliferation treaty signed in 1969.

On a related note, he said that Gorbachev believes that the world's leaders must stop thinking along "the old ways" of wartime strategy.

Asked about American journalists' dissatisfaction with the amount of information released by the Soviets about the recent Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, he explained that USSR newspapers don't report in as much detail as does the U.S. press. "We provided you with the information," he said. But when the amount of information was unsatisfactory, "you begin guessing" the facts. He called five minutes enough broadcast time to cover the story on USSR television news.

In response to a question about whether he is a member of the Communist Party, he replied that he is a "card-carrying Communist, but I left my card at home."

Asked about whether his newspaper reports on his nation's "difficulties in Afghanistan, he replied that the Soviets "are a well-informed people."

Gerasimov was scheduled to travel to Chevak the next day, Sunday, May 3.

The newspaper, which had in its Feb. 9-16 issue on page 2 a photo and story about John and Teresa Pingayak of Chevak, has on its masthead, "A weekly newspaper of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship & Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries & Novosti Press Agency." The newspaper said that it was first published in October 1930.

anks, Alaska

5/14/88

Fairbanks

TO RUSSIA, WITH LOVE—Dixie Belcher, right, talks with Grace Heacock, a third-grade teacher at Weller Elementary School, at the Interior Alaska Ecumenical Peace with Justice Council Friday night. Heacock's students (from left, Paul Jones, Benjamin Cooper and Graham Wilson) are studying Russian one day a week and hope to be selected to participate in the Nome-Provideniya flight planned for this summer. *Cal White photo*

Peace activist hopeful for Siberia flight

For more than 40 years Eskimos in Alaska have been unable to travel across the Bering Strait into the Soviet Union to visit relatives, but Dixie Belcher is optimistic that travel soon will open between the two countries.

"They haven't been over there in a long time, but we're close to opening it up," she said, referring to establishment of trade and tourist links that could reunite the Eskimo kinsmen.

Belcher, a peace activist from Juneau, was in town Friday to speak on her efforts to improve relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

She planned to speak Friday night at the Fairbanks Lutheran Church on "Peace: A Personal Journey," the keynote address for the Interior Alaska Ecumenical Peace with Justice Council.

Belcher also believes that an airline route will open soon between the Siberian port city of Provideniya and Nome.

"It's a really good possibility for this summer," she said.

Applications are being processed by Soviet officials, but she said there are problems that need to be worked out between the two countries.

Co-chairwoman of the Alaska-Soviet Performing Artists for Peace, Belcher in October 1986 led a 67-member group of Alaskans—including Yupik Eskimo dancers, musicians and elders—on a goodwill mission across the Soviet Union. The three-week tour visited several Russian and Siberian cities.

She recently returned from a 17-city tour across the U.S. speaking about her involvement in the peace process between the superpowers.

"I went over there (Soviet Union) with a handful of stereotypes about the people," she said. "I was wrong. All we know about each other are the negative things."

It is time for the people of the Soviet Union and the United States to change course and live in harmony, she said.

"We have the capability to blow up the Soviet Union 14 times," she said. "We have to join hands and solve our problems."

Belcher became interested in improving relations between the two countries when she came to Fairbanks in 1982 with some performing artists to protest the proposed moving of the state capital to Willow.

The dramatic effect the group had on people in Fairbanks moved Belcher. So a few years later when she was approached with the possibility of traveling to the Soviet Union with some musicians and dancers, she jumped at the opportunity to help improve strained relations.

"People need to laugh, sing and dance together," she said.

She will attend the May 31 Moscow summit of President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a correspondent for the Juneau Empire newspaper.

FRIENDLY MISSION

Juneau woman makes plans for USSR arts tour. ENTERTAINMENT, Page 9

A friendly mission

Alaskans prepare for U.S.S.R. tour

By DIANA BRYSON
Staff Writer

What do the Savoonga Comedy players, gospel singers, an Emmy award-winning film director, a bluegrass band and Russia have in common?

Everything, if Dixie Belcher has her way.

Belcher, from Juneau, plans to lead about 85 Alaskans to the Soviet Union in September, reuniting Eskimos from both countries for the first time in 27 years.

This is no small proposition.

"The Russians did cartwheels when we told them we had 85 people," Belcher said. Not easily discouraged, she accepted the Soviets' astonishment, then went right on planning.

The whole idea for the tour started with an offhand suggestion from Belcher's friend Martin Behr about a year ago.

Design by Marc Roberson

CULTURAL EXCHANGE—Dixie Belcher plans to tour about five Russian cities with Alaskan performers next September. The Juneauite was in Fairbanks recently to drum up support for the trip.
Charles Mason News Miner

"He said one of the things he'd like to do is take a group of Alaskans to Siberia, and I just jumped all over him. And I said 'Marty, we've got to take singers and dancers and artists and Eskimos. they're related you know.' And that was it," Belcher said.

Since Behr, a member of the peace organization "Beyond War," voiced his desire to open communications between the two countries with a cultural exchange, Belcher has devoted her time and cleared out her savings to help raise money for the trip's $540,000 budget.

This devotion is no surprise to those who know Belcher. A pianist and music director, Belcher founded the St. Paul Singers in Juneau in 1970, started and directed the Alaska Holistic Health Association, The Juneau Hospice [illegible] Juneau Teen Home and The Alaska Wilderness Experience School. She will be the music director on the Soviet tour.

"I've found that you can sit across the table from people, that are on the other side, you know, of where you are, and talk for three days and come away even more solid in your position," she said. "But music can get through that just amazingly fast."

To get the project rolling, she and Behr formed "Alaska Performing Artists For Peace," a non-profit organization Belcher runs out of her house. Then, she began rounding up potential performers and a support crew to go on the trip. Last April, a Juneau tour agent hand-delivered Belcher's cultural exchange proposal to Soviet officials.

Since then, organizers have made two preliminary visits to the Soviet Union and are planning a third. They've assembled an extensive proposal, which includes a line-item budget and letters of support from writer James Michener, Sen. Ted Stevens, Gov. Bill Sheffield, Rep. Don Young, and Stanford University Vice President William Massy, among others.

In all, three Native performing groups will participate in the cultural exchange. They include the Savoonga Comedy players from St. Lawrence Island, the Chevak Players, and the Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Dancers from villages in Southwestern Alaska, led by Chuna McIntyre, an Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimo who is helping to plan the trip.

In about five Russian cities, the Native performers will stage a ceremony called a "Bladder" festival, an ancient ritual that celebrates the reunion of family and friends.

Along with the Native ceremonies, five gospel singers from Anchorage, a drummer, a group of eight Alaskan folk dancers, and a four member bluegrass band from Fairbanks, will participate in the tour. The Fairbanks band hasn't been selected yet. Former Gov. Jay Hammond and his wife, Bella Hammond, plan to travel with the group, and writer James Michener has expressed interest in going along, too.

That's not enough, though. Belcher wants to share the tour with more than just those involved. The Alaska Performing Artists for Peace has retained Terry Sanders of Sanders and Mock Productions in California to document the trip in film for public television stations. A brief resume of Sanders' work lists 20 awards he has received for films dating back to 1954, including an Emmy for the film "Kennedy Center Honors," and an Academy Award for "A Time Out of War."

The film documentation of the trip is costly, and Belcher said organizers must raise slightly more than a third of a million dollars for film alone.

"We have everything but money," said Belcher.

Although the filming is expensive, Belcher believes it's an essential part of the trip.

"This way you can affect, really, really a lot of people all over the place and bring everybody in on this experience and make it a positive experience and give some people hope," she said. "I mean, a lot of people don't have any hope anymore. Particularly young people. But a lot of people just think we're all going to blow each other up and the Russians are terrible."

From her own experience in the Sovit Union, Belcher said she has learned that Soviets are warm, spirited, kind people who are terrified of war. She said in every small town, even places tourists don't go, there are printed signs from the Soviet Peace Committee with slogans such as "What have you done for peace today?"

Belcher would like to see the Siberia-Alaska exchange become an annual event, with Soviet performers visiting this country every other year.

For more information about the cultural exchange, call [illegible] Lium at 479-7720, in Fairbanks.

SEPT. 12-18
The Juneau Empire

Building bridges

– COVER STORY, PAGE 3

Alaskans prepare for Russian trip, good-will mission

COVER STORY

MARK KELLEY/JUNEAU EMPIRE

Carrying peace: Performers from the Chevak Tanqik Theater are among those who will perform throughout Siberia with the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

BRIDGE BUILDING

Alaskans prepare for good-will mission

By BETSY LONGENBAUGH
The Juneau Empire

When 90 people, most of them Alaskans, board a plane in Anchorage on Oct. 8 bound for the Soviet Union, they will have a song on their lips and feet ready to dance.

While nothing can take that song from their lips, the trip itself could be halted by the cumbersome bureaucracy and tense international relations that have already dogged the group's steps.

It has been a year of uncertainty for the 30 Juneau residents and 40 other Alaskan artists who are members of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States have performed a complicated dance of their own, and with each new step, the performers have gained either hope or discouragement.

Most recently, performers have been concerned by indications from the United States that cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union could be canceled to protest the imprisonment of Nicholas Daniloff, the U.S. News and World Report reporter accused of spying by the Soviets.

But if they are given the chance to go – and they believe they will have that chance – performers and organizers say firmly that politics is not their mission.

"The purpose is good will," said Karleen Grummett, one of the Juneau performers.

Finances are also a little uncertain, after a state grant was decreased from $70,000 to $63,100, and other major sources to fund the $750,000 budget have been delayed, according to Alexander Majewski, general manager of the group. Altogether, however, the group is three-quarters of the way toward its budget goal, helped by corporation donations, fund raisers and private donations.

Of the total budget, about $500,000 goes to trip expenses and the rest to a film and video documentary of the trip by local filmmaker Larry Golden.

In addition to the film crew, others on the trip include reporters from Life and National Geographic, as well as former Gov. Jay Hammond and his wife, Bella.

Majewski said the group hopes to raise some needed money Sept. 20, when there will be a fund raising reception at the Governor's Mansion in Juneau.

Present at the reception will be the Hammonds, Juneau's Alaska Folksingers and a gospel choir from Anchorage. Tickets for the public event are $10 and will be available at bookstores.

If the trip doesn't happen now, it will happen later, said founder and artistic director Dixie Belcher, who was talking from Anchorage, where she was putting together the trip.

Even if the performers never set foot on Soviet soil, she said, "it's not in vain. We had the space bridge. We've brought Russians here. ... I think we've raised consciousness here a little bit in the state."

The space bridge last January was intended to be a direct satellite television broadcast from Juneau to the Soviet Union. The satellite link was canceled by the Soviets at the last moment, but the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace went on with the Juneau show, which was shown throughout the state, barely daunted.

Belcher's perseverance paid off a month later, when she traveled to Russia on one of her planning trips and carried a videotape of the January performance. Once there, she gave it to Russian officials and it was presented on nationwide television.

While those behind Alaska Performing Artists for Peace are hoping to open a line of communication with the Soviet Union for future cultural exchanges, the reason behind the trip is much simpler -- to reunite families.

Belcher said the trip's focus remains the effort to bring together Alaska Eskimos and Siberian Eskimos. When the iron curtain fell after World War II, it cut into the back-

Please turn to Page 4

ABOUT THE COVER

Some of the organizers and performers of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace traveled to the Soviet Union early this year to organize the trip. From left standing are Rick Luttman, John Pingayuk, Theresa Pingayuk, Chuna McIntire, Dixie Belcher and John d'Armand. Kneeling are Linda Buckley and an unidentified Russian interpreter.

Building bridges...

Continued from Page 3

yards of many Eskimos, who measure the distance between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in a few miles. Some Alaska Eskimos were born in the Soviet Union and many still have relatives there.

The group is hoping to meet the Siberian Eskimos by entering the Soviet Union through Providenia, a Siberian community that is close to Alaska, but is closed to tour groups.

If permission from the Soviet Union doesn't come through, however, Belcher has a back-up plan calling for some Providenia Eskimos to join the group in another Siberian community.

"The focus has always been to reunite Yupik people. That's the focus of our program and that's the focus of the trip," said Belcher.

To symbolize that reunion, Alaska Performing Artists for Peace will center their 1½-hour performance around the bladder festival, an ancient Eskimo ceremony celebrating Eskimo ties to the earth.

Majewski said there will be between seven and eight performances throughout the Soviet Union, in several Siberian cities and in Leningrad and Moscow.

At the performances, the audiences will see about 70 people enter, wearing parkas and singing an Eskimo welcoming song. That will be followed by performances from the Savoonga Comedy Players from St. Lawrence Island, the Chevak Tanqik Theater from Chevak, five Black gospel singers from Anchorage, the Alaska Folksingers, bluegrass musicians from Fairbanks and a Native drummer from Homer. There will also be an Eskimo blanket toss demonstration.

After each show, the performers are planning to introduce a few American dance steps to Russia and will teach the Virginia Reel. While in Irkutsk, the group will present a Peace Quilt, made by Southeast artist Judy Wallen, to the women of Siberia from the women of Alaska.

Belcher hopes this year's trip will be reciprocated next year, by a visit from about 30 Russian performing artists to Alaska. She is also hoping to continue the cultural exchange by sending teen-agers from Alaska to Russia and bringing Russian teenagers here, to attend the Sitka Fine Arts Camp.

It becomes clear talking to some of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace that whatever happens, they aren't going to regret the experience.

Myrna Sahlender, a first grade teacher at Mendenhall River Elementary School, hasn't studied Russian, like many of those going, but has read a lot about the country. "I have a magazine on my coffee table right now called Soviet Life," she said.

Sahlender said she can use that knowledge, even if the trip isn't made.

"Any exposure to new information for me is a learning experience," she said.

Sahlender is especially looking forward to meeting Russian people and talking to them on an individual basis. "That's one of the songs we sing, 'Reach Out and Touch' and I just can hardly wait to reach out and touch. I think it will be unforgettable."

Sahlender, like all the performers, has been asked to pay about half the $2,400 fare herself. The organization plans to pick up the rest.

The performers will also be taking gifts of American clothing and other goods to the Soviet Union. Sahlender said she expects those gifts will be given to people the individual performers meet.

Sahlender is one of 25 people who will be singing on the trip with Juneau's Alaska Folksingers, directed by Belcher.

Karleen Grummett is another member of the singing group. She is very aware the trip, for which she has learned Russian, could be canceled, but that hasn't slowed her down.

Grummett has faith in what the group plans to do. "Music is the international language. When you put music behind something you want to say, it reaches beyond all boundaries," she said.

Grummett has seen that reach at work, when she performed with the St. Paul Singers from Juneau in the 1970s. The St. Paul Singers was also organized by Belcher.

The St. Paul Singers traveled throughout the state, in part on a good-will mission of its own – trying to persuade people to vote against the capital move issue. "When we would sing, people would have tears in their eyes and would stand up and applaud," said Grummett.

The Alaska Folksingers will sing a collection folk and peace songs, chosen by Belcher. They include "Sound Over All Waters" and "Blue-Green Hills of Earth," both by Paul Winter; "Blowin' in the Wind," two gospel rounds, "Reach Out and Touch" and "We Shall Overcome," and two Russian songs, "May There Always be Sunshine" and "Moscow Nights."

Belcher said she chose songs by "looking for up songs with a beat that are fun to sing and are fun to listen to, that people would have a hard time listening to without tapping their feet, but would also have a message of peace and brotherhood."

MARK KELLEY/JUNEAU EMPIRE

Walrus slapstick: The Savoonga Comedy Players of St. Lawrence Island will be among the Eskimos who will see relatives they haven't heard of since after World War II.

Performing Artists for Peace plan USSR trip

by Kathleen Grummett
for the Tundra Times

In the Yup'ik village of Uelan, Siberia, sits a traditional building called a dance house.

Its large picture window faces toward Alaska. Inside, an elder raises a hand to quiet a celebration, gazes upon the horizon beyond the window and speaks.

"How can we dance when our brothers and sisters across the water are living in such abject poverty and under such repression?" he asks.

Meanwhile, in Alaska, dancers, singers, actors and musicians — the repressed — prepare for a trip to Siberia. They combine a love of music, a curiosity about the Soviet Union and an interest in bringing some understanding between the two most powerful countries on earth.

These 70 Alaska Performing Artists for Peace hope to dispel misconceptions like that of the Yup'ik elder's, as well as some of their own.

The performers have spent more than a year studying Russian music, culture, history and language. They've prepared families and employers for a month's absence that will take them on a trek across 11 time zones and 7,800 miles, part of it via the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

Their unique performances, which mix portons of the Yup'ik bladder festival with American folk dance and song, will be seen in seven Soviet cities between Khabarovsk in the East and Leningrad in the West. They are led by Dixie Belcher, APAP's founder and artistic director.

No stranger to the rigors of touring, Belcher spent 10 years directing the St. Paul singers, a Juneau-based folk group that toured Alaska and parts of Canada throughout the 70s. During that time, the president of Rumania invited the singers to his country.

Belcher also blended her spirited "up with people" musical style to form the Juneau friends and neighbors, a group that convassed Anchorage and Fairbands with song, hoping to sway public opinion in those towns prior to the heated capital move vote.

Belcher's interest in promoting the Alaska-Siberia Eskimo reunion stems from a life-long interest in Alaska Native culture and the Arts.

"This tour will bring Siberian and Alaskan Yup'ik relatives together for the first time in 40 years," she says.

APAP's musical language springs from a patchwork of statewide arts groups including the Tanqik Theatre in Chevak, the Juneau Folksingers and Dancers, the Nunamta Dancers from the Bethel area, the Savoonga Comedy Players, the Anchorage Gospel Choir and the Yukon Fiddle Band of Fairbanks complete the statewide cast.

Within this diverse group, members comprise varying levels of artistry. They range from the professionalism of Homer's Eddie Wood, a percussionist who accompanys for Windham Hill recording artists and tours with Alex DeGrassi and the Scott Cossu Trio, to singers who have never performed publicly.

Of the group, Dave Hunsaker, screenwriter for a planned documentary about the trip says, "They are not a slick professional performance group but are a bunch of citizens from a variety of cultures, from all walks of life, who are first and foremost Alaskans."

With the assistance of Toksook Bay elders, Hunsacker created "Yup'ik Antigone," an adaptation from the greek play by Sophocles. He says the performance to be offered is on a folk level.

"It's not an exportation of polished art, such as the Soviet's Bolshoi, or a headline American rock and roll band designed to impress."

In many cases, a cross-cultural theme runs through the backgrounds and interests of APAP members, such as Bill Stevens of the Yukon Fiddle Band. His Athabascan ancestors learded how to fiddle reels and jigs from Scottish Hudson Bay employees at Fort Yukon where he was born.

Percussionist Wood was born in Spain and schooled in Panama and Georgetown University, and the cast's translator and general manager Alex Mafewski, was born of Russian parents in Germany on the way to America.

Another quality tying this diverse group together is their desire to understand people of another culture. Singer Shirley Staton of the Anchorage Production Company Desh Mae, is "intrigued with people and their way of living."

She organized 27 Alaska representatives to attend the 1985 United Nations International Women's Conference in Nairobi.

While in Russia, Staton and four other Anchorage gospel singers from Anchorage churches, have been invited to visit the home of black author and anthropologist Lily Golden. Golden's parents immigrated to Russia from the United States before she was born.

Of course, as the name implies, the performers are interested in the issue of peace. Theresa and John Pingayak of Chevak's Tanqik Players, who accompained Belcher on a January advance trip to Russia. They are one of three Eskimo performing groups represented on the tour. Like others, when they board the jet leaving Chevak, they also leave children behind.

Theresa says, "We decided if this was going to be for the good of the world, our people and children, we knew it was important that both of us go together."

John is mayor of Chevak, director of the Chevak Cultural Heritage Center and master of cermonies for the cast. Theresa is Chevak's Headstart Program director.

Juneau folksinger monsignor James Miller, who usually confines his singing to mass at St. Paul's Church, is committed to the message of peace.

"The means by which we have been striving for peace haven't been successful," he said. "Peace is something very positive rather than just an absence of war. Generally, the more we know people, the more barriers are lowered and peace can be possible."

This month, the statewide cast meets for the first time when they rehearse together in Anchorage prior to departure. They will be accomapined by 20 others including staff, press and film crews, three Eskimo elders and former Gov. Jay Hammond and his wife Bella, who is part Yup'ik.

No matter how politicians interpret it, the tour's mission is strictly one of goodwill.

Thursday that four containers have sunk and no longer pose

Alaska peace performers lack money, permit

By DAVID FOSTER
The Associated Press

A group of Alaska performers planning a peace mission to Siberia needs just two items to clinch the trip — written permission from the Soviets and $375,000.

The trip is aimed at starting a cultural exchange between Alaska and Siberia, said Dixie Belcher, co-chairwoman of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. The group also hopes to reunite some Alaskan Yupiks with their Siberian relatives as a symbol of peace between the United States and Soviet Union.

Belcher and others have planned the trip since February 1985. They were heartened recently by word from high-ranking Soviet officials that the 85-member troupe could tour the Chukotsk Peninsula.

That's encouraging, she said, considering the Chukotsk is the Soviet province closest to Alaska and is normally off-limits to foreign visitors.

"It's absolutely been closed" for 40 years, Belcher said. "Nobody's even gotten encouragement to get in there."

The group is still waiting for permission in writing, but is not hanging by its thumbs. Given the depths and unpredictability of Soviet bureaucracy, "I might know this afternoon, or I might know the morning we leave," Belcher said.

The Cold War stopped the regular travel that had gone on for centuries between Yupik villages in Siberia and Alaska, said Chuna McIntyre, a Yupik artist, dancer and story-teller.

In a booklet promoting the trip, he explained the symbolism of its peace mission:

See Page C-3, SIBERIA

Anchorage Daily News

SIBERIA: Group prepares

Continued from Page C-1

"In ancient times, the Yupik peoople had many wars. There is a lake in our land that is named "blood" because it once turned red with the blood of our people. About 500 years ago, our people chose to end all war among us, and we have not fought each other since.

"Our land and our people are today divided by a political boundary. We share the same language, the same culture, and even, for some of us, the same grandparents. We feel that we can make an important statement to the world about peace. We have successfully achieved peace among our people. We may be able to help achieve peace between our nations. We would like to try."

If the performers do not get clearance to visit the Chukotsk Peninsula, they will leave Anchorage Sept. 8 for a more conventional tour of the Soviet Union, Belcher said. The Soviets have approved the group's three-week tour of more traveled regions, including Irkutsk, Moscow and Leningrad.

That leaves the problem of money. The Alaska Legislature has contributed $75,000 toward the trip, and the group itself has raised $125,000. In-kind contributions, such as an Alaska Airlines charter from Nome to the Chukotsk Peninsula, total about $200,000, Belcher said.

An additional $375,000 is needed to pay for the complete project, which includes a film crew to document the tour.

She said the travelers are to include 30 Yupik performers, including the Savoonga Comedy Players from St. Lawrence Island, the Tanqik Theatre from Chevak and the Nunamta dance group from the Bethel area. Also traveling will be several Athabascan fiddlers from Fairbanks, a group of 25 non-Native singers from Juneau and five black gospel singers from Anchorage, Belcher said.

MEMBERS OF ALASKA PERFORMING ARTISTS for Peace gather in Moscow's Red Square during a visit to arrange the upcoming three-week tour of 65 Alaskan artists to the Soviet Union.

Peace through art: theme takes Alaskans to Moscow and Siberia

September is Siberia-Alaska Cultural Exchange month, and 65 Alaskans, followed by an international press corps and a California filmmaker, travel to the Soviet Union to renew ties broken when the Cold War began.

Half the group is made up of Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimos, who have a language and culture similar to Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos. Russian Yup'iks will visit Alaska next year as part of the exchange.

The cultural exchange was organized by the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace with a $75,000 state grant and more than $300,000 in private contributions and donated services. The visit was endorsed by the entire Alaska Congressional delegation and Gov. Bill Sheffield, and journalists from National Geographic and Life magazines have expressed interest n the tour.

The three-week tour by Alaskan artists starts Sept. 8, winding up with a trip along the trans-Siberian railroad. Traditional and contemporary performances will be presented by the Alaskans during their tour. Soviet authorities have approved visits by the group to the Chukotka Peninsula, which lies less than 300 miles from Alaska's Seward Peninsula near Nome.

Alaska Performing Artists fir Peace, a non-profit group, has been active in efforts to establish a "Peace Bridge" and is seeking members interested in joining the project. More information is available from Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, 1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, 99801. Or call Dixie Belcher or Alex Majewski at 789-0449.

Donations are being accepted to offset travel costs.

LETTERS

U.S.-Soviet exchange, space bridge progress

Dear Editor:

The Alaska Performing Artists for Peace are planning to travel this fall to Siberia for a people-to-people exchange involving performers from all over Alaska, including a large contingent of Yupik Eskimos who have an historical heritage which precedes being either Russian or American. I have returned from a three-week trip to the Soviet Union. The response to our tour and to long-term cultural exchange between Alaska and Siberia was enthusiastic on all levels, official and non-official. It looks like we'll be able to visit everywhere we planned, with the exception of the Chukotka Peninsula, the area of land directly across from Nome. We are still hopeful that the Soviet government will let us visit there as well. Three Yupik Eskimos were among our advance group. They performed traditional dances in Moscow and Siberia and were given excellent press coverage, including newspapers, magazines and national television. I would like everyone to know that the videotape of the December 31st space bridge in the State Office Building was played on Soviet national television on Feb. 2.

The response that we received from the Soviets reinforces our purpose, which is a people-to-people cultural exchange. It should be emphasized that our group is not trying to make a political statement. We are trying to promote cultural understanding and give some of our native Alaskans an opportunity to visit with their relatives in the Soviet Union. We've all heard the saying that "it's better to light one single candle than to curse the darkness." We're simply working on a candle.

We are greatly encouraged and thankful for the tremendous community support that we are receiving in our efforts toward this goal.

Sincerely,
Dixie Belcher, President
Alaska Performing
Artists for Peace
1991 Hughes Way
Juneau, 99801

JUNEAU EMPIRE, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1986 3

30A ST. PETERSBURG TIMES ■ SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1986

Eskimo group plans trek across Siberia to greet Soviet relatives

United Press International

MOSCOW — A troupe of 75 American Eskimos will sing and dance its way across Siberia in August on a journey aimed at bringing together Alaskan Eskimos and their Soviet relatives, a group spokesman said Wednesday.

"We're here to set up a long-term cultural exchange," spokesman Martin Behr said.

Behr, who arrived in Moscow on Jan. 8, brought some members of the Eskimo group with him on a two-week visit to organize the excursion and said that in August the full group hopes to meet with some of the estimated 1,500 Eskimos that live in northeastern Siberia.

"There are Eskimo families living in both countries that are related, and they've had little contact since the Cold War years of the 1950s," he said.

Behr emphasized that there will be no attempt to seek permanent family reunification.

The group, part of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, has been funded privately. It will be performing across Siberia as part of a theatrical cultural exchange ratified at the Geneva summit in November by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The difficult part is that we want to go to the shores of the Bering Sea, where the Soviet Eskimos live, but it's not normally open to tourists," he said.

A letter campaign was carried out in Washington to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrinin. In Moscow Behr met with members of the Soviet Composers' Union's Folklore Commission.

Chuna McIntyre, a performer from a village near the Bering Sea, told the audience his interest extended beyond a cultural exchange, back 500 years when intertribal fighting threatened to extinguish the Eskimos.

"We are here not only to exchange cultural activities but in the greater interest of peace between our people. We Alaskans are your neighbors and would like to be your neighbors in peace," he said.

Soviet editor visits

By DON HUNTER
Daily News reporter

The struggle for international understanding took an editor from Moscow to Girdwood Saturday, where he watched the Philadelphia 76ers slip one to the Milwaukee Bucks and discussed a trip that may take Eskimos from western Alaska to Siberia later this year.

Well, he *could* have watched the game. It certainly had the attention of the other fans at Rosy's Restaurant on a drizzly day when even the lift at Alyeska was immobilized.

The editor, Gennadi Gerasimov — his last name sounds vaguely like a Russian variation of Geronimo — will be in Bethel by the time this newspaper hits the streets.

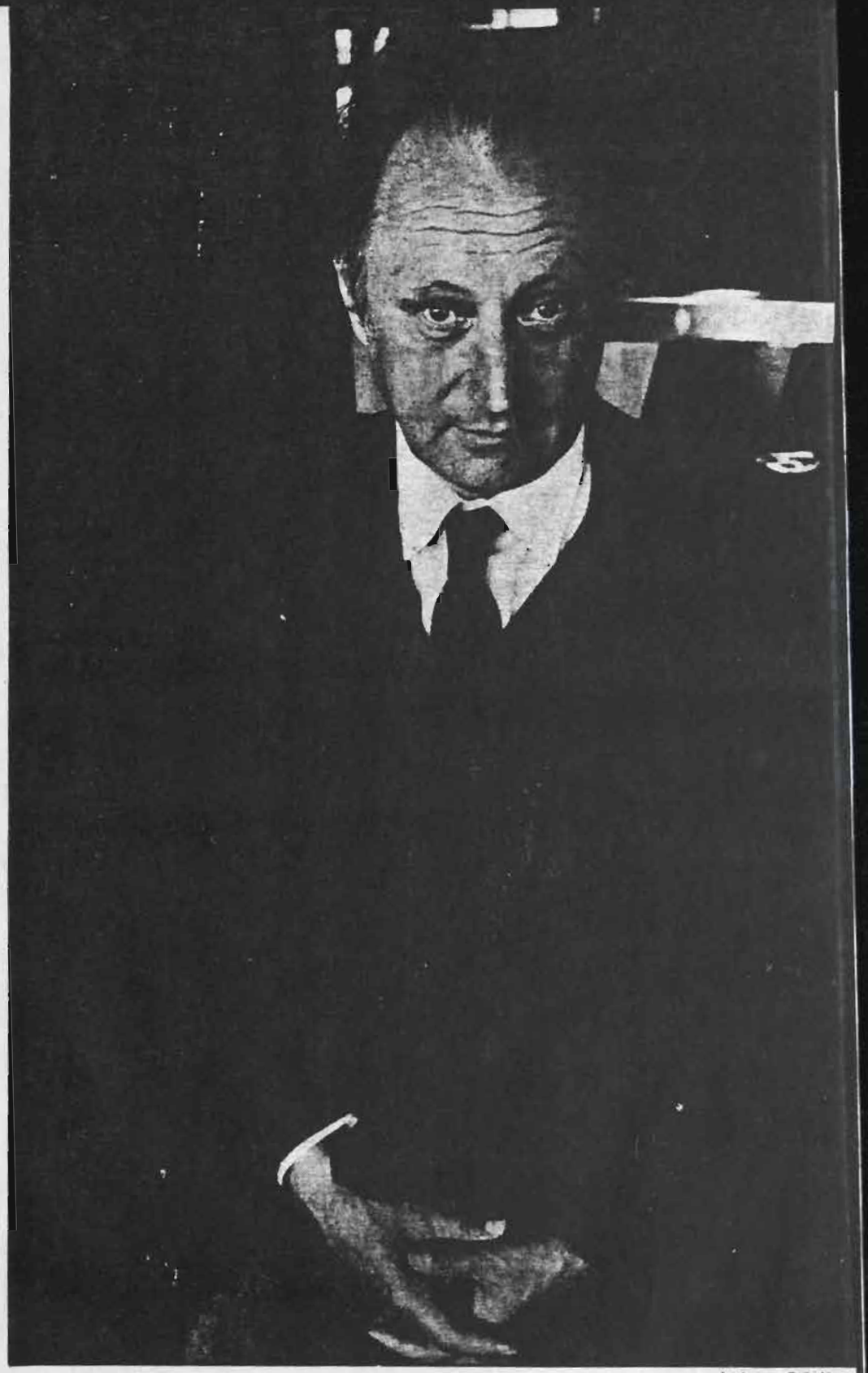
Actually, he may be in Chevak, a village of about 600 hard on the Bering Sea. The Chevak Players, a Yupik theater group, is to be among a larger group of performers an organization called Alaska Performing Artists for Peace hopes to take to Russia this fall.

"And think, not a single Russian ever visited there," Gerasimov observed, only to correct himself a moment later. "Well, not a single Soviet, anyway. To say nothing of a card-carrying Communist."

Gerasimov's sense of humor is like that, acute but fleeting. It darts into conversations like a seagull striking a lazy shad and vanishes without a ripple.

Dixie Belcher, president of the artists for peace group, hopes Gerasimov will make considerably more than a ripple back home. His assistance is vital if the visit is to be

See Page D-3, **SOVIET**



Anchorage Daily News

Gennadi Gerasimov

SOVIET EDITOR: Official gets quick tour of Alaska

Continued from Page D-1

approved, she said, partly because, when he's not overseeing the production of stories for the foreign-language Moscow News, Gerasimov is vice president of a Soviet cultural exchange organization.

So, Belcher is showing Alaska to Gerasimov.

She is also showing Gerasimov to Alaska.

Support on both sides of the Bering is needed if her dreams of culturally reuniting Eskimos divided by the politics of superpowers are to be fulfilled.

Until the 1940s, Eskimos in Alaska and Siberia moved from one continent to the other freely. The invisible walls of world politics interrupted that traffic and severed a culture.

Belcher tells a story. Earlier this year, in a sort of test trip for the real thing, she took three Eskimos from Alaska to the Soviet Union. While there, they watched a performance by Eskimos on the Siberian side of the sea.

"It was like a big reunion," Belcher said. "They were together about three hours."

Later, Belcher said, the Eskimos from Alaska kept saying, "over and over, 'they're OK, they're OK.'

"The Eskimo people with us were really afraid of going because they didn't know (in) what condition" they would find the Eskimos on the Soviet side of the border. The Soviet-side Eskimos had harbored similar fears about the Alaska Eskimos, she said.

"Both peoples thought the others were living in awful conditions."

Gerasimov, who worked for several years in New York as a correspondent for the Soviet press, said Russians and Americans in general hold similar misconceptions about each other.

"One of the misconceptions Russians have about your land is that your land is a land of milk and honey, and that almost everybody has a lifestyle just as a Rockefeller has," he said.

Americans, on the other hand tend to believe "we have horns, that we carry knives between our teeth, that we are out to subvert America — that Russia is something to be afraid of, that we are the enemy," Gerasimov said.

Trips like this one give him a chance to try to change that image, said Gerasimov, an advocate of nuclear disarmament.

Earlier in his career, Gerasimov covered the 1976 U.S. elections for Soviet papers.

"One of my jobs was to interpret American political life to the Soviet people, which was not easy," he said.

"In 1976, I was invited to be in a group of journalists to cover Ronald Reagan . . . I listened to him, wrote a big article on him in 1976, and then he lost (the Republican nomination) to Ford, and Ford later lost to Carter (in the general election).

"Then, four years later, Carter lost to Reagan, who had lost to Ford who had lost to Carter in 1976."

Such rapid changes in fortunes for American politicians are hard for Russians to understand, Gerasimov said. Russians also become frustrated because U.S. policies often seem to change as often as U.S. presidents.

"You have a way of disre garding what your predeces sor did . . . It's very difficul with an administration tha changes its mind so often."

Gerasimov also was critica of Western press reports o the nuclear disaster at Cher noble earlier this week. Th USSR claimed only two peo ple died and fewer than 20 were injured in a reactor acci dent at the Chernobyl nuclea power plant. U.S. press ac counts, based on reports fron sources in this country anc the Soviet Union, estimatec as many as 2,000 people m have died.

By week's end, some U.S officials and nuclear expert: conceded that the Soviet fig ures could be closer to the truth than the earlier, highe figures.

"The difference is that we do not play up news of fires floods, killings — we do not have big headlines for that. Ir many European countries, the press is completely different than the American press (with) its love for sensations, big headlines, 'man bites dog stories."

JUNEAU EMPIRE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1986

Soviets show their confusion

The arrest of an American reporter as a spy only points out the confusion that exists in the Soviet mind over what a journalist is. In the Soviet Union, journalists, as they are called, are not independent observers. They may be called editors and reporters but in reality they are no more than front men that the Soviet government uses to give its actions and atrocities credibility.

An example of this charade is Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov, who recently visited Juneau parading around as the "editor" of the Moscow News. What a joke! He is not an editor; he is a propagandist, bought and paid for by the Soviet government. To call him an editor is simply not telling the truth.

In the United States and the free world, journalists pride themselves as independent, free voices. Their job is telling their readers what is happening in as fair, honest and unbiased manner as possible. Another part of their job is publishing a variety of opinions, including those criticizing the government – an act strictly forbidden in the Soviet Union.

To be sure, there are some western reporters and editors who allow personal opinions to color their publications, but the best make every effort to make sure that is not the case. But even if they fail and allow their opinions to surface in news stories, readers have the choice of buying another independent publication, or even to start their own.

Obviously, that can't happen in the Soviet Union, where the government controls all newspapers and magazines – and all "editors" and "reporters." The only exception is the underground "Samizdat," which translated means self-published. It is secretly circulated among readers, who make copies of the articles and poems and pass them on.

With this in mind, it is no wonder that the Soviets allowed themselves to become confused and arrested U.S. News and World Report reporter Nicholas Daniloff as a "spy." They must have figured that since all Soviet reporters work for the Soviet government, all U.S. reporters work for the U.S. government.

That would be the only halfway logical reason for the Soviets arresting Mr. Daniloff, though now they are making up another story that he is a smuggler. Whatever the Soviets are claiming in their confusion, the fellow was obviously framed by the KGB in an attempt to embarrass him and the United States.

So far, though, the Soviets are the ones who are embarrassed.

...ary," Kelly said.

The primary is set for Aug. 23, and Kelly is confident lawmakers would pass a measure adding the issue to the ballot if legislative action is required.

The Anchorage assembly and Anchorage Organizing Committee have called for a new vote of public support on the city's bid to host the 1994 Winter Olympics.

scheduled to select the host city for 1994 Winter Games in September. The Anchorage committee wants a public vote on the city's bid prior to that meeting.

"If we're going to lose, I'd rather lose now than after we get the games," said Rick Mystrom, chairman of the Anchorage committee.

Kelly said he has discussed the ballot issue with the Division of Elec-

...y, perhaps its own special the state prim ing places and the Olympic ba "We're not priate method Republican said Kelly has be in the Legislat Olympics bid. He authored

4/14/88

Prospects dimming for Alaska-to-Siberia flight

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE – Soviet concerns make it unlikely that Alaska Airlines will be able to fly from Nome to Provideniya, Siberia, on May 31 as planned, says Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, who has just returned from the Soviet Union.

"Unless we can coordinate a top-level mandate. . .I think the flight will not happen on that date," Murkowski said. "There are substantially more hurdles than I anticipated."

The charter flight by an Alaska Airlines jet on May 31 has been billed as a way to open the door for regular flights between Nome and the Siberian city. But Soviet officials are cool to the idea, citing the costs, security risks and lack of facilities in Provideniya, Murkowski said.

"It would be a sweeping change. They asked me a couple of times, 'Are you serious?'," Murkowski said of his meetings with officials of the Soviet Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Murkowski returned Sunday from a week-long trip to the Soviet Union as part of an 11-member delegation from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

He took with him a long list of questions from Alaska Airlines about facilities at Provideniya. Topics included the length of the runway and the availability of air traffic control systems. Soviet officials said they will respond to the questions, Murkowski said.

"They said Provideniya has been closed to Westerners, and it is not a port of entry," Murkowski said. "I said, 'Yes, but this is a charter and there is no charge.'"

The Soviets also said no customs or visa facilities are in place in Provideniya, there are no ground facilities, and it's possible speakers of English would not be on hand in Provideniya to act as guides for the Alaskans.

"I responded that in the spirit of 'glasnost'. . .the U.S. stands ready," Murkowski said.

"We would work out the problems."

Search for fishermen halted

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Coast Guard has suspended the search for three Oregon men missing from a wrecked fishing boat that washed ashore in Icy Bay earlier in the week.

Wednesday was the first good weather searchers had all week and Coast Guard aircraft covered the area from Yakutat to Cape St. Elias, but found nothing.

Coast Guard spokesman Robert Goodrich said Thursday the search is

Danny Lamons, 38, Puyallup, Wash., were found in the wreckage of the 52-foot Emerald Sea. The Coast Guard said the men apparently were thrown from their bunks and were crushed under a refrigerator and a microwave oven.

The hull of the vessel, its superstructure missing, was spotted by a passing airplane Sunday.

Missing are Greg von Schweinitz, 26, the ship's captain and brother of Mark; Gregory Lamons, 38, ...

Boa rur

THE ASSOCIATED PI

ANCHORAG coholic Bevera Wednesday he Nulato resident new the licens that opened 9 kon River despi

People from telephone that t of two within a town, had contri to alcohol-relat deaths in the an not wanted.

"Eighty perc village who use structively," th told the ABC bo chorage. "The a the village is 41 y lifespan in war-t 43 years."

In 1986, the proved Elmer for a liquor licen outraged village had voted agains store within mun and village leade people who woul by the sale of liqu an opportunity t board had not i of the license ap the store would b

Residents sent tion, bearing the Nulato's adults, sion be reversed fused, and Manoo in early 1987.

Manoo...

米ソが分断 国境に兄弟島

超大国の米ソが目と鼻の先で直接対峙（たいじ）する現場に行った。ベーリング海峡の真っただ中、米側のリトル・ダイオミードとソ連のビッグ・ダイオミード両島を隔てる距離はわずか四キロ。リトル・ダイオミードの視力の良い島民は、肉眼でソ連兵の歩く姿がわかるという。両島の真ん中には国際日付変更線が走っており、向かいの島はほぼまる一日先行している。

「奇妙な感じだな。人工的な境界線だよ。我々エスキモーには境界線はなかったのに……」と、島のモーゼスおじさん（六四）は昔を思い出す。

アラスカ北西端からシベリア北東部にかけてはユピック語族が広範に住んでいる。リトル・ダイオミードにはその約百六十人が、全体が岩場の島の波打ち際にへばりつくようにして、狩猟などで生きている。向かいの島にいた同族の仲間は、米ソ冷戦が進むと共にシベリア東部に強制移住させられ、代わってソ連の監視所が島の数か所に出現した。

「母親はビッグ・ダイオミードで生まれた。親類や友人が今も向こう側にいる。めい土に行く前に一度会いたいな」と、モーゼスおじさんは、はるかかなたに白く浮かぶシベリアの山脈に視線をやった。

冬になると、二つの島の間の海面は氷結、歩いて渡れる。「いつだったか、向かいの島から国際電話がかかってきた。〝国境を越えちゃいかん〟という忠告だったよ」と、オミヤク村長（五一）。

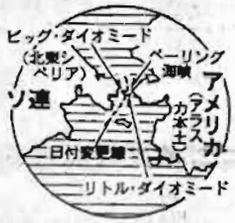
最近、村長のもとに朗報が届いた。米ソの民間交流団体「シベリア・アラスカ文化交流」が主催して、シベリアのユピック語族九人をリトル・ダイオミードに招待しようという計画だ。早ければ今夏中にも実現するかもしれないという。ソ連に対抗して中距離核戦力（INF）のアラスカ配備というきな臭い話も伝わる中で、島民たちはシベリアの仲間との再会の期待に胸をふくらませている。米ソ国境に浮かぶ最前線のダイオミードは今、真夏。白夜に包まれている。

撮影・山添徹写真部員
文・石川弘修特派員

▲米領リトル・ダイオミード島（手前）とソ連領ビッグ・ダイオミード島（向こう側）のわずか4キロの間に、国境と日付変更線が走り、後方にシベリアも見える

ユピック語族の子供たちは底ぬけに明るく、顔立ちは日本人そっくりだ

同族エスキモー近く再会の夢



NEWS グラフィティ

（第三種郵便物認可）July 20　昭和62年（1987年）7月20日（月曜日）

白夜のベーリング海峡

☆6☆

平和の橋

米ソ両国に架ける

エスキモー交流の願い

リトル・ダイオミード島の食料品店の壁に、「ミール（平和）」というロシア語が大書されていた。向かいのソ連領からよく見えるようにと、島民たちがペンキで書いたものだ。「友好のシグナルですよ」と、オミヤク村長。数年前には、村の子供たちが平和と友好のメッセージを書いた風船をソ連側へ向けて放った。

「ゴルバチョフ時代の新風にうまく乗ってくれるといいのだが……」

そんな島民の願いにこたえるかのように、今、米ソのエスキモー交流計画の話が持ち上がっている。「シベリア＝アラスカ文化交流」と名付けられたキャンペーンだ。アメリカ側を代表してデキシー・ペルチャー女史四七。ソ連側は、エスキモー作家のユーリ・リトキュー氏五九が責任者となって推進している。

二人は昨年すでに、アラスカのエスキモー舞踊団二十五人をソ連公演旅行に送り込むのに成功したが、今回は趣向を変え、ベーリング海峡をモイウチの皮張りのカヤックで渡り、離れ離れになっているエピック・エスキモーの再会を果たそうというもの。

ソ連側は、すでに渡米するエスキモー約二十五人のリストアップを終え、早ければ今夏中に実現すると意気込んでいるという。ペルチャー女史によると、シベリアのエスキモー代表団によるアラスカ各地での音楽や舞踊の公演も検討されている。

さらに交流計画が目指すのは、エスキモー芸能大会のシベリア、アラスカ相互開催や米ソ・エスキモー混成芸能団の編成だ。

アラスカの州都ジュノーで、ロックやフォークのコーラス・グループを編成するのが本業のペルチャー女史は、「かねて音楽を通して米ソ交流に貢献できないかと思っていた。そこへ飛びこんできたのが、国境をはさんで離散したエスキモーの話だった。ベーリング海峡に平和の橋を架けるのを後半生の目標にしたい」という。同女史によると、ソ連側のリトキュー氏も思いは同じだった。シベリア最北東端のイースト岬近くの村に生まれ育った同氏は、十六歳で故郷を後にしてレニングラードで勉学、作家として世に出た。

「故郷を離れる時、岬からみたダイオミードの双子島、そしてその後方はるかにみたアラスカの風景が脳裏を離れない。我々の仲間が住んでいるアラスカとの往来を自由にするのが生涯の一つの目標になった」と、同氏は手記に書いた。

女史は、スティーブ・クーパー・アラスカ州知事に働きかけ、州知事の名前でゴルバチョフ書記長にエスキモー公式招待の実現や協力を要請した。しかし、カヤックで海峡を渡るのは異例のこと。双方の官僚主義の障害にぶつかり、まだ、実現するかどうか分からない状態だという。代案として東京経由でアンカレジ入りを検討しているが、資金不足の問題がある。米企業などに寄金を働きかけているが、「アラスカ、ましてエスキモーのことなると、ピンと来ないのか、反応が鈍い」とこぼした。

だが、そんな女史を励ましてくれるのが、仲間と再会、再交流を求める米ソ双方のエスキモーたちの願いだ。リトキュー氏が、そんな思いを表したシベリア・エスキモーの詩を米誌「ナショナル・ジオグラフィック」に紹介している。

我々は愛で大地を暖める
生まれてこのかた戦いを知らない
この平和と愛のタネをまこう　広い全世界に
そして希望と信頼で暖め続けよう。すると花は開き始める。（石川弘修特派員、写真は山添徹写真部員）

（おわり）

リトル・ダイオミード島の店にある「ミール」（平和＝ロシア語）の看板。右下はペルチャー女史

JUNEAU EMPIRE
'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'
MONDAY
November 3, 1986

return

Alaska contingent says Soviets liked their performances

By CHUCK KLEESCHULTE
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

They practically wobbled from exhaustion, but their eyes sparkled as they relived for well-wishers the memories of their three-week trek for peace across the Soviet Union.

Between hugs and kisses, most of the 28 members of the Juneau contingent of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace raved about their trip after arriving back in Juneau late Sunday night.

"It was great. We were very well-received. I think by and large the people are very interested in anything American. They seemed very inquisitive and wanted to know about our lives, not about what our government does," said Dave Moe, one of the 67 people, all but two from Alaska, who traveled throughout the Soviet Union as part of a people-to-people artistic exchange designed to promote goodwill.

"I'm exhausted. We got on the plane in Helsinki at 2 p.m. their time, flew for 9½ hours straight to reach Seattle by way of Los Angeles and then after a layover, flew the rest of the way. But it was a pretty amazing trip. It will take a lifetime to get over the emotions from it all," said Juneau doctor Scott Jamison, as he waited for his luggage.

The performing artists, organized by Dixie Belcher, a force behind Juneau's local harmony group, the St. Paul Singers, featured Eskimo dancers from Chevak, Savoonga and Gambell, rock performers from Anchorage, gospel singers from throughout the state and modern sounds and dance, largely choreo-

Please turn to Page 12

Artists...

Continued from Page 1

graphed by the Juneau contingent. Former Gov. Jay Hammond also went along, talking about American society at many of the performances.

The group performed 14 times from Leningrad, their first stop on the six-city tour, to Khabarovsk, 11 time zones away in western Siberia. Then the group headed back to Moscow, stopping to sightsee at Baykal, and perform in Bratsk, Tulun and Novosibirsk, besides in the two major cities of the Soviet Union.

"The people who went completely changed their minds about the Soviet people. We all had this idea that Russians are reserved, but the trip showed us they have incredible warmth. I think it proved to all of us the true power of people-to-people exchanges," said Belcher.

She said all of the performances proved tremendously powerful and emotional as Russians, who seldom

prepare

Northern Life

Staff map by Marc Roberson

CROSSING BORDERS

Performing artists reach for peace

By DOUG YATES
Correspondent

The Alaska-Siberia border, long open to the indigenous people of the North, was closed during the Cold War. Dixie Belcher of Juneau is now traveling the state and the nation trying to interest officials in Washington and Moscow in reopening the border.

"This is an issue that just laid dormant for years and years. What we've done is resurrect it," she said.

Belcher's first major move to bring the issue to world attention resulted last October in a visit to several Siberian cities by a troupe of musicians, singers and dancers from Alaska. The 67-member group, Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, played to full houses in performances in Leningrad, Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Bratsk, Novosibirsk and Moscow.

Convincing Washington, D.C., and Moscow of the tour's value required the patience of Job. Kremlin officials wouldn't commit themselves without a face-to-face meeting with Belcher. Putting her own money on the line, she took a second mortgage on her home and made two planning trips to the Soviet Union.

On a small scale, the reunification of Yup'ik Eskimos along the coasts of Alaska and Siberia serves to fuel the larger mission of peace between the super powers.

At the core of this idea are a few simple facts. Geographic, cultural, linguistic and historical ties exist between Alaska and the Soviet Union. A quick glance at the map reveals that only 2½ miles separates Little Diomede Island, which is U.S. territory, from Big Diomede, a Soviet island in the Bering Strait. People on both sides of the watery border, squinting through binoculars, watch each other's comings and goings. Sometimes they wave. On St. Lawrence Island, Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimos can tune their radios to Siberian stations, just 38 miles away, and hear broadcasts in their native language.

Until 1867, Alaska was a Russian territory. A trading and exploration company called the Russian-American, had interests from Kivalina to California. Ice was shipped to San Francisco, furs to China and timber back to Siberia. Russian explorers scattered old world names like Golovin, Romanzof, Yakobi and Baranof across the map of Alaska. The Russian Orthodox Church remains a powerful influence, especially in the villages.

Today Native people on both sides of the boundary suffer the poverty of restricted travel and division between families, brought about by misunderstanding and fear at the close of World War II. Belcher's idea is to try to open the long-closed door using the wisdom of ordinary citizens and the power of communication through dance and music.

With contributions from the state, businesses, and many individuals, the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace tour finally became airborne in October 1986.

The Yup'ik contingent of the tour was composed of six elders from St. Lawrence Island who performed a comedy sketch about hunting. Native dancers and mimes came from Tooksook Bay, Chevak and Eek. A choral ensemble from Juneau, a group of black gospel singers from Anchorage and Eddie Wood, the percussionist, rounded out the team.

The traditional Native route from Alaska to Siberia is traversed by skin boat, now aided by outboard engines. However, international diplomacy demanded a longer trip.

The troupe flew south to Los Angeles, then east 11 hours nonstop to Helsinki, Finland, and on to Leningrad, their first Soviet stop in the three-week tour.

From Leningrad, it was another 11-hour flight east to Khabarovsk, for their first Siberian performance.

For Americans, Siberia conveys images of cold, ice and privation. But the group discovered a city of beautiful trees and broad streets. "Khabarosk has an old world European feel to it," said Wood. "It was fall and sturdy women in kerchiefs were sweeping leaves into piles. The air was crisp with the changing season and the smell of burning leaves," he said.

Khabarovsk, with its 500,000 inhabitants, shares a common border with Alaska's sister state in China. Just across the river is Heilongjiang, China's northeastern province.

The Alaskans' audiences reflected a wide spectrum of Soviet citizens.

"Many appeared to be working people just off their shift, still in rubber boots and work clothes," said Wood. "Others were grandmothers with babes in arms, military, students and well-dressed academics and party officials.

"The show's last number was the song 'We Are The World' and in each city they knew the words in English. The combined energy was something I'll never forget," Wood said.

From Khabarovsk, the next stop on the tour was Irkutsk in southern Siberia. It was from here in 1741 that Vitus Bering's discovery journey to Alaska began. Irkutsk most reminded the Alaskans of home.

"Even in the heart of this major city there are log houses, some three-stories tall," said Wood. "And each appeared to be a labor of love; delicate and complicated fretwork, carved scrolls and porticos decorate each home. Shutters and detail work are painted in blues and greens giving each house a lively and pleasant appearance.

"I wandered around quite freely and saw that these places had water wells with a priming pump, a woodshed, chicken coop and outhouse. They were like homesteads in the middle of the city. While most people lived in high-rise apartments it was surprising to see such a strong Alaskan flavor to their life," Wood said.

Irkutsk is on the southern end of Lake Baikal, one of Siberia's natural wonders. The lake is 400 miles long, more than a mile deep in places, and holds 20 percent of the free fresh water in the world. For thousands of years, the clear water had been home to an abundant fishery, a unique fresh-water seal, and, in the surrounding forests, the Barguzin sable.

The Alaskans also visited Bratsk (a hydroelectric city with dams built out of permafrost) and Novosibirsk (the major Siberian industrial center), before flying on to Moscow and wrapping up their goodwill mission in Leningrad.

At the conclusion of each of their 14 performances the troupe was besieged with people and questions. Autographs were signed, small gifts exchanged and invitations to tea and visits in private homes extended.

High-school-age boys from Bush Alaska were suddenly the focus of intense flirtation from admiring Soviet girls. Crossing cultural boundaries and transcending differences took on new meaning for these young Alaskans who previously thought a trip to Dillingham was a big deal.

At a northern studies institute in Leningrad, the Savoonga elders, women in their 60s and 70s, met with Soviet ethnographers and musicologists. As the Alaskans traced histories and charted dialects, they also met several young Eskimo students from the Chukchi Peninsula, across the Bering Strait from Alaska.

Shrieks of joy, smiles and tears of recognition accompanied the meeting with the Soviet Eskimos. A major goal of the project had been accomplished. Communication and understanding was achieved despite 40 years of separation and differences in generation and dialect. Clutching small maps of Alaska and photographs of family, these extraordinary gray-haired ambassadors carried tangible connections of kinfolk and continuity.

Witnessing the Leningrad meeting, Wood remembers, "Those old ladies, fatigued by hours of jet lag, strange food and demanding schedules, suddenly became young again. You could see it in their bodies and faces and hear it in their voices as they talked with and hugged the teenage Eskimos from Chukotka. The whole room was in tears, it was an amazing moment."

Dixie Belcher and Native dancer Chuna McIntyre will tell about the Siberian tour of the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace in two audio-visual and dance presentations. The program, "An Eskimo Vision of Hope: Melting the Ice Curtain," is slated as a potluck fundraiser Saturday at 6 p.m. at Raven Hall. Another presentation is scheduled Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Wood Center Ballroom on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. The programs are part of National Peace with Justice Week.

Soviet and American **Eskimos** Warmth from the Arctic

By Dixie Belcher

In the far north, in the middle of the Bering Sea, lie two islands two miles apart, one belonging to the United States and the other to the Soviet Union. Every day, people on both islands watch each other through binoculars. Sometimes they wave.

On St. Lawrence Island, 38 miles from the Siberian coast, Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimos pick up the Yup'ik songs of their Soviet brethern on radio. The older people speak familiarly of the Siberian mainland they had visited years before, where some were born.

There has been no official contact between these people since the Second World War. They speak the same language, hold the same cultural heritage and share relatives.

Few people realize the geographic, cultural, historical and linguistic ties between the Soviet Union and Alaska. Alaska was a part of Russia for nearly a century. Many of its geographical names are Russian. Yup'iks have discovered more than 100 commonly used words in their language that are Russian. Many Alaskans have Russian family names, and use Russian music and dance in family celebrations. The Russian Orthodox church is still a powerful force in the state, particularly in the villages.

In an attempt to reunite Soviet and American Eskimos, Alaska Performing Artists for Peace (APAP) was formed in February, 1985, to create long-term cultural exchange, and to send a message of world peace through the medium of song and dance from the people of Alaska to the people of Siberia.

In October, 1986, 67 APAP members performed across the Soviet Union on a three week tour of peace and friendship. Included were white performers from Juneau and Homer, Black gospel singers from Anchorage, and 25 Eskimos from six villages. Their focus was on the reunification of Soviet and American Eskimos, on their decision to end war 500 years ago, and on the Eskimo drum as an ancient symbol of peace.

Alaska's Gift to the Soviet Union

The Soviet press billed them as "Alaska's Gift to the Soviet Union." Fourteen performances were given in three weeks to standing-room-only crowds from Leningrad to Khabarovsk, and thousands were turned away. We sang and danced for intellectuals, soldiers, peasants, communists, students, Eskimos, Blacks and the press. And they sang and danced with us. The response was always the same. During one concert, 1,200 people broke down a door trying to get in. Four and five standing ovations were usually given.

It is something I will never forget. Thousands of Soviet people standing with their arms lifted, holding hands, singing "We Shall Oversome," tears streaming. There was unbelievable warmth, hugs, tears, children's kisses of welcome and the sharing of hope.

In Leningrad, Siberian Yup'ik Eskimo students tentatively approached the Alaskan Eskimos, speaking in Siberian Yup'ik. (Only 2,000 people in the world speak this language, 1,000 on each side of the Bering Strait.) For the first time since 1940, these Eskimos, who live only 50 miles from each other and have been one people for thousands of years, spoke, touched and shared news of relatives. There were no dry eyes in the auditorium. Our Intourist guide sobbed through every performance. She was sure it was the best thing that would ever happen to her.

That night, and during the remaining days in Leningrad, they shared photographs, stories, hugs and tears. One woman learned that her adopted brother, with whom she had shared the first 20 years of her life, was still alive.

After the performances, renowned Eskimo author Yuri Rytkheu, the Soviet co-chairman of APAP, received calls from party officials across the Soviet Union who had

Continued on page 23

The delegation of Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace, received rousing applause (right) during their performances

Gennadi Gerasimov is presented an Eskimo parka by Chuna McIntyre (right) as a gift to Raisa Gorbacheva. (Photo courtesy of APAP)

ESKIMOS
Continued from page 8

been deeply touched by the performances. They wanted to help reunite the Alaskans with their Soviet relatives, a lifetime goal for Rytkheu, who is from the village of Eulan, directly across the Bering Strait from Alaska. Rusty wheels are now turning in the Soviet Union, and for the first time in 40 years, Soviet Eskimos are preparing to cross the Bering Strait to visit their Alaskan neighbors.

APAP members hope that the Soviets will be allowed to cross the strait in walrus skin boats, as they routinely did until 1948. The villages of Gambell and Savoonga, on St. Lawrence Island, 38 miles from the Soviet coast, are prepared to welcome their relatives with traditional feasting, singing and dancing. Alaska native peoples around the state also wish to extend a traditional welcome.

The Tlinget Indian nation in southeast Alaska, which successfully fought the Russians during their occupation of Alaska, plans to hold a formal peace ceremony in Sitka, the oldest Russian/American capital. There has never been a peace treaty signed between between the Tlingits and the Russians, so technically they are still at war.

During our APAP performance tour of the Soviet Union, our Intourist guide said, "You can't imagine how suspicious English-speaking tourists are."

"Surely you've guided peace groups," I asked.

"They're worst of all," she explained. "Not only are they suspicious, but they want to change us."

Maybe we are too intellectual. In our efforts towards peace, maybe we rely too much on our heads, on conditioned responses learned well on both sides. We must recognize our common humanity with languages from the heart, which is, after all, an organ of international communication. Music, dance and laughter instantly transcend political, ideological and linguistic barriers. Talk is easier after sharing our common humanity. After we learn to like and trust each other, then we can decide about sharing the planet, and about peace. Δ

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MOSCOW NEWS weekly No. 46, 1986

Warmth from chilly Alaska

The group Alaska Performing Artists for Peace has recently toured the USSR. Some 70 American artists performed for three weeks in Leningrad, Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Bratsk, Novosibirsk and Moscow.

"I'm afraid I'll have to consult my doctor and show him the bruises on my arms. I've asked Dixie so many times to pinch me as strongly as possible in order to make sure I'm not in happy dreamland." That was how Linda Buckley, a member of the Alaskan group, jokingly answered my question about her impressions after touring our country.

I became acquainted with Dixie Belcher, the leader of the group, two years ago, when she came to the MN office and told us about her intention to arrange a meeting between Alaskan musicians, singers and dancers and people living in Siberia.

"Once upon a time Eskimos used to be very aggressive and ruthlessly killed each other off," Dixie said. "But then they pledged to stop wars. They haven't violated that pledge to this day. Today they are regarded as the most peaceful nation on Earth. So I thought who else but us should start smoking a peace pipe with the Soviet Northerners. And then we could pass the pipe on to other nations.

"The idea spread through Alaska like wildfire. A very great number of people wished to go to the USSR. But where was the money to come from? We started arranging lotteries and fairs, where we sold items made by folk craftsmen, and concerts. We announced on TV our intention to set off on such an unusual expedition. Strangers from all of the USA sent us 5-7 dollars each and their best wishes. All told, we raised 200,000 dollars.

"I knew that, as distinct from the USA, it isn't customary here to express emotion too much at concerts. I told the artists not to regard a cool reception as a sign of failure, and we set off. But the warmth with which we were received here surpassed all expectations."

"Since we are neighbours, we ought to be good neighbours," said the guests from Alaska.

Photo by Nikolai AGEYEV

"We played several times a day," said Chuna McIntyre, an Eskimo dancer. "When the curtain fell we, too, collapsed from fatigue. But the audiences were giving us marvellous ovations, so we jumped up and were prepared to dance over and over again. I can't imagine where we got the strength to dance so much.

"However, what we'll remember most of all were the meetings with our brothers – the Soviet Eskimos. I remember how girls came to us after a concert in Leningrad, to thank us for the performance. They looked exactly like us. We were so happy that I fired off my entire vocabulary of Russian and they – their English. Then I switched over to my native language – the Yupik. They turned out to be fluent in it. The girls told us that they were students at an institute and go home to visit their parents about twice a year. And they were so pleased to converse with us in their own language."

The group was composed not only of Eskimos, but also of Indians, white Americans and Afro-American singers of spirituals.

"Some people, learning that I was going to the USSR, tried to talk me out of it," Delila H. Williams, one of the singers, said. "They told me that I'd be kept under constant surveillance here. And I asked them why they didn't try to talk me out of going to Western Europe where terrorists are rampant and where planes with bombs planted aboard get blown up.

"It is hard to keep calm when I remember our performances. We also sang songs performed during religious services of Negro churches. It was an unusual sight, when at the concerts people got up, linked hands and joined us in song. And in Moscow, after one concert, a young man came to us, said that he was an artist and presented to us several Russian landscapes painted by him."

Jay Hammond, former governor of the US state of Alaska, came with the group. He said:

"Martin Luther King, the well-known US personality, dreamed of a day when people would not be divided according to the colour of their skin. Rephrasing it, I'd like to say that I hope the time would come when people would not be divided according to their political views but by the end results of their activities."

Yelena KHANGA

«МОСКОВСКИЕ НОВОСТИ» № 5, 2 февраля 1986 г.

Заиграла русская музыка, раздались частушки, и гости с Аляски, не удержавшись, пустились в пляс вместе с артистами русского фольклорного ансамбля.

Фото Алексея ФЕДОРОВА.

Из самого холодного края с самыми теплыми пожеланиями

На днях мы, в редакции, оказались свидетелями необычного концерта. Его участниками были американские эскимосы из организации «Артисты Аляски – за мир», приехавшие туристами в СССР. В меховых куртках и штанах, расшитых унтах, с налобными повязками из разноцветного бисера, они пели, аккомпанируя себе на бубне.

– Мы знаем,– говорит Дикси Белчер, президент организации,– что главный редактор «Московских новостей» Геннадий Герасимов был единственным советским журналистом, побывавшим на самом севере Аляски – в местечке Пойнт-Барроу. И мы непременно хотели с ним познакомиться в Москве.

– Американские эскимосы мало чем отличаются от эскимосов, проживающих в СССР,– поделился в свою очередь Чуна Макинтир, представитель народности юпик.– Некоторые наши племена говорят на том же языке, что и советские эскимосы. Сохранились у нас и русские имена, а на географической карте встречаются такие названия, как, например, острова Чичагова, Баранова. Мы даже празднуем рождество по старой русской традиции в ночь на 7 января.

На моей родине есть легенда,– продолжал Чуна.– На Аляске было озеро с такой прозрачной водой, что можно было наблюдать за косяками рыб. Однажды из-за крови, которую проливали в междоусобных войнах эскимосы, оно окрасилось в багряный цвет. Тогда-то и решили наши предки жить в мире. Прошло уже пятьсот лет, как мы его не нарушаем.

Было время, когда мы ездили к нашим советским братьям через Берингов пролив, зимой – на собачьих упряжках, а летом – на легких лодках. И кому же, как не нам, советским и американским эскимосам, надо встретиться, чтобы раскурить «трубку мира». Мы с Севера привезли тепло и хотим, чтобы главы наших государств заключили такой же договор о мире, как это сделали в далеком прошлом мои предки.

Елена ХАНГА.

Закончилось путешествие по Советскому Союзу артистов с далекой Аляски. Ранним ноябрьским утром улетели они к себе домой, в их гостиничные номера въехали новые жильцы... Сняли с рекламных щитов красочные афиши, извещавшие о концертах этого ансамбля. Я смотрю на круглый зелено-синий значок — подарок новых друзей — с изображением географической карты: территорий Сибири и Аляски, и с таким прекрасным словом «мир», и становится грустно, как бывает всегда при расставании с хорошими людьми. Вновь и вновь всплывают в памяти встречи и с шумным, веселым Алексом Маевским (Сашей — как он называет себя на русский манер), и с несколько застенчивым Дэвидом Миллером, и темпераментным Эдди Вудом, и с высоким, энергичным Гроном Нюссом, ни на секунду — ни в автобусе, ни на пруду — не расстававшимся с мячом для игры в регби. И, конечно же, вспоминается тот незабываемый последний концерт, который был дан в Большом зале Московского Дома литераторов.

Чуть больше часа длился концерт. Но за это короткое время американским артистам удалось сделать все, чтобы советские зрители поверили им: да, они всем сердцем хотят мира! Об этом говорится и в песне, той, что поют исполнители все вместе: «Мы за мир! Наши северные народы всегда считали, что все, кто живет на земле, — одна большая семья...».

И дальше — искреннее предложение, обращенное ко всем членам этой большой семьи: «Ты — мой брат, и — твоя сестра... Давайте возьмемся за руки и пойдем вместе. Пока в мире существует дружба — мы непобедимы!..».

Громом аплодисментов отвечали советские люди на такие искренние слова, такие нужные в эти тревожные дни всей планеты дни.

Пятьдесят пять исполнителей входят в труппу «Артисты Аляски за мир». Еще полтора года назад это были небольшие самодеятельные коллективы в городах и деревнях американского штата. Известно, ни одно большое и нужное дело не обходится без энтузиастов. Профессор музыки университета Дикси Белчер из столицы Аляски — Джуно собрала все разрозненные группы в один большой ансамбль. Среди самодеятельных артистов учителя, врачи, студенты, школьники, рыбаки, охотники, журналисты. Да и возраст у них самый разный — от 14 до 70 лет.

Насыщенной была культурная программа наших гостей. Они познакомились с советской столицей, побывали на Красной площади и в Мавзолее Владимира Ильича Ленина, любовались красавицей Москвой с Ленинских гор, встречались с творческой общественностью, вместе с популярным не только в нашей стране, но и за рубежом фольклорным ансамблем под управлением Дмитрия Покровского выступили перед москвичами в Центральном выставочном зале — Манеже.

А накануне отъезда пришли в Общество «Родина», чтобы поделиться впечатлениями от поездки по нашей стране, от встреч с советскими людьми, рассказать о себе.

— Я мечтаю установить постоянные творческие контакты с советскими артистами, — сказал руководитель группы Алекс Маевский. — Мне очень нравится ваша страна, наш народ...

Смотришь на этого рослого молодого человека, похожего крепко сбитой фигурой на истинного сибиряка, и без ошибки можешь определить, что в его жилах течет русская кровь. Да и по-русски он говорит чисто, без малейшего акцента. На вопрос, как удалось так хорошо выучить русский язык, ведь родился и всю свою жизнь живет не в России, он отвечает по своему обыкновению весело, с юмором:

— Во всем виновата бабушка!

И, посерьезнев, поясняет:

— Она родом из белорусского города Пинска. Когда оказалась на Аляске, ни за что не хотела учить английский язык. Вот мне и приходилось быть переводчиком...

— А мои дедушка и бабушка по материнской линии были с Украины, — говорит Регина Боденгейм. — Они много рассказывали мне о своей Родине, о ее природе, песнях, обычаях. У нас в доме всегда царила «русская атмосфера» — все было, как когда-то в их украинской хате. И если мы украинские блюда — борщи, вареники, галушки... Так что и в СССР чувствую себя как дома.

И продолжает:

— Я в вашей стране второй раз. Впервые побывала здесь в 1984 году с делегацией врачей-терапевтов, но посетила тогда лишь Ленинград. А сейчас я так много увидела и узнала! И что особенно меня поразило — теплота и гостеприимство советских людей везде, где нам пришлось побывать.

Кроме Москвы, гости посетили Ленинград, Новосибирск, Братск, Хабаровск. Побывали и в сибирском городе Иркутске, где долго жил и работал первый исследователь Аляски в начале XVIII века Григорий Иванович Шелихов. Это он основал на берегу острова Кадьяк поселок и завязал мирные сношения с жившими на острове эскимосами. Он объяснил им достоинства русских домов, пищи, одежды, орудий труда, организовал школу, где эскимосских детей учили русской грамоте и счету. Кроме того, Шелихов посылал молодых эскимосов в Россию для обучения в школах Охотска и Иркутска. Многие эскимосы так и остались жить в России.

В те годы на многих островах и на побережье материка Америки были основаны постоянные русские поселения и крепости. Территорию эту так и называли — «Русская Америка», и Г. И. Шелихова «Колумбом российским».

Обо всем этом узнали наши гости во время своего посещения сибирских городов. Да и раньше, у себя дома, они, конечно же, слышали имя русского исследователя. Ведь многие заливы, проливы и реки в северной части бассейна Тихого океана носят его имя. В частности, остров Кадьяк от Аляски отделяет пролив Шелихова.

Да и сама Аляска, если посмотреть на карту, отделена от советской Чукотки лишь узкой полоской воды. Помните, как образно сказал об этом М. С. Горбачев на торжественном собрании, посвященном вручению Владивостоку ордена Ленина:

«В тихоокеанском регионе Советский Союз граничит и с Соединенными Штатами. Сосед близкий в буквальном смысле слова, расстояние всего 7 километров — ровно столько от советского острова Большой Диомид до американского Диомида Малого».

Как же не дружить соседям?

— Мы не только соседи, мы пассажиры одного космического корабля — Земли, — говорит красивый седобородый человек — бывший мэр Аляски Джейм Хаммонд, приехавший в СССР вместе с ансамблем. — И от нас, пассажиров, зависит, каким будет этот путь. От нас зависит, будет ли холодная зима или наступит весна в отношениях двух великих держав — СССР и США...

И мы, советские люди, и народы всего мира надеемся, что наши страны найдут наконец общий язык.

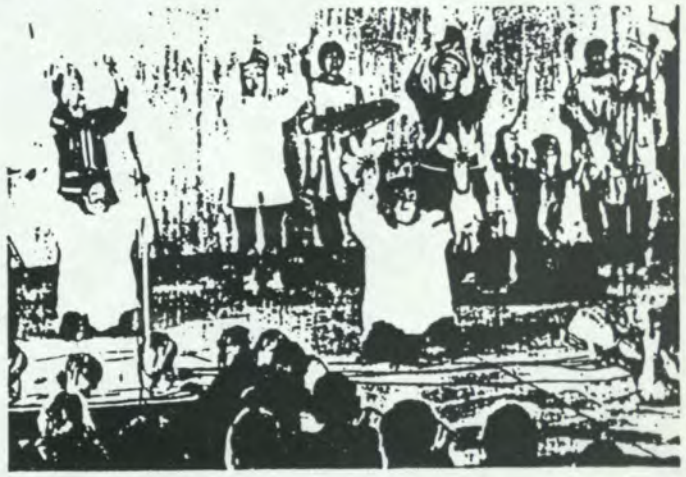
Т. СОЛОВЬЕВА.

КАК НЕ ДРУЖИТЬ СОСЕДЯМ?

НА СНИМКАХ:

- **В хороводе дружбы соединили руки советские и американские артисты.**
- **Выступает ансамбль с Аляски.**

Фото Ю. Лунькова.



ку раз в день, — рассказывает эскимосский танцор Чуна Макинтир. — Столько впечатлений мы увозим с собой от встреч с советскими людьми! Но больше всего, конечно, запомнятся встречи с нашими братьями — советскими эскимосами. Помню, в Ленинграде после концерта к нам пришли девушки поблагодарить за выступление. Выглядели они так же, как и мы. На радостях я выпалил весь свой запас русского языка, они свой — английского. Тогда я перешел на родной язык юпик. Оказалось, они его хорошо знали. Девушки рассказали, что учатся в институте и ездят навещать родителей не реже двух раз в год.

В составе группы были не только эскимосы. Были среди наших гостей и такие, в жилах которых течет русская кровь. Это и Алекс Маевский, и Регина Боденгейм, и Рассел Джозефесон, и другие. Они, несмотря на обширную программу, пришли в Советское общество по культурным связям с соотечественниками за рубежом (Общество «Родина»).

— Я мечтаю установить постоянные творческие контакты с советскими артистами, — сказал руководитель группы Алекс Маевский (Саша — как он называет себя на русский манер). — Мне очень нравится ваша страна, ваш народ...

Хоровод дружбы водят американские и русские артисты.

В залах Центрального выставочного зала в Манеже.

— А я второй раз в СССР и чувствую себя здесь как дома, — говорит Регина Боденгейм. — Мои дедушка и бабушка по материнской линии были с Украины. Они много рассказывали мне о своей Родине, о ее природе, песнях, обычаях. У нас в доме все было так, как когда-то в их украинской хате. Я хожу по улицам советских городов, и мне кажется, что я узнаю их...

Вместе с артистами приехал и бывший губернатор штата Аляска Джей Хэмонд. Он сказал:

— Известный американский деятель Мартин Лютер Кинг мечтал о том, что наступит день, когда людей не будут разделять по цвету кожи. Перефразируя его, хочу сказать: надеюсь, придет время, когда людей будут делить не в зависимости от политических воззрений, а по конечному результату их деятельности.

Песню о мире поют наши гости.

Наша американская соотечественница Регина Боденгейм.

Встреча в Обществе «Родина». Слева — руководитель группы «Артисты Аляски за мир» — Александр Маевский.

Singer: Russians not so different

(Editor's note: David Moe of Juneau was a member of an Alaska singing group who traveled to the Soviet Union.)

By DAVID MOE
For the Log

JUNEAU — When I left Juneau for Kings Lake Camp near Wasilla on Oct. 4 with a group of local singers as part of Alaska Peforming Artists for Peace, I still wasn't convinced we were going to the USSR.

We still needed $15,000 just to get the tickets from the San Francisco travel agency, but I thought the trip to Kings Lake would be enjoyable because it would provide the chance to meet other performing groups from around the state who were meeting to rehearse.

After meeting the group at Kings Lake Camp, I became convinced this event would happen. Three Eskimo groups, a black gospel group from Anchorage and the Juneau singers combined for a family of entertainers who were destined for the USSR.

We gave a concert on Oct. 8 at the Anchorage Museum and left Oct. 9 for Los Angeles, Helsinki (Finland) and Leningrad (Russia).

Leningrad is a city of 4.5 million people that was under seige for 900 days during World War II and whose people have spent the past 40 years rebuilding the city, as Atlanta, Ga., did after the Civil War in the U.S. We toured the city, went to the opera, "Lucia," and performed for a language school.

The people of Leningrad look the same as the people in the U.S. When I went for an early morning walk, people were walking their dogs, jogging or waiting for the bus on their way to work.

The people of Leningrad look the same as the people in the U.S.

On the morning of Oct. 17, we spent 10 hours flying from Leningrad to Khabarovsk, a city of 500,000 people. We sang two concerts as the first American performing arts group ever to perform in Khabarovsk.

We left the next day for Irkutsk, a city of 850,000 near Lake Baykal, the largest freshwater lake in the world. We sang at the friendship hall in Irkutsk and it was here that I met the poet, Mark Cepteeb, who gave me a copy of his latest book of poetry. I promised to send him a book of my poetry and that was one of the first things I did upon my return to Juneau.

On Oct. 20 we flew to Bratsk, a city of more than 800,000 people. They have a huge hydroelectric dam and it was there we sang a concert to a capacity crowd of 1,300. More than 2,000 were outside trying to get into the concert hall.

On Oct. 21, we flew back to Irkutsk and attended a circus that evening. The next evening we sang a concert at the sports arena to a crowd of more than 2,000. The military attache from the U.S. embassy in Moscow and his wife had come to Irkutsk to hear our concert.

The highlight of the trip for me came on the morning of Oct. 23. We visited a pioneer school in Irkutsk, a school where the children learn music, dance, arts and crafts. We were ushered into a room to hear a small group of children (6 to 8 years old) sing a few songs.

After their performance, most of our group had left the room, but I stayed behind to watch the children's faces for a moment. Two children came toward me and I thought they were going to give me a pin (a common custom in the USSR). I knelt down on one knee to be at eye level and they both gave me a kiss at the same time on each cheek.

I could not keep back the tears. At that moment, all the museums, memorials and propaganda became unimportant. Two small children had bridged all the barriers and with a kiss communicated their love and trust for an American.

The rest of the trip was anti-climatic. We visited Novosibirsk, a city of 1.5 million people. We visited their Scientific Institute, saw another opera and sang another concert. Their Bolshoi theater was constructed by the women of Novosibirsk during World War II and the first opera was performed there in 1945, a month after the war ended.

On Oct. 27, we flew to Moscow, a city of more than 8 million. We saw the Moscow circus, visited the Kremlin grounds and sang several concerts. We met many people and had varied experiences, but the people were friendly and seemed to like Americans.

The people, like the two small children in Irkutsk, expressed their warmth and friendship in many ways, not always with a kiss, sometimes with a tear.

CAPITAL CITY WEEKLY

Alaskan Performing Artists For Peace Return From Russia With Love

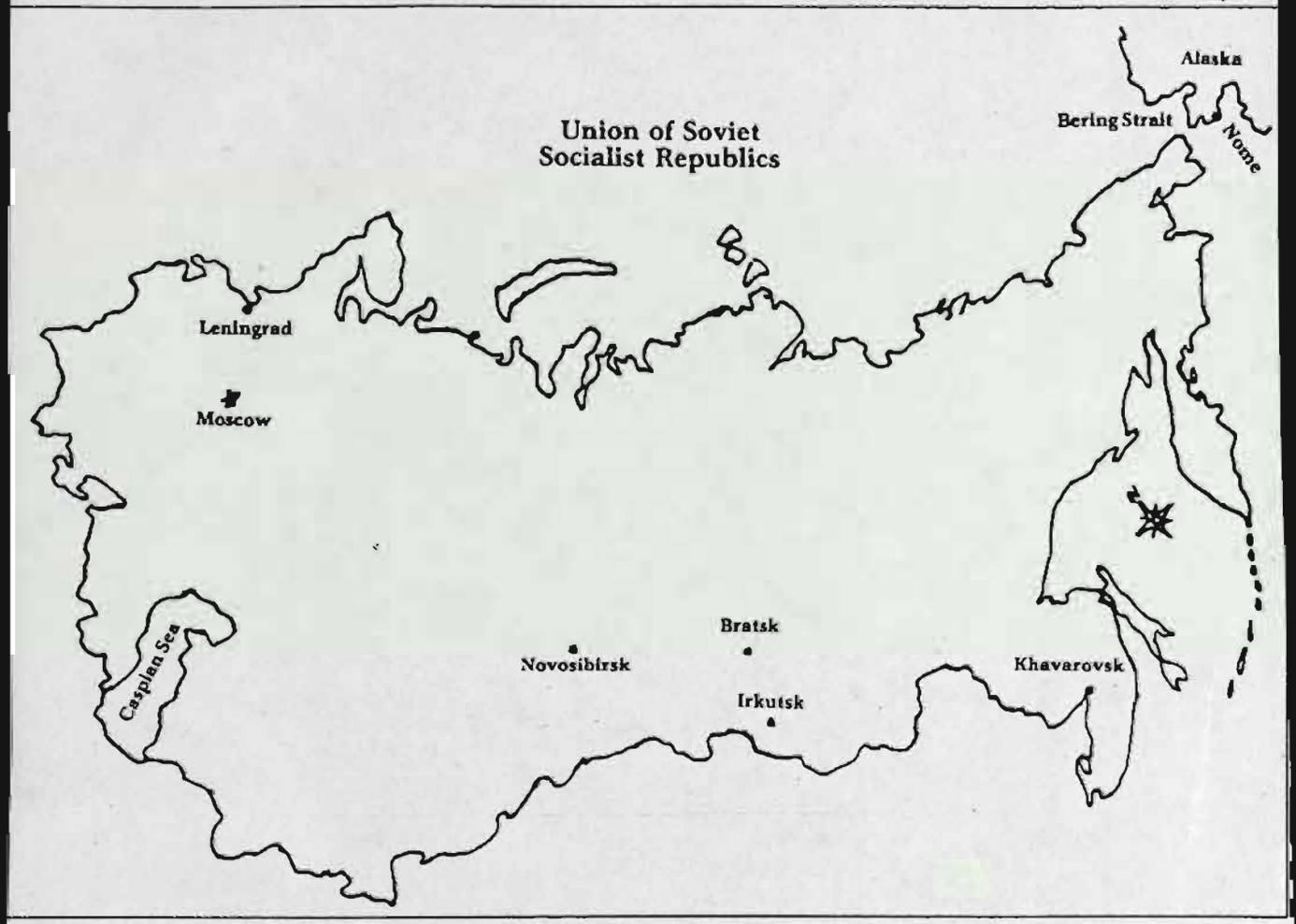
(See related Interview)
page 3

APAP Performances this Fri. & Sun. in Juneau

At Moscow Press Conference, Left to Right : Dixie Belcher, Former Gov. Jay Hammond and Gennadi Gerasamov.

Southeastern Log

December 1986 Section B



Alaska Performing Artists for Peace flew to Russia in October for a five-city tour. The group flew from Anchorage to Leningrad to Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Bratsk, Nobosibirsk and Moscow. See story on page B2

Last-minute funding step sends Alaska group to USSR to perform

(Editor's note: Nearly 70 volunteer performing artists visited the Soviet Union in October to share Alaska's culture. This is the first of two articles by Sheena Masson of Juneau about the trip.)

By SHEENA MASSON
For the Log

ANCHORAGE — It was an anxious group of performers who gathered in Anchorage early in October for their flight to Leningrad.

The 67 volunteer dancers, singers and musicians from Southeast to St. Lawrence Island were in town for final rehearsals and departure after more than a year of preparation. It was still uncertain the day before

group's artistic director, conceived the idea of a goodwill tour of the Soviet Union. She believed music could "transcend political and language barriers" and wanted to do something on an international scale. A comment by a visitor from Beyond War, a national peace group, about taking an Alaskan group to Siberia "set off fireworks" that over time became the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace.

"I just said yes! And we'll have to take Eskimo dancers and cloggers and singers," said Belcher.

The Yupik Eskimos symbolized the project from the start. They are

World War II. It was hoped the Alaska Yupik could meet on this trip with their Siberian relatives.

The Yupik prepared three acts. Six elders from St. Lawrence Island offered a comedy sketch. Their island home is closer to Siberia than the rest of Alaska. A younger mime and dance group came from Chevak and dancers came from Eek and Tooksook Bay. Some of the performers had never been as far as Anchorage.

On a larger scale, the tour was meant to be an exchange between Americans and Soviets and included cloggers and 28 singers from Juneau,

bass, piano and electric keyboard, a video crew from Bethel and a film crew from Juneau who plan on making a movie of the tour. Former Gov. Jay Hammond and his wife, Bella, accompanied the group.

Finding funding for the tour has been difficult.

"Some businesses had a hard time getting the vision and just saw us as a bunch of amateurs trooping through Russia," Belcher said. The group received a $63,000 state grant, a $5,000 Alascom grant, and help from Alaska Airlines and others.

Some members paid the full cost

At Moscow Press Conference, Left to Right : Dixie Belcher, Former Gov. Jay Hammond and Gennadi Gerasamov.

Yuri Rytkheu and Dixie Belcher in the Alaskan village of Unalakleet, visiting relatives of Soviet Eskimos.

Visiting Soviet fiction writer to present program Sunday

By BETSY LONGENBAUGH
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

To listen to Russian author Yuri Rytkheu is to hear more about the similarities between Alaskans and Russians than the differences.

Rytkheu is in Alaska this month at the invitation of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. The Siberian Eskimo and popular Soviet fiction writer will speak on "History and Culture of Northern Peoples" Sunday at 2 p.m. at the University of Alaska-Juneau. The slide show, lecture and musical presentation is in the Hendrickson Building and costs $5.

This trip to Alaska is not Rytkheu's first. He visited Alaska in 1978, when he traveled around the northern part of the state. On this visit, however, he came to Juneau for the first time.

Rytkheu, who is now a Leningrad resident, remembers first stepping on Alaska soil when he was a child on the Chukchi Peninsula. Raised in a traditional leather tent in the tiny community of Uelen, Rytkheu said he and others from Uelen traveled to Alaska's Little Diomede Island several times when he was young.

"It was an old custom to visit people back and forth," said Rytkheu, who speaks English with a combination Russian and Eskimo accent. He said international agreements then allowed the Eskimos of both Siberia and Alaska to exchange visits without going through customs or having passports.

That agreement ended in 1948, but it is one of the doors Rytkheu wants to open on his trip here. "Right now, we dream to revive this old tradition," he said.

Rytkheu met Alaska Performing Artists for Peace organizer Dixie Belcher when the group traveled to the Soviet Union last October. He said he strongly supports the group's efforts to open communication between the two countries.

Rytkheu said the geographical closeness of Alaska and the Soviet Union make the state a natural place in which to begin a peace movement.

"It would be nice to make this remarkable place ... an example for good relations among our countries," he said.

Rytkheu said many of the problems and concerns facing Alaska Natives are also faced by Siberian Natives.

WILL YURMAN

YURI RYTKHEU

He said, for example, that during the 1960s there was a move in the Soviet Union to quit teaching Native languages – a movement similar to the one experienced here earlier in the century.

"It was simply the wrong decision. ... (The government) didn't understand the importance of the language."

Rytkheu called the Native language "the real appearance of the people," saying it defined them as a group.

Native crafts have also gained importance among Siberian Natives, as they have among Alaska Natives, said Rytkheu. For example, there is now a crafts building in his hometown of Uelen, where Native artists make crafts for museums and for sale.

Survival skills, hunting and Native crafts are now taught to Native students, he said. Siberian Natives also share a concern about environment with their Alaska neighbors. The problems they face include "protecting land, water from industrial pollution," said Rytkheu.

Siberian Natives have also been affected by the influx of television, said Rytkheu, whose own son works on a television program in Siberia entitled "This is Our Land."

Rytkheu said it is also common in the Soviet Union to offer some advantages to Natives – for example, Native students there may enter a university with lower test scores. Rytkheu explained that all medical care is free in the Soviet Union, but Natives also receive free medicine.

Alcoholism is a problem also faced by Siberian Natives, although a recent crackdown on alcohol consumption is having some effect, said Rytkheu. The crackdown includes cutting bar hours and making it illegal to appear in public drunk.

As in Alaska, some Siberian villages have also elected to be dry, said Rytkheu. "It's still a serious problem ... but the situation is still improving," he said.

Rytkheu brushed off questions about the underground writers' movement in the Soviet Union, saying "we have no so-called underground movement," and adding that writers who may have been in such a movement have emigrated.

That statement is at odds with assertions by human rights groups who say such a writing network exists, and that many Soviet authors have been imprisoned for working in it.

He also said that writers have more freedom in the Soviet Union now than in the past, and have succeeded in writing against and halting several major industrial projects proposed by the government.

"We have no need to have an underground writers' movement," he said.

Rytkheu, at 57, has published more than 30 books and has authored several movie scripts. Currently, he is writing a libretto for a children's opera and is working on a movie project with Canadian author Farley Mowat.

Most of his work is about life in the north, he said.

On this visit, Rytkheu is traveling to Nome, Gambell, Anchorage, Savoonga, Bethel and Little Diomede.

Soviet writer would open Bering Strait 'highway'

By SAM BISHOP
News-Miner Bureau

JUNEAU—Soviet writer Yuri Rytkheu must travel around the world to visit people 50 miles from his hometown. He thinks a shorter route should be opened.

If nothing else, it would save him some jet lag.

Rytkheu, who grew up in Wellen (Uelen) on the easternmost point of mainland Siberia, is on his third trip through Alaska this week to promote the idea of sinking the iron curtain that floats, invisible, across the Bering Strait.

To get here, Rytkheu flew from Russia, through Europe, across the Atlantic Ocean and over the continental United States.

Later this week, he will visit St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea. From the snow drifts he will be able to gaze north at the same Siberian

(See SOVIET, Back Page)

YURI RYTKHEU
"We will talk"

SOVIET

(Continued from page 1)

mountains in whose shadows he was born and raised.

Besides St. Lawrence Island and Juneau, Rytkheu will visit Anchorage, Nome, Little Diomede Island and Bethel.

"We will talk with people. Probably the young generation doesn't know what we have in the past," he said.

"There is a movement in Alaska to establish peaceful relations between Soviets and Americans and especially between Alaskan people and people who live in Chukotsk (the peninsula of Siberia closest to Alaska)," Rytkheu said.

Rytkheu is co-chairman of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, a Native dance group that toured Russia last year. His visit to Alaska is coordinated by that group.

He is a well-known writer in the Soviet Union and vice-president of the Leningrad writers union.

As a child in Wellen, Rytkheu lived in a walrus skin hut heated by a seal oil lamp.

Teachers in the village school at Wellen were usually from Leningrad, he said. They talked of the university, encouraging Rytkheu to attend.

When he was 16-years-old, he left the village and spent two years working his way across the continent. After arriving in Leningrad, he took the entrance exam and was admitted.

"They tested me not so strictly because I was late," he said, laughing.

While in the university he began to write. In 1953, at the age of 23, he finished his first book. He worked at newspapers for a few years then became a freelance writer in 1960.

Rytkheu, who speaks English clearly, has supported himself since then with freelance articles. In 1983, he wrote a piece for National Geographic about northern minority cultures living across the Soviet Arctic. He traveled with a photographer from one end of the country to the other.

Rytkheu first visited Alaska in 1978 and returned in 1980. He is drawn by the 45 mile expanse of ice separating our country from his.

"The Bering Strait is a remarkable place," Rytkheu said. Not only is it the closest Siberian region to the United States geographically; it also contains some of the closest people culturally.

Relationships between Siberian Eskimos and Alaskan Eskimos on St. Lawrence and Little Diomede islands have always been good, he said. They speak the same language, Siberian Yupik. Visits were common until the close of World War II, Rytkheu said.

He remembers festivals in his village, with sporting competitions, dancing and music.

Such visiting ended in 1948, when several men from Little Diomede were captured and held on Big Diomede Island for 52 days after setting out in a skin boat to visit relatives on Big Diomede. But through the mid-1970s, hunters still met on the ice between the two islands to trade news about relatives, according to islanders.

Rytkheu said he believes opening the Bering Strait to travelers will be possible. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev mentioned the possibility in a speech last summer, Rytkheu said.

"We want to hear an opinion from your president," he said.

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VOLUME XXV USPS 644-040 Number Seven For the week of February 16, 1987 ISSN 0049-4801 Anchorage, Alaska

Author Yuri Rytkheu discusses Soviet life with Matt Metcalf, left, and Tyler Dann in Anchorage.

photo by Norris Klesman

Author seeks U.S.-USSR exchange

INTERVIEW . . .

Yuri Rytkheu
Visiting Soviet Author

Yuri Rytkheu (pronounced RIT-KEW) is a Soviet writer and vice-president of the Leningrad Writer's Union in the USSR. Born in 1930 in a small Eskimo village along the Bering Straits just 200 miles from Kotzebue, Yuri is married and the father of three children. He is now a grandfather, too.

He has been visiting Alaska for the last few weeks, at the invitation of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace group that toured the USSR in October. Yuri is in Juneau to meet with state and local officials about the possibility of setting up a cultural exchange program with the Eskimo people of far-eastern Russia, just across the Bering Straits. For over 20 years, Yuri has dreamed of some kind of "bridge of peace" connecting Alaska with the Soviet Union.

"We are so close," he says.

While in Juneau, Yuri has been interviewed by radio and print journalists statewide. This week CAPITAL CITY WEEKLY asked Yuri if we could have his permission to re-print some excerpts from his 1980 book, entitled "From Nomad Tent to University," the autobiographical story of how he grew up in a subsistence village and travelled to the "big city" of Leningrad to pursue his university education. In many ways, it is the story of such Alaskans as Willie Hensley, Gordan Jackson, David Katzeek and Al Adams, among others.

Yuri graciously has given CAPITAL CITY WEEKLY his permission to reprint several paragraphs from his book. This marks the first time in North America that his autobiography has been excerpted, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share in this cultural exchange between an important Soviet writer and an American audience.

From the book, we now quote:

Yuri RYTKHEU

From Nomad Tent

to University

"Recently, I came across an old photograph. It showed my native village of Wellin in the 1920's. In the foreground of the picture I could see the old 'yaranga' in which I was born and in which I grew up."

"In my imagination, I went out to our old yaranga, a hut constructed of stretched walrus skins over a wooden framework of saplings. It was in such a house that I spent my first 16 years in Soviet Siberia. Along the walls of our house, there were wooden barrels of seal oil and walrus meat."

"In our hut, a tent really, the place of pride belonged to the oil lamps, which were made of a special stone. Short tundra moss formed the wick, while seal oil provided the fuel for the lamp itself."

"The floor of our hut was made of walrus skin and at night the floor was covered with reindeer skins. Our pillow, believe it or not, was a long, polished log!"

"It was often so warm in our yaranga that the occupants of the hut preferred to take off their clothes completely..."

"As a child, my yaranga struck me as being very solid and strong, and I loved living in it. I even did my school work on the reindeer skin floor! It was always warm in our hut, and somehow you never noticed the absence of piped water, plumbing or electricity."

"In Alaska, I understand many of the villages along the Bering Sea use 'honey buckets' for their bathrooms. In Soviet Siberia, we used the same kind of pre-modern plumbing!"

"When I was old enough to go to school, I attended a Soviet school, where one of the first Eskimo teachers, Tartro by name, taught us. When I left my hut each morning on the way to school, it was like stepping across a gulf of a thousand years! I entered another world, the world of knowledge, of literature, the world of the future."

"In my village at that time, the shamans still recited old incantations to ensure good weather, or the arrival of walruses in large numbers at the breeding grounds."

"It was at this time, when I was in school as a young boy, that I first heard of a thing called a 'university.' In particular, one of my teachers told me about Leningrad University, over 3,000 miles away from my village, and I decided that someday I would go to that university."

"I remember clearly that bright, sunny day on the 26th of June, 1946, when I left my native village and began a journey to Leningrad. I walked for several miles across the sea ice, and at the edge of the ice, a kayak was waiting for me. Under a white sail we left the Arctic Ocean and moved into the Pacific Ocean. In the Bering Straits, I could see clearly the two islands, Big Diomede and Little Diomede -- one Soviet and the other American. Beyond them the shores of the northwestern Alaska soared in the blue haze..."

[Note: There will be two performances this weekend by local members of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace: Friday at 7:30 pm at Chapel by the Lake; Sunday at 2 pm at Centennial Hall. $10 donation at the door or purchase tickets at bookstores in advance. Call 789-0449 for more information.]

Author seeks U.S.-USSR exchange

by A.J. McClanahan
Tundra Times publisher

Yuri Rytkheu, a Soviet free-lance writer and author, is in Alaska this month to promote increased communication between the United States and the USSR, particularly between Natives in Siberia and Alaska.

Rytkheu, 57, who lives in Leningrad, has close ties to Northwestern Alaska Natives and believes strongly that the two Native groups have much in common.

A Siberian Eskimo himself, Rytkheu grew up in the village of Uelen, on the northeast Chukchi Peninsula. He was raised as a traditional Eskimo — in a sealskin tent — but learned about the modern world, too, through his schooling.

"I passed a millennium between school and the village," he said.

The mixed impressions he gained from his experiences in the traditional and modern worlds have affected his writing career, Rytkheu said, noting that he began eight years of advanced education in Leningrad in 1948. He coursework included Northern studies, Russian literature and the Russian language.

He has published books for Native students, as well as articles, novels and documentaries, most of which have focused on Northern people.

Rytkheu said one memory that remains with him from his childhood days is when Alaska Natives would come to the village.

"It was always a big holiday. It surprised me that they had the same language, songs and dances, despite an established border between the two nations," he said. "Many of my people visited Alaska, and they always brought interesting stories about people who live here (in Alaska)."

Rytkheu said he was saddened when travel was stopped between the two groups in 1948. The author explained that in his mind he could literally "see" an iron curtain between Big Diomede and Little Dimomede.

"It was my dream to destroy this," he said.

The dream still burns in Rytkheu's mind, and he is heartened by recent developments in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

While in the United States, Rytkheu plans to visit state leaders in Juneau, the Alaska congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., as well as Native people within Alaska.

Rytkheu hopes to establish exchanges in Native Education, culture, medical advancements for Northern people and possibly even business enterprises.

"I think our leader Gorbachev has already expressed his feeling. Now, it is your leaders' turn," he said.

Soviet audiences enthusiastic

JUNEAU (AP) — The Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, returning to the state after a tour of the Soviet Union, say Soviet audiences were enthusiastic about their goodwill mission.

"I think by-and-large the people are very nterested in anything American. They seemed very inquisitive and wanted to know about our lives, not about what our government does," said Dave Moe, one of the 65 Alaskans on the tour of six cities.

The group, including Eskimo dancers, rock performers, gospel and folk singers, returned to Juneau Sunday night after 14 Soviet performances.

Organizer Dixie Belcher reported that Soviets had to be turned away at evey stop.

"Our Intourist guide said a group of amateur performers had never elicited such a response before," Belcher said.

"It was really incredible because they had heard a lot of bad things about Americans, and even though we have a free press, we had never heard very much about the average Russian," said Juneau resident Russ Josephson. "The trip showed that the people and the government are entirely different, that people really can communicate at a personal level, even if you can't speak each other's language."

One goal of the trip was to reunite some of the St. Lawrence Island Yupiks with Soviet relatives. The Siberian leg of the trip was cut back because of Soviet security concerns, but one student in Leningrad recognized one Alaska performer as a relative, as did a Moscow woman, according to the group.

"The really moving part of every performance was when we would sing 'We are the World,' " Belcher said. "The crowd would all join and sing it in English. It was an incredible experience."

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace found audience participation and enthusiasm in their five-city tour of Russia in October. Now back in Alaska, the group seeks to raise funds to finish paying for the tour.

Highlights: cheers, reunion

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(Editor's note: Nearly 70 volunteer performing artists visited the Soviet Union in October to share Alaska's culture. This is the second of two articles by Sheena Masson of Juneau about the trip.)

By SHEENA MASSON
For the Log

The man on stage shouted the Yupik chant "My people I come to you," and began to beat his drum. This opened the first performance of the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace in Leningrad in October.

As he beat his drum, the rest of the group came down the aisle led by the Yupik chanting and drumming. They were followed by the gospel singers chanting in their own style, cloggers adding to the beat and the harmony of the Juneau singers.

Before the performance, the group had been primed by artistic director Dixie Belcher not to expect much reaction from the audience. Some reserved hand clapping might be the extent of it, she said, from her experience with Soviet audiences. That night as everyone arrived on stage chanting now in Russian, and the band began to play, they realized that the audience was standing and clapping and chanting with them.

This kind of reaction was to follow for the rest of the six-city tour billed by the Soviet press as "Alaska's Gift to the Soviet Union." From Leningrad, the group flew east to perform in Khabarovsk, nine time zones away and then traveled west again to Irkutsk, Bratsk and Novosibirsk, all new cities in Siberia where they performed for full houses.

Hundreds of people were turned away in Bratsk, but some members did an impromptu concert for crowds outside the dressing room window. In Irkutsk, Port Alexander resident Judy Wallen presented the Alaskan Peace Quilt from "the Women of the Tundra to the Women of the Taiga" (the name for the Siberian wilderness.)

The group did 14 performances of their program. After each act had arrived on stage, the whole entourage was introduced by emcee John Pinguyuk with "Welcome to my people." From there the show continued with mime, comedy, clogging, gospel singing and blanket tossing in a mixture of modern and traditional Alaskan and American culture.

The Juneau singers' repertoire included "Blowin' in the Wind" with a gospel feel and "Moscow Nights" in Russian. Toward the end they would sing "We are the World" and go into the audience where everyone would hug and shake hands. Each performance was followed by a Russian show and a number of standing ovations. Belcher said the group "had never expected that response."

Yupik reunion

A main highlight of the trip happened in Leningrad when the group met some students who spoke Yupik. Soon the Yupik group members were holding hands with them and catching up on news of relatives they had not seen in 40 years.

The Americans enjoyed the chance to meet Soviet citizens, about whom little is known partly because of the Soviet restriction on information leaving the country. On the other hand, the Soviets seemed to know a lot about American society. The group found the Soviets to be incredibly warm people who desire peace as much as we do.

Soviets want peace

One surprise for the group was the extent of the peace drive. Large banners hung in streets and read "What have you done for peace today?" While the peace movement is organized by the government rather than the people, the Soviets are involved and "deeply terrified of any kind of war," according to group member Dr. Scott Jamieson.

"They have experience in terms of war that the U.S. has never had," he said. Many can remember devastating invasions and the loss of 20 million people.

It is hoped that this tour starts exchanges to help develop the understanding needed for long-term agreements between the U.S. and Soviets.

"There needs to be a strong influence on the Soviet Union from outside to encourage exchanges and

See Highlights on B3

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Singer: Russians not so different

(Editor's note: David Moe of Juneau was a member of an Alaska singing group who traveled to the Soviet Union.)

By DAVID MOE
For the Log

JUNEAU — When I left Juneau for Kings Lake Camp near Wasilla on Oct. 4 with a group of local singers as part of Alaska Peforming Artists for Peace, I still wasn't convinced we were going to the USSR.

We still needed $15,000 just to get the tickets from the San Francisco travel agency, but I thought the trip to Kings Lake would be enjoyable because it would provide the chance to meet other performing groups from around the state who were meeting to rehearse.

After meeting the group at Kings Lake Camp, I became convinced this event would happen. Three Eskimo groups, a black gospel group from Anchorage and the Juneau singers combined for a family of entertainers who were destined for the USSR.

We gave a concert on Oct. 8 at the Anchorage Museum and left Oct. 9 for Los Angeles, Helsinki (Finland) and Leningrad (Russia).

Leningrad is a city of 4.5 million people that was under seige for 900 days during World War II and whose people have spent the past 40 years rebuilding the city, as Atlanta, Ga., did after the Civil War in the U.S. We toured the city, went to the opera, "Lucia," and performed for a language school.

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We left the next day for Irkutsk, a city of 850,000 near Lake Baykal, the largest freshwater lake in the world. We sang at the friendship hall in Irkutsk and it was here that I met the poet, Mark Cepteeb, who gave me a copy of his latest book of poetry. I promised to send him a book of my poetry and that was one of the first things I did upon my return to Juneau.

On Oct. 20 we flew to Bratsk, a city of more than 800,000 people. They have a huge hydroelectric dam and it was there we sang a concert to a capacity crowd of 1,300. More than 2,000 were outside trying to get into the concert hall.

On Oct. 21, we flew back to Irkutsk and attended a circus that evening. The next evening we sang a concert at the sports arena to a crowd of more than 2,000. The military attache from the U.S. embassy in Moscow and his wife had come to Irkutsk to hear our concert.

The highlight of the trip for me came on the morning of Oct. 23. We visited a pioneer school in Irkutsk, a school where the children learn music, dance, arts and crafts. We were ushered into a room to hear a small group of children (6 to 8 years old) sing a few songs.

After their performance, most of our group had left the room, but I stayed behind to watch the children's faces for a moment. Two children came toward me and I thought they were going to give me a pin (a common custom in the USSR). I knelt down on one knee to be at eye level and they both gave me a kiss at the same time on each cheek.

I could not keep back the tears. At that moment, all the museums, memorials and propaganda became unimportant. Two small children had bridged all the barriers and with a kiss communicated their love and trust for an American.

The rest of the trip was anti-climatic. We visited Novosibirsk, a city of 1.5 million people. We visited their Scientific Institute, saw another opera and sang another concert. Their Bolshoi theater was constructed by the women of Novosibirsk during World War II and the first opera was performed there in 1945, a month after the war ended.

On Oct. 27, we flew to Moscow, a city of more than 8 million. We saw the Moscow circus, visited the Kremlin grounds and sang several concerts. We met many people and had varied experiences, but the people were friendly and seemed to like Americans.

The people, like the two small children in Irkutsk, expressed their warmth and friendship in many ways, not always with a kiss, sometimes with a tear.

Soviet audiences enthusiastic

JUNEAU (AP) — The Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, returning to the state after a tour of the Soviet Union, say Soviet audiences were enthusiastic about their goodwill mission.

"I think by-and-large the people are very nterested in anything American. They seemed very inquisitive and wanted to know about our lives, not about what our government does," said Dave Moe, one of the 65 Alaskans on the tour of six cities.

The group, including Eskimo dancers, rock performers, gospel and folk singers, returned to Juneau Sunday night after 14 Soviet performances.

Organizer Dixie Belcher reported that Soviets had to be turned away at evey stop.

"Our Intourist guide said a group of amateur performers had never elicited such a response before," Belcher said.

"It was really incredible because they had heard a lot of bad things about Americans, and even though we have a free press, we had never heard very much about the average Russian," said Juneau resident Russ Josephson. "The trip showed that the people and the government are entirely different, that people really can communicate at a personal level, even if you can't speak each other's language."

One goal of the trip was to reunite some of the St. Lawrence Island Yupiks with Soviet relatives. The Siberian leg of the trip was cut back because of Soviet security concerns, but one student in Leningrad recognized one Alaska performer as a relative, as did a Moscow woman, according to the group.

"The really moving part of every performance was when we would sing 'We are the World,' " Belcher said. "The crowd would all-join and sing it in English. It was an incredible experience."

Highlights

Continued from B2

lessen travel restrictions," said Jamieson. He felt that change would be gradual and require a global effort.

Alex Majewski, general manager and translator for the group, said the trip would be complete when a Russian group visits Alaska. Plans were discussed with the Ministry of Culture in Moscow to bring a Siberian Yupik group here in May which could lead to a series of exchanges involving performers. Majewski said Alaska "rings a bell" for Russians because of our shared history. He sees the state as a bridge between the two countries.

In the meantime, the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace must raise funds to cover more than $200,000 in trip expenses. The group owes Finn Air $50,000 and hopes to raise enough to produce a full-length movie of the tour. Some group members went into debt to cover equipment freight expenses on the trip.

Persons wishing to contribute can send donations to Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace, 1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska, 99801. Donations are tax deductible.

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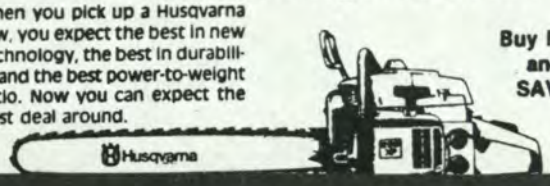

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PEACE IS POSSIBLE

It is something I will never forget.

Thousands of Soviets standing with their arms lifted in the air, holding hands, singing "We Shall Overcome", tears streaming. Unbelievable warmth, hugs, tears, children's kisses of welcome, the sharing of hope.

Peace is possible.

There were sixty-seven of us. Whites, Blacks, Eskimos. We were sponsored partially by the State of Alaska and we called ourselves Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. For three weeks, we performed across the Soviet Union. We sang and danced for intellectuals soldiers, peasants, Communists, students, Eskimos, Blacks, the press. And they sang and danced with us. The response was always the same.

We were billed as "Alaska's gift to the Soviet Union". Thousands were turned away. Crowds broke down doors trying to get in. For the Alaskans, such a response was totally unexpected, overwhelming and deeply moving. It changed our lives.

At our first concert in Leningrad, Soviet Yupik Eskimos tentatively approached Alaskan Yupik Eskimos, speaking in Siberian Yupik. Two thousand people in the world speak Siberian Yupik. One thousand live in Siberia, one thousand in Alaska. For the first time since 1940, these Eskimos, who live only fifty miles from each other and have been

one people for thousands of years, spoke to each other, touched, shared news of relatives. There were no dry eyes in the auditorium that night.

Peace is possible.

Our Intourist guide sobbed through every performance. It was the best thing that happened to her, she said. She was sure it was the best thing that would ever happen to her. "You can't imagine how suspicious English-speaking tourists are," she said. "Surely you've guided peace groups?" I asked. "They're worst of all," she replied. "Not only are they suspicious, but they want to change us."

Maybe we're too intellectual. In our efforts toward peace, both official and unofficial, maybe we rely too much on our heads. On conditioned responses. Responses learned well on both sides, in both systems. We must recognize our common humanity. With languages from the heart, which is, after all, an international organ of communication. Music, dance, laughter transcend political, idealogical and language barriers, instantly. Talk is easier after sharing songs, dances, laughter, tears. After we have experienced our common humanity. After we like each other. After we trust each other. Then we can decide about sharing the planet, about peace.

How can we expect to reach understanding when we try to negotiate with "the enemy"? With people we don't like, don't trust, don't respect. If we are ever to achieve peace, we must first experience each other as human beings. We must balance languages of the head with those of the heart. With simple ways of communicating, we share from time immemorial.

We have much to learn from each other. We are not all right and

they all wrong. Ethnocentrism. We must grow beyond it if we are to survive. We point to their lack of freedom, their faltering economy. They point to our pornography, violence, poverty. We can share economics, technology, freedom. They can teach us about responsibility, about caring. Soviets leave their babies in buggies outside stores in the Soviet Union. Mothers know that passersby will comfort the baby if necessary. I was in Moscow in January, 1986, when Challenger blew up. Soviets stopped me in the street, took my hands, and with tears in their eyes expressed their sorrow. Some could say only the word "Challenger", but their message was clear.

I believe they want peace. All over the Soviet Union are signs that say "What have you done for peace today?" Signs for the word "Peace" in many different languages. Signs showing the horrors of war. Signs showing people beating swords into plowshares. Peace art fills the schools. My favorite is a picture of a globe with blue sky above. Four clasped hands protect the sky, one black, one red, one white, one brown. Above the hands, bombs are falling. It was drawn by an eleven year old girl in Moscow. Soviet children's art projects have a common theme of the world's children holding hands in peace and friendship.

Peace is possible.

We must first recognize our common humanity. Our shared hopes, needs, problems, aspirations. Then we can play at being politicians, intellectuals, idealogues. We are, after all human beings and our similarities far exceed our differences.

Let's have more cultural exchange. Let's get to know each other. Let's have television and movies showing Soviets as real people. We have to outgrow the bad guy/good guy mentality. Where we are always the latter. We must recognize Soviets as people. We must outgrow ethnocentrisem. Our lives depend on it.

Peace is possible.

Written by Dixie Belcher, U.S. Co-Chair, Alaska Performing Artists for Peace

MY TURN

Peace is possible

By DIXIE BELCHER

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•••••

Dixie Belcher is the U.S. co-chair of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace.

New insights gained on second trip to Soviet Union

jay hammond

forum

LAKE CLARK — So you think you'd like to sample Siberia; help thaw the cold war; at least dimple, if not draw the Iron Curtain? You can do so — for a price.

So learned the 67 Alaskan Performing Artists For Peace we accompanied on a three-week tour of the Soviet Union. The price will not be solely cash. Prepare to pay as well by relinquishing past misperceptions along with complacency which takes for granted the system we live under.

While Bella and I had been quests of the Soviets along with six other governors back in 1979, we had not been able to visit Siberia. Since this area had long intrigued us, we jumped at the chance when asked if we'd accompany a group that included several Eskimos from northwest Alaska who hoped to seek out Siberian friends or relatives they'd not been able to visit for more than 40 years.

The contrast between our 1979 visit and this year's was vivid. In 1979 we were accorded VIP treatment. Zipped around in flag-flapping Zil limousines with KGB agents in constant attendance, we were tightly programmed. We never took off on our own. Instead we were escorted to innumerable war memorials, toured factories, hospitals, schools and atomic reactors. The only Soviet citizens we talked to at all were Intourist guides or high-ranking members of the Communist Party; to which, by the way, only about 20 percent of the Soviet citizens belong.

By contrast, this year we were permitted to strike out on our own and mingle more with the people. In the process we learned that in their so-called classless society some are indeed more "equal" than others.

Obviously the heavy emphasis on war memorial visitation during our first visit was designed to convince us that of all the world's people the Soviets most ardently aspire to peace. They do a good job of making their case. Certainly after visiting the mass grave site of some 500,000 Leningrad citizens who perished during the Nazis' 900-day siege of that city, and learning that 20 million Soviet citizens died during World War II, one finds it hard to believe that they, having experienced war far more intimately than have most of us, are not at least as sincere as we in aspiring to peace.

Of course, we in turn feel that America would never instigate a U.S.-Soviet war. Yet somehow these attitudes do not clear the communications channels between us. Instead we apprehensively view each other as warmongers.

This item became a prime subject in discussions we had last spring during an advance three-day visit to our Lake Clark homestead by the then editor of the Moscow News, Gennady Gerishimov. You've seen him since on TV. As the new minister of information he's now the prime Soviet spokesman on all matters.

We had received a call from longtime friend Dixie Belcher of Juneau who is not only the spark plug, but piston and drive shaft behind the Alaskan Performing Artists For Peace. Dixie, bless her generous, compassionate, gullible soul, is forever involved in extremus in some cause or another. As a result, chaos, confusion, apprehension and panic often swirl in her wake like pet puppies; nipping her heels, tearing her stockings and sometimes disgracing themselves on her carpet. So when she breathlessly asked on the phone if it were OK to bring a high-ranking Soviet communist out to Lake Clark for a visit I agreed, but with some small concern.

"What's he up to?" I asked.

"He's the one who will say *da* or *nyet* to our proposed Siberian visit," was her reply. "He said he'd like to see the backside of Alaska rather than just urban areas and I immediately thought of your place."

"I hope you mean the 'out back' of Alaska," I responded with some small indignation, "Sure, bring him along."

(I'll continue the story in my next column.)

☐ **Jay Hammond was governor of Alaska from 1974 to 1982.**

Soviets may allow native Eskimos to cross Bering Strait border

By Terry Kliewer
Denver Post Staff Writer

A project that began as a simple cultural exchange program may succeed in wedging open the remote Bering Strait frontier that divides the United States and the Soviet Union.

The project's organizer, Alaskan peace activist Dixie Belcher, said Saturday the upcoming Moscow summit may include an announcement that travel will be allowed for the first time since World War II for native Eskimos living on the two shores of the Bering Strait.

If that happens, Belcher will be entitled to take a bow.

Recent moves to open up the frozen frontier, at least to the 2,000 Yup'ik Eskimos who live astride it, pretty much began with Belcher in 1986 when she organized a tour of the Soviet Union for a native Yup'ik Eskimo performing arts group.

The Denver Post / Glen Martin

Dixie Belcher

Politics weren't necessarily on the tour agenda. But the Soviets were so taken with the Yup'iks that the issue of their divided, transcontinental "homeland" quickly developed into an international cause.

No one was more surprised than Belcher.

"When we started, we were told this was not very important, and that diplomats had more important things to attend to," she said. "But we got a tremendous response. . . and the wheels started turning."

The result: Talks began that could culminate in at least a "symbolic" opening of the Bering Strait to Yup'ik Eskimo traffic this spring. At stake are family ties involving Yup'iks on either side of the Bering Strait.

Explained Yup'ik Eskimo artist Chuna McIntyre, who was in town with Belcher: "To us, the border is imaginary, but for 40 years, we cannot cross it. We should be more global about this and not so ignorant. This could symbolize peace for both of our nations."

A flag-waving day for both sides of border

Times photos by Daniel R. Saddler

Soviet children stand just outside the Palace of Culture to hear welcoming speeches given by American and Soviet officials.

The 'ice curtain' begins to thaw

By Daniel R. Saddler
Times Business Writer

PROVIDENIYA, U.S.S.R. — The northern summer sun was already high over the city when a jet rose from the east carrying visitors from Nome to this Soviet port town.

Before the day was over, the warm friendship of the visitors and their hosts helped melt the "ice curtain" that had kept Alaska natives from their Siberian friends and relatives for 40 years.

The Friendship Flight from Nome to Provideniya ended successfully early today as 82 Alaska natives, dignitaries and journalists returned to Nome and Anchorage.

They brought back with them a desire for renewed cultural relations between the Soviet and Alaska Eskimos, the potential for tourism traffic between the two far North regions, and

See Flight, page A-8

Associated Press

Two Soviet Siberian women greet Franklin Irrigoo of Gambell.

Yupiks seek a reunion in Siberia

By David Foster
Associated Press

PROVIDENIYA, U.S.S.R. — For Alaska Eskimo John Waghiyi, the 40-year wait for the Siberia border to open was a few years too long.

Waghiyi, a Yupik Eskimo from St. Lawrence Island, was among 82 Alaskans on a "Friendship Flight" today to this remote Siberia city.

Alaska Eskimos once freely crossed the icy Bering Sea in motorboats and walrus skin umiaks to trade and visit with relatives on the Siberia coast. But Cold War

See Friends, page A-8

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Chevak Mayor, lead APAP performer

Yuri Ryktieu
Soviet author and poet,
Chukotka Peninsula

JUNEAU EMPIRE, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1988 3

Juneau woman plans to attend Moscow summit

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

When President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev meet in Moscow for their summit later this month, Juneau will have its own unofficial ambassador on hand to watch the proceedings.

Juneau resident Dixie Belcher is planning a trip to the Soviet Union to work on a variety of Alaska issues including getting permission for boat and plane trips from Alaska to Siberia this summer.

While "nothing is ever for sure," Belcher said her latest plans call for her to leave Juneau Sunday and arrive in Moscow Wednesday afternoon.

She will be carrying duplicate entry applications for a planned sailing expedition by scholar-adventurers Mimi George and David Lewis who are planning to sail a group of Alaska Eskimos from Nome to the Siberian city of Provideniya and the proposed "friendship flight" on Alaska Airlines from Nome to Provideniya.

While both those trips have received initial Soviet approval, no action has been taken on the applications recently and Belcher is hoping to unclog the red tape logjam holding up those journeys.

There are some 80 Eskimos from Saint Lawrence Island that have expressed interest in attending whaling festivals in July and August in Siberia.

JUNEAU NEWS

In addition to trying to help open travel through the Bering Straits, Belcher is attempting to arrange a visit to the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics (in Fairbanks in July) by a Siberian Eskimo dance troupe called White Sail; negotiate a Soviet-American songwriters conference; and organize a 130-member Soviet-American singing and dancing group. She will also contribute stories to the Empire on her impressions of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

"Other than that, I'll have nothing to do," Belcher joked.

After her two to three-week visit to Russia is completed, Belcher said she will attempt to leave the country through Provideniya.

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Anchorage Daily News

VOL. XLIII, NO. 366 56 PAGES ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1988 PRICE 25 CENTS

Soviets, Yanks may rock in Anchorage

Organizers hope to melt 'ice curtain' with two-day festival in February at Sullivan Arena

By HAL BERNTON
Daily News reporter

Soviet and U.S. rock 'n' rollers plan to converge on Anchorage in February for a two-day festival feting what organizers call "the melting of the ice curtain."

The festival also is expected to include a mix of Soviet and U.S. Native dance troupes, Black gospel groups and politicians from both nations.

"It will be a giant celebration — a potpourri of Soviet and American groups," said Dixie Belcher, director of Camai, an Alaska arts organization that is co-sponsoring the event with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

The Soviets hope to bring their 40-person group to Anchorage in a jet chartered by Aeroflot, the Soviet's national airline. The flight — as tentatively scheduled — would depart from the Soviet Far East town of Magadan and arrive in Anchorage Feb. 20, according to Belcher.

Gov. Steve Cowper, according to an aide, has issued an invitation to Aeroflot to make the flight but it must still be approved by the State Department and other federal agencies.

The State Department has yet to receive a landing request from Aeroflot, said a department official who refused to be identified, but he expected that one could be approved.

The festival is scheduled for the Sullivan Arena Feb. 24-25, with a rock concert closing out the celebrations. On the U.S. side, Eddie Money has committed to the Sullivan festival, and Camai is courting several other groups.

Tom Anderson, Sullivan Arena general manager, confirmed the bookings and said the arena was charging its standard fee that includes 10 percent of the gross.

Shane Johnson, a state chamber official, said his group had pledged to raise $25,000 to help finance the event, and was already half-way there.

Belcher said her group is negotiating with several cable networks, which she refused to identify, for the rights to broadcast the concert.

Belcher is a Juneau resident who helped organize a 1986 tour of Siberia for Alaska performing artists. She has frequently returned to Moscow to lobby for improved relations between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

Relations chilled in the 1940s as the Cold

See Back Page, FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL: Soviet-American show in the works for Sullivan Arena

Continued from Page A-1

War prompted U.S. and Soviet officials to shut down all traffic across the Bering Straits. That ended annual visits among U.S. and Soviet Eskimos, and killed any remnants of the freewheeling trade that, prior to the Russian Revolution, flourished between Northwest Alaska and the Russia's Chukchi Peninsula.

Within the past two years, glasnost has warmed border relations. A multitude of scientific and cultural exchanges have been organized between Alaska and the Soviet Far East, and Alaska firms talk of trade in technology, furs, fish and other products.

Last June, an Alaska Airlines jet flew to the Chukchi Peninsula town of Provideniya, and the carrier hopes for regularly scheduled tourist flights to Provideniya next summer.

Meanwhile, Aeroflot is interested in summer charter flights to Anchorage, according to George Perov, a Tass reporter based in Khabarovsk.

Belcher said the festival was first proposed last summer by Stas Namin, a Soviet rocker whose records have sold more the 40 million copies. Namin proposed a New Year's Eve concert in Anchorage, but those dates weren't available at the Sullivan Arena, so the festival was pushed back to February.

Namin, the grandson of a prominent Soviet politician, began his career during the Brezhnev years, when rock was an underground phenomenon that flourished largely via bootleg records and tapes. "He was not allowed to perform in public," Belcher said.

Under Gorbachev, Namin and many other Soviet rockers have achieved official status as state-supported artists, and some even have toured abroad.

Namin both plays in a band and helps manage about 40 other bands, Belcher said.

According to the Washington Post, most of the Soviet rockers don't make much money.

One popular rock star, Bori Grebenschikov, earns $27 per performance, and was paid only $510 for the tape of an album expected to sell at least 1 million copies.

During a recent trip to Moscow, Belcher said she asked Namin how much he would charge for his Anchorage performance.

Namin told Belcher he wouldn't take any pay.

Belcher said she asked three times, to make sure she understood him.

"He said 'This concert is purely for symbolic reasons. I'm not going to accept any money.'"

And what about Namin's American counterparts at the festival?

"That's a different story," Belcher said.

After the festival, some Soviet performers will travel to the Lower 48 for additional bookings, then return home via Moscow. Others will go home after the concert on U.S. charter flights to Siberia, Belcher said.

If the festival makes a profit, Belcher said Camai hopes to use it to finance a worldwide tour of U.S. and Soviet artists.

reaching out to people'

Here's the schedule of events

Monday

Approximately 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Aeroflot jet arrives at Anchorage International Airport carrying Soviet delegation. Arrival ceremony at airport with Gov. Steve Cowper. Three Soldotna schoolchildren and three teachers board jet for a week-long exchange in Magadan schools.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Public reception for all Soviets at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts lobby. Fee for the evening, which includes music, dance and Russian-American food, is $15 for adults, $5 for students and free for children under 12 years old.

Tuesday

8 a.m. — Adopt-a-Soviet program takes visitors to 50 local public schools for get-to-know-you sessions.

Afternoon— Dogsled rides for Soviets at Connor's Bog near International Airport and Jewel lake roads.

2 p.m. — Shopping tour of Northway Mall, via doubledecker bus.

8 p.m. — Delegation of Soviet government officials and film crew departs Anchorage for Juneau. The group will spend Wednesday at joint meetings of legislative foreign trade committees, at reception and lunch at governor's mansion, a public reception at Centennial Hall and exploring the city.

Wednesday

9:15 a.m.— Soviet delegation returns to Anchorage from Juneau.

9 a.m. — President George Bush arrives on Air Force One at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Bush will give a public address at Hangar One upon arrival, and Camai Eskimo dancers will perform. Tickets are available through the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

11:30 a.m. — Business luncheon and mini Magadan-Alaska trade show to take place at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center.

6 p.m. — Alaska Press Club reception for foreign press, followed by panel discussion on changes in Soviet journalism, at UAA Performing Arts Center.

Thursday

8 a.m. — Magadan Gov. V.I. Kobets accompanies press and film crew to visit Soldotna schools, the Old Believers' Russian Orthodox community of Nikolaevsk, and a reception by the Kenai and Soldotna Chambers of Commerce.

11 a.m. — V.C. Lozovoi, head of the Soviet Association for Economic Cooperation in the Asia Pacific region, will address a luncheon meeting hosted by the International Association for Energy Economics and Anchorage Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Captain Cook. Open to the public for $20 fee.

2 p.m. — Shopping tour of Dimond Mall via doubledecker bus.

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The Anchorage Times

75th year/210 pages ★ SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1989 50¢

This time the Russians really are coming

Yesterday's nightmare has become the possible dream of today

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

In music, the skillful blend of different voices in the same key brings harmony. In politics, the skillful co-existence of different countries in the same region can bring peace.

In Anchorage Monday, where the arrival of a jet from the Soviet Far East will bring 90 artists, diplomats and businessmen from the U.S.S.R. together with their U.S. counterparts for a week, the result may be peace and harmony — both made even sweeter by the 40-year absence of either.

On one level the visit just renews, through native dance and music, the centuries-old Eskimo cultural ties across the Bering Straits.

But on another level, the visit offers the more recent arrivals to the area — the Soviets and Americans who closed the border at the start of the Cold War in 1948 — the chance to find a new way to live, work and thrive together across their closest border.

"There's going to be benefits in business, in education, in culture, in medicine, in every area you can think of," said Kathy Tarr, project coordinator for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, which is organizing the event.

"If we're going to continue this warming of Soviet Far East-Alaska relations, this is going to lay more groundwork," Tarr said.

Dixie Belcher, who organized a 1986 tour of Eskimo and other Alaska performers in the Soviet Union, and whose group Camai is putting on the two concerts, said individuals have played a powerful role in reinvigorating relations between Alaska and the Soviet Far East.

"The power of this is that it's people reaching out to people over the water in spite of government, with the power of a grass-roots movement," Belcher said. "We were told this was impossible for years."

After citizen diplomats in both coun-

See Soviets, page A-8

Soviets: 'Power of this is it's people reaching out to people'

Continued from page A-1

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"We view this as a human rights ssue more than as a bilateral relations ssue," said Wayne Neill, a State Department Soviet affairs officer in Washngton, D.C. "The concept that families hould be allowed to visit each other is eeply rooted in the human soul."

In an apparent willingness to reopen he border, the Soviet Union last fall uggested reviving the visits and setting p a joint commission to deal with unauhorized border crossings.

A State Department official will neet late in the week with a top Russian Republic foreign affairs officer and a Eskimo delegation from Nome and Gambell to discuss border issues, Neill aid.

The Soviets will need time to study he U.S. position and aren't likely to sign ny agreement next week in Anchorge, he said, or April 1 at the internaional dateline, where some had hoped or a signing ceremony along the route f a U.S.-Soviet ski team's trans-Bering xpedition.

A second important element of the isit is the possibility of establishing roader commercial contacts. While the wo regions share a resource-based conomy, economists and trade experts aid each could benefit from mutual ooperation.

During a June visit to the territory of Magadan in the Soviet Far East, Gov. Steve Cowper and V.I. Kobetz, governor of the territory, agreed to explore mutual trade. These agreements were strengthened during a reciprocal visit to Anchorage and at a trade mission of Alaskans to Magadan in November.

Cowper will host several high government officials Tuesday in Juneau, where they will participate in a joint meeting of the Alaska Legislature's foreign trade committees.

The Soviets could trade fish for U.S. fishing techniques and technology in joint ventures and could use U.S. sausage-making equipment and know-how in their vast reindeer meat industry, said Ron Miller, fisheries expert in the Alaska Office of International Trade. And U.S. mining properties could use Soviet ice-breaking cargo ships and smelters to develop remote mineral deposits.

Chances for trade are enhanced by Gorbachev's efforts to restructure the Soviet economy. New laws give managers more responsibilities, more profit incentives and more leeway to deal with the West to get hard currency.

With both Soviet and U.S. business still feeling their way in the era of glasnost, or openness, the Alaska Chamber of Commerce will host seminars in which U.S. businessmen and their Soviet counterparts will tell each other about the economic and legal frameworks for commerce.

Organizers also expect many private discussions between Alaskans and Soviet officials in agriculture, mining, construction, aviation, sport and culture.

"It takes a lot of meetings before you sign a business deal," said Gunnar Knapp, economics professor and Soviet expert at the University of Alaska Anchorage. "So it's significant that they keep coming back, and they bring more people."

The chance to get free-spending Western tourists into the rugged beauty of the Soviet Far East should tempt Soviet officials into talking with U.S. tour industry representatives.

Alaska Airlines, which flew a jet full of Eskimos, politicians and reporters to Provideniya last June, is still awaiting permission to begin commercial service to the Chukotka Peninsula port town, possibly in conjunction with a cruise ship line.

Though perhaps less dramatic than international business or cultural accords, the grass-roots atmosphere of the week could help make friends of people who, if not enemies, were surely strangers.

"What did anyone know about Magadan before we met these people?" asked Knapp. "It was almost like the dark side of the moon . . . There's something to knowing your neighbors even if you never trade with them."

Events scheduled for the week will offer great opportunities for the international neighbors to get to know each other:

- All but 11 of the Soviet visitors will board in the homes of Anchorage volunteers, giving both hosts and guests a chance to further personal understanding.
- Volunteers will drive guests from the William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center to various functions around town.
- Soviets will visit about 50 local public schools Tuesday for talks, assemblies, parties and get-to-know-you sessions.
- A reception Monday at the at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts will allow the entire city to meet with the Soviets.
- Journalists from both countries will discuss the loosening of restrictions on Soviet press at a panel discussion and reception at UAA.
- Three Soldotna schoolchildren and three teachers will trade places with students and school officials in the city of Magadan for a week.

The week's events will be thoroughly documented and carried to the rest of the world. The Soviet delegation includes reporters for the major Soviet newspapers, plus regional papers from Magadan. A television crew will film the visit, and send footage back via satellite.

Reporters are also expected from Sweden, Japan, Finland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Canada.

"The rest of the world cares because this is one of many, many areas the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are talking," said Knapp. "And this is of great symbolic significance, because it's right where we are neighbors."

Here's the schedule of events

Monday

Approximately 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Aeroflot jet arrives at Anchorage International Airport carrying Soviet delegation. Arrival ceremony at airport with Gov. Steve Cowper. Three Soldotna schoolchildren and three teachers board jet for a week-long exchange in Magadan schools.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Public reception for all Soviets at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts lobby. Fee for the evening, which includes music, dance and Russian-American food, is $15 for adults, $5 for students and free for children under 12 years old.

Tuesday

8 a.m. — Adopt-a-Soviet program takes visitors to 50 local public schools for get-to-know-you sessions.

Afternoon— Dogsled rides for Soviets at Connor's Bog near International Airport and Jewel lake roads.

2 p.m. — Shopping tour of Northway Mall, via doubledecker bus.

8 p.m. — Delegation of Soviet government officials and film crew departs Anchorage for Juneau. The group will spend Wednesday at joint meetings of legislative foreign trade committees, at reception and lunch at governor's mansion, a public reception at Centennial Hall and exploring the city.

Wednesday

9:15 a.m.— Soviet delegation returns to Anchorage from Juneau.

9 a.m. — President George Bush arrives on Air Force One at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Bush will give a public address at Hangar One upon arrival, and Camai Eskimo dancers will perform. Tickets are available through the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

11:30 a.m. — Business luncheon and mini Magadan-Alaska trade show to take place at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center.

6 p.m. — Alaska Press Club reception for foreign press, followed by panel discussion on changes in Soviet journalism, at UAA Performing Arts Center.

Thursday

8 a.m. — Magadan Gov. V.I. Kobets accompanies press and film crew to visit Soldotna schools, the Old Believers' Russian Orthodox community of Nikolaevsk, and a reception by the Kenai and Soldotna Chambers of Commerce.

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Soviets arrive Monday for week-long visit

By LARRY CAMPBELL and STAN JONES
Daily News reporters

A planeload of Soviets will descend on Anchorage Monday for a series of events that sponsors claim will thaw the ice curtain, foster international trade and promote world peace.

The week-long visit by Soviet government officials, schoolteachers, schoolchildren, musicians and journalists may not do much of that but it will give Anchorage residents a chance to rub elbows and shake hands with their former mortal enemies from across the Bering Strait.

"The Soviet Union has a particular place in Americans' minds, and a lot of it is negative," said Dave Cannon, who is helping manage the visit for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. "The average person . . . will find that these people are incredibly warm."

The visit is jointly sponsored by the state chamber, which is interested primarily in the chance to talk business with the government officials in the group, and a Juneau-based nonprofit group called Camai, which is staging concerts on Friday and Saturday.

Many of the events, including the concerts, will cost money. Some, such as a $100-per-couple, invitation-only reception at ex-Gov. Walter Hickel's home, will cost a lot of money.

But other events are free. And perhaps the best chance to mingle with the Soviets is not only free, but isn't an event at all. It's a three-day opportunity to wander into the Egan Convention Center and say "howdy," or, as the Soviets would put it, "privyet."

The Egan Center will be the Russians' base during their stay. Beginning Tuesday afternoon, they will be available for ordinary fatchewing in the fireplace area on the second floor, with an interpreter on hand.

"I urge people to come down there and meet them," Cannon said. "If someone wants to come in and say, "I'd like to take a Soviet to the zoo,' they can do that."

And for those who want an idea of what a Russian flea market might be like, the Soviets will be selling handicrafts on Wednesday during lunch hour at the Egan Center.

According to some Soviet-watchers, the trip to Alaska is as much a perk for

Please see Page B-3, SOVIETS

The Siberian band Rondo is part of the Saturday concert.

Rock and folk cheer to be spread by Soviets

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

Dust off your "da" and "nyet" and whatever other Russian words you may know. An airplane load of Soviet visitors arrives Monday in Anchorage for a weeklong visit that will include a festive folk concert and a raucous rock concert.

The 90-member delegation, which includes businesspeople, journalists and musicians, will explore our city and get acquainted with our citizens.

After a week of meetings, business luncheons and trade shows, Soviet-American Friendship Week culminates with a Glasnost Folkfest Friday on the Atwood Concert Hall stage at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and a Superpower Rock and Roll concert Saturday at the Sullivan Arena.

Artists taking part in the Friday Folkfest include The Pokrovsky Singers, who spent many years in the underground of Soviet culture and only recently emerged as one of the USSR's most popular vocal groups. Their repertoire includes traditional Russian folk songs. They recently completed a U.S. tour with Paul Winter.

Joining them on stage will be the White Sail Dancers, a traditional Russian Eskimo dance group from the Chukotska Peninsula, located across the Bering Strait from Alaska. White Sail has performed across the Soviet Union, Denmark and Greenland. All its members have blood relatives who live in Alaska.

Alaskan artists performing Friday include an Anchorage-based black gospel choir, the Anchorage Children's Choir, Alaskan Yupik and Inupiat performers, and Chuna McIntyre, a storyteller-artist-dancer who recently performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Saturday's concert at the arena features Soviet "Czar of Rock" Stas Namin and his group, which has been active in the Soviet Union for about 15 years, many of which were spent underground. He has performed in the United States, including a guest spot on the Today Show. The group has toured Australia, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East. According to press information, they've sold more than 40 million records.

Tickets for the Friday Glasnost Folkfest, at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, are $10 and can be purchased at the center box office (263-ARTS) or most Carrs grocery stores. Tickets for the Saturday Superpower Rock and Roll show, at the Sullivan Arena, are $22.50-$18.50, available at the arena and Carrs stores. Ticket prices do not include outlet fees. Both concerts start at 8 p.m. Northern Stage Company is producing both shows.

Soviet rockers Rondo, a band from Siberia, will also perform Saturday, as will American Eddie Money. His fourth platinum-selling LP, "Can't Hold Back" and the more recent "Nothing to Lose," have propelled him into the spotlight. Money recently wrapped up an extensive fall tour that took him throughout the northeast and northwestern regions of the United States.

SOVIETS: Delegation to arrive Monday for week-long visit

Continued from Page B-1

party-liners and devoted government officials as it is a likely forum for substantive agreements.

"Lots of these people need to be rewarded, I think," said Bob Valliant, assistant specialist for research at the University of Hawaii's Soviet Union on the Pacific and Asian Region Program.

"They've been good workers or longtime party workers and deserve a trip," he said. "So, when word gets around Moscow that a flight's going to the West, people in charge on that end say, 'OK, you can go and you can go.'"

The Alaska visit isn't the only bond being forged between U.S. and Soviet citizens. Across the United States, civic groups, chambers of commerce, schools and professional organizations are inviting Soviets to sit down and talk.

"It's Soviet mania," said Liza Mallot, program officer for the U.S. Soviet Exchange Initiative, an arm of the U.S. Information Agency, in Washington, D.C.

"There are pockets of activity all over the United States. Seattle will be staging Goodwill Games next summer. Minneapolis-St. Paul has a sister-city arrangement with Novosibirsk. High schools are exchanging students. It's so widespread and such a grass roots effort, we can't keep track of it all here."

Baltimore residents last week were donating food, housing and cash after a touring Soviet ballet troupe was stranded when its financial supporters backed out.

Other than some warm handshakes and possible progress on visitations for relatives across the border, Soviet experts say Alaskans shouldn't expect a whole lot of substance from this week's festivities. No one is going to sign agreements or peace initiatives in this round.

"There's nothing wrong with meeting and being friends," said Leon Aron, a specialist in Soviet affairs at the Heritage Foundation — a conservative, Washington, D.C., think tank — and, until 11 years ago, a Soviet citizen.

"But Americans seem to want to believe that if the people are nice, the government is, too. That's true in a democratic society, but the Soviet Union is no democracy. The government is something else again."

This week's events evolved more or less the way a full-blown party starts, with just a few friends getting together on a Saturday night.

It began with Dixie Belcher, who heads Camai. She is a Juneau woman with a friend in the Soviet national government, foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov. The two met three years ago when Belcher took a troupe of performers to Moscow. She stayed in touch with Moscow, trying to organize other cultural exchanges.

In light of other contacts between the Soviets and Alaska, including the Alaska Airlines flight to Provideniya and the exchange visits of Alaska and Siberian natives last year, Belcher said she thought it was time for a party.

"I was talking with Gennadi (by telephone), and said, 'Well, the ice curtain must be melting between us.'" Belcher said. "And he said, 'Well, yes, it must be.' And I asked if we could have a big celebration and he said yes."

She said she then called Soviet rock musician Stas Namin, whom she also met while visiting there, and invited him to play. He agreed, and plans for a concert were on.

Then the ranks of partygoers began to swell.

"I don't know. It seemed like every time the phone rang from Moscow, they were asking if a few more people could come along," Belcher said. "It's like the cork came out of the bottle."

Eventually, the list of visitors grew to 91. A handful will be discussing the travel agreement being considered by the State Department to allow American and Soviet natives to visit across international boundaries.

The rest are a broad sampling of low-level Soviet party and government officials, school teachers and children, trade and industry officials and others whose authorities are still unclear. Most are from the Soviet provinces in eastern Siberia.

Last October, the state chamber decided it wanted in on the action, too.

"It's got to be good for Alaska," said chamber president George Krusz. "This is going to generate tremendous interest. It's good exposure, and that's got to be good."

The chamber pledged to give $25,000 to Belcher's organization, Camai, to help the concert. So far, the chamber has turned over about $23,000 to the nonprofit group, Krusz said. In return, she encouraged Gerasimov to speak at the chamber's convention in Sitka last October.

Since then, the chamber has taken control of the dignitaries and their itinerary for the week; Belcher is overseeing the Friday folk concert and Saturday rock show. Rock promoter George Lichter, of Northern Stage Productions, has donated his efforts to staging and marketing the performances.

The bill for the week will probably fall almost entirely on Belcher's group Camai and the state chamber. The Soviet airline, Aeroflot, is flying its citizens here for nothing, but isn't paying for anything else.

Mead Treadwell, a chamber official involved with the project, estimated the bills for housing, feeding and transporting the Russians in Anchorage could come to $40,000, which the chamber hopes to pay off with admission charges to the various events.

Belcher estimated the cost of putting on the concerts at around $150,000, which would also have to come from gate receipts.

State lawmakers are paying for a Soviet delegation to visit Juneau on Tuesday, and the governor's office is putting them up in hotels and hosting a reception at Centennial Hall. No cost estimate was available Friday night.

The Soviets will begin fanning out across Anchorage and Alaska as soon as they arrive Monday morning, according to the chamber of commerce schedule for the week.

One group will split off immediately and head for Soldotna to spend the week in a school there.

On Tuesday morning, about 50 Anchorage schools will get visits from various Soviets. And on Thursday, a group will fly to the Kenai Peninsula to meet with Russian "Old Believers" in the village of Nikolaevsk.

Cannon, a jewelry-store owner, doesn't see anything odd in the idea of die-hard capitalists from the chamber of commerce cozying up to die-hard communists from behind the Iron Curtain.

"Trade should occur worldwide," he said. "That promotes peace and that promotes friendship."

He could be right. One of the events on the Soviet agenda is a three-and-a-half-hour shopping spree, beginning Tuesday afternoon at the Northway Mall, and another at the Fred Meyer store in Juneau.

Soviet: Rock, folk concerts

Continued from page E-1

'Back in the U.S.S.R.' on KEAG-FM

Paul McCartney's "Back in the U.S.S.R." will be featured Monday in what Eagle 97, KEAG-FM, is calling the album's North American premiere broadcast.

The album has been officially released only in the Soviet Union. A small number of copies have slipped through to the West, and the radio station has acquired one of the copies.

It will air the album, song by song, beginning at 7:20 a.m., and will play a different song each hour at twenty minutes after the hour.

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Soviets, Yanks may rock in Anchorage

Organizers hope to melt 'ice curtain' with two-day festival in February at Sullivan Arena

By HAL BERNTON
Daily News reporter

Soviet and U.S. rock 'n' rollers plan to converge on Anchorage in February for a two-day festival feting what organizers call "the melting of the ice curtain."

The festival also is expected to include a mix of Soviet and U.S. Native dance troupes, Black gospel groups and politicians from both nations.

"It will be a giant celebration — a potpourri of Soviet and American groups," said Dixie Belcher, director of Camai, an Alaska arts organization that is co-sponsoring the event with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

The Soviets hope to bring their 40-person group to Anchorage in a jet chartered by Aeroflot, the Soviet's national airline. The flight — as tentatively scheduled — would depart from the Soviet Far East town of Magadan and arrive in Anchorage Feb. 20, according to Belcher.

Gov. Steve Cowper, according to an aide, has issued an invitation to Aeroflot to make the flight but it must still be approved by the State Department and other federal agencies.

The State Department has yet to receive a landing request from Aeroflot, said a department official who refused to be identified, but he expected that one could be approved.

The festival is scheduled for the Sullivan Arena Feb. 24-25, with a rock concert closing out the celebrations. On the U.S. side, Eddie Money has committed to the Sullivan festival, and Camai is courting several other groups.

Tom Anderson, Sullivan Arena general manager, confirmed the bookings and said the arena was charging its standard fee that includes 10 percent of the gross.

Shane Johnson, a state chamber official, said his group had pledged to raise $25,000 to help finance the event, and was already half-way there.

Belcher said her group is negotiating with several cable networks, which she refused to identify, for the rights to broadcast the concert.

Belcher is a Juneau resident who helped organize a 1986 tour of Siberia for Alaska performing artists. She has frequently returned to Moscow to lobby for improved relations between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

Relations chilled in the 1940s as the Cold

See Back Page, FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL: Soviet-American show in the works for Sullivan Arena

Continued from Page A-1

War prompted U.S. and Soviet officials to shut down all traffic across the Bering Straits. That ended annual visits among U.S. and Soviet Eskimos, and killed any remnants of the freewheeling trade that, prior to the Russian Revolution, flourished between Northwest Alaska and the Russia's Chukchi Peninsula.

Within the past two years, glasnost has warmed border relations. A multitude of scientific and cultural exchanges have been organized between Alaska and the Soviet Far East, and Alaska firms talk of trade in technology, furs, fish and other products.

Last June, an Alaska Airlines jet flew to the Chukchi Peninsula town of Provideniya, and the carrier hopes for regularly scheduled tourist flights to Provideniya next summer.

Meanwhile, Aeroflot is interested in summer charter flights to Anchorage, according to George Perov, a Tass reporter based in Khabarovsk.

Belcher said the festival was first proposed last summer by Stas Namin, a Soviet rocker whose records have sold more the 40 million copies. Namin proposed a New Year's Eve concert in Anchorage, but those dates weren't available at the Sullivan Arena, so the festival was pushed back to February.

Namin, the grandson of a prominent Soviet politician, began his career during the Brezhnev years, when rock was an underground phenomenon that flourished largely via bootleg records and tapes. "He was not allowed to perform in public," Belcher said.

Under Gorbachev, Namin and many other Soviet rockers have achieved official status as state-supported artists, and some even have toured abroad.

Namin both plays in a band and helps manage about 40 other bands, Belcher said.

According to the Washington Post, most of the Soviet rockers don't make much money.

One popular rock star, Bori Grebenschikov, earns $27 per performance, and was paid only $510 for the tape of an album expected to sell at least 1 million copies.

During a recent trip to Moscow, Belcher said she asked Namin how much he would charge for his Anchorage performance.

Namin told Belcher he wouldn't take any pay.

Belcher said she asked three times, to make sure she understood him.

"He said 'This concert is purely for symbolic reasons. I'm not going to accept any money.'"

And what about Namin's American counterparts at the festival?

"That's a different story," Belcher said.

After the festival, some Soviet performers will travel to the Lower 48 for additional bookings, then return home via Moscow. Others will go home after the concert on U.S. charter flights to Siberia, Belcher said.

If the festival makes a profit, Belcher said Camai hopes to use it to finance a worldwide tour of U.S. and Soviet artists.

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Times Writer

In music, the skillful blend of different voices in the same key brings harmony. In politics, the skillful co-existence of different countries in the same region can bring peace.

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On one level the visit just renews, through native dance and music, the centuries-old Eskimo cultural ties across the Bering Straits.

But on another level, the visit offers the more recent arrivals to the area — the Soviets and Americans who closed the border at the start of the Cold War in 1948 — the chance to find a new way to live, work and thrive together across their closest border.

"There's going to be benefits in business, in education, in culture, in medicine, in every area you can think of," said Kathy Tarr, project coordinator for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, which is organizing the event.

"If we're going to continue this warming of Soviet Far East-Alaska relations, this is going to lay more groundwork," Tarr said.

Dixie Belcher, who organized a 1986 tour of Eskimo and other Alaska performers in the Soviet Union, and whose group Camai is putting on the two concerts, said individuals have played a powerful role in reinvigorating relations between Alaska and the Soviet Far East.

"The power of this is that it's people reaching out to people over the water in spite of government, with the power of a grass-roots movement," Belcher said. "We were told this was impossible for years."

After citizen diplomats in both coun-

See Soviets, page A-8

Soviets: 'Power of this is it's people

Continued from page A-1

tries worked for two years to re-establish ties, then-President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev validated the efforts, calling for increased contact between residents of the far North regions.

"We view this as a human rights issue more than as a bilateral relations issue," said Wayne Neill, a State Department Soviet affairs officer in Washington, D.C. "The concept that families should be allowed to visit each other is deeply rooted in the human soul."

In an apparent willingness to reopen the border, the Soviet Union last fall suggested reviving the visits and setting up a joint commission to deal with unauthorized border crossings.

A State Department official will meet late in the week with a top Russian Republic foreign affairs officer and a Eskimo delegation from Nome and Gambell to discuss border issues, Neill said.

The Soviets will need time to study the U.S. position and aren't likely to sign any agreement next week in Anchorage, he said, or April 1 at the international dateline, where some had hoped for a signing ceremony along the route of a U.S.-Soviet ski team's trans-Bering expedition.

A second important element of the visit is the possibility of establishing broader commercial contacts. While the two regions share a resource-based economy, economists and trade experts said each could benefit from mutual cooperation.

During a June visit to the territory of Magadan in the Soviet Far East, Gov. Steve Cowper and V.I. Kobetz, governor of the territory, agreed to explore mutual trade. These agreements were strengthened during a reciprocal visit to Anchorage and at a trade mission of Alaskans to Magadan in November.

Cowper will host several high government officials Tuesday in Juneau, where they will participate in a joint meeting of the Alaska Legislature's foreign trade committees.

The Soviets could trade fish for U.S. fishing techniques and technology in joint ventures and could use U.S. sausage-making equipment and know-how in their vast reindeer meat industry, said Ron Miller, fisheries expert in the Alaska Office of International Trade. And U.S. mining properties could use Soviet ice-breaking cargo ships and smelters to develop remote mineral deposits.

Chances for trade are enhanced by Gorbachev's efforts to restructure the Soviet economy. New laws give managers more responsibilities, more profit incentives and more leeway to deal with the West to get hard currency.

With both Soviet and U.S. business still feeling their way in the era of glasnost, or openness, the Alaska Chamber of Commerce will host seminars in which U.S. businessmen and their Soviet counterparts will tell each other about the economic and legal frameworks for commerce.

Organizers also expect many private discussions between Alaskans and Soviet officials in agriculture, mining, construction, aviation, sport and culture.

"It takes a lot of meetings before you sign a business deal," said Gunnar Knapp, economics professor and Soviet expert at the University of Alaska Anchorage. "So it's significant that they keep coming back, and they bring more people."

The chance to get free-spending Western tourists into the rugged beauty of the Soviet Far East should tempt Soviet officials into talking with U.S. tour industry representatives.

Alaska Airlines, which flew a jet full of Eskimos, politicians and reporters to Provideniya last June, is still awaiting permission to begin commercial service to the Chukotka Peninsula port town, possibly in conjunction with a cruise ship line.

Though perhaps less dramatic than international business or cultural accords, the grass-roots atmosphere of the week could help make friends of people who, if not enemies, were surely strangers.

"What did anyone know about Magadan before we met these people?" asked Knapp. "It was almost like the dark side of the moon . . . There's something to knowing your neighbors even if you never trade with them."

Events scheduled for the week will offer great opportunities for the international neighbors to get to know each other:

- All but 11 of the Soviet visitors will board in the homes of Anchorage volunteers, giving both hosts and guests a chance to further personal understanding.
- Volunteers will drive guests from the William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center to various functions around town.
- Soviets will visit about 50 local public schools Tuesday for talks, assemblies, parties and get-to-know-you sessions.
- A reception Monday at the at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts will allow the entire city to meet with the Soviets.
- Journalists from both countries will discuss the loosening of restrictions on Soviet press at a panel discussion and reception at UAA.
- Three Soldotna schoolchildren and three teachers will trade places with students and school officials in the city of Magadan for a week.

The week's events will be thoroughly documented and carried to the rest of the world. The Soviet delegation includes reporters for the major Soviet newspapers, plus regional papers from Magadan. A television crew will film the visit, and send footage back via satellite.

Reporters are also expected from Sweden, Japan, Finland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Canada.

"The rest of the world cares because this is one of many, many areas the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are talking," said Knapp. "And this is of great symbolic significance, because it's right where we are neighbors."

Soviets, Alaskans breaking the ice

Weeklong events mark thaw in relationship

By Jeff Berliner
United Press International

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Alaska's courtship of nearby eastern Siberia becomes a weeklong affair as the two Far North neighbors warm up to each other this week in an open effort to melt the "ice curtain" border.

Soviets and Americans, Siberians and Alaskans, Communist functionaries and chamber of commerce businessmen, government officials from both sides of the border, rock musicians and regular people will talk trade and travel, socialize, and make music in two big concerts — the Glasnost Folkfest and the Superpower Rock 'n' Roll Concert.

It all begins Monday, when Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, flies a planeload of Soviet officials and citizens to Anchorage.

The Soviet passenger list reads like a Who's Who of the Communist Party and government circles in eastern Siberia. Moscow is sending Foreign Ministry officials and Gennadi Gerasimov, spokesman for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Also coming to Alaska are numerous Soviet journalists; Soviet rock superstar Stas Namin and his band, along with other singers, dancers, and musicians; an elderly Soviet Eskimo woman with Eskimo friends in Alaska; a hunter; Siberian collective farm workers; teachers; and teen-age students.

Alaska is rolling out the red carpet for the Soviets, who will not have to spend a kopek for their seven-day stay in Alaska.

Even President Bush is expected to put in a brief appearance Wednesday, when Air Force One stops in Anchorage to refuel en route to Japan.

Alaskan organizers of the Soviet events are talking about getting White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater off the president's plane for a sled dog race through the snow against Fitzwater's Soviet counterpart, Gerasimov.

The ground-breaking Alaska-Siberia relations are being forged with few chaperones from Washington or Moscow.

However, the State Department will have a representative in Anchorage for border talks with Moscow officials, said Wayne Neill of the State Department Soviet desk. He said the two sides will discuss a draft agreement allowing Alaskan Eskimos to make visa-free trips over the border to visit Soviet Eskimos — which they did until the Cold War closed the border in 1948.

Some already are prepared to celebrate what they view as a newly opened border.

Magadan region leader Vyacheslav Kobets said during a visit last September that the border must be open if he and a delegation from the Soviet Far East crossed it. Now he's returning with a bigger group.

There have been several border crossings by air and sea since June 13, when the Soviets opened the border to a pioneering Alaska Airlines "Friendship Flight" that brought 80 American Eskimos, government officials, businessmen, and journalists to Provideniya.

This week's Aeroflot jet will deliver the biggest group, more than 90, and varied interests are hoping the visit paves the way for a lasting, genuine bridging of the Bering Strait border.

Dixie Belcher, the Juneau resident who organized the concerts, said she views the border as open and the Glasnost Folkfest and Superpower Rock 'n' Roll are a "celebration of the opening of the border, a musical celebration of the melting of the ice wall."

Belcher, who has become friends with Gerasimov and lured him to Alaska several times, also hopes the benefit concerts earn seed money for her new U.S.-Soviet music group Camai to make its first world tour later this year.

Gov. Steve Cowper, whose administration has made it a priority to initiate Soviet ties, plans to greet the Aeroflot plane and hold a citywide reception at the Anchorage performing arts center.

Top Soviet officials are scheduled to fly to Juneau, the capital, Tuesday, for meetings with legislators and state government officials.

Wednesday, in Anchorage, Soviet Far East business representatives from the Magadan region are to stage a trade fair, showing off their wares, and meet with Alaskans to discuss joint ventures. That evening, Soviet journalists have agreed to a panel discussion on glasnost and its impact on the Soviet media.

Friday, Alaskan and Siberian Eskimo dancers and singers will perform at the Glasnost Folkfest along, with a black gospel choir and a children's choir.

Saturday, Stas Namin, who has sold 40 million records in the Soviet Union, according to Rolling Stone magazine, will rock the Anchorage sports arena along with the Soviet band Rondo and American blue-collar rocker Eddie Money.

During their seven days in Alaska, the Soviets will be wined and dined by Governor Cowper and former Gov. Wally Hickel. The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce has recruited restaurants and bars to treat the Soviets.

SOVIETS: Delegation to arrive Monday for week-long visit

Continued from Page B-1

party-liners and devoted government officials as it is a likely forum for substantive agreements.

"Lots of these people need to be rewarded, I think," said Bob Valliant, assistant specialist for research at the University of Hawaii's Soviet Union on the Pacific and Asian Region Program.

"They've been good workers or longtime party workers and deserve a trip," he said. "So, when word gets around Moscow that a flight's going to the West, people in charge on that end say, 'OK, you can go and you can go.'"

The Alaska visit isn't the only bond being forged between U.S. and Soviet citizens. Across the United States, civic groups, chambers of commerce, schools and professional organizations are inviting Soviets to sit down and talk.

"It's Soviet mania," said Liza Mallot, program officer for the U.S. Soviet Exchange Initiative, an arm of the U.S. Information Agency, in Washington, D.C.

"There are pockets of activity all over the United States. Seattle will be staging Goodwill Games next summer. Minneapolis-St. Paul has a sister-city arrangement with Novosibirsk. High schools are exchanging students. It's so widespread and such a grass roots effort, we can't keep track of it all here."

Baltimore residents last week were donating food, housing and cash after a touring Soviet ballet troupe was stranded when its financial supporters backed out.

Other than some warm handshakes and possible progress on visitations for Natives across the border, Soviet experts say Alaskans shouldn't expect a whole lot of substance from this week's festivities. No one is going to sign any big trade agreements or peace initiatives in this round.

"There's nothing wrong with meeting and being friends," said Leon Aron, a specialist in Soviet affairs at the Heritage Foundation — a conservative, Washington, D.C., think tank — and, until 11 years ago, a Soviet citizen.

"But Americans seem to want to believe that if the people are nice, the government is, too. That's true in a democratic society, but the Soviet Union is no democracy. The government is something else again."

This week's events evolved more or less the way a full-blown party starts, with just a few friends getting together on a Saturday night.

It began with Dixie Belcher, who heads Camai. She is a Juneau woman with a friend in the Soviet national government, foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov. The two met three years ago when Belcher took a troupe of performers to Moscow. She stayed in touch with Moscow, trying to organize other cultural exchanges.

In light of other contacts between the Soviets and Alaska, including the Alaska Airlines flight to Provideniya and the exchange visits of Alaska and Siberian natives last year, Belcher said she thought it was time for a party.

"I was talking with Gennadi (by telephone), and said, 'Well, the ice curtain must be melting between us,'" Belcher said. "And he said, 'Well, yes, it must be.' And I asked if we could have a big celebration and he said yes."

She said she then called Soviet rock musician Stas Namin, whom she also met while visiting there, and invited him to play. He agreed, and plans for a concert were on.

Then the ranks of partygoers began to swell.

"I don't know. It seemed like every time the phone rang from Moscow, they were asking if a few more people could come along," Belcher said. "It's like the cork came out of the bottle."

Eventually, the list of visitors grew to 91. A handful will be discussing the travel agreement being considered by the State Department to allow American and Soviet natives to visit across international boundaries.

The rest are a broad sampling of low-level Soviet party and government officials, school teachers and children, trade and industry officials and others whose authorities are still unclear. Most are from the Soviet provinces in eastern Siberia.

Last October, the state chamber decided it wanted in on the action, too.

"It's got to be good for Alaska," said chamber president George Krusz. "This is going to generate tremendous interest. It's good exposure, and that's got to be good."

The chamber pledged to give $25,000 to Belcher's organization, Camai, to help the concert. So far, the chamber has turned over about $23,000 to the nonprofit group, Krusz said. In return, she encouraged Gerasimov to speak at the chamber's convention in Sitka last October.

Since then, the chamber has taken control of the dignitaries and their itinerary for the week; Belcher is overseeing the Friday folk concert and Saturday rock show. Rock promoter George Lichter, of Northern Stage Productions, has donated his efforts to staging and marketing the performances.

The bill for the week will probably fall almost entirely on Belcher's group Camai and the state chamber. The Soviet airline, Aeroflot, is flying its citizens here for nothing, but isn't paying for anything else.

Mead Treadwell, a chamber official involved with the project, estimated the bills for housing, feeding and transporting the Russians in Anchorage could come to $40,000, which the chamber hopes to pay off with admission charges to the various events.

Belcher estimated the cost of putting on the concerts at around $150,000, which would also have to come from gate receipts.

State lawmakers are paying for a Soviet delegation to visit Juneau on Tuesday, and the governor's office is putting them up in hotels and hosting a reception at Centennial Hall. No cost estimate was available Friday night.

The Soviets will begin fanning out across Anchorage and Alaska as soon as they arrive Monday morning, according to the chamber of commerce schedule for the week.

One group will split off immediately and head for Soldotna to spend the week in a school there.

On Tuesday morning, about 50 Anchorage schools will get visits from various Soviets. And on Thursday, a group will fly to the Kenai Peninsula to meet with Russian "Old Believers" in the village of Nikolaevsk.

Cannon, a jewelry-store owner, doesn't see anything odd in the idea of die-hard capitalists from the chamber of commerce cozying up to die-hard communists from behind the Iron Curtain.

"Trade should occur worldwide," he said. "That promotes peace and that promotes friendship."

He could be right. One of the events on the Soviet agenda is a three-and-a-half-hour shopping spree, beginning Tuesday afternoon at the Northway Mall, and another at the Fred Meyer store in Juneau.

Anchorage readies for Russian rockers

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

About the only thing harder than getting 80 Soviet citizens to Anchorage for a folk and rock music festival on Feb. 24-25 is arranging to get them home, a key organizer of the week-long visit said Thursday.

But Dixie Belcher said Thursday that the same Aeroflot jet that will bring the 80 artists, journalists, and officials from Magadan to Anchorage Feb. 20 can return to take them home again Feb. 27.

"Aeroflot will be able to come back and fly them out, which relieves tremendous headaches," she said. Organizers had been considering some difficult and expensive combination of flights on Alaska Airlines and charter planes to get them home, before learning of the return of the Aeroflot jet.

Belcher is executive director of Camai, a group of performing artists including native singers and dancers, plus gospel and folk musicians that in October 1986 toured the Soviet Union under her direction.

The return visit is part of Belcher's continuing effort to strengthen ties between Yupik Eskimos on both sides of the Bering Straits, she said.

Belcher has played a large role in the "melting of the ice curtain," which in the last two years has included the Friendship Flight from Nome to Provideniya in June, a return visit of officials and Eskimos in Septem-

See Soviets, page A-8

Times photo by ALICE PUSTER

Dixie Belcher is bringing Eskimos together.

Soviets: Aeroflot to transport troupe

Continued from page A-1

ber, numerous scientific and cultural exchanges, and some tentative business contacts.

The rapid expansion of relations between the two regions has stood some long-standing problems on their heads, she said.

"It always used to be a real job to get Soviets out of the U.S.S.R.," Belcher said. But now, the passenger list has ballooned from an original 36 people to a complement of 80, including 16 whose identities she still doesn't know.

The headlining U.S. artist for the rock show, scheduled for Feb. 24, will be Eddie Money. The Soviet acts will include Stas Namin, a 40-ish rocker whom Blecher said is the best-known rock performer in the Soviet Union, and a Siberian band, "Kalenov Bridge."

A tentative schedule for the second evening's show includes traditional Yupik dances of greeting and a blanket toss; the Pokrovsky Singers, a top Russian group that has toured in the United States and recorded with New Age pioneer Paul Winter; Russian folk musicians; the 250-voice Martin Luther King Chorus, and a childrens' chorus.

Belcher also dangled the possible appearance of a top U.S. pop act, but would not reveal the name.

About 16,000 tickets per show will go on sale Monday at Carrs Quality Centers and at the George M. Sullivan Arena, at about $20 to $22, Belcher said.

She expects news coverage from domestic and foreign network television, and is negotiating with several cable television companies with hopes of producing an hour-long special on the performances.

"The farther away from the Bering Straits, the more important the issue of this U.S.-Soviet border becomes," she said.

Belcher hopes proceeds from the concert and subsequent shows will supplement public contributions to fund a three-month Camai tour of the USSR, the Orient and Europe later this year.

In addition to rehearsals for the artists, the visitors will have a full week of interaction with as many Alaskans as possible, said Meade Treadwell of the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, which is helping coordinate the visit.

There is a chance that the Soviet government officials, including the mayor of Provideniya, the governor of Magadan region, and foreign affairs officers from Moscow, could fly to Juneau Feb. 21 to address the state legislature, said Treadwell.

The visit will also include a trade show of Soviet Far Eastern goods at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, a reception at the home of Gov. Wally Hickel, and other informal gatherings. While some dignitaries will stay in hotels, several of the visitors will board with local residents, Treadwell said.

TRADE AND FRIENDSHIP ACROSS THE BERING STRAIT

TWO NIGHTS OF

CAMAI

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Glasnost Folkfest may be family affair for Eskimos

By ELIZABETH PULLIAM
Daily News reporter

Ginny Alowa will be searching the faces that step off the Aeroflot flight Monday when the Soviets come to town.

She and 20 other former residents of St. Lawrence Island will be there to greet the plane, bearing flowers and banners in Cyrillic script. They plan to welcome Soviet Eskimos who are coming for the Glasnost Folkfest on Friday.

Alowa will be searching for familiar features amid the crowd of 90 Soviet journalists and performers, hoping to spot people who may be her relatives.

"We're going to have a big reunion," said Alowa, who has lived in Anchorage for three years. "My relatives from Nome are even coming in to meet them."

Most of the Soviet Eskimos perform in the Sunshine Dancers, an Eskimo troupe from Novo Chaplino, a village on the Chutotska peninsula less than 50 miles from the St. Lawrence Island village of Gambell. The people of Gambell, and of Savoonga, Alowa's home town, have close ties and blood relatives in the Siberian town.

The Cold War shut down communication between the two groups, although last summer's Friendship Flight to Provideniya has helped many Eskimos rediscover their relatives on the other side of the "ice curtain."

Alowa has corresponded with one of the women who's coming, and she plans to host several Soviet Eskimos in her home. An uncle from Nome will bring in provisions — muktuk, seal, fish, fermented sourdock and berries — to celebrate their arrival.

Please see Page C-2, GLASNOST

■ **THE GLASNOST FOLKFEST** will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Atwood Hall of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $10 general admission, $5 for students and free to children under 12. They are are available at the Alaska Center box office (263-2787).

GLASNOST: Anchorage fest is chance for Eskimo reunion

Continued from Page C-1

"I'm looking forward to it so much," said Alowa. "We'll tell stories, share dances. This will be a joyous event."

The sharing will become a public event Friday night when the Sunshine Dancers join a Soviet folk group, the Pokrovsky Singers, and several Anchorage performers, including the Martin Luther King Community Choir, in the Glasnost Folkfest at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

The Pokrovsky Singers won critical praise last year during a U.S. tour with new age artist Paul Winter, and their leader, Dimitri Pokrovsky, recently received the Soviet's highest award for performing artists, said Dixie Belcher, coordinator of the event.

The 250-voice Martin Luther King Choir first performed during Anchorage's King Day celebrations last month, and consists of choirs from local organizations and churches.

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Making friends

Soviet Magadan Gov. Vyacheslav Kobets, left, receives a pin and a welcome from Virginia Harvey, a Soldotna sixth-grader whom Kobets calls his adopted Alaskan daughter. After greeting Kobets, Harvey and two classmates caught a flight to Magadan as part of a student exchange. Above, a reception was awaiting the Soviets inside the lobby of the Anchorage International Airport. The Soviets are in Anchorage for a cross-cultural event culminating in folk and rock concerts this weekend

Anchorage Daily News photos/Jim Lavrakas

Chester Valley Elementary students wait to greet Soviet visitors Monday at Anchorage International Airport.

Hoopla that needs no translation

Magadan First Secretary Aleksandr Bogdanov, left, and an interpreter share the podium with Gov. Steve Cowper.

Throng welcomes visiting Soviets

By LARRY CAMPBELL and STAN JONES
Daily News reporters

A mayor, a governor, chamber of commerce members, security guards with walky-talkies, gawkers, children singing songs, a tableful of Girl Scout cookies, and a guy selling $12 T-shirts; Anchorage didn't skimp on the hoopla when it comes to welcoming Soviets.

An Aeroflot jet touched down at Anchorage International Airport early Monday afternoon and left 90 Soviet citizens to face a cheering crowd at the international terminal.

The welcome was pure American, part genuine friendliness, plenty of bunting, and a double helping of hype. The visitors seemed to love it all.

The Soviets stepped off their red, white and blue jet and were immediately led behind a glass wall to customs. But chamber of commerce officials, govern-

Please see Back Page, **SOVIETS**

SOVIETS: Crowd welcomes visitors

Continued from Page A-1

ment politicos and a wad of media people could see them. The Americans applauded lightly and waved while the grinning Soviets filed by.

But when the Soviet rock musicians appeared behind the glass, the crowd yelled and cheered.

"Oh, look. There's Rondo," said one woman.

The Reebok-shod Red rockers lifted and shook their arms at the crowd and smiled back, just like rock stars anywhere.

Then, the government dignitaries — ours and theirs — made speeches from a podium, pledging goodwill and friendly relations, and sounding pretty much alike despite the fact they spoke different languages.

Gov. Steve Cowper and Aleksandr Bogdanov, First Secretary of the Magadan Region Communist Party spoke first; Mayor Tom Fink spoke last, about the time the crowd was breaking up and heading for the real festivities downstairs.

A crowd had gathered in the downstairs lobby, waiting for its first glimpse of a Soviet. Scoutmaster Judy Weimer's seven girl scouts paraded the U.S., Soviet and Alaskan flags before the crowd and then the Soviets were paired up with their hosts. Coffee was brewing, Girl Scout cookies were on serving trays and Chet Walukiewicz was selling T-shirts commemorating the East-West meeting. Sweatshirts were $24; baseball caps were $10.

Many of the visitors didn't speak English, but Guennadi Alferenko did. Alferenko is the president of the Foundation for Social Invention, or Innovation, depending on who does the interpreting.

Alferenko operates a kind of social aid business. He champions causes, gets stories about those causes into newspapers, television and radio across his country, and collects money for them.

"We have a man, for example, who is trying to get things for the Afghan veterans," Alferenko said. "Trying to raise money for them. Very sad, very sad. Like your Vietnam. Many troubles. So we want to help them. We have raised 6.5 million rubles so far."

> *'The goodwill is first. . . . After the goodwill, dollars will come almost immediately.'*
>
> **— Visiting Soviet Guennadi Alferenko**

Alferenko helped to put together this week-long exchange. He said he and his countrymen and women are here this week for the same reasons Alaskans want them here — to make friends, make music and, if all else goes well, make money.

"The goodwill is first," he said. He smiled big. "After the goodwill, dollars will come almost immediately."

The Soviets plan to spend this week wandering around Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and Juneau, staying in local homes, talking trade, visiting school children and shopping. The festivities end this week with a folk concert Friday and a rock concert Saturday, complete with Soviet rockers.

The visit was organized by the Juneau performance group Camai and the state chamber to foster communications and trade between the two countries, and especially between Alaska and the eastern Siberian regions.

In theory, the Soviets were to go to their respective quarters and take naps Monday afternoon.

In practice, some managed to work in time for the decadent capitalist practice known as shopping.

Povelas Krivitskas, a Lithuanian reporter, was expecting colder weather in Anchorage, and so was obliged to make a lightning stop at the Northway Mall Lamonts store to pick up a $40 pair of Hush Puppy loafers.

"I left my shoes at home," he explained, pointing to the heavy boots that were the fanciest footgear he brought to America.

Though the Soviet Union reportedly suffers from a shortage of hard Western currency, that wasn't a problem for Krivitskas Monday afternoon. He pulled a $100 bill out of his wallet to pay for the Hush Puppies.

Later, said Krivitskas, he hopes to by some jeans for his son.

The Duane Elser family, meanwhile, did a little emergency shopping of their own Monday to prepare for Gennadi Shishkov, the Soviet agriculture official they're putting up for the week.

It seems the Elsers only found out Sunday they would be putting Shishkov up. Further, the Elsers don't speak any Russian and Shishkov doesn't speak any English. So the Elsers bought a book called "Russian in 10 Minutes A Day" and had one whole day to learn to use it.

"If we want to say something, we go to the English word and the Russian word is there beside it," Duane Elser said Monday evening during a get-together at the Egan Convention Center for the Soviets and their hosts.

"And if he wants to say something to us, it's vice versa," Elser added.

Shishkov, for his part, said through a translator his purpose in coming to Alaska was to try to talk to experts here about the manufacture of reindeer sausage.

Sunday, Anc Times
1/29/89

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Paving the way for friendlier relationship: Friendship between Alaska natives and their Soviet neighbors was given a boost in 1987 in Juneau.

Glasnost hits the Sullivan as Soviets ready to rock

Tickets go on sale Tuesday for the Soviet American Benefit expected to rock the Sullivan Arena Friday, Feb. 24 and Saturday, Feb. 25.

The Friday concert features The Pokrovsky Singers, who spent many years in the underground of Soviet culture and only recently emerged as one of the Soviet Union's most popular vocal groups. There will also be traditional Russian folk songs. The Pokrovsky Singers recently completed a U.S. tour with Paul Winter. Dmitri Pokrovsky, the group's lead singer, has just been given the highest Soviet award for the performing arts.

Also on Friday's program are the White Sail Dancers, a traditional Russian Eskimo dance troupe from the Chutotska Peninsula, located across the Bering Straits from Alaska. White Sail has performed across the Soviet Union, Denmark and Greenland. All the members of the troupe have relatives living in Alaska.

Joining the Soviets will be a range of Alaskan artists, including a performing troupe that performed in the USSR in 1986; a local Black gospel choir; the Anchorage Children's Choir; Alas-

ers; and Chuna McIntyre, a well-known Yupik storyteller-artist-dancer who was featured at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1988.

Saturday's concert features Stas Namin, one of the the best known rock groups in the Soviet Union. Stas is known as the "Czar of Rock' and his band has been around for many years, selling over 40 million records, many at the time Soviet rock still performed underground.

Joining Stas Namin on the stage will be another top Soviet band, Kalenov Bridge, which originated in a small Siberian town.

Blue-collar rocker Eddie Money will fill out the Saturday concert.

Admission for the Feb. 24 concert is $20.50-$17.50; for the Feb. 25 concert, $22.50-$18.50. Those prices do not include outlet fees. Tickets go on sale Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the arena and Carrs ticket outlets in the Huffman, Muldoon and Aurora Village stores. Or call the Chargeline at 258-7915. Northern Stage Company is producing the two-day show.

The rock group Stas Namin has sold more than 40 million records in the Soviet Union.

JAN 1 1989
ALASKA CLIPPING SERVICE
Anchorage Times
Anchorage, AK

Rockin' Anchorage — glasnost style

Native troupes, Gospel singers and good old rock 'n' roll lined up for show

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rock 'n' roll musicians and other performers from the Soviet Union and the United States plan to gather in Anchorage in February for a festival celebrating improved relations between the two nations, an organizer of the event said.

The two-day festival is expected to include a mix of Soviet and U.S. native dance troupes, Black gospel groups and politicians from both nations.

"It will be a giant celebration — a potpourri of Soviet and American groups," said Dixie Belcher, director of Camai, an Alaska arts organization co-sponsoring the event with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

A tentatively scheduled flight by Aeroflot, the Soviet Union's national airline, would leave the Soviet city of Magadan and arrive in Anchorage on Feb. 20, Belcher said.

Gov. Steve Cowper has invited Aeroflot to make the flight, but it still must be approved by the U.S. State Department and other federal agencies.

The State Department has not received a landing request from Aeroflot, but it is likely such a request could be approved, said a department official who refused to be identified.

> 'It will be a giant celebration — a potpourri of Soviet and American groups.'
>
> — Dixie Belcher, Camai director

The Feb. 24-25 festival is scheduled for the Sullivan Arena, with a rock concert as the closing event. On the U.S. side, performer Eddie Money has agreed to appear, and Camai is seeking commitments from several other groups.

Tom Anderson, Sullivan Arena general manager, confirmed the bookings and said the arena would charge its standard fee, which includes 10 percent of the gross.

Shane Johnson, a state chamber official, said his group has pledged to raise $25,000 to help finance the event. Half of the money has been raised, he said.

Belcher said her group is negotiating with several cable networks for rights to broadcast the concert.

Belcher is a Juneau resident who helped organize a 1986 Siberia tour by Alaska performers, then frequently returned to Moscow to lobby for improved relations between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

Relations chilled in the 1940s as the Cold War prompted U.S. and Soviet officials to shut down all traffic across the Bering Strait. However, contact has surged in the last two years with a change in Soviet policies. A multitude of scientific and cultural exchanges have been organized between Alaska and the Soviet Far East, and Alaska firms talk of trade in technology, furs, fish and other products.

Last June, an Alaska Airlines jet flew to the Chukchi Peninsula town of Provideniya, and the carrier hopes for regularly scheduled tourist flights to Provideniya next summer.

Meanwhile, Aeroflot is interested in summer charter flights to Anchorage, said George Perov, a reporter for Tass, the Soviet news agency.

Belcher said the festival was first proposed last summer by Stas Namin, a Soviet rock musician whose records have sold more than 40 million copies. Namin proposed a New Year's Eve concert in Anchorage, but the Sullivan Arena was not available on the proposed dates.

Namin, grandson of a prominent Soviet politician, began his career when Leonid Brezhnev was the Soviet leader and rock music was an underground phenomenon that flourished largely via illegal records and tapes.

"He was not allowed to perform in public," Belcher said.

Under Gorbachev, Namin and many other Soviet rock musicians have achieved official status as state-supported artists, and some have toured abroad.

One popular rock star, Bori Grebenschikov, receives $27 for a performance and was paid $510 for the tape of an album expected to sell at least 1 million copies.

During a recent trip to Moscow, Belcher said that she asked Namin how much he would charge for his Anchorage performance and that he replied he wouldn't accept payment.

"He said 'This concert is purely for symbolic reasons. I'm not going to accept any money,' " Belcher said.

And what about Namin's U.S. counterparts at the festival?

"That's a different story," Belcher said.

Anchorage Daily News

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Publisher

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Editorial Page Editor

Katherine Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1971 to 1983
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Founded in 1946 by Norman C. Brown

A taste of rock 'n roll Soviet-style

Two Soviet-style musical concerts will enliven Anchorage stages over the next few days. Both events — a folk concert and a rock concert — feature top Soviet musicians. And while the performances may share some of the characteristics of American productions, they promise to provide renditions uniquely Soviet.

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Whatever the Soviets come up with, it's bound to be something different. So put away the stereotypes — both of the Soviets and of American rock and folk concerts — and listen to a little "glasnost" folk and "perestroika" rock.

Robert B. Atwood
President and Publisher

Elaine Atwood
Assistant Publisher

Editorials

Rockin' for peace

YOU MAY NEVER have urged your children to attend a rock concert, said a friend who dropped in our office the other day. But you should do so for the one that will be held tomorrow night at the Sullivan arena.

What kind of an event would prompt such a move?

It's the "Superpower Rock 'n Roll" concert, that's what — and it features one of the top performers of the Soviet union, Stas Namin, a headliner who is one of the 90-member delegation from the Soviet Union in Anchorage this week on a friendship visit unlike any ever staged here before.

We admit to being not fully in step with rock music.

But Stas Namin, we are assured, is an authentic Soviet cultural hero — a star of the first magnitude. And in his concert appearance here, he will be backed up by a Soviet musical group known as Rondo and an American musical star, Eddie Money.

And it is, indeed, a big deal — one of special appeal to the young people of Anchorage. And that makes it doubly important.

After all, it is to the young people, especially, that this trip by the Soviet delegation is important.

The object is to foster friendship and peace, to lower some of the barriers that separate two peoples that live with only a few miles of arctic border separating them one from the other.

THE VERY nearness of Alaska to the Siberian portion of the Soviet Union will be celebrated in another musical event tonight, another highlight of this week of glasnost.

At the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, a folkfest is scheduled, featuring music of both Russia and America. The featured Soviet group will be the Pokrovsky Singers.

Two very different musical events — both with the same purpose. Friendship.

Y'all come.

THURSDAY P.M.

CITY/STATE B-1

Trade winds

Barriers don't deter firms seeking U.S.-Soviet exchange

FOCUS F-1

Ready to rock

Stas Namin: Diplomacy through music

The Anchorage Times

th year/68 pages ★★★ THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 23, 1989 25¢

Moldavian visitor fulfills her dreams

Times photo by AL GRILLO

Moldavian student Marchela Andronik, 16, takes a lunch break with her host, East Anchorage High School student Whitney Starett, right, in the Russian classroom Tuesday.

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

Soviet teen-ager finds visit bests daydream

By MICHAEL DEAN
Times Writer

Soviet teen-ager Marchela Andronik used to sit in her English class and daydream about Alaska.

She had heard it was cold, so cold that many people were dying. But she was not worried. After all, she would be coming to Anchorage, a city she had been told was much like New York.

A week ago, the 16-year-old Moldavian, accompanied by nine companions and their teacher, set out from Kishinev on a jour-

See Dream, page A-8

Dream: Flattop

Continued from page A-1

ney to discover the truth. By train, they traveled through their country's vineyards and orchards to Moscow, where they boarded an airliner for a 13-hour flight to Washington, D.C. After two days touring the nation's capitol, they were aboard a 16-hour flight to Alaska — their home for the next three weeks.

They got an unfortunate crash course in American air travel.

They landed here hours later than scheduled and aboard a different jet. Their hosts, East Anchorage High School students and families, were not at the gate to greet them.

Raissa Mikhai, their teacher, arrived with one piece of luggage containing her papers and gifts. One of the gifts, a bottle of Moldavian wine, was broken and spilled inside. Her other luggage, with her clothes, was lost in Washington D.C.

Mikhai, who speaks fluent English, made a telephone call and their hosts were there within minutes. It took three days, however, before the airline found her baggage and promised to fly it up.

By Tuesday, their first day of classes at East High, everybody had settled in. Mikhai was staying with East High's Russian teacher, Michelle Whaley and learning about the American education system.

Andronik was living with student Whitney Starett and teaching her the finer art of Russian poker. Starett, in turn, had broken out her sled and introduced Andronik to the hill behind the house. Naturally, there was shopping to be done between stops at the snow sculptures, the museum and the library.

Viorel Shtempiyuk and Veronika Bogi, under the tutelage of Arthur Maas and Mike Richmond, were mastering the skill of bowling, and Shtempiyuk had tried out his first pair of cross-country skis.

Deanna Botnarenko said she had already fulfilled her dream. "My dream," Botnarenko said as she and her friends gathered for class, "was to climb the mountain. Yesterday I climbed Flattop Mountain. It was my dream, and yesterday I fulfilled my dream."

She also saw the World Champion Sled Dog Races. "Of course I would like to go," she said. "It would be very interesting."

This is the stuff dreams are made of. There are no Flattop Mountains to climb around Kishinev, and this year the snow did not fall in Moldavia. The students have been learning English since their first-grade in school, and now they have thousands of Americans on whom to try it out.

Sixty feet away from America's president Wednesday, Vladimir Kostash clicked off a few frames with his camera, turned aside and said, "I did not have the opportunity to see Mr. Gorbachev, but I have had the opportunity to see Mr. Bush."

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2-19-

Soviets arrive Monda

By LARRY CAMPBELL
and STAN JONES
Daily News reporters

A planeload of Soviets will descend on Anchorage Monday for a series of events that sponsors claim will thaw the ice curtain, foster international trade and promote world peace.

The week-long visit by Soviet government officials, schoolteachers, schoolchildren, musicians and journalists may not do much of that but it will give Anchorage residents a chance to rub elbows and shake hands with their former mortal enemies from across the Bering Strait.

"The Soviet Union has a particular place in Americans' minds, and a lot of it is negative," said Dave Cannon, who is helping manage the visit for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. "The average person . . . will find that these people are incredibly warm."

The visit is jointly sponsored by the state chamber, which is interested primarily in the chance to talk business with the government officials in the group, and a Juneau-based nonprofit group called Camai, which is staging concerts on Friday and Saturday.

Many of the events, in-

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y for week-long visit

cluding the concerts, will cost money. Some, such as a $100-per-couple, invitation-only reception at ex-Gov. Walter Hickel's home, will cost a lot of money.

But other events are free. And perhaps the best chance to mingle with the Soviets is not only free, but isn't an event at all. It's a three-day opportunity to wander into the Egan Convention Center and say "howdy," or, as the Soviets would put it, "privyet."

The Egan Center will be the Russians' base during their stay. Beginning Tuesday afternoon, they will be available for ordinary fat-chewing in the fireplace area on the second floor, with an interpreter on hand.

"I urge people to come down there and meet them," Cannon said. "If someone wants to come in and say, 'I'd like to take a Soviet to the zoo,' they can do that."

And for those who want an idea of what a Russian flea market might be like, the Soviets will be selling handicrafts on Wednesday during lunch hour at the Egan Center.

According to some Soviet-watchers, the trip to Alaska is as much a perk for

Please see Page B-3, SOVIETS

The Siberian band Rondo is part of the Saturday concert.

Rock and folk cheer to be spread by Soviets

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

Dust off your "da" and "nyet" and whatever other Russian words you may know. An airplane load of Soviet visitors arrives Monday in Anchorage for a weeklong visit that will include a festive folk concert and a raucous rock concert.

The 90-member delegation, which includes businesspeople, journalists and musicians, will explore our city and get acquainted with our citizens.

After a week of meetings, business luncheons and trade shows, Soviet-American Friendship Week culminates with a Glasnost Folkfest Friday on the Atwood Concert Hall stage at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and a Superpower Rock and Roll concert Saturday at the Sullivan Arena.

Artists taking part in the Friday Folkfest include The Pokrovsky Singers, who spent many years in the underground of Soviet culture and only recently emerged as one of the USSR's most popular vocal groups. Their repertoire includes traditional Russian folk songs. They recently completed a U.S. tour with Paul Winter.

Joining them on stage will be the White Sail Dancers, a traditional Russian Eskimo dance group from the Chutotska Penin-

See Soviet, page E-5

Soviet: Rock, folk concerts

Continued from page E-1

sula, located across the Bering Strait from Alaska. White Sail has performed across the Soviet Union, Denmark and Greenland. All its members have blood relatives who live in Alaska.

Alaskan artists performing Friday include an Anchorage-based black gospel choir, the Anchorage Children's Choir, Alaskan Yupik and Inupiat performers, and Chuna McIntyre, a storyteller-artist-dancer who recently performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Saturday's concert at the arena features Soviet "Czar of Rock" Stas Namin and his group, which has been active in the Soviet Union for about 15 years, many of which were spent underground. He has performed in the United States, including a guest spot on the Today Show. The group has toured Australia, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East. According to press information, they've sold more than 40 million records.

Soviet rockers Rondo, a band from Siberia, will also perform Saturday, as will American Eddie Money. His fourth platinum-selling LP, "Can't Hold Back" and the more recent "Nothing to Lose," have propelled him into the spotlight. Money recently wrapped up an extensive fall tour that took him throughout the northeast and northwestern regions of the United States.

'Back in the U.S.S.R.' on KEAG-FM

Paul McCartney's "Back in the U.S.S.R" will be featured Monday in what Eagle 97, KEAG-FM, is calling the album's North American premiere broadcast.

The album has been officially released only in the Soviet Union. A small number of copies have slipped through to the West, and the radio station has acquired one of the copies.

It will air the album, song by song, beginning at 7:20 a.m., and will play a different song each hour at twenty minutes after the hour.

Tickets for the Friday Glasnost Folkfest, at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, are $10 and can be purchased at the center box office (263-ARTS) or most Carrs grocery stores. Tickets for the Saturday Superpower Rock and Roll show, at the Sullivan Arena, are $22.50-$18.50, available at the arena and Carrs stores. Ticket prices do not include outlet fees. Both concerts start at 8 p.m. Northern Stage Company is producing both shows.

tially favored "Zarda: Cow-[illegible] Hell," but according to company manager Steve Baker, that "went over like a can of sour milk" with Ben Zarda who owns Zarda Dairy in Shawnee, Kan. Thus the name was changed to Zadar, played by a 10-year-old Holstein named Jenny who lives on a farm near Monticello. Principal scenes were shot at the Solon farm of Earl Miller, the Preucil School of Music in Iowa City, the grounds of the Izaak Walton League, the Tipton City Hall and the Mount Vernon gazebo.

Advertisements in local papers touted the movie as "Featuring Droves of Iowans" and "Filmed Right Here In Our Own Pasture," but the Iowa City Press-Citizen, in a front-page story, worried: "Will The Jokes Work Elsewhere?" It was a thought that also concerned producer Scott Smith, who now is looking for a national distributor.

Much of the humor is sly, dealing with such concerns as feed

See Cows, page E-7

Rockin' Russians put on spirited show

By **MAGGIE JOHNSON**
Daily News music reviewer

REVIEW

Can the Soviets rock? The answer, after Saturday night's Superpower Rock Concert, is a resounding yes. The show at the Sullivan Arena featured Moscow bands Rondo and Stas Namin and California rocker Eddie Money.

Rondo was a six-piece group of ebullient guys in their 20s, dressed in diverse, colorful costumes, playing lively pop music. The basic rock instrumentation of guitar, bass, drums and keyboards was augmented by alto saxophone and the lead vocals and stage antics of Aleksander Ivanov.

In its energetic 45-minute set, Rondo played Euro-pop, heavy metal, rock 'n' roll in a Chuck Berry style, and pop rock with a Slavic feel. Ivanov introduced most tunes in his very limited English, and sang them in Russian.

Each tune had its own character, enhanced by simple, effectively bouncy choreography. Ivanov, in a wild spandex outfit, romped around like James Brown doing aerobics, singing leads in an appealingly raspy voice. As the set progressed, he got more and more outrageous with his dancing and twirling of his mike stand, and by the final number he was doing one-handed cartwheels across the stage.

Rondo's rock 'n' roll was fun, with solid drum backup, well-balanced bass and guitar, visual variety

Please see Page D-3, **SOVIET BANDS**

Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

Stas Namin lead singer Sasha Losev and guitarist Serge Markin performed Saturday night.

SOVIET BANDS : Rock on

Continued from Page D-1

and excitement. Sound reproduction was excellent, and the language barrier didn't seem to diminish the audience's enjoyment and appreciation of the group's spirited show.

The five-man Stas Namin Group took the stage next for its own 45-minute set of simple, straightforward rock. Its sound was satisfyingly loud yet clear and well-balanced,marked by an economy of backup from drums, bass and keyboards, allowing lead singer Sasha Losev and guitarist Serge Markin to display their considerable talents.

The tall, rail-thin Losev is a fine singer. His first tune was a gospel-tinged ballad, delivered passionately, without theatrics. The set progressed with increasingly heavy-duty rock, and Losev's full-bodied, soulful vocals. The unpretentious style of the group was a contrast to many rock and heavy metal groups who have to milk audiences for their desired responses. Despite the fact that most lyrics were in Russian, Stas Namin commanded the attention of the American crowd with exciting music.

Markin displayed exceptional guitar work with a clean, clear tone. In an instrumental introduction, he showed his dexterity with quick arpeggios. His ability to rip off high-speed runs was proved later in "Girl From New York City."

Throughout the set, he played with clarity, fluidity and lyricism. Even when he whanged away on the whammy bar, he concentrated on music, not exhibitionism. Between, and sometimes during, solos he continually danced around the stage, caught up in the excitement.

Eddie Money and his group closed the show with an hourlong set of hit tunes from his rock repertoire. After the Soviets, his band was a disappointment, lacking variety in tone and tempo, with the volume cranked up high enough to render much of the show a trashy mess. Half of Money's lyrics were unintelligible, though fans familiar with his tunes could sing along. Thanks to the simplistic drumming, you could feel the beat through the floor.

Even though this wasn't a contest, it's difficult to avoid comparison. Money swaggered onto the stage and bludgeoned the audience with his music while the Soviet groups intrigued our ears and eyes with theirs.

☐ Maggie Johnson writes about popular music. She has worked in music touring, arts administration and public relations.

Born in the U.S.S.R.

Times photo by AL GRILLO

Welcome to Anchorage: The Soviet group Stas Namin is set to rock the Sullivan Arena. Story, page 4.

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, Calif. 90503

On the cover

Diplomacy through music

Stas Namin, the 'Soviet Beatles,' plays U.S.S.R.-style rock for Anchorage

ing Soviet style: Stas Namin's roots are American, drawing on the fertile music scene of the '60s.

K&M Division POLY-VU
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Soviet radio and TV weren't allowed to talk about the "Soviet Beatles" for 10 years. Stas Namin, now a household name in the Soviet Union, had to sell records underground.

Now, though, Namin and his group are sanctioned as a Soviet Party — with a big P — band. His rock roots are American, drawing on the fertile music scene of the 60s.

Tickets for the Saturday Superpower Rock 'n' Roll show, at the Sullivan Arena, are $22.50-$18.50, available at the arena and Carrs stores. Ticket prices do not include outlet fees.

Namin came from a well-to-do, politically important family. His grandfather was a Russian politician, Anastas Ivanovich Mikoyan — a deputy premier under Khruschev and chair of the Supreme Soviet for a year.

Stas Namin is a stage name, and is in part a dedication to his mom — meaning "Here, Mother." He took it when he started up a band as a student at the prestigious Institute of Foreign Languages, a school for the politically connected in Moscow.

The school was segregated — Stas and the rest of the boys studied to be interpreters, and the girls studied to be foreign language teachers.

Nadejda Phillips, who lives in Anchorage and teaches Russian at the UAA and Fort Richardson, was a young student at the language academy. She crossed over to the boys' side of the gym to hang out with the then 18-year-old budding rocker. It was 1965.

"He had obsession with rock music," she said. "We would go over (to his campus apartment) and he would be jumping on one foot," (she imitates the Chuck Berry hop), and would play any piece you asked."

Stas' first band, The Flowers, was allowed to play for school dances, and cut a vinyl copy of "Sleep, There Are Only Six Hours in the Night During July" that sold underground. "It was an instant hit," Phillips said.

"It was to be sung by a man to his girlfriend as she slept," she explained: "When you wake up, it will be beautiful/I'll catch the moon so the light won't disturb you."

"Stas was very quiet and romantic — even during those days," she said. But his politcal family ties encroached on his free spirit. "Everybody knew who his grandfather was," Phillips said. "It shadowed him."

Another member of The Flowers went on, in a strange sort of way, to become Stas Namin in the minds of millions. "It's one of the miracles of our band," said Stas Namin Group lead singer Sasha in an interview at the Clarion Hotel Wednesday. "Stas Namin is a producer. But millions of people in Russia think I am him."

The tall, slender Sasha, who looks like Bill Wyman with bleached-blond hair and speaks fair English in an unassuming baritone, has led the band in gigs with Jackson Browne, Peter Gabriel and Little Steven, among others. You can hear the strong traditions of Russian folk melodies in their hard-rock tinged songs.

Gorbachev, Glasnost and Perestroika — three words we've heard a lot lately — haven't had much influence on the band, Sasha said. "For us, as far as being able to sing what we want, things have stayed the same."

The group sings a controversial song or two, like "Idol."

"The song is about a piece of wood in the forest," he said "like a statue. People pray to it, make gifts to it, it takes on its own life.

"We think about Stalin, when we sing about this, so if you think that is political..."

But, under the surface, the group is still not well-received by the state, Sasha said. "They don't like this kind of music. They never have. They have tried to kill it. They write about my jeans, about my hair, about my shoes. They know nothing about the feelings of this music."

In Russia, Sasha said, "we need to have more true articles about our life and music. It doesn't matter what we wear."

Stas Namin himself, meanwhile, has become a kind of Soviet rock godfather. He's cutting deals with American bands like Bon Jovi. He's hobnobbing with the politically connected, and sponsoring other Soviet rock groups through his Stas Namin Music Centre in Moscow, the first Soviet independent show business corporation. He's trying to forge ties and build bridges that last.

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A rendezvous with Rondo

By BEAU BRENDLER
Times Focus Writer

To be the lead singer in a rock 'n' roll band, in this country, anyway, you've got to have the swagger. The look. The hair. Alexandr Ivanov, 27-year-old lead singer of the million-album selling Soviet pop group Rondo, has the hair only, and not an ounce of pretension.

Settling into a couch in a Clarion Hotel room Wednesday, Ivanov spoke haltingly, and was embarrassed about his English skills.

He made frequent trips out of the room — a sort of high-security lobby in the midst of a whole floor of Soviet musicians, journalists and dignitaries — to get albums and photos of himself and his band.

The rising Soviet stars met in music school, have been together about five years, and are all about Ivanov's age. In person, they're not coiffed or painted, but wide-eyed, warm and full of wonder. Their album covers show they can wear war paint and mousse with the best, though.

During the height of Soviet-mania in this country two years ago, when it seemed we were seeing more Russian TV than American, Rondo appeared briefly via satellite from Moscow and courtesy of the Phil Donahue show.

This is their first trip outside the U.S.S.R., and they're excited.

"American people. Russian people. Face-to-face. This is good," Ivanov said. "Two days ago, we were at school. American children talk to us. American children very beautiful." Aleksei Khokhlov, Rondo's lead guitarist, sat down next to Ivanov and nodded agreement.

See Rondo, page 5

Rondo

Continued from page 4

With a friendly face and serious manner, Khokhlov described some of Rondo's musical influences. They're an electric band, he said, with a hard-rock edge. "Mussorgsky. Rachmaninov. We are show band," he said.

Can they listen to Western music on the radio?

Khokhlov smiled and nodded. "On the radio we hear American songs. Jazz very popular. Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea."

"Mahavishnu Orhcestra," Ivanov said. "And hard-rock, speed metal, thrash metal. Everything you get here, we hear it now."

"And girls in our country," Khokhlov said, "they love Michael Jackson — like this," he said, putting his hands together in front of his face and rolling his eyes.

Nikolai, drummer for the band, joined them on the couch and the conversation turned to names and genres: "Emerson, Lake and Palmer," Khoklov said.

"I like Rod Stewart," Ivanov said.

"He look like Rod Stewart," Khoklov said.

"We will sing one song in English, Rod Stewart song," said Ivanov, and sang a couple of measures.

"And Joe Cocker, Peter Gabriel, and Sting. And I like Bon Jovi," Ivanov said. "They are playing with my friends, Gorky Park. All of us at Stas Namin Centre," — he makes a hugging motion — "they are our friends."

One of the group's best moments, Ivanov said, was during a visit by former President Reagan to the Soviet Union. At a goodwill gathering, Rondo, up-and-coming Soviet hard rockers Gorky Park, and British pop star Melanie played and sang "We Shall Overcome."

At this, all three nod and smile. "We shall overcome," they said.

U.S. CO-CHAIR
Dixie Belcher
APAP Artistic Director

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, Calif. 90503

Alms for the peaceful

Eddie Money grateful for the chance to rock with the Soviets

By BEAU BRENDLER
Times Focus Writer

Eddie Money, pop singer with four platinum albums behind him and a single, "The Love In Your Eyes," climbing the charts, says he's about to do the biggest gig of his life.

"I'm really into world peace," he says, talking over the phone about his forthcoming "Superpower Rock" fest at Sullivan Arena Saturday night with Soviet superstar Stas Namin and Moscow's Rondo. "I think it's a great idea, and an honor to represent our country. To tell you the truth, I think this is the most important thing I've done."

It's the kind of all-or-nothing statement you would expect from former New York cop Eddie Mahoney.

His latest album, "Nothing To Lose," is full of punchy, romantic ballads and hubris-laden rockers that come straight from his tumultuous love life, he says. He's hoping it will turn platinum, because his yen for romance has left him with bills to pay. "I have to make a lot of money. I've got to crack $20,000 a month just to stay even. I'm losing my house (in a divorce settlement with his wife of nearly five years), I have a new baby, and my girlfriend has a 2½-year-old from a previous marriage I want to support."

And he's not interested in a glacier cruise and quiet summer fishing when he comes to Alaska. He's always wanted to experience the state at its winter worst. "I wanna really dig Alaska, you know what I'm saying? I wanna see it in the winter, really dig it when it's real. Go on a sleigh ride, this and that. I wanna dig McKinley.

Eddie Money
... 'into world peace'

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1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801 USA telephone (907) 789-0449, telex 090 45560

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By BEAU BRENDLER
Times Focus Writer

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"We came from a very warlike society," he said. "Until our people decided that open warfare is just not the way."

A figure from the Yup'ik past helped with the decision.

"Apananugpak — quite a well-known figure in our history — was one of our great warriors. He was out on the tundra one time. Through his extra senses he saw all the dead souls who had been brutally murdered, gathering, lining up, preparing to march back into this world ...

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His people must accept and live in the world that is at hand, he said. "To be static would be silly. We still have an infinite variety of history. Snowmobiles, CD players, we have these and they are here to stay. With that perspective, we need to move forward."

Rondo

Continued from page 4

With a friendly face and serious manner, Khokhlov described some of Rondo's musical influences. They're an electric band, he said, with a hard-rock edge. "Mussorgsky. Rachmaninov. We are show band," he said.

Can they listen to Western music on the radio?

Khokhlov smiled and nodded. "On the radio we hear American songs. Jazz very popular. Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea."

"Mahavishnu Orhcestra," Ivanov said. "And hard-rock, speed metal, thrash metal. Everything you get here, we hear it now."

"And girls in our country," Khokhlov said, "they love Michael Jackson — like this," he said, putting his hands together in front of his face and rolling his eyes.

Nikolai, drummer for the band, joined them on the couch and the conversation turned to names and genres: "Emerson, Lake and Palmer," Khoklov said.

"I like Rod Stewart," Ivanov said.

"He look like Rod Stewart," Khoklov said.

"We will sing one song in English, Rod Stewart song," said Ivanov, and sang a couple of measures.

"And Joe Cocker, Peter Gabriel, and Sting. And I like Bon Jovi," Ivanov said. "They are playing with my friends, Gorky Park. All of us at Stas Namin Centre," — he makes a hugging motion — "they are our friends."

One of the group's best moments, Ivanov said, was during a visit by former President Reagan to the Soviet Union. At a goodwill gathering, Rondo, up-and-coming Soviet hard rockers Gorky Park, and British pop star Melanie played and sang "We Shall Overcome."

At this, all three nod and smile. "We shall overcome," they said.

Alms for the peaceful

Eddie Money grateful for the chance to rock with the Soviets

By BEAU BRENDLER
Times Focus Writer

Eddie Money, pop singer with four platinum albums behind him and a single, "The Love In Your Eyes," climbing the charts, says he's about to do the biggest gig of his life.

"I'm really into world peace," he says, talking over the phone about his forthcoming "Superpower Rock" fest at Sullivan Arena Saturday night with Soviet superstar Stas Namin and Moscow's Rondo. "I think it's a great idea, and an honor to represent our country. To tell you the truth, I think this is the most important thing I've done."

It's the kind of all-or-nothing statement you would expect from former New York cop Eddie Mahoney.

His latest album, "Nothing To Lose," is full of punchy, romantic ballads and hubris-laden rockers that come straight from his tumultuous love life, he says. He's hoping it will turn platinum, because his yen for romance has left him with bills to pay. "I have to make a lot of money. I've got to crack $20,000 a month just to stay even. I'm losing my house (in a divorce settlement with his wife of nearly five years), I have a new baby, and my girlfriend has a 2½-year-old from a previous marriage I want to support."

And he's not interested in a glacier cruise and quiet summer fishing when he comes to Alaska. He's always wanted to experience the state at its winter worst. "I wanna really dig Alaska, you know what I'm saying? I wanna see it in the winter, really dig it when it's real. Go on a sleigh ride, this and that. I wanna dig McKinley.

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ANCHORAGE SYMPHONY

Of folk songs and freedom

Pokrovsky Singers now enjoy the active support of the Soviet government

By CATHERINE STADEM
Times Focus Writer

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CHEKHOV IN YALTA: An award-winning 1981 play about Russian playwright Anton Chekhov, produced by Theatre Guild and directed by Betsy Scott with a cast of community theater actors. Small Theatre at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is $11 for all performances with discounts for youths and seniors. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets on sale at the center box office and outlets in Carrs Huffman, Muldoon and Aurora Village stores. (263-ARTS) Strong direction, excellent sript exceptional acting make this show a highlight of the community theater season. Outstanding set and costumes. A gentle, intelligent and loving parody of Chekhov's writing style. (C. Stadem)

SOVIET GLASNOST FOLKFEST and ROCK CONCERTS: American and Russian folk singing and dancing 8 p.m. Friday, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. All tickets $10. Rock concert 8 p.m. Saturday at Sullivan Arena with Soviet rockers Stas Namin and Rondo and American rock star Eddie Money. Admission $22.50-$18.50. Tickets at center box office (263-ARTS) and most Carrs stores.

YOUTH DANCE SPECTRUM: Young dancers perform 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Uni of Alaska Anchorage in th forming Arts Center. Adm $8, adults; $6, children un and seniors. Tickets avail

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Anchorage Daily News

/. NO. 52 52 PAGES ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1989 PRICE 25 CE

Chester Valley Elementary students wait to greet Soviet visitors Monday at Anchorage International Airport.

Hoopla that needs no translation

Magadan First Secretary Aleksandr Bogdanov, left, and an interpreter share the podium with Gov. Steve Cowper.

Throng welcomes visiting Soviets

By LARRY CAMPBELL and STAN JONES
Daily News reporters

A mayor, a governor, chamber of commerce members, security guards with walky-talkies, gawkers, children singing songs, a tableful of Girl Scout cookies, and a guy selling $12 T-shirts; Anchorage didn't skimp on the hoopla when it comes to welcoming Soviets.

An Aeroflot jet touched down at Anchorage International Airport early Monday afternoon and left 90 Soviet citizens to face a cheering crowd at the international terminal.

The welcome was pure American, part genuine friendliness, plenty of bunting, and a double helping of hype. The visitors seemed to love it all.

The Soviets stepped off their red, white and blue jet and were immediately led behind a glass wall to customs. But chamber of commerce officials, govern

Please see Back Page, SOVIETS

SOVIETS: Crowd welcomes visitors

Continued from Page A-1

ment politicos and a wad of media people could see them. The Americans applauded lightly and waved while the grinning Soviets filed by.

But when the Soviet rock musicians appeared behind the glass, the crowd yelled and cheered.

"Oh, look. There's Rondo," said one woman.

The Reebok-shod Red rockers lifted and shook their arms at the crowd and smiled back, just like rock stars anywhere.

Then, the government dignitaries — ours and theirs — made speeches from a podium, pledging goodwill and friendly relations, and sounding pretty much alike despite the fact they spoke different languages.

Gov. Steve Cowper and Aleksandr Bogdanov, First Secretary of the Magadan Region Communist Party spoke first; Mayor Tom Fink spoke last, about the time the crowd was breaking up and heading for the real festivities downstairs.

A crowd had gathered in the downstairs lobby, waiting for its first glimpse of a Soviet. Scoutmaster Judy Weimer's seven girl scouts paraded the U.S., Soviet and Alaskan flags before the crowd and then the Soviets were paired up with their hosts. Coffee was brewing, Girl Scout cookies were on serving trays and Chet Walukiewicz was selling T-shirts commemorating the East-West meeting. Sweatshirts were $24; baseball caps were $10.

Many of the visitors didn't speak English, but Guennadi Alferenko did. Alferenko is the president of the Foundation for Social Invention, or Innovation, depending on who does the interpreting.

Alferenko operates a kind of social aid business. He champions causes, gets stories about those causes into newspapers, television and radio across his country, and collects money for them.

"We have a man, for example, who is trying to get things for the Afghan veterans," Alferenko said. "Trying to raise money for them. Very sad, very sad. Like your Vietnam. Many troubles. So we want to help them. We have raised 6.5 million rubles so far."

> *"The goodwill is first. . . . After the goodwill, dollars will come almost immediately."*
>
> — Visiting Soviet Guennadi Alferenko

Alferenko helped to put together this week-long exchange. He said he and his countrymen and women are here this week for the same reasons Alaskans want them here — to make friends, make music and, if all else goes well, make money.

"The goodwill is first," he said. He smiled big. "After the goodwill, dollars will come almost immediately."

The Soviets plan to spend this week wandering around Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and Juneau, staying in local homes, talking trade, visiting school children and shopping. The festivities end this week with a folk concert Friday and a rock concert Saturday, complete with Soviet rockers.

The visit was organized by the Juneau performance group Camai and the state chamber to foster communications and trade between the two countries, and especially between Alaska and the eastern Siberian regions.

In theory, the Soviets were to go to their respective quarters and take naps Monday afternoon.

In practice, some managed to work in time for the decadent capitalist practice known as shopping.

Povelas Krivitskas, a Lithuanian reporter, was expecting colder weather in Anchorage, and so was obliged to make a lightning stop at the Northway Mall Lamonts store to pick up a $40 pair of Hush Puppy loafers.

"I left my shoes at home," he explained, pointing to the heavy boots that were the fanciest footgear he brought to America.

Though the Soviet Union reportedly suffers from a shortage of hard Western currency, that wasn't a problem for Krivitskas Monday afternoon. He pulled a $100 bill out of his wallet to pay for the Hush Puppies.

Later, said Krivitskas, he hopes to by some jeans for his son.

The Duane Elser family, meanwhile, did a little emergency shopping of their own Monday to prepare for Gennadi Shishkov, the Soviet agriculture official they're putting up for the week.

It seems the Elsers only found out Sunday they would be putting Shishkov up. Further, the Elsers don't speak any Russian and Shishkov doesn't speak any English. So the Elsers bought a book called "Russian in 10 Minutes A Day" and had one whole day to learn to use it.

"If we want to say something, we go to the English word and the Russian word is there beside it," Duane Elser said Monday evening during a get-together at the Egan Convention Center for the Soviets and their hosts.

"And if he wants to say something to us, it's vice versa," Elser added.

Shishkov, for his part, said through a translator his purpose in coming to Alaska was to try to talk to experts here about the manufacture of reindeer sausage.

Continued from page C-1

age, Alaska, means to be able to go to the Soviet Union in the late 1980s in literally any way you want to go."

That's yet to be proven by either Van Etten, the kayaker, or Greg Spry, the ultra-light pilot. Both men have their dominoes in place, but are missing the one connecting piece to make the rest of the pieces fall together.

They hope to advance their plans along this week by enlisting the help of Soviet organizations to sponsor their different adventures. They're not looking for money from a sponsor. They are looking for encouragement and, most importantly, assistance in dealing with Soviet bureaucracies.

Spry and a partner, both of Fairbanks, want to take the "skybridge" over the Bering Strait in their ultralights. That would be another first in the Alaska-Siberia corridor.

To Spry, however, it is more than that. It's a chance to contribute something, to carry a message of peace to people in both countries. He says he'll do that by carrying two saplings — a birch and an oak — to Moscow for planting.

"We've been working on this for a long time," he said. "It's not like we thought of it yesterday and then decided to make our flight. We started this long before Lynne Cox made her swim."

The two plan to land their ultralights in Uelen, U.S.S.R., and then fly on Aeroflot to Moscow with the saplings, he said. Perhaps someday, he mused, saplings from those trees could be carried to other points in the Soviet Union.

"Really, what we're trying to do is make a celebration that we are finally talking to each other," he said. "We have that silent neighbor out there that we can't talk to."

The pilots would like to make the crossing this spring in their 160-pound ultralights before warm weather breaks up the Bering Sea ice. The ice not only means a safe emergency landing, but it also means calmer weather conditions for the 1½-2 hour flight.

Breisford, the state's trade specialist, says that the increasing activity between Alaska and Siberia has been overwhelming. But, she plans on getting away from the office next week when she takes a two-month leave of absence from the job.

It's not that she's getting away from it all. It's more like she's stepping into a more active role in the efforts to open the border. Breisford will be one of the American team members of the Bering Bridge Expedition and will soon understand the intricacies of adventure diplomacy from the inside.

Continued from page C-1

to talk about the experience.

Soviet students met the Alaska Airlines "Friendship Flight" to Provideniya last summer only to be disappointed that none of the Soldotna students were aboard. Instead, Rockhill and two of his students met with the Magadan governor when he made a reciprocal visit to Nome last September.

That's where the young girl from Soldotna and the politician from Magadan became fast friends, Rockhill said. "You could see it in his eyes. You could almost see tears come to his eyes when she reached up and put that (Alaska flag) pin on his lapel," he said.

That meeting eventually led to the student exchange. Harvey and classmate Jennifer Wagner presented the governor with gifts to bring to their pen pals at Magadan No. 1. Kobets presented the gifts personally and when the opportunity arose, extended an invitation for the student exchange.

Harvey and her student companions, James Cannava and Maiia Morgeweck, say that they are looking forward to the simple things when they arrive in Magadan. They say they want to

> 'The plane was going back empty, it made sense that we be the first student-teacher exchange ever to go to Magadan.'
>
> **Larry Rockhill**
> **Soldotna teacher**

learn what their Soviet friends do in their spare time, what kind of food do they eat, where do they go on vacations. "Do they get up and comb their hair in the morning like we do?" young Morgeweck asked.

They will probably talk a lot about family and friends and peace and school, the three children said. To understand the simple things, to see each other as neighbors is the key to good relations between the two countries in the future, Rockhill chimed in.

"I have to give them the full credit because they are the ones who have established this goodwill," he said. "Down the road, how could you be enemies when you are friends as youth?"

Goodwill delegation includes Soviet officials, various Party members

Here is a list of the Soviet delegation and others associated with the goodwill trip to Alaska:

[illegible]

Robert B. Atwood
President and Publisher

Elaine Atwood
Assistant Publisher

William J. Tobin
Vice-President, Editor-in-Chief

Editorial

A glasnost welcome

WHO COULD have believed, a few short years ago, that we would ever see an Aeroflot jetliner from the Soviet Union parked at Anchorage International Airport and bringing in a band of Russian rock musicians?

Glasnost, indeed, has come a long way.

And, in fact, an Aeroflot jet, complete with rock performers among a 90-member delegation from the Soviet Union, was scheduled to pull up to the north terminal before noon today, opening a week-long festival of friendship between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

The visit, developed through the auspices of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, is one more opening of what is being viewed now as a new gateway between the United States and the Soviet Union — one that spans the Bering Strait and which bridges the small distance that separates Alaska and Siberia.

IT IS AN exciting time, one that calls for a cautious reaching out to try to establish personal relationships that one day may lead to friendships — and which, more importantly, might one day help solidify the cause of peace.

We join in welcoming the Soviet delegation to Anchorage. Its members have a busy schedule.

[illegible] ties and meetings, social gatherings and formal dinners at which they will meet Alaska government officials, business leaders, academicians, scientists, private citizens and the people of Anchorage — on the street, in the stores, in the hotels, in the coffee shops.

They will join in a folkfest celebration and a rock concert.

THEY WILL BE be wined and dined and dazzled, and warmed, we trust, by the friendliness of their Alaska reception.

And their visit will be an important one, too, for us.

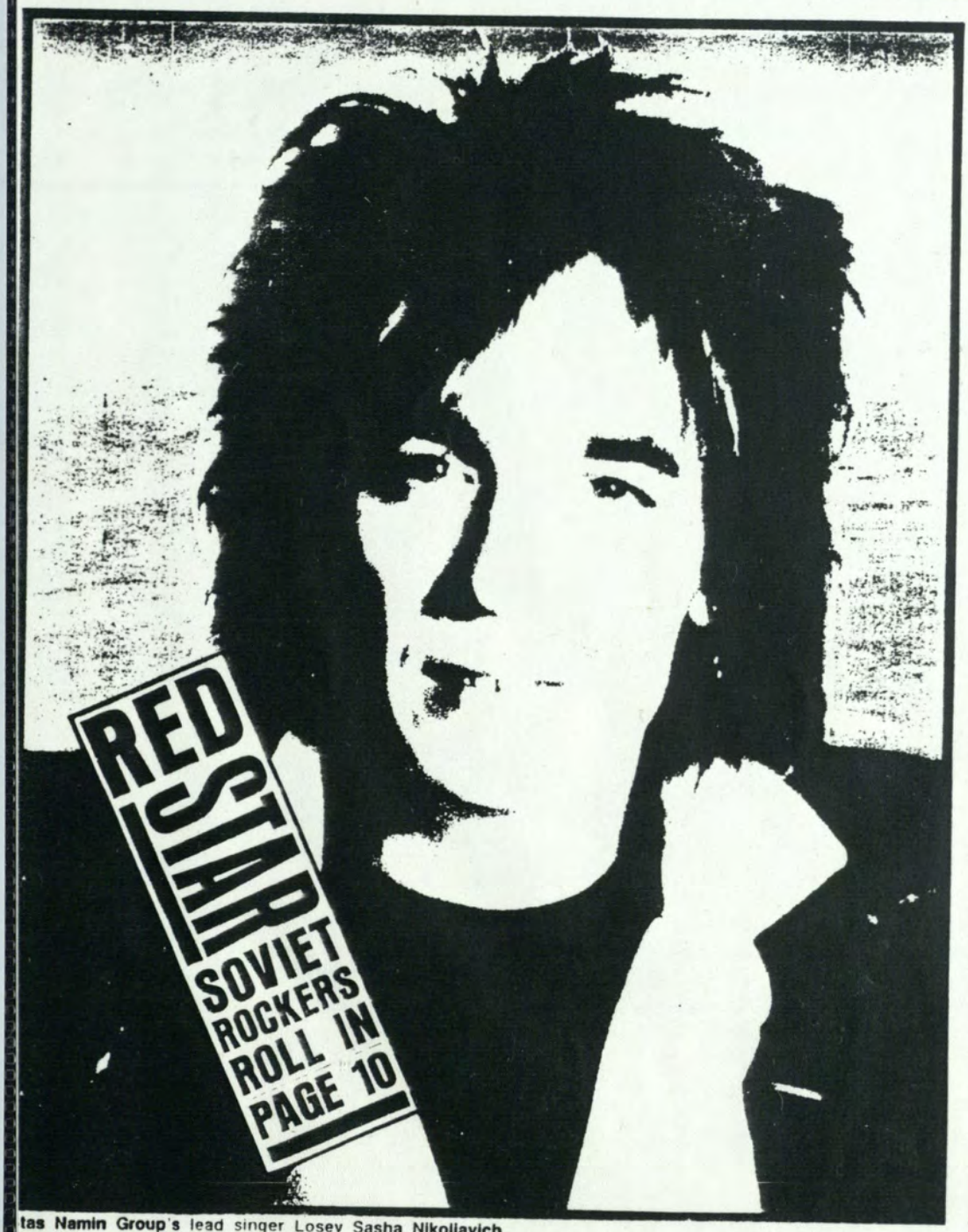
We, as citizens of Anchorage, will have the opportunity to meet face to face with a number of Soviet citizens — government officials, workers, students and others who were chosen to make the trip.

As a result of the visit, there is hope that the Soviet Union will further lower the barricades that bar free travel across the Bering Sea.

From it may come, we ardently trust, the ability for tourists next year to come to Alaska and as part of their travel adventures go on excursions from Nome into Siberia — and there come to know, first hand, a little more about the Soviet people.

On such things friendships are built — between people,

Anchorage Daily News
WEEKEND
The best of Anchorage
Thursday, Feb. 23, 1989



tas Namin Group's lead singer Losev Sasha Nikoliavich

MOVIE:
Angelica Huston and Anthony Edwards star in comedy 'Mr North.'
Page 5

BEST BET:
Soviets in Anchorage see 'Chekhov in Yalta.'
Page 2

OUTDOORS:
New snow makes for excellent conditions on cross-country trails, downhill slopes.
Page 6

NIGHT LIFE:
Lunney humor is strictly no holds barred.
Page 3

RUSSIA ROCKS ANCHORAGE

Photo courtesy Stas Namin Music Group

Stas Namin Group (above) are veteran Soviet rockers. Rondo (right) plays contemporary pop.

By ANDREW PERALA
Daily News Weekend editor

Bag the revolution.

An invitation to join the Party used to be a loaded request. But these days, thanks to perestroika, glasnost, Mikhail Gorbachev and yes, maybe even Ronald Reagan, the Soviet Union is a kinder, gentler nation. Red tape has been cut. People can and do speak out; some private business is encouraged.

Soviet rock bands now exult in their new-found freedoms.

Soviet rock fans could care less.

"They just want to party," says American rock renegade Frank Zappa, who recently returned from an extended trip to Moscow.

After decades of surviving underground — enduring ancient equipment and the omnipresence of officialdom's heavy hammer — rock has resurfaced in the giant land of our neighbors to the west.

Saturday night at the Sullivan Arena, the Superpowers of Rock Concert will present the Stas Namin Group and Rondo to Anchorage. Anyone who buys a ticket gets the chance to listen to these two premier Soviet bands plus U.S. rocker Eddie Money.

Money recently returned to U.S. music charts after a several-year absence. His past hits include "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Baby Hold On." Music critics from around the country have praised his most recent album, "Nothing to Lose" as another solid rock album.

While Money is a known performer, the Soviet bands are unknown quantities in concert.

But clues do exist.

Tuesday night, the groups went to dB Music to try out equipment. The lead guitarist for Stas Namin played a fuzz-laden rock riff before suddenly switching to a soft jazz solo. That head-turning trick was followed by a duo from the drummers of both groups that left the two dozen folks at the private bash stunned.

"It was fantastic," said employee Debra George, 22. "They sounded just like a high-quality plain old rock and roll band."

The Soviet bands then went on a tour of Spenard Road nightspots before going back to their hotel in the early morning hours.

Take a close look at the photos on this page. They're reproductions of Russian rock posters. The Stas Namin Group has been a band in Moscow for almost 20 years, struggling through 10 lean years of official repression by playing small clubs and university coffeehouses. Rondo was formed two years ago, just before rock became acceptable again, and won the country's main rock-festival contest in its first outing.

Soviet rock impresario Stas Namin, who brought both bands over for the Anchorage concert, says his group plays traditional rock, founded on the sounds of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and more contemporary rockers like Huey Lewis and Joe Cocker. Rondo plays contemporary pop, says Namin, "like Duran Duran, only more wild."

A special tape of the Stas Namin Group revealed songs ranging from an obligatory nod to world peace to light metal tunes that really roll. Rondo is a hot band that likes heavy metal makeup and stage showmanship.

No understanding the Russian language shouldn't be a barrier to Anchorage audiences, even if the song lyrics do sound like comedian Robin Williams talking backwards.

Just remember that Soviet rock songs usually aren't about broken hearts, fast cars or rocketing to fame.

The lyrics of one Soviet rock song, as related by Frank Zappa, go like this: "Chair, chair, everyone is sitting down."

"I don't think it's a subtle political statement," said Zappa. "More sociological than political — here everyone is glued to their chairs."

Some songs will be in English, Russian versions of U.S. and British classics.

So go ahead, toss out those outdated, Cold War images of Russian rock 'n' roll. These musicians aren't a bunch of guys in fur hats singin tuneful lyrics about turnip harvests.

In one regard, the Soviets are a lot like American rock stars. You should have heard the ten-year-olds when Sasha Lenev, lead singer of the Stas Namin Group, walked out of U.S. Customs and into the public lobby of the international terminal at the airport. Moods.

Groupies. International rock stars. Loud music.

In Achorage, Saturday night at the Sullivan Aina.

☐ Daily News reporter Dusty Rhodes contributed to this story

Folk festival combines best of two cultures

While Saturday night's Superpower concert is a time to explore the universal language of rock 'n' roll, Friday night's Glasnost Folkfest will take a decidedly multicultural approach.

The Pokrovsky Singers will be the main attraction in a full evening at the 2,100-seat main theater at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts downtown. According to Victor Jackovich, cultural attache of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, the group's leader, Dmitri Pokrovsky, studies music from the remote Russian provinces — "ethnic Russia as it was 100 years ago in the villages" — and re-interprets the songs in a modern vein.

"His group has been copied by many others," said Jackovich. "It is one of the premier groups of ethnic music in the Soviet Union."

Also scheduled to appear are a group of Siberian Eskimo dancers who will match dances with their kin from St. Lawrence Island, a 130-voice Anchorage children's chorus, a black gospel choir, acclaimed Native storyteller Chuna McIntyre, singer Sharon Osbourne and a rock band.

Friday's performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are $10 and are available at the center box office.

■ GLASNOST FOLKFEST begins at 8 p.m. Friday at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $10 and are available at the center box office.

Soviet rock impresario Stas Namin, who brought both bands over for the Anchorage concert, says his group plays traditional rock, founded on the sounds of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and more contemporary rockers like Huey Lewis and Joe Cocker. Rondo plays contemporary pop, says Namin, "like Duran Duran, only more wild."

■ THE SUPERPOWER ROCK CONCERT begins at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Sullivan Arena. Tickets are $23.50 and $19.50, including a $1 service fee and are available at the Arena box office.

Anchorage Daily News

XLIV, NO. 58 60 PAGES ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1989 PRICE

Associated Press file photo

e nominee John Tower

Tower says he'll become teetotal

Defense nominee pledges he 'will not consume' if confirmed by Se

By BILL MCALLISTER
and HELEN DEWAR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — John Tower, in an extraordinary effort to save his nomination as Defense secretary, swore Sunday that he will not drink any alcohol while serving at the Pentagon and promised to resign if he breaks the pledge of abstinence.

The former Texas Republican senator, launching an aggressive media campaign to overcome Senate doubts about his fitness for the office and allegations that he continues to have a drinking problem, made the promise on national television. He gave no indication he would withdraw, saying that he will press his uphill fight for confirmation before the full Senate because President Bush "wants me to stay the course — and I will stay the course."

In a dramatic pair of separate appearances on the Sunday morning television talk shows, Tower and his chief Senate critic, Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., squared off over what has become the Bush administration's first crisis.

Appearing first on NBC's "Meet the Press," Nunn threatened to reopen the committee's confirmation hearings if the White House continues what he called selective leaks of FBI files containing favorable comments about Tower. He charged that his former colleague was unfit "based on example and based on some of the behavior patterns" to be the nation's defense chief.

Nunn also placed ren phasis on what he calle "very questionable" acti consultant to defense c after he resigned as th administration's chief arms control negotiator i

Minutes later, Tower ABC's "This Week Wi Brinkley," maintainin was fit and insisting that cohol pledge should re doubts that he can fill " requires 24-hour sobriety

"Let me state that I h

Please see Back Pa

■ SOFT SELL: President Bush will fight for Tower, but may yield before severely harming relations with Congress. A-3

ysterious lls extend nily's grief

ILEE ENGE

[illegible] been to hunt us in some [illegible] Taylor. "It's not an occasional [illegible] it an implied threat."

[illegible] began sometime after the most [illegible] in the Taylors' lives. Their son, [illegible] William Taylor, was killed Dec. [illegible] hit and run driver as he walked [illegible] his birthday party. The driver [illegible] been found.

[illegible] Telephone Utility trap [illegible] that the calls are coming from the [illegible] telephone at precisely the [illegible] has recorded on [illegible] log. [illegible] police are investigating the [illegible] phone calls and investigators [illegible] the calls are being made from. [illegible] told Taylor yet because they [illegible] working the case.

[illegible] to come up with theories of who [illegible] this and why. Taylor has hashed [illegible] possibilities. None of them makes

[illegible] drives me nuts, just sitting here [illegible] about the possibilities," he said. [illegible] do is make guesses at different [illegible] been sitting here for over a [illegible] can't come up with any ideas."

[illegible] telephone number appeared in [illegible] when he offered a reward for [illegible] about the accident that killed [illegible]

RONDO ROCKS A GLASNOST TUNE

Energ effort falls c

By MATTHEW L. W
The [illegible]

NEW [illegible] ficiency in the Unit [illegible] ending a powerful [illegible] ing from the [illegible] the early 1970s.

Energy efficiency [illegible] the amount [illegible] services produced, [illegible] 24 percent between 1986, but after the oil collapsed in 19 ciency stopped gro was flat in 1987, an clined in the fir months of 1988.

One reason, anal is that cheap gaso rekindled America for big cars. And du period of low prices ergy users are less to spend money to s

Some shorter-te tors, like severe wea year and a resurgen energy-intensive st aluminum industri contributed. In a government efforts with the problem back during the Re ministration.

Experts see little for a quick turnar efficiency, unless shortage occurs or mental concerns [illegible] become more [illegible]

Rockin' Russians put on spirited show

By MAGGIE JOHNSON
Daily News music reviewer

Can the Soviets rock? The answer, after Saturday night's Superpower Rock Concert, is a resounding yes. The show at the Sullivan Arena featured Moscow bands Rondo and Stas Namin and California rocker Eddie Money.

Rondo was a six-piece group of ebullient guys in their 20s, dressed in diverse, colorful costumes, playing lively pop music. The basic rock instrumentation of guitar, bass, drums and keyboards was augmented by alto saxophone and the lead vocals and stage antics of Aleksander Ivanov.

In its energetic 45-minute set, Rondo played Euro-pop, heavy metal, rock 'n' roll in a Chuck Berry style, and pop rock with a Slavic feel. Ivanov introduced most tunes in his very limited English, and sang them in Russian.

Each tune had its own character, enhanced by simple, effectively bouncy choreography. Ivanov, in a wild spandex outfit, romped around like James Brown doing aerobics, singing leads in an appealingly raspy voice. As the set progressed, he got more and more outrageous with his dancing and twirling of his mike stand, and by the final number he was doing one-handed cartwheels across the stage.

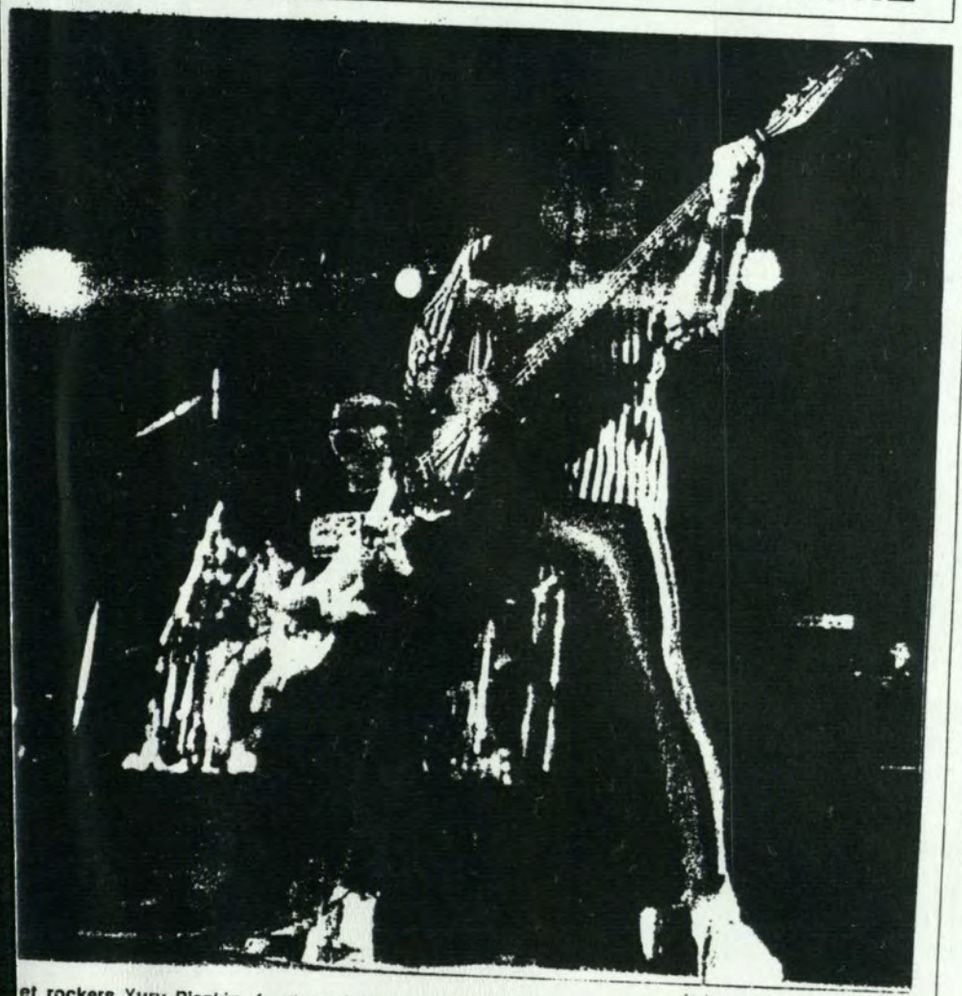
Rondo's rock 'n' roll was fun, with solid drum backup, well-balanced bass and guitar, visual variety

Please see Page D-3, SOVIET BANDS

Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

Stas Namin lead singer Sasha Losev and guitarist Serge Markin performed Saturday night.

RONDO ROCKS A GLASNOST TUNE



Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

et rockers Yury Pisakin, front, and Alexey Khokhlov blast out a tune in the Superpower Rock cert Saturday night at Sullivan Arena. Review, Page D-1

SOVIET BANDS : Rock on

Continued from Page D-1

and excitement. Sound reproduction was excellent, and the language barrier didn't seem to diminish the audience's enjoyment and appreciation of the group's spirited show.

The five-man Stas Namin Group took the stage next for its own 45-minute set of simple, straightforward rock. Its sound was satisfyingly loud yet clear and well-balanced,marked by an economy of backup from drums, bass and keyboards, allowing lead singer Sasha Losev and guitarist Serge Markin to display their considerable talents.

The tall, rail-thin Losev is a fine singer. His first tune was a gospel-tinged ballad, delivered passionately, without theatrics. The set progressed with increasingly heavy-duty rock, and Losev's full-bodied, soulful vocals. The unpretentious style of the group was a contrast to many rock and heavy metal groups who have to milk audiences for their desired responses. Despite the fact that most lyrics were in Russian, Stas Namin commanded the attention of the American crowd with exciting music.

Markin displayed exceptional guitar work with a clean, clear tone. In an instrumental introduction, he showed his dexterity with quick arpeggios. His ability to rip off high-speed runs was proved later in "Girl From New York City."

Throughout the set, he played with clarity, fluidity and lyricism. Even when he whanged away on the whammy bar, he concentrated on music, not exhibitionism. Between, and sometimes during, solos he continually danced around the stage, caught up in the excitement.

Eddie Money and his group closed the show with an hourlong set of hit tunes from his rock repertoire. After the Soviets, his band was a disappointment, lacking variety in tone and tempo, with the volume cranked up high enough to render much of the show a trashy mess. Half of Money's lyrics were unintelligible, though fans familiar with his tunes could sing along. Thanks to the simplistic drumming, you could feel the beat through the floor.

Even though this wasn't a contest, it's difficult to avoid comparison. Money swaggered onto the stage and bludgeoned the audience with his music while the Soviet groups intrigued our ears and eyes with theirs.

☐ **Maggie Johnson writes about popular music. She has worked in music touring, arts administration and public relations.**

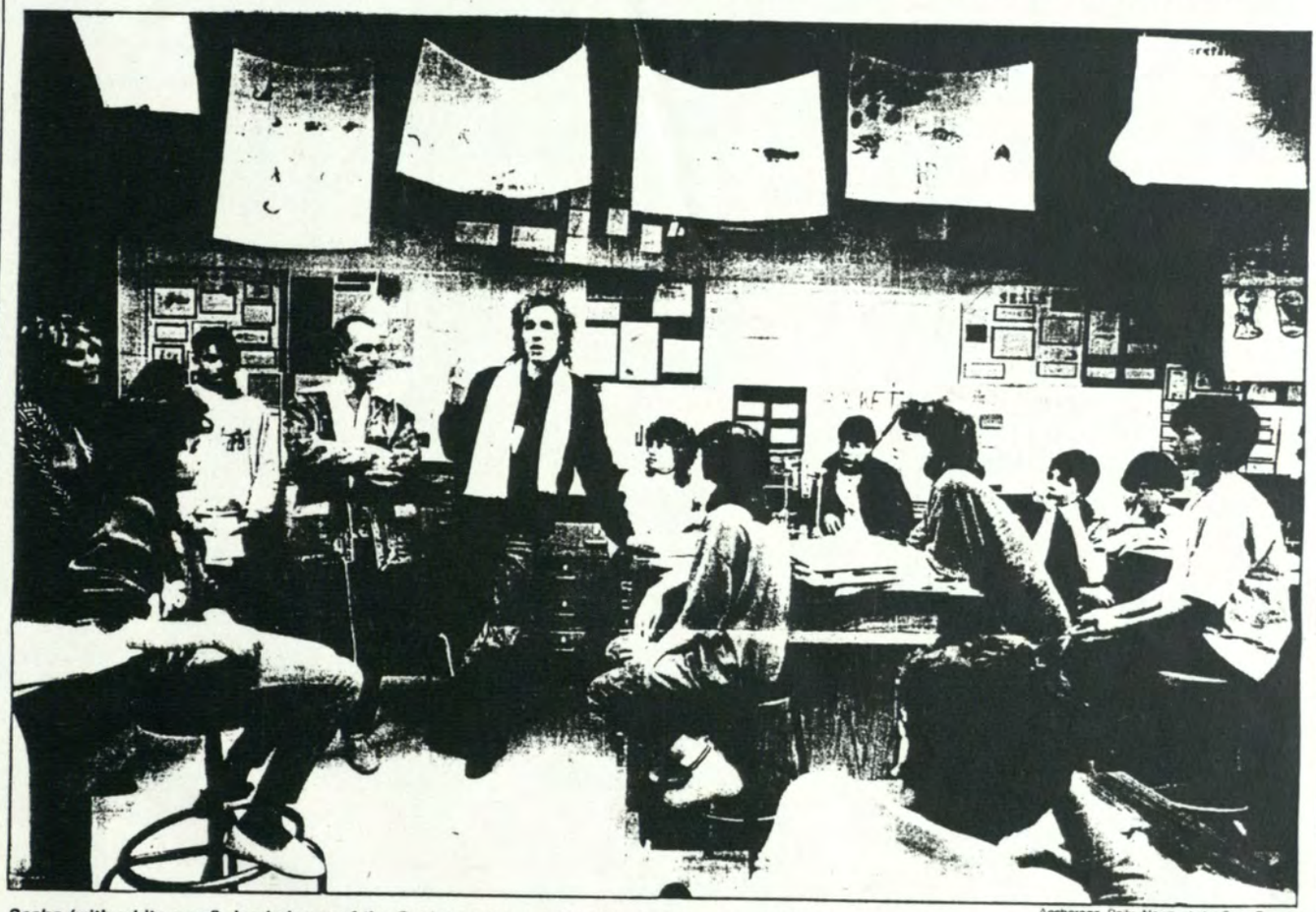
LIFESTYLES

FRIDAY
SECTION F Feb. 24, 1989

ROCK & ROLL ENVOY

Soviet singer charms Alaskans with politeness

Sasha tries out a guitar at a music store.



Anchorage Daily News photos/Fran Durner

Sasha (with white scarf), lead singer of the Soviet rock band Stas Namin Group, and Nick Safonov (to left of Sasha), drummer for the Soviet pop band Rondo, talk to a science class at Hanshew Junior High about life in the Soviet Union.

ENVOY: Soviet rock star is called upon to play the unofficial diplomat

By DUSTY RHODES
Daily News reporter

His name is Alexander Nikolaivich Losev, but it's his nickname, "Sasha," that is embroidered in gold thread over the left breast of his Hard Rock Cafe jacket. He's the lead singer of the Soviet rock band Stas Namin Group.

On Tuesday, his first full day in Anchorage, he met a few hundred Alaskans and charmed them all -- the timid, the dubious and the awestruck. And he allowed me to tag along and watch.

I met Sasha about 8 that morning at the Egan Convention Center, where about 50 members of the Soviet entourage visiting Anchorage were being dispatched to visit schools. Waiting for Sasha's assignment, we made small talk and traded pins. He gave me a fake Soviet military medal bearing the emblem of a tank.

Sasha resembles your standard issue old-fashioned rock star: wild hair, tight jeans, the Hard Rock jacket over a black satin Stas Namin jacket, a Stas Namin T-shirt and a body that could make Mick Jagger look obese.

But there's something about Sasha that just doesn't jive with most Americans' stereotype of a rock star. For one thing, as a Soviet star, he's called upon to play the unofficial diplomat, a role that requires graceful manners (he speaks softly, never swears and always opens doors for women) and forbids any demonstration of the bad-boy image normally associated with rock stars. When he invites me up to his hotel room "for a drink," the room is neat and clean (not trashed), and I'm offered a choice of water or soda pop, not alcohol.

Left: Hanshew students check out the Soviet rock stars visiting their school. Above: Sasha autographs the back of Bryan White's sweat shirt: "From Russia with love."

Under all these manners is a sanity that comes only with maturity. It's evident in his constantly calm personality, and in the tired lines around his eyes. Sasha looks like he's been rocking 'n' rolling for many years.

On the way to Hanshew Junior High, I get the courage to ask Sasha his age. "I'm going to be 40," he says with a shrug. "Age is not important. It's how you feel. And I feel like I'm 18 when I play rock 'n' roll."

His attention is soon drawn to the other cars heading south on Seward Highway. He says Western cars are available but expensive to maintain in the U.S.S.R. We discuss standard vs. automatic transmission (he prefers standard), the Soviet speed limit (which Sasha tends to ignore) and, consequently, traffic cops. Sasha confesses he can usually squirm out of a ticket by serenading the cop with a Stas Namin song.

At the school, he is joined by two other Soviet musicians. But in every classroom, it is Sasha who draws the most attention. He distributes small black-and-white glossies of his band, signs autographs ("From Russia with love . . ." or "Peace and rock 'n' roll" when time permits) and patiently answers the students' questions.

They're most interested in the lifestyle of Russian kids their own age. How long do they have to go to school? How much homework do they have to do? Do they get to have school dances? Sasha gives the answers — 10 years, about two hours a night, and oh, sure — over and over in different classes. He tells them Soviet children go to school six days a week and dislike wearing school uniforms. And he tells them about his 12-year-old son.

"What does he want to be when he grows up?" someone asks.

"I think he just wants to be a good man," Sasha says.

But in all his answers, Sasha tries to downplay the differences between the Soviet Union and the United States.

"What is it like to live in Russia?"

"Just like living in America," he says.

"What is the difference between your rock and our rock?"

"Only the language," Sasha says.

"What do we have you wish the Soviet Union had?"

Sasha thinks a moment. "Oh, maybe the parking system."

No one quibbles with Sasha's glossy answers. Even the grown-ups are caught up in his warmth.

As the Soviets leave the school, young girls stand in the gym doorway, screaming and waving greetings to Sasha. Lagging

Please see Page F-3, ENVOY

Continued from Page F-1

behind, I pass one girl who puts her hand on her chest, sighs and says to me, "Oh, he's *fine*!"

Once outside, Sasha lights a cigarette. He's smoking Cameis, which he says are sometimes available in the U.S.S.R. in hard currency shops for $1.50. Russian cigarettes, he says, smell like marijuana.

In the truck, Sasha keeps one ear on the radio. He recognizes most artists, and we compare opinions. We don't agree on Debbie Gibson: he thinks she sounds "mature, like a woman who has children."

When Paul Simon's "Call Me Al" comes on, Sasha mentions that he has seen that video (tapes are available in Moscow "if you know who collects these things"), and says he met Chevy Chase a few years ago in Los Angeles.

I take Sasha back to his hotel. In his room, he opens a box labeled in Russian. "This says 'Moscow Souvenirs,'" he says. The box is full of chocolate candies. After one small bite, I decide these chocolates have the potential for bringing about world peace.

I try to get Sasha to explain how one makes a living singing rock 'n' roll in Russia. It's a bit of an effort; he seems more interested in discussing movies and sports. But I find out this much:

Sasha worked as a radio engineer until 1974, about the time the Stas Namin Group won a contest and was awarded a recording contract with the state agency Melodia. From then on, he made his living as a rock singer, although I never understood exactly how that worked. He said he earned eight rubles for a record that sold several million copies.

Since perestroika, rock bands have enjoyed a much better situation. . . . Some bands, like Sasha's, have been allowed to travel extensively abroad.

Until three years ago, the Soviet government frowned on rock 'n' roll. Before perestroika, the Stas Namin Group had traveled once, to West Germany on a youth exchange. All other requests to tour abroad had been rejected. "One person, the minister of culture, said no to Stas Namin 25 times," Sasha says.

But since perestroika, rock bands have enjoyed a much better situation. Not only do they have a resource center, the Stas Namin Music Center, but some bands, like Sasha's, have been allowed to travel extensively abroad. The Stas Namin Group has toured twice before in the United States, as well as in Japan, Africa, Cuba, Eastern and Western Europe, Australia and Canada.

"Perestroika is the best thing," Sasha says.

We carry this conversation as far as the hotel lobby. It's time for the musicians to experience mushing at the Tudor Track. Sasha has told me that in Siberian villages, dog sledding is still a common mode of transportation, though it's called "going by dogs."

But at the track, Sasha decides a cold sled ride might not benefit his vocal cords. "My job is to sing, not to ride," he says. It's the only time all day I see Sasha say "no" to anything.

Back at the hotel, he punches the remote control, searching the television channels for a movie. He reels off a list of films he likes: "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "Godfather," "Once Upon a Time in America," "Blues Brothers," "Trading Places," "Someone Flew Under the Cuckoo" (well, you know what he means), "Blade Runner" and, oh, yes, "Red Heat," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"He is a good friend of ours," Sasha says, explaining that Schwarzenegger visited the Stas Namin Music Center during the filming of "Red Heat."

After finding no movies, Sasha switches to ESPN, which is broadcasting mud bogging. Sasha frowns as he watches a truck lurch through a deep pit of wet earth. "What is the meaning of this?" he asks. I can only say that it's a very good question.

We talk about sports. He likes basketball — he saw the NBA championships on television in Moscow, considers himself a Lakers fan, and says he spent the previous evening watching "basketball matches" on television.

But he doesn't understand the details of baseball. After I explain the difference between strikes and balls, and the fact that after three strikes, the batter is out, Sasha seems to be catching on.

"And after three balls, the pitcher is out?" he asks. See, Sasha is not so tame that he can't come up with a revolutionary idea.

After switching to CNN, he does it again. We are watching a segment on automatic weapons being banned. Sasha says people shouldn't have such weapons, and I try to explain how difficult it is to take away something that people have always had.

But he has a ready answer. "In this case, the government should buy those guns from the people," he says.

I finally ask Sasha every American's question: Does the Soviet government trust him? Do government agents follow him when he travels abroad to make sure he doesn't, well, you know, defect?

Sasha doesn't hesitate. "You have seen everyone in our company," he says. "Where is this man?"

I shrug.

"I don't want to change my motherland, and everyone knows it," he says. And that's the end of that discussion. We pick up where we left off with sports, movies and music.

After dinner, Sasha meets with the production manager for this week's concerts, Jeff Macktaz. Sasha is making Macktaz's job fairly simple: When Macktaz asks what refreshments the bands will need in their dressing rooms, Sasha just shrugs.

"Maybe some beer?" Macktaz asks.

"Yeah, beer would be good. Or coffee. Or water," Sasha says.

Once those details are settled, Macktaz takes two Soviet bands to the dB Music store. With half a dozen rock stars trying out equipment around me, I quit playing Sasha's shadow and just enjoy the sound.

Downstairs, the Stas Namin Group guitarist is unleashing his technical prowess on an electric guitar. He plays a loud fuzzy rock solo, respectable on any continent, and then abruptly changes gears into sweet, melodic jazz. Upstairs, the guitarist for the other band, Rondo, plucks an acoustic off the wall and plays an intricate version of the love theme from "Umbrellas of Cherbourg." Minutes later, drummers from the two bands discover side-by-side drum kits at the top of the stairs and commence a cooperative free-form rock riff that lasts several minutes and leaves all onlookers cheering.

Then it's on to the Fly By Night club. The crowd is sparse, but the house band is friendly. Offering their own instruments, they invite the Soviets to play. Sasha leads the Stas Namin Group through "Back in the U.S.S.R.," and Rondo rips through two original songs. The lyrics are Russian, but the beat is driving, danceable and universal.

The bands' last stop is Chilkoot Charlie's. They spend about an hour listening to the band Vertigo, drinking vodka and making friends before I hear Sasha tell Macktaz that it's time to go.

In the car, Sasha presents Macktaz with a gift: the famous new Paul McCartney album sold only in the U.S.S.R. Earlier in the evening, Macktaz had told Sasha that the LP can be sold for at least $200 in Anchorage, to which Sasha had responded, "Hey, I'm a communist, not a capitalist." So now, he insists that Macktaz accept the record. Free. A gift. No strings attached. "I feel sure it is in the right hands with you," Sasha says.

I say goodbye to Sasha in the hotel drive. He invites me to rehearsals, to a party planned for the next night, and gives me a kiss on the cheek. I drive home wondering whether I spent 18 hours with a genuine person or a well-programmed, highly polished diplomat. I can't decide. All I know is, it sure was fun.

Anchorage Daily News

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Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

Nina Trapeznikov of the Soviet Union's Sun Eskimo Dancers is welcomed by Vera Kanishero of Anchorage as the Soviets arrive in Anchorage.

Anchorage Daily News/Fran Culner

Valentin Fefelov, 13, hugs Soviet official Vyacheslav Kobets after receiving a black laquer box in Nikolaevsk.

Some hard facts took a back seat during Alaska's close encounter with the Soviets, which was often awkward, confusing and disorganized. And a lot of fun.

One good time

By LARRY CAMPBELL and STAN JONES
Daily News reporters

Sam Salkin, who runs a company that actually sells things to Soviets, was telling the luncheon crowd about the obstacles to doing business across the Bering Strait:

- Poor communications links.
- No transportation to speak of.
- High tariffs on Soviet exports to the United States.
- The ruble isn't worth anything outside the Soviet Union.
- Both areas have the same things to sell — raw materials.

"Neither produces much of the finished goods the other wants," Salkin, president of the Alaska Commercial Company, said as he finished delivering his list to the audience of Soviets and Americans at the Egan Convention Center Wednesday. "Alaska's opportunities for trade with the Soviet Union are quite modest."

Then he waved off his own objections and vaulted into the clear air of Soviet-mania and global-think that gripped normally hardheaded businessmen, not to mention average citizens, in Anchorage last week.

"The true value of this trade cannot be entirely measured in dollars and rubles," he declared. What really counted, he said, was the chance it might lead to better relations between America and the Soviet Union.

"I think that you need contexts for taking fantastic ideas and making them real and that's what makes this week important," Salkin said a couple of days after his chamber of commerce talk. "This meeting is such a context."

And so it went from the moment on Monday when an Aerofiot jet left some 90

Please see Page A-8, GOOD TIME

Susan Kintzele of Anchorage shows some wallet photos to Nicolai Saphonov, drummer for the Soviet rock group Rondo.

THE SOVIETS' VISIT

Anchorage Daily News/Fran Durner

Sasha Losev of the Stas Namin band shows Soviet dolls to Hanshew Junior High students.

Anchorage Daily News/Fran Durner

Vyacheslav Kobets talks with Deacon Paul Fefelov about boat building in Nikolaevsk.

GOOD TIME: Both sides learn much, say next visit will be smoother

Continued from Page A-8

said Judith Crotty, a local bank employee. "But I don't understand how we are going to do international trade when the ruble isn't even in the foreign exchange. I'll be interested to find out."

Businessman Brett Thomas would like to sell the Soviets on desk top publishing. Dennis Ackley was just interested in meeting a Soviet citizen, maybe even wangling a trip over there "to teach conversational English."

As the people waited in line, Dan De Nardo wandered among them, handing out information about a Soviet concentration camp on Wrangell Island, north of Siberia, claiming it belonged to Alaska and that the U.S. was scheming to give Alaska back to the Soviets.

The businessmen didn't seem to care.

Other people had to settle for leaving telephone messages with the chamber's operations hub at the Egan Center. There were two message boards, one for English speakers, one for Russians.

Alex Epstein of the USA Today TV show wanted to talk with Dixie Belcher about the rock 'n' roll concert. Kirk Smith was inviting any Russian rock musician to "a jam session at my pyramid" in the Matanuska Valley. And the Susitna Girl Scouts wanted a Russian for lunch sometime.

Bob Willet just wanted them to go away. Out in front of the Egan Center Tuesday night, Willet, an unemployed forklift operator, was marching up and down the sidewalk with a sandwich sign. On his front was, "Bush and the Bolsheviks, Blood Brothers." On his back: "Ask the Afghans if they trust the Soviets."

Willet said he believed the Communists still want to take over the world, and that American leaders are in canoots with the them. He wanted the rest of his countrymen, or at least those walking by the Egan Center, to wake up.

"Better dead than Red is not just a phrase to me," Willet said.

Then an Egan Center security guard stuck his head out the door and told Willet to move across the street. He did.

The cultural finale was the music. Although early ticket sales were dismal, plenty of media coverage of the Soviet visit during the week insured a sellout for Friday evening's Russian folk concert. The Saturday rock concert, with two Soviet bands and American rocker Eddie Money, showed signs of moderate financial success, too.

"These shows turned out to be a cultural, economic and artistic triumph," said always optimistic George Lichter, owner of Northern Stage Productions and the concert producer.

But that's how producers and businessmen talk, even when nagging problems threaten disaster.

All week, events began late, schedules changed hourly, Russian interpreters were too few and too far between. By the end of the week, organizers acknowledged they didn't have things under control.

"It's because about 99 percent of the people working on this thing are volunteers," said Tarr, a chamber employee and Soviet visit coordinator.

"We began planning for the visit in mid-January, so that gave us six weeks," Tarr said. "No one knew until two weeks before they arrived how many Soviets there would be, how many spoke English.

"And then, after we got into it, so many side events popped up that we couldn't keep track. People taking them here and there, feeding them dinner and showing them around. It just got out of hand.

"And the language barrier. Even the simplest thing, like setting up a business meeting, was difficult."

As she talked, her volunteer in charge of the interpreters delivered another crisis.

"The interpreters) are very angry," Joan Manuel said. "They thought they were getting tickets to tomorrow night's concert. That's what they understood."

Tarr dropped her forehead in her hand and muttered, "OK, I'll take care of it."

Manuel left and Tarr turned back to a reporter. "Have we been overwhelmed? Very much so."

Perhaps it was Anchorage photographer Myron Rosenberg who came closest to successfully mixing the various currents flowing through the week.

Rosenberg, no slouch as a promoter, has a deal that calls for him to ship 20 of his photographs to a museum in Magadan with the Soviets who leave for home on Monday.

The Soviets, for their part, will let him into the country to spend several weeks photographing the people of the Magadan region, and may also purchase the prints he's shipping to the museum.

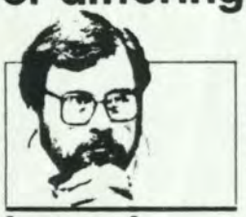
"My passport's in order and I'm getting my shots tomorrow," Rosenberg said Friday. "My prints will be in crates Monday and on the plane."

Not a lot of money will change hands right away, but Rosenberg will have some new shots to sell in his gallery and exhibit at shows.

And some Americans will see beautiful pictures of colorful, friendly looking Soviet citizens, which can't hurt efforts to smooth relations with the United States. A tidy package, all in all.

"What I made was a cultural deal in addition to a business deal," Rosenberg said. "I'm going to merchandise the Soviet Union."

Soviets offer differing views of perestroika



howard weaver

At a panel discussion last week on changes in the Soviet press, a self-described "old journalistic wolf" named Vasily Peskov leaned forward in his chair and searched for images to explain the restructuring called perestroika to the Anchorage audience.

"It is as if you want a complete renovation of your house, but while you work you must also reside in it," he said through an interpeter. In the interim, work gets done, but the residents must expect to find "wind blowing around the new windows ... and some sand on their teeth," he said.

At 59, Peskov is a veteran of journalism practiced under many regimes in the U.S.S.R. An avuncular figure who works for an enormously popular youth newspaper, he says he must strive "always to work like I was 25." After a career at the keyboard as a reporter and author of more than a dozen books, his impressions of Soviet life are grounded in seasoned observations.

So, too, are the somewhat contrary impressions of Yuri Ustimenko, the senior TASS correspondent who shared the University of Alaska Anchorage stage with Peskov and other Soviet and western colleagues.

Like Peskov, his experience runs deep. He works at the senior levels at TASS, having served around the globe and now manning the department's "American desk" in Moscow.

That experience has left Ustimenko more skeptical than some colleagues about the current wave of openness and reform. He was less willing to join in wholesale criticism of the past, less hasty in embracing reforms as uniformly beneficial.

When several colleagues praised exiled Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn as "a wedge that helped open perestroika," Ustimenko told the audience "I could never get through a book ("The Gulag Archipelego") that thick." The dissident author's unwillingness to address contemporary changes in the U.S.S.R. also came under Ustimenko's cool disdain.

Panelists like Soviet social activist Gennady Alferenko praised the Soviet press as "the first to be awakened ... for the first time we have the freedom to say what we think, and we have the press to thank for it."

Ustimenko's assessment of Soviet public reaction to the media was flatter: "We just give them the facts and figures, and perhaps they will learn to trust us later."

Indeed, the most educational experience at the evening probably was the opportunity to watch the Soviet panelists disagree. Far from representing a monolithic "Soviet bloc" as we have been conditioned to expect, this collection of a half-dozen Soviets displayed considerable diversity, and more than a little disagreement.

Ustimenko, translating for Alferenko, paused once to offer an aside the audience: "And if you do not follow the logic of that, I must tell you, neither do I." Writer Aleksei Bukalov, watching the editorializing, smiled and shook his finger at Ustimenko.

All agreed that being allowed to cover controversial subjects has made the Soviet press far more appealing to Soviet readers. Many families read five or six different papers, all delivered by post, and the strain is resulting mail delays.

Voice of America radio broadcasts have diminished in popularity as domestic press reports get better. Reader demand for the new, improved newspapers recently forced the government to reverse a newsprint rationing scheme.

It is a scenario an American journalist only can applaud — and it seems to be a fact that Moscow readers have quickly come to appreciate.

"There is a current saying that is sweeping Moscow," Peskov told the audience. "We say, 'This may not be that much fun to live through, but it is interesting to read about.'"

☐ Howard Weaver is managing editor of the Anchorage Daily News.

Folkfest: Building bridges through song

By CATHERINE STADEM
Times Arts Editor

It was a love fest. It was a happening. It was a peace rally. It was the '60s all over again — but this time with a Russian accent.

Friday night's Glasnost Folkfest at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts definitely was *the* social event of the season.

The 2,070-seat Atwood Concert Hall was jammed. People large and small, Soviet and Alaskan, Yupik and Siberian Eskimo, decked out in furs and jewels and jeans and cowboy boots, sat side by side, friend-to-friend, as they say in Russian, *droog-droogoo.*

Review

The message, perhaps best delivered by Dmitri Pokrovsky, leader of the Pokrovsky Singers from the U.S.S.R., was: "People would undersand each other better if they would sing together more often."

And sing they did. While the brilliantly-costumed Pokrovsky Singers sang ancient Russian folk songs, they encouraged the audience to join in with hoots and howls.

It was an evening for joining together. When internationally known Yupik storyteller Chuna McIntyre, from Eek, gave a salute to peace, he told the theatergoers to "join your hands and your minds across to our friends in the Soviet Union." They did.

The 2½-hour show opened with Eskimo dancing by the colorful Novo Chaplino troupe, who were later joined on stage by their Siberian relatives. Although taking photographs inside a theater during performance is usually forbidden, the foreign and local press snapped away with cameras — eventually causing flashbulbs to pop throughout the hall as anyone with an instamatic recorded the event for posterity.

Times photo by AL GRILLO

Folkfest activities included a traditional Eskimo blanket toss.

The Novo Chaplinos sang "welcome sun," symbolically signifying the parting of political clouds that have prevented the indigenous northern peoples from being united.

The evening's honored guest was Dixie Belcher, a Juneau resident who founded Camai, which means peace in Yupik. It has been through her efforts that the ice curtain is finally parting.

The Chevak Dancers, directed by Josh Weiser, performed an energetic and often funny friendship dance. One of the lead dancers, clad in traditional parka, said the ancient greeting words, "Welcome to our great meeting house — I hope your trip by dog sled was a good one."

Their number included a blanket toss, called Sending Someone to the Moon. "This is how we went to the moon in the old days," said commentator McIntyre, "by sealskin."

Anchorage was represented by the Martin Luther King Choir, a chorus of about 100 voices, whose members are black, white and Asian. They were led by guest conductor Dorothy Grant, a gospel choir director from Detroit.

Sharon Osborne, the lead singer with the Paul Winter Consort for eight years, joined the MLK choir. Her voice — a rich mixture of soft jazz with revival undertones — soared to the hall's Aurora Borealis acoustic ceiling and engulfed many in the crowd with emotion.

The 120-member Anchorage Children's Choir, dressed in red, white and black uniforms, filed on the by-then crowded stage and stole everyone's heart with their rendition of the international favorite, "May There Always Be Sunshine." The children, ranging in ages from 5 to 15, sang a stanza in Russian, *vsigda budiet solnse*, that brought tears to the eyes of many.

The concert closed with a sample of Russian rock by the group Stas Namin. Lead singer Sasha, a tall blonde with a voice somewhere between early Neil Diamond and Bruce Springsteen, screamed into the microphone — in excellent English and Russian — "I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL." Eventually, those in the audience who knew Russian (and who love rock 'n' roll) joined in with "*Ya Lyublyu Toylka Rock and Roll.*"

When it was all over, it was clear something important was beginning. Dixie Belcher spoke into the microphone, "Welcome to a new era."

Catherine Stadem is a 1985 Fellow of the National Critics Institute.

Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

Soviet rock band Rondo opened the Superpower concert.

U.S.-Soviet folkfest successfully unites a variety of styles

By ALAN SCHMITZ
Daily News music reviewer

REVIEW

Friday night's "Glasnost Folkfest," commemorating peace and the Soviet/American reunion across the Bering Strait, was a complete success. The sold-out concert had the atmosphere of religious intensity as the people of two politically opposite nations celebrated by coming together through music and dance.

The "folkfest" title might have been a little limiting since the program consisted of much more. A great deal was said, in both Russian and English, to and about the people who made this event possible, including concert coordinator Dixie Belcher.

Participants and performance styles ranged from outstanding Eskimo dances by Soviet and Alaska natives to the rock 'n' roll sounds of the Soviet Stas

Please see Page G-6, **FOLKFEST**

FOLKFEST: Crowd rocks and rolls

Continued from Page G-1

Namin group. In between, the audience was delighted by the Pokrovsky Singers, the Martin Luther King Anchorage Community Choir and the Anchorage Children's Choir.

At the end, all the groups got together for a big finale. There were so many performers that they took up every inch of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts' Atwood Concert Hall stage. By then, the strong feelings of camaraderie were intense as everyone on stage and in the audience held hands and sang Harry Belafonte's "Peace on Earth."

Highlights included the Pokrovsky Singers, a magnificent Russian folk singing and dancing troupe from the Soviet Union. Originally part of the musical underground, the award-winning, 14-member ensemble, dressed in beautiful traditional garb — including long, colorful dresses for the women and sashes and black boots for the men — knocked 'em dead with their energy and enthusiasm.

Chuna McIntyre, renowned Yup'ik dancer and singer, along with two assistants, gave an outstanding "Dance of Peace" honoring the Soviet-American event. He was followed by the seven-member Chevak Dancers, who presented an equally exciting audience-participatory "One People Friendship" dance. They concluded their contribution with an entertaining blanket toss.

The 'folkfest' title might have been a little limiting since the program consisted of much more.

The Martin Luther King Choir, directed by gospel singer-artist Dorothy Grant, got the place jumping with goose bump-raising renditions of "Ride on King Jesus" and "I Got a Robe." Susan Osborne brought her marvelous voice to emotional versions of "Sound Over All Waters" and "People to People, We're Takin' Down the Wall."

Next were clear performances of "May There Always Be Sunshine," sung in English and Russian, and "That's When We'll be Free" by Janet Stotts' Anchorage Children's Choir.

The big surprise, and certainly a treat to all, was the unprogrammed but great performance by Soviet rock group Stas Namin. They opened with a ballad-like number sung in Russian. A "Song about Rock and Roll," also in Russian, sounded similar to Chuck Berry. Their closing piece was best of all: the Beatles' "Back in the U.S.S.R.," sung in English.

Some may have little faith in the quality of Soviet rock 'n' roll, but this group is good. We have had an opportunity to hear some of what is happening over there, and it looks like things are loosening up for Soviets and Americans alike.

☐ **Anchorage composer Alan Schmitz, who has a Ph.D. in music from Rutgers University, is chairman of the Humanities, Arts and Communications Department at Alaska Pacific University.**

The Anchorage Times

Thursday, February 23, 1989

Anchorage FOCUS

Weekly entertainment magazine

Don't get stranded in the 'Burbs

PAGE 9

■ Money talks

It's the 'biggest gig' of Eddie's life

PAGE 5

■ Poker face

Eagle River carnival boasts cards and more

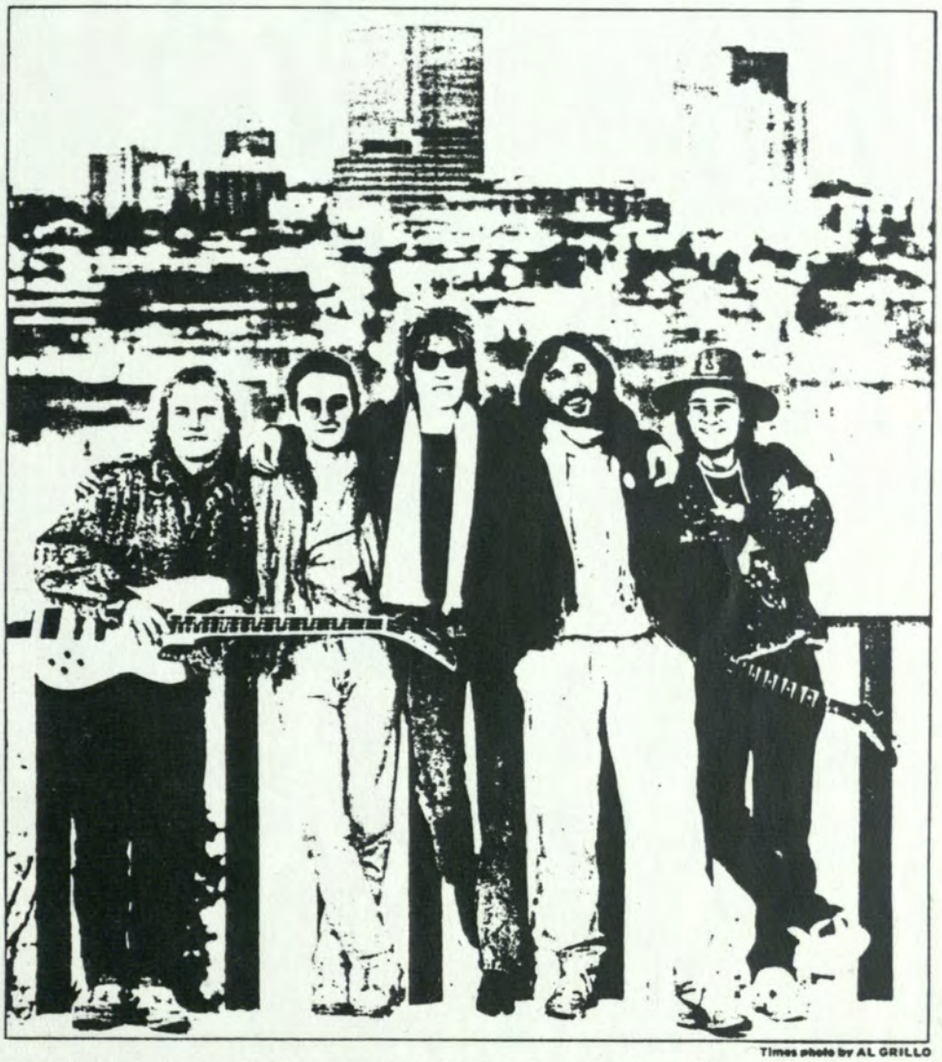
PAGE 11

■ Acting up

Peter Josephson portrays Stanislavski

PAGE 2

Born in the U.S.S.R.



Times photo by AL GRILLO

Welcome to Anchorage: The Soviet group Stas Namin is set to rock the Sullivan Arena. Story, page 4.

On the cover

Diplomacy through music

Stas Namin, the 'Soviet Beatles,' plays U.S.S.R.-style rock for Anchorage

By BEAU BRENDLER
Times Focus Writer

Soviet radio and TV weren't allowed to talk about the "Soviet Beatles" for 10 years. Stas Namin, now a household name in the Soviet Union, had to sell records underground.

Now, though, Namin and his group are sanctioned as a Soviet Party — with a big P — band. His rock roots are American, drawing on the fertile music scene of the 60s.

Tickets for the Saturday Superpower Rock n Roll show, at the Sullivan Arena, are $22.50-$18.50, available at the arena and Carrs stores. Ticket prices do not include outlet fees.

Namin came from a well-to-do, politically important family. His grandfather was a Russian politician, Anastas Ivanovich Mikoyan — a deputy premier under Khruschev and chair of the Supreme Soviet for a year.

Stas Namin is a stage name, and is in part a dedication to his mom — meaning "Here, Mother." He took it when he started up a band as a student at the prestigious Institute of Foreign Languages, a school for the politically connected in Moscow.

The school was segregated — stas and the rest of the boys studied to be interpreters, and the girls studied to be foreign language teachers.

Nadejda Phillips, who lives in Anchorage and teaches Russian at the UAA and Fort Richardson, was a young student at the language academy. She crossed over to the boys' side of the gym to hang out with the then 18-year-old budding rocker. It was 1965.

"He had obsession with rock music," she said. "We would go over (to his campus apartment) and he would be jumping on one foot," (she imitates the Chuck Berry hop), and would play any piece you asked."

Stas' first band, The Flowers, was allowed to play for school dances, and cut a vinyl copy of "Sleep, There Are Only Six Hours in the Night During July" that sold underground. "It was an instant hit," Phillips said.

"It was to be sung by a man to his girlfriend as she slept," she explained: "When you wake up, it will be beautiful/I'll catch the moon so the light won't disturb you."

"Stas was very quiet and romantic — even during those days," she said. But his politcal family ties encroached on his [illegible] said: "Everybody knew

Rocking Soviet style: Stas Namin's roots are American, drawing on the fertile music scene of the 60s.

lips said. "It shadowed him."

Another member of The Flowers went on, in a strange sort of way, to become Stas Namin in the minds of millions. "It's one of the miracles of our band," said Stas Namin Group lead singer Sasha in an interview at the Clarion Hotel Wednesday. "Stas Namin is a producer. But millions of people in Russia think I am him."

The tall, slender Sasha, who looks like Bill Wyman with bleached-blond hair and speaks fair English in an unassuming baritone, has led the band in gigs with Jackson Browne, Peter Gabriel and Little Steven, among others. You can hear the strong traditions of Russian folk melodies in their hard-rock tinged songs.

Gorbachev, Glasnost and Perestroika — three words we've heard a lot lately — haven't had much influence on the band, Sasha said. "For us, as far as being able to sing what we want, things have stayed the same."

The group sings a controversial song or two, like "Idol."

wood in the forest," he said "like a statue. People pray to it, make gifts to it, it takes on its own life.

"We think about Stalin, when we sing about this, so if you think that is political..."

But, under the surface, the group is still not well-received by the state, Sasha said. "They don't like this kind of music. They never have. They have tried to kill it. They write about my jeans, about my hair, about my shoes. They know nothing about the feelings of this music."

In Russia, Sasha said, "we need to have more true articles about our life and music. It doesn't matter what we wear."

Stas Namin himself, meanwhile, has become a kind of Soviet rock godfather. He's cutting deals with American bands like Bon Jovi. He's hobnobbing with the politically connected, and sponsoring other Soviet rock groups through his Stas Namin Music Centre in Moscow, the first Soviet independent show business corporation. He's trying to forge ties and

A rendezvous with Rondo

By BEAU BRENDLER
Times Focus Writer

To be the lead singer in a rock 'n' roll band, in this country, anyway, you've got to have the swagger. The look. The hair. Alexandr Ivanov, 27-year-old lead singer of the million-album selling Soviet pop group Rondo, has the hair only, and not an ounce of pretension.

Settling into a couch in a Clarion Hotel room Wednesday, Ivanov spoke haltingly, and was embarrassed about his English skills.

He made frequent trips out of the room — a sort of high-security lobby in the midst of a whole floor of Soviet musicians, journalists and dignitaries — to get albums and photos of himself and his band.

The rising Soviet stars met in music school, have been together about five years, and are all about Ivanov's age. In person, they're not coiffed or painted, but wide-eyed, warm and full of wonder. Their album covers show they can wear war paint and mousse with the best, though.

During the height of Soviet-mania in this country two years ago, when it seemed we were seeing more Russian TV than American, Rondo appeared briefly via satellite from Moscow and courtesy of the Phil Donahue show.

This is their first trip outside the U.S.S.R., and they're excited.

"American people. Russian people. Face-to-face. This is good," Ivanov said. "Two days ago, we were at school. American children talk to us. American children very beautiful." Aleksei Khokhlov, Rondo's lead guitarist, sat down next to Ivanov and nodded agreement.

See Rondo, page 5

Anchorage Daily News

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Strings pulled; Soviet goods go on display

Alaskans may get a chance to shop at trade show today

By LARRY CAMPBELL
Daily News reporter

Politicians and local businessmen pulled some American strings to wrest Soviet furs, dolls, leather jackets and hats, boots, linen and a ton of postcards from the U.S. Customs Service, and the goods finally went on display at the Soviet trade show Wednesday afternoon.

And, today, maybe, people will even be able to buy some of it.

The three tons of merchandise were brought by Magadan business delegates, some of the 94 Soviet citi- week. They want to peddle as much of it as they can to Alaskans.

But the whole shipment was held up by a stiff $50,000 tariff until late Tuesday night, according to Dave Cannon, project director for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce's Siberian Gateway project. Political influence and practical consideration solved that problem late Tuesday night.

The tariff dilemma delayed the opening of the trade show for 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon, leav-

WELCOME TO ALASKA, MR. PRESIDENT

President Bush enjoys applause at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Rep. Don Young and Gov. Steve Cowper are at right.

Thousands turn out to greet Bush

Soviet views of president's visit

Warm gathering at Hangar One

By NATALYA DAVYDOVA
Moscow News correspondent

One of the things we Russians can't help but admire when we meet Americans is the way they make very informal and friendly happenings out of what we used to consider rather dull and "official" meetings.

Although the meeting with the leader of a state is a great event indeed, we have no such tradition to turn it into a kind of festivity. We have no tradition to express our feelings as openly as

Please see Back Page, WARMTH

Natalya Davydova

A word for grassroots diplomacy

Aleksei Bukalov

By ALEKSEI BUKALOV
Political observer, New Times, Moscow

Just once have I seen this beautiful Air Force plane, Air Force One. It was last June, during the visit of President Reagan to Moscow. And today, I saw for the first time the new U.S. president, and observed his sure manner of speaking and moving. I appreciated his humor and oratory art.

I wouldn't like to compare our and American ways of greeting a national leader, because it's a question of different traditions. I'll say only that

Please see Back Page, BRIDGE

■ SECURE CITY: The American delegation bound for Toyko and the emperor's funeral will find a city in a security cocoon. A-6

By MARILEE ENGE
Daily News reporter

President Bush spoke to a cheering crowd of about 7,500 in a huge airplane hangar on Elmendorf Air Force Base Wednesday morning, making a rare Alaska appearance for a U.S. president.

Air Force One, the presidential airplane, landed in a steady snowfall at 9:30 a.m. and Bush gave a 10-minute address to a largely military audience, touching on the Pacific Rim, Alaska's strategic location and oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As expected, the president made only general remarks, saying, as he has in the past, that he supports opening the coastal plain of ANWR to oil development if the environment is adequately protected.

He made no mention of a delegation from the Soviet Union that is in Anchorage for a week-long series of diplomatic, business and cultural events that has been

Please see Back Page, BUSH

THE BACK PAGE

GOODS: Visitors put merchandise on display

Continued from Page A-1

ing many curious potential buyers waiting in the Egan Center lobby. Even when the doors were open, they were told the goods would only be on display Wednesday. No sales until today.

"We simply haven't had time to put prices on any of this stuff," Cannon said. He added that Soviet officials would get together with the Alaska Commercial Company, a statewide retailer, Wednesday night to determine how much to charge.

"I can almost assure you the merchandise will be available for sale Thursday," Cannon said.

The sale had been threatened Tuesday, when U.S. Customs imposed a high tariff on the goods because the Soviet Union does not enjoy favored-nation trading status with the United States.

> "It was a misunderstanding that was easily rectified."
> — Soviet trade official Vyacheslav Spirin

Neither the American organizers nor the Soviet visitors had worked out plans to account for tariffs before the Soviets arrived Monday, and brought far more goods than the Americans had anticipated.

A customs broker was brought in late Tuesday by the Gateway project to handle the shipment and guarantee duties due, and the Customs Service granted a 10-day waiver on duty payment and agreed to charge duty only on goods sold.

"It was the congressional delegation, Washington, D.C., The Alaska Commercial Company, and us," Cannon said Wednesday. "And Customs was incredible. They worked with us."

When asked why the Customs Service was so amenable to the deal, Cannon said: "Because, (the visitors are) Soviets."

The victims of all this American bureaucracy, the Soviets, retained an air of diplomacy about the whole event. Vyacheslav Spirin, head of the Trade Directorate of the Magadan Executive Committee, was smiling when the furs and ceramics and linens were finally laid out on tables for display.

"We know there is discrimination in terms of Soviet trade," Spirin said. "But this was clearly an organizational problem. There needs to be more quick, careful planning before the visit. We didn't even know where the trade show was to be."

Spirin continued, smiling: "But, it was a misunderstanding that was easily rectified. Like Columbus, when he discovered America. He, at first, had difficulty dealing with the Indians. We are rediscovering America."

Susan Wilson and Linda Shafer inspect furs at Soviet show.

BRIDGE: Soviet view

Continued from Page A-1

I was very impressed by the crowd that met in the hangar, in this early morning. Thousands of people came here, many of them with their children, not only to greet the president, but also to demonstrate feelings of unity and patriotism, and pride for their state and their wonderful land.

Of course, I didn't expect to hear, in this short presidential speech, detailed analysis of the present situation and perspectives of American-Soviet relations. I knew that George Bush was going to Japan, China and South Korea, and he had to speak, first of all, about American policy toward these countries.

But still, in my heart, I hope that the president will still remember about another great Pacific power, and that his aides will talk to him about the unprecedented flight of the Aeroflot plane across the Bering Strait — that on this plane, a hundred Soviet people arrived here from Magadan and Chukotka, from Moscow and other cities. There are businessmen and journalists, musicians and school children, and together with their American colleagues and hosts, they are building a bridge through the arctic ice, a bridge of friendship and cooperation.

But peoples' diplomacy is one thing; state diplomacy is another. Of course, the president is still examining President Reagan's very good heritage in the field of relations between America and the Soviet Union. He is also examining, I suppose, our behavior in the international area, and reports about our domestic affairs. Let us not push him. We have a Russian proverb that Moscow wasn't built in a day.

So now the president has finished his speech, and, in the acclamation of the people, has left the hangar. The festivities are over. But our festivities are continuing, the festivities of our direct contacts with Americans — the very important festivities of exploring our two peoples.

☐ Aleksei Bukslov is a Soviet journalist visiting Anchorage and covered the president's stopover for the Anchorage Daily News.

BUSH: President gets a warm welcome at his Anchorage stopover

Anchorage Daily Newsman Turner

President and Mrs. Bush leave Air Force One at Elmendorf.

Continued from Page A-1

billed as a melting of the "ice curtain."

The President and the First Lady were traveling to Tokyo to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. They also plan to visit China and South Korea. Secretary of State James Baker, Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif, and Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, accompanied them.

The White House press corps arrived half an hour earlier on a chartered Pan Am airplane and many of the Washington reporters spent the time on the ground sending stories to their news organizations.

The appearance came as he traveled abroad for the first time as president. Such routine refueling stops at Elmendorf gave former President Ronald Reagan the opportunity to speak to a similar crowd in 1983 and to sleep through a visit to Alaska in 1986.

"Elmendorf has long served as the departure point for presidents en route to the Far East and I want it to serve as the arrival point for a president to come fishing in this great land," Busn said.

Mayor Tom Fink met the party at the airplane and escorted them to Hangar One, which was spruced up for the occasion. Crews had applied fresh paint, built a stage and press platform and hung welcome banners. One of them read "Alaska is Bush Country."

Spectators, who acquired free tickets to the appearance, began arriving at 7 a.m. At 7:30, cars stretched from the Government Hill base gate nearly to the A Street bridge and long lines of people waited in the soggy snow for admittance to the hangar. Eskimo dancers and gospel and children's choirs entertained them from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Nearly half of the audience wore the green camouflage fatigues of U.S. soldiers and airmen.

The Bushes were joined on stage by Baker, Murkowski, Fink, Congressman Don Young, Governor Steve Cowper, top military officials and Eskimo dancers from Chevak.

Young, who introduced Bush as "a great friend of mine," called the couple "Mr. President and Mrs. President."

In his opening remarks, Bush referred to the large, wet snowflakes that greeted his arrival.

"As I was getting off the airplane I was thinking of the inaugural address of President ... William Henry Harrison," Bush said. "He spoke 3½ hours, caught pneumonia and died some 30 days later. I will be brief."

The president got an enthusiastic round of applause when he endorsed opening the arctic refuge to oil development.

"I am convinced that our natural resources can be developed without spoiling our environment," he said. "I know that we can and must develop our energy resources for the sake of economic development and national security. There is too much dependence on foreign oil, and it is."

He added that he could not support development "that failed to provide adequate safeguards for land and wildlife."

Bush called Alaska the "American gateway to Asia" and said that he aims to "strengthen key relationships" with leaders in the Asian nations during the next week.

"We are a Pacific power and this visit will demonstrate that we intend to stay a Pacific power."

The president also thanked the airmen and soldiers of Elmendorf and Fort Richardson. Each mention of the military brought cheers from the crowd.

"Make no mistake about the importance of your task," he said. "Alaska's strategic position, at the point where the Far East, the Western Hemisphere and the Arctic meet, is proof enough that the missions you perform here are vital to our national security."

Outside Hangar One, a group of soldiers said the speech by their commander in chief made them feel good and will help improve the morale of service men and women stationed in Alaska.

"I think he lifted Alaska in general," said Spec. Douglas Speed, who is stationed

WARMTH: Soviet journalist likes the informality in presidential visit

Continued from Page A-1

Americans do. And this is a pity.

Though the largest group of Alaskans admitted to President Bush's speech had to spend much time, firstly, to get the tickets and then to enter the building, because of a large queue, they patiently waited in a crowded hall for the president to come and they didn't seem to be uncomfortable. It looked as if everybody tried to do their best to show their love and respect for the remarkable citizens who performed and for the arriving president.

And the show that was prepared looked really great. I felt the pleasure of the audience as they watched the Eskimo blanket toss and the gospel choir was excellent. In fact it was more like a big family party than an early-morning gathering to meet a leader of the country. We saw a soldier who kept his little boy in one arm and a bottle of milk in the other hand. I don't think in our army that would be possible.

The governor of Alaska

and the congressman for the state addressed the people in a very natural and expressive way and their words, I'm sure, could be understood even to the deaf. But, nevertheless, I saw a "translator" on the stage who tried to accommodate the speeches, especially to the deaf. Such care is really touching. In the USSR we have only one TV news program which is "translated to the deaf." And even this program we started to translate only a couple of years ago.

I liked how Congressman Young said some words about his wedding anniversary and how he joked about it. We have no opportunity, yet, to know about the family matters of our leaders. Sometimes such words can make the leader closer to the people. It can make them feel that he is quite the same as they are. I also think such remarks can help put special emphasis on the family. The rise in divorces is a problem in your country as in ours.

And one more thing that impressed me was that we journalists from the USSR had no problems with admission to an American Air Force base. In itself, this is a good sign.

☐ Natalya Davydova is a Soviet journalist visiting Anchorage and covered the president's stopover for the Anchorage Daily News.

Fresh evidence points to death at Berlin Wall

Neishtadt, 31, said he sec
Hebrew and Jewish prayer
groups of friends.

"Nice to see you," he answered.

"It's the event we've been awa
conscious lives," said Yuriel N
sported a full black beard
band-woven religious skull ca

The opening of the Judaic S
since Stalin's time.

First school of Jewish studies i
respondent shouted.

Alaska opens its arms

Cowper welcomes Soviet delegation

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Anchorage welcomed a plane-load of visitors from the Soviet Union on Monday as neighbors reunited after a not-so-long absence.

Many of the Soviet officials who arrived on an Aeroflot tri-jet from Magadan at 1:15 p.m. at Anchorage International Airport have in the last eight months either visited Anchorage, or hosted Alaska visitors, as part of the warming relations between the two regions.

Gov. Steve Cowper and Vyacheslav Kobets, governor of the Magadan territory, greeted each other with bearhugs, and Cowper called Kobets a "good personal friend."

"I'm proud to say that today Alaska is a leader in re-establishing the strong ties that once existed between the United States and the Soviet Union," Cowper said.

The welcome began a week of activities including negotiations over agreements to allow Alaska Eskimos to cross the Bering Strait to visit relatives; seminars on U.S.-Soviet trade, including exhibitions of Magadan products; folk and rock music concerts; private business meetings; school visits; and numerous private meetings, tours and other activities.

Soviet and Alaska officials have exchanged several visits over the last eight months, in what has been called a "thawing of the ice curtain." These have included the June 1988 Friendship Flight from Nome to Provideniya; a September 1988 visit to Anchorage by Magadan official, and a trade mission in November from Alaska to Magadan.

But the size and diversity of this Soviet delegation, the largest yet to visit Alaska, has astounded even those closest to the effort.

See Welcome, page A-8

Times photo by AL GRIL

Anchorage resident Mary Lake, left, talks with her Soviet boarder, Antonina Verbitskaya Monday.

Welcome: Soviets

Continued from page A-1

"I mean, I'm at a computer in December writing a letter asking Aeroflot to please come land in Anchorage," said Ginna Brelsford of the Alaska Office of International Trade. "I was thinking eight people maximum, and now we have what, 92?"

Brelsford herself will be traveling next week to the Soviet Far East, where she will be part of a 12-person joint U.S.-Soviet ski and dogsled expedition that will skirt the Bering Sea coasts and cross the border at the Diomede Islands around April 1.

Among the visitors arriving Monday in Anchorage were high foreign affairs officials, Communist Party leaders from the Magadan region, the mayor of Provideniya and officials in the areas of trade, agriculture, industry, medicine, aviation, communication, culture and education. Musicians, dancers and journalists filled up the rest of the plane.

Despite crossing the international dateline and spending all day in a plane, the arriving Soviets seemed to be in high spirits.

Kobets exchanged pins and hugs with Soldotna sixth-grader Virginia Harvey, who later boarded the Aeroflot jet to Magadan for a weeklong exchange of three students and three teachers.

Reporters and government officials hailed new friends by their first names and even translators lagged behind feelings of friendship, as words gave way to handshakes, hugs and smiles.

"When we crossed the border between Alaska and the Soviet Union, we were followed by the sun, and it has followed us all the way to Anchorage," Kobets said through an interpreter.

"And this is clear that the more often we meet, the warmer the ties become become, as a symbol of our growing interrelation with one another. Our hearts are in your hands,"he said.

The Soviets hearts are in good hands, if their airport welcome was any indication. The lobby of the international terminal was jammed with hundreds of welcomers and well-wishers.

The scene was full of color and activity, including patriotic songs, a Girl Scout color guard of U.S., Soviet and Alaska flags; Eskimo dancers, an elementary school choir, flowers, signs and lots of smiles.

Many of those there were volunteer host families, who will board visitors in their homes for the coming week to offer a look at life, Alaska-style.

Eric Hansen, a state oil equipment appraiser, is hosting Gennadi Zavolok, head of the Magadan territory's industrial authority.

"Our guest speaks no English, and we speak no Russian," said Hansen, who hopes that will not be an obstacle to his own efforts at citizen diplomacy.

"I was in the military for a number of years, on the other side of the button," he said. "It's time to work for peace, and if people don't do it, who's going to do it?"

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, Calif. 90503

Nations unite in song

Peace is king at glasnost fest

By DONALD MUNRO
Times Focus Editor

Richard Sonoda doesn't even like rock 'n' roll music all that much. But when he stepped into the spotlight Friday night to look into a sea of wide-eyed faces brimming over with the spirit of glasnost, he found himself sharing the stage with one of the Soviet Union's most famous rock stars.

Sasha, lead singer of the rock group Stas Namin, joined Sonoda in a vocal duet to cap an emotional Glasnost Folkfest in the Atwood Concert Hall of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

"Peace on Earth," Sonoda sang to the crowd. "We'll stand together, peace on Earth."

Sasha took up the microphone to add in Russian, "Mir na zemle, mir na zemle." The crowd roared.

Sonoda, a 17-year-old student at Steller Secondary School, delivered the climactic message at the concert with the help of the Martin Luther King Anchorage Community Choir. They were joined on stage for the final number by the Anchorage Children's Choir.

From the moment the brightly clad members of the Pokrovsky Singers marched down the left aisle in a boisterous rendition of a Russian folk song, the sellout crowd sizzled with energy. When the singers urged the audience to "hoot" for the return of spring, it responded with a resounding "HOOT!"

And when the Chevak Eskimo dancers gave the word, 2,000 pairs of hands waved in the air on cue.

For Anchorage residents who hadn't experienced the Soviet visit this week, it was a chance to

See Songs, page A-8

Times photos by AL GRILLO

Members of the Sun Dancers from Provideniya, U.S.S.R., above, perform in the glasnost folkfest at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts Friday night. Anchorage's Martin Luther King Singers, left, also performed in the fest.

Songs: Harmony

Continued from page A-1

hear the promise of peace firsthand.

"I didn't think I could miss it," said Barbara Hood of Anchorage during intermission. "It's a wonderful opportunity to see and listen to people from the Soviet Union."

That message wasn't lost on the crowd, which could be said to be highly partisan from the start. They didn't need any convincing.

"This is truly a historical event — an event many, if not most, people would have not thought possible four years ago," Caleb Pingowi, one of the masters of ceremony, told the crowd.

The audience took the cue and joined in, and soon many in the 2,070-seat auditorium were singing with hands raised.

When the Anchorage Children's Choir took the stage and sang a sweet rendition of "May There Always Be Sunshine," more than a few handkerchiefs emerged — especially when they translated in Russian, "Vsigda budiet solnse." The combination of emotional lyrics and adorable children dressed in red and white ruffles pushed the goodwill quotient sky high.

As Sonoda, the soloist, said before the show, "If we all stand together as a whole, no matter what race we are, what color we are, we can have peace on Earth."

Folkfest: Building bridges thro

By CATHERINE STADEM
Times Arts Editor

It was a love fest. It was a happening. It was a peace rally. It was the '60s all over again — but this time with a Russian accent.

Friday night's Glasnost Folkfest at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts definitely was *the* social event of the season.

The 2,070-seat Atwood Concert Hall was jammed. People large and small, Soviet and Alaskan, Yupik and Siberian Eskimo, decked out in furs and jewels and jeans and cowboy boots, sat side by side, friend-to-friend, as they say in Russian, *droog-droogoo.*

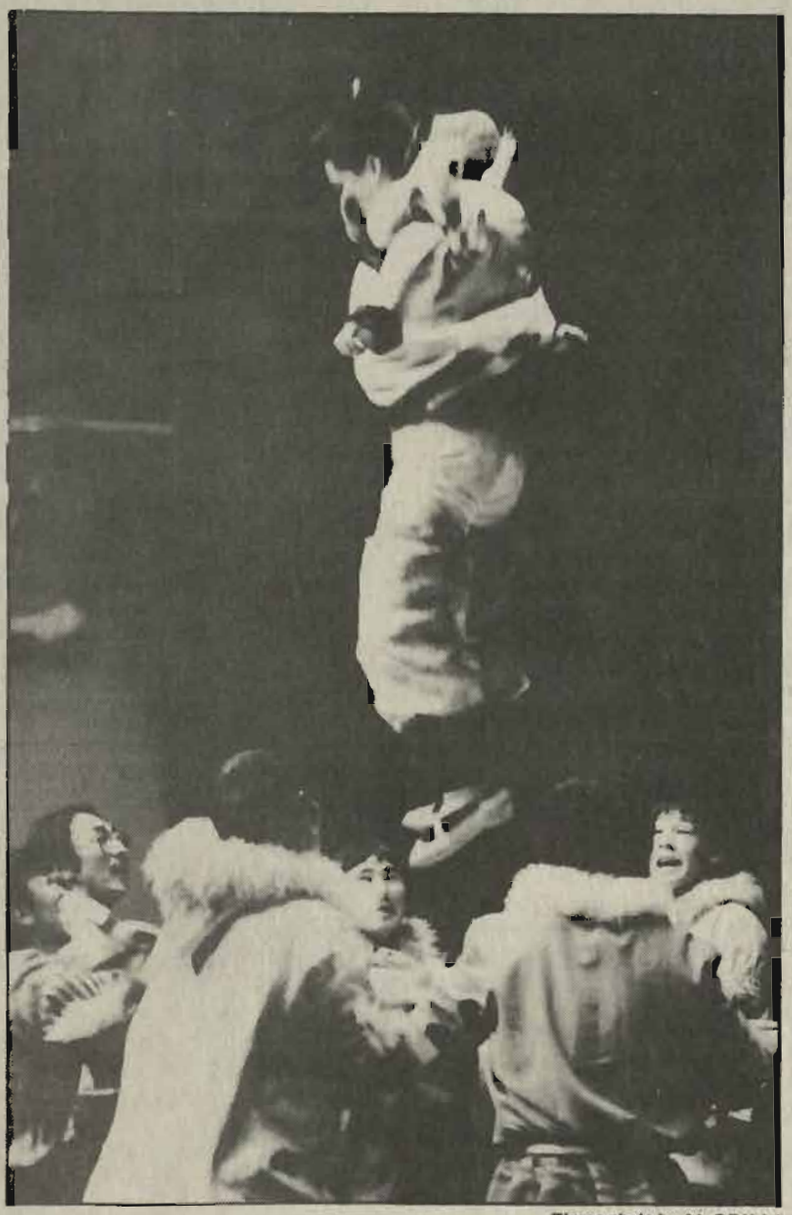
Review

The message, perhaps best delivered by Dmitri Pokrovsky, leader of the Pokrovsky Singers from the U.S.S.R., was: "People would undersand each other better if they would sing together more often."

And sing they did. While the brilliantly-costumed Pokrovsky Singers sang ancient Russian folk songs, they encouraged the audience to join in with hoots and howls.

It was an evening for joining together. When internationally known Yupik storyteller Chuna McIntyre, from Eek, gave a salute to peace, he told the theatergoers to "join your hands and your minds across to our friends in the Soviet Union." They did.

The 2½-hour show opened with Eskimo dancing by the colorful Novo Chaplino troupe, who were later joined on stage by their Siberian relatives. Although taking photographs inside a theater during performance is usually forbidden, the foreign and local press snapped away with cameras — eventually causing flashbulbs to pop throughout the hall as anyone with an instamatic recorded the event for posterity.



Times photo by AL GRILLO

Folkfest activities included a traditional Eskimo blanket toss.

The Novo Chaplinos sang "welcome sun," symbolically signifying the parting of political clouds that have prevented the indigenous northern peoples from being united.

The evening's honored guest was Dixie Belcher, a Juneau resident who founded Camai, which means peace in Yupik. It has been through her efforts that the ice curtain is finally parting.

The Chevak Dancers, directed by Josh Weiser, performed an energetic and often funny friendship dance. One of the lead dancers, clad in traditional parka, said the ancient greeting words, "Welcome to our great meeting house — I hope your trip by dog sled was a good one."

Their number included a blan-

ugh song

ket toss, called Sending Someone to the Moon. "This is how we went to the moon in the old days," said commentator McIntyre, "by sealskin."

Anchorage was represented by the Martin Luther King Choir, a chorus of about 100 voices, whose members are black, white and Asian. They were led by guest conductor Dorothy Grant, a gospel choir director from Detroit.

Sharon Osborne, the lead singer with the Paul Winter Consort for eight years, joined the MLK choir. Her voice — a rich mixture of soft jazz with revival undertones — soared to the hall's Aurora Borealis acoustic ceiling and engulfed many in the crowd with emotion.

The 120-member Anchorage Children's Choir, dressed in red, white and black uniforms, filed on the by-then crowded stage and stole everyone's heart with their rendition of the international favorite, "May There Always Be Sunshine." The children, ranging in ages from 5 to 15, sang a stanza in Russian, *vsigda budiet solnse*, that brought tears to the eyes of many.

The concert closed with a sample of Russian rock by the group Stas Namin. Lead singer Sasha, a tall blonde with a voice somewhere between early Neil Diamond and Bruce Springsteen, screamed into the microphone — in excellent English and Russian — "I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL." Eventually, those in the audience who knew Russian (and who love rock 'n' roll) joined in with "*Ya Lyublyu Toylka Rock and Roll.*"

When it was all over, it was clear something important was beginning. Dixie Belcher spoke into the microphone, "Welcome to a new era."

Catherine Stadem is a 1985 Fellow of the National Critics Institute.

chorage Journal

oviet Rock-and-Roll Bridges the Bering Strait

By RICHARD MAUER

Special to The New York Times

ANCHORAGE, Feb. 26 — With enough decibels to shatter the remnants of the Curtain" that sealed Alaska's ern border for four decades, et and American rock stars ted out a farewell Saturday to xtraordinary week-long en- ter.

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didn't understand a word they e speaking, but the energy!" Debby Wessler, herself a blue- s musician who attended out riosity and left amazed at how American musical form had interpreted. "It was so very sian to me."

• • •

ie visitors came across the Be- Strait along with Soviet offi- s, Eskimos with relatives in ka, folk artists and journalists result of three years of per- l diplomacy by a Juneau an, Dixie Belcher.

wanted the straits to open," said, "and I wanted traffic and forth.

wanted a traffic jam in the its."

s. Belcher hasn't quite got her

One woman wins with personal diplomacy.

traffic jam. But her persistence, developed as a gadfly fighting city hall and the State Legislature, and a growing awareness in Alaska that the Soviet Far East offers a vast untapped market, have come at a time when the leadership in Moscow is eager to open up to the West.

• • •

For the first time, a chartered Aeroflot jetliner flew across the Bering Sea on Feb. 20 and landed in Anchorage, carrying more than 90 visitors to Alaska. For the next six days, the Soviet residents were showing up all over the state. They spoke to the Legislature and at schools. They moved in with hosts in Anchorage. They appeared at business lunches and at Alaska Native gatherings.

Two Soviet officials from the Magadan region, joined by Soviet, Japanese and American journalists, had an emotional visit with the 400 Alaskans of the Kenai Peninsula village of Nikolaevsk. The villagers are fundamentalists of the Russian Orthodox church who call themselves the Old Believers. They descend from people who fled Russia for China at the time of the Bolshevik revolution, then moved to Oregon when the Chinese also turned to Communism. They settled in Nikolaevsk 20 years ago and still speak Russian as their primary language.

Vyacheslav Kobets, executive committee chairman of the Magadan Regional Soviet, said he came not to make propaganda but to see

The New York Times/Fran Durner

Sasna Ivanov of the Soviet theatrical rock group Rondo performing Saturday at Sullivan arena in Anchorage.

American Russians.

"All we wanted was to look at their eyes and to find out how they make it possible to keep their traditions, and to wonder if they need some help," Mr. Kobets told the reporters who accompanied him. "Maybe we could help them to preserve Russian culture and language."

The Soviet tour, which ends when the visitors leave for home Monday, was jointly sponsored by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Belcher's cultural organization, Camai. The group takes its name from the Yupik Eskimo word for hello.

• • •

Ms. Belcher was a probation officer working for the state and a "social irritant" at Juneau City Council meetings in 1985 when it dawned on her that perhaps she could do something about the ban on visits by Eskimos in western Alaska with their families and friends in the Soviet Far East. The ban dates from the 1940's.

By prodding and pushing, she was able to pry open the door a bit in 1986 when she arranged a tour of Eskimo performers to the Soviet Union. There she made contacts with officials allied with the Soviet leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev. "Some of them became important people," she said.

Her mission evolved into an obsession, financed through mortgages on her home and with some assistance from Alaskan businesses. Last year, she was in Moscow at the time of the summit between Mr. Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, and she was introduced to Stas Namin, a rock star with unusual influence in official circles.

"I said we've got have a celebration," Ms. Belcher recalled. "He said, 'Let's do it in Alaska.' " There was a period of difficult wrangling over permission for as few as three dozen people to somehow get to Alaska. The only way open at that time was through Tokyo or a European city. Then Aeroflot suddenly agreed to provide the charter, and the tour group tripled in size.

"I think people need to reach out as people, and not leave it to the diplomats," Ms. Belcher said. "The diplomats are not working."

THE WASHINGTON POST
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1989

Alaska, Siberia Thaw Relations With a Party

Trade Negotiations Mix With Rock 'n' Roll

By Jay Mathews
Washington Post Staff Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Feb. 21—Like young neighbors kept apart too long by an old family feud, the people of Alaska and Siberia suddenly are releasing years of repressed curiosity and affection in a boisterous, weeklong get-acquainted party—a diplomatic, scientific and cultural extravaganza never seen in this frozen metropolis.

Since Monday, 90 Soviet visitors have smiled, waved and fielded questions at most of Anchorage's public schools. They have spent the night tucked warmly into beds in dozens of Alaskan homes and fanned out in cold, dim, winter daylight for negotiations on new trade and travel agreements.

Before seven days of frantic activity end, Soviet and American groups are to hold a landmark "Superpower Rock 'n' Roll Concert." Eskimo dancers from both countries are to present a "Glasnost Folk Fest" and plans are to be announced for an Arctic version of the Lewis and Clark expedition—a 1,200-mile Siberia-to-Alaska ski trek across the frozen Bering Strait.

The outpouring extends to the capital at Juneau and several small villages and climaxes months of planning and preliminary exchanges at the only place where the superpower borders touch.

The trade discussions alone have reached the point that Gunnar Knapp, associate professor of economics at the University of Alaska, said, "This isn't just for show so we'll look good. We're actually going to have regular commerce."

"You've got two frontier areas," said Ginna Brelsford, international trade specialist for Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper (D) and a member of the planned 1,200-mile ski expedition. "In foreign policy and trade, Moscow and Washington can afford to allow all kinds of interesting things to happen here."

At this great distance from the intense media and bureaucratic activity of their national capitals, Alaskans and the visitors from the Soviet Far East say they can indulge their intense mutual interest in each other without great concern about a disabling diplomatic mishap.

The high spirits displayed on Anchorage's gritty streets recall well-publicized events, such as last year's Friendship Flight of Alaskan dignitaries to Siberia and U.S.-Soviet cooperation in the rescue of two icebound whales, state officials said.

They also derive from lesser-known events of diplomatic significance, particularly last-minute clearance for a recent Siberian visit by U.S. cruise-ship passengers and permission for U.S. National Guard aircraft to fly over Soviet territory during a successful search for lost walrus hunters.

Cowper, state and city officials and a crush of schoolchildren and business executives greeted the Soviet delegation when it arrived in a special Aeroflot jetliner Monday. Several travelers immediately set out to shop in local malls.

Today, the visitors went to 50 of the 75 public schools in Anchorage, making immediate contact with most of the area's schoolchildren.

The Soviets include the rock group Stas Namin, which has sold more than 40 million records; the chairman and party first secretary of the Magadan territory opposite Alaska; several trade, health and cultural officials; three Magadan junior high students; several Eskimos and correspondents for several Soviet newspapers and press agencies.

A group of elementary-school students from Soldotna on the Kenai Peninsula south of Anchorage plans to return with the Soviets to visit Magadan.

State Department officials are expected in Anchorage this week for talks with Stepan Mazepa, an official of the Soviet ministry of foreign affairs, and others.

Officials had hoped to have President Bush join the festivities during a planned refueling stop here Wednesday morning on his trip to Tokyo. But Bush has scheduled only brief airport remarks.

The U.S. tourist industry wants clearance for regular flights and cruises to the Soviet Far East, the Soviets want a joint border commission to deal with unauthorized crossings and Eskimos seek permission to cross the Bering Strait to visit relatives or trade.

BY BRAD WYE—THE WASHINGTON P

Vyacheslav Kobets, chairman of the Magadan Territory executive committee, has begun further discussions with Cowper on how to implement the Magadan-Alaska trade agreement signed last year.

Knapp said Kobets is particularly eager for a joint venture with Indian Valley Meats, an Alaskan smoke shop, to use U.S. technology in expanding Soviet production of succulent gourmet reindeer sausage. There also are proposals for joint ventures in fishing, telecommunications and crafts.

Several obstacles must be removed before any of this happens. Air links across the strait are so poor that, when Anchorage Daily News reporter Hal Bernton went to Magadan in a journalistic exchange recently, he had to go half a world out of his way via Copenhagen and Moscow.

Rubles cannot be exchanged for dollars, forcing a kind of barter trade, and the thicket of military installations on both sides of the strait make officials in Moscow and Washington nervous about visits to restricted areas.

The visit here also highlighted the fact that U.S. tariffs on Soviet goods remain relatively high. The Soviet delegation brought furs and handicrafts that have not cleared customs at the airport.

Another obstacle is the Sov Far East's dark past. Magadan w an arrival point for millions of c litical prisoners who suffered a died in frozen gold and coal mine something the Soviets now are wi ing to discuss.

Bernton was allowed a lengt interview with an elderly Magac resident who spent more than decade in a labor camp because poetry club was thought subversiv

Both sides appear particular interested in encouraging appre ation of the native Arctic culture Coordinator Doug Van Etten, Anchorage teacher, said procee from two concerts this weekend a to finance a round-the-world tour an Alaska-Siberia Eskimo song-an dance troupe.

The ski expedition, to be led polar explorers Dimitry Shparo, Soviet, and Paul Schurke, an Ame ican, is to visit dozens of native se tlements during the 50-day tre beginning March 1.

Brelsford, skiing 20 kilometers day in preparation, said, "I've neve been so challenged in my life Solotna's schoolchildren have bee studying Soviet culture and la guage for months, teacher Lar Rockhill said.

Van Etten has his plan for a jo summer expedition of sea kayaks.

"It used to seem, sitting in Ala ka, like the world ended at the tip the Seward Peninsula," Knapp sa "Now it's a very different feeling."

'Ice Wall' falls to rock 'n' roll

By RICHARD MAUER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ANCHORAGE – With enough decibels to shatter the remnants of the "Ice Curtain" that sealed Alaska's western border for four decades, Soviet and American rock stars blasted out a farewell Saturday to an extraordinary week-long encounter.

It was Superpower Rock 'n' Roll at the Sullivan Sports Arena in Anchorage. The only Soviet citizens who had previously performed there were hockey players,

The Stas Namin Group, one of Moscow's hottest bands, had a near sell-out crowd of 4,000 fans dancing in the aisles and singing in Russian, "I like only rock 'n' roll."

The band shared the bill with Eddie Money, a New York City policeman turned rock star, and a theatrical Soviet rock group, Rondo, that thrilled the audience with unusual melodic tunes set against a heavy beat.

"I didn't understand a word they were speaking, but the energy!" said Debby Wessler, herself a bluegrass musician who attended out of curiosity and left amazed at how the American musical form had been interpreted. "It was so very Russian to me."

The visitors came across the Bering Strait along with Soviet officials, Eskimos with relatives in Alaska, folk artists and journalists as a result of three years of personal diplomacy by a Juneau woman, Dixie Belcher.

"I wanted the straits to open," she said, "and I wanted traffic back and forth.

"I wanted a traffic jam in the straits."

Belcher hasn't quite got her traffic jam. But her persistence and a growing awareness in Alaska that the Soviet Far East offers a vast untapped market, have come at a time when the leadership in Moscow is eager to open up to the West.

For the first time, a chartered Aeroflot jetliner flew across the Bering Sea on Feb. 20 and landed in Anchorage, carrying more than 90 visitors to Alaska.

For the next six days, the Soviet residents were showing up all over the state. They spoke to the legislature and at schools. They moved in with hosts in Anchorage. They appeared at business lunches and at Alaska Native gatherings.

Two Soviet officials from the Magadan region, joined by Soviet, Japanese and American journalists, had an emotional visit with the 400 Alaskans of the Kenai Peninsula village of Nikolaevsk.

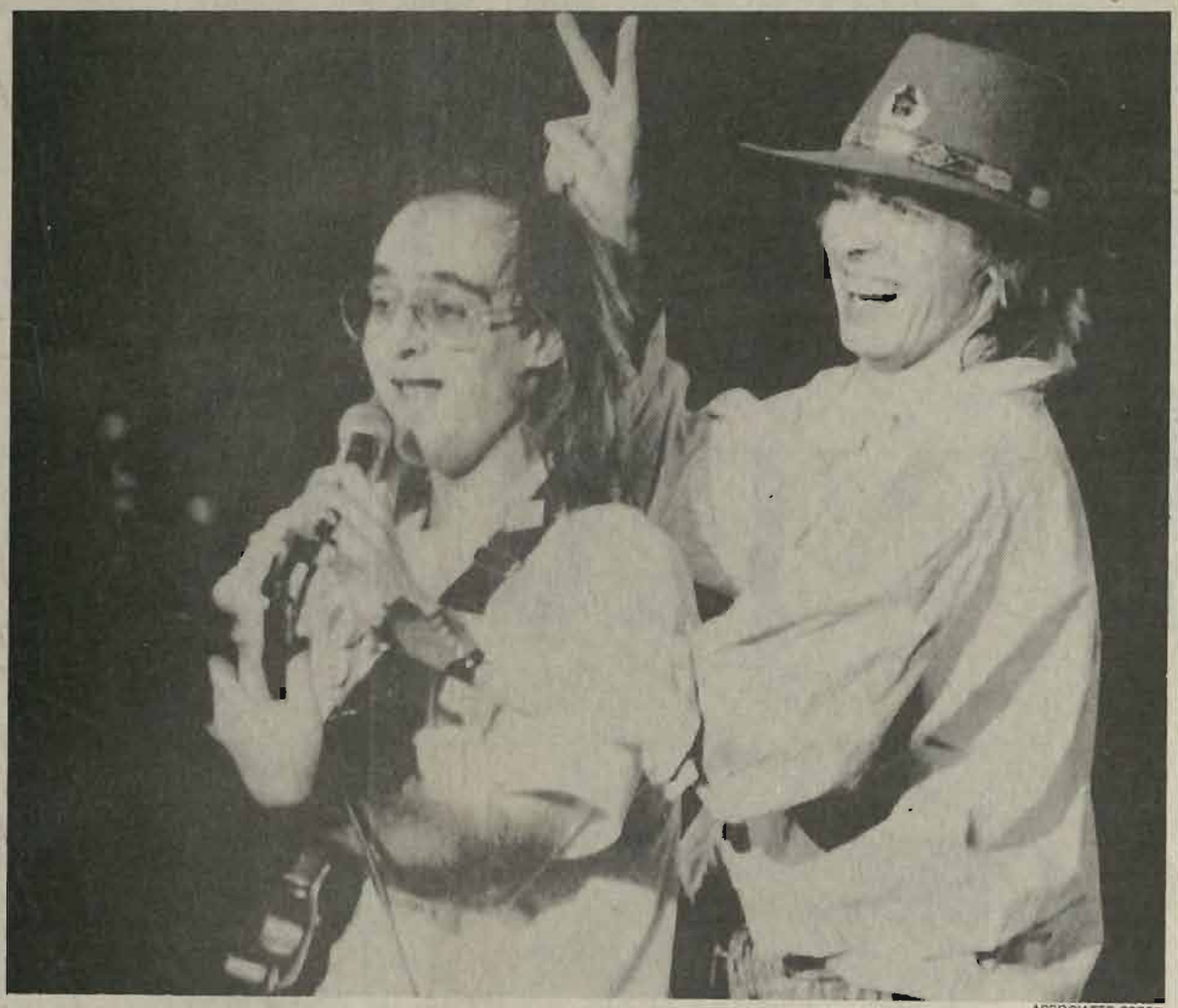
The villagers are fundamentalists of the Russian Orthodox church who call themselves the Old Believers.

They descend from people who fled Russia for China at the time of the Bolshevik revolution, then moved to Oregon when the Chinese also turned to communism. They settled in Nikolaevsk 20 years ago and still speak Russian as their primary language.

Vyacheslav Kobets, executive committee chairman of the Magadan Regional Soviet, said he came not to make propaganda but to see American Russians.

"All we wanted was to look at their eyes and to find out how they make it possible to keep their traditions, and to wonder if they need some help," Kobets told the reporters who accompanied him. "Maybe we could help them to preserve Russian culture and language."

The Soviet tour, which ended when the visitors left for home to-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamming it up: Soviet rock stars Sergey Markin, left, and Alexander Losev in Anchorage on Saturday night.

day, was jointly sponsored by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and Belcher's cultural organization, Camai. The group takes its name from the Yupik Eskimo word for hello.

It was earlier this decade, while using music as a means to fight a proposed capital move, that it dawned on Belcher that music was also perhaps a means to reach across international boundaries. She decided she wanted to do something about the ban on visits by Eskimos in western Alaska with their families and friends in the Soviet Far East.

By prodding and pushing, she was able to pry open the door a bit in 1986 when she arranged a tour of Eskimo performers to the Soviet Union.

There she made contacts with officials allied with the Soviet leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Her mission evolved into an obsession, financed through mortgages on her home and with some assistance from Alaska businesses.

Last year, she was in Moscow at the time of the summit between Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, and she was introduced to Stas Namin, a rock star.

"I said we've got have a celebration," Belcher recalled. "He said, 'Let's do it in Alaska.'" There was a period of difficult wrangling over permission for as few as three dozen people to somehow get to Alaska.

"I think people need to reach out as people, and not leave it to the diplomats," Belcher said. "The diplomats are not working."

Thank you, Valentina

Your insight helps bridge the gap between two not-so-different lands

I feel like I've fallen into a vat of chocolate and nearly drowned from the sweetness of the experience.

(If my English sounds labored, bear with me. It's because I've been speaking Russian all week long and I'm told it's common to speak fractured English when you're suddenly immersed in another language.)

Yes, the Russians did invade Anchorage, as you have been reading daily elsewhere in this newspaper and seeing on television.

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

So, today's column is about my Soviet houseguest, a little bit about language arts, and a whole lot about the invisible bridge that exists between our countries.

Several years ago, I studied the Russian language for a few years in college. Like many experiences in life, I didn't know why I was doing it. Maybe I was curious because I loved Russian literature and music. As they say in the Soviet Union, "Who knows? Only God knows."

Although I eventually spent a few weeks in the Soviet Union in the mid-'70s, ostensibly speaking Russian most of the time for college credit, it was *nothing* like having a non-English-speaking house guest for eight days.

That said, I would like to introduce you to my guest, Valentina Davidovna Golubchikova — which loosely translated might mean in English: Valentine, daughter of David, last name Darling. You will be reading her byline in The Times within a few weeks; she has agreed to write a guest article for us.

Meeting this charming red-haired woman, whose sparkling green eyes are the color of apple jade, has been nothing short of extraordinary.

The first day with Valentina was scary. My Russian was about at a 3-year-old's level. By the second day, I had skipped a few years to a 5-year-old's level. By the fourth day, I was speaking like an 8-year-old. And today, my seventh day, I've probably hit a plateau at about age 10. It's nice to be young again, but let me tell you — such a growth spurt is exhausting.

Valentina is the editor of a magazine called "Severnye Prostory" ("Northlands") which is published six times a year in Moscow and read by about 90,000 people living on the "north slope" of the Soviet Union and in Siberia. "It was born of perestroika," she said of her publication. Now only three years old, the magazine's circulation has doubled in the last year.

In the arctic region and Siberia, there are 26 indigenous tribes of natives peoples, each with its own unique cultural heritage. Valentina's mission is to

See Valentina, page E-5

Valentina: Insight

Continued from page E-1

expose the social problems of these people to help them find pride and dignity in their own cultures. There is a lost and confused generation of native peoples in the U.S.S.R., just as we have in the United States, I learned.

At an extremely interesting press seminar Wednesday night, Valentina explained with great emotion that she came to Alaska as one of the 90 visiting Soviets to find answers to her country's problems with cultural displacement. She thought that since we had solved such problems, she would be able to study our solutions. What she found instead, she said, was the fact that we have not — as a people and as a government — come to terms with such problems either. Her revelation has been that, essentially, both countries are in the same boat with such problems.

It's one world, she continued, her voice filled with passion, and just as there is an ecological balance with which we must be concerned, there is also a symbiotic relationship between cultures.

Her short speech was enormously moving to me — and I think to many in the audience.

Her message carried a warning: if we *all* don't act quickly to provide a nurturing environment for indigenous people — whom we have displaced — it may be too late for them and for us.

"It takes genius to live in the far north," she said, and for that reason it should be treasured. Should just one of those gene pools be lost, taking with it all the accumulated knowledge of its history, the entire world will be impoverished, she said.

Listening to her helped me put

Valentina Golubchikova
... 'it's one world'

into perspective many things and confirmed some of my own beliefs. Those of you who read this column regularly already know what I mean. It's very hard for me to put this into words, but I'll try.

We cannot separate visual art, music, dance and literature — those things about which you read every Sunday in these pages — from our daily lives. No people can afford to do that because these things are integral to our humanity. They make us *what we are* — whether our skins are white, black, brown; whether we speak English, Russian or Yupik; whether we carve ivory or paint in watercolor; whether we sing or play flutes or drums.

We are all one in one very small world.

Catherine Stadem is The Times arts editor.

We can work together

Alaskans witnessed an incredible event last week as more than 90 Soviets landed their Aeroflot jet at Anchorage International Airport to start a week-long visit to our state.

The delegation included some of the Soviet Union's top rock musicians, folk singers and dancers, government officials, Native performers and journalists. They were brought to Anchorage by Dixie Belcher of Juneau and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

The visitors did everything from touring Anchorage shopping malls to discussing the effects of *glastnot* and *perestroika* on the media of the Soviet Union. Two of the Soviet journalists even covered President George Bush's Wednesday morning visit to Elmendorf Air Force Base.

It's way too early to predict what the effects of this visit will be, but we can only hope that this opening of the border between the United States and the Soviet Union will prove to be one more step toward open communication between the two superpowers.

In his brief speech to Alaskans gathered at Hangar One, President Bush stressed the idea that the United States is indeed a Pacific power, as well as an Atlantic power. That's not news to Alaskans, but it was important for the president to make the statement.

Unfortunately, the president did not choose to mention the Soviet Union, another Pacific power.

The *Tundra Times* has long called for an opening of the Bering Strait to travel by Alaska Eskimos who have relatives and friends in the Soviet Union. These people have been prevented from traveling freely back and forth for more than 40 years.

We're pleased to see that Sen. Frank Murkowski and Gov. Steve Cowper appear to be putting much effort into winning this battle. We hope this visit is another victory for them.

But another important arena is what could be accomplished if the Soviet Union and the United States worked together to solve fisheries problems in the Bering Sea.

These are just two examples of what can be done if the Soviet Union's policies are allowed to continue. There are many others.

We wish our Soviet visitors well, and we hope they take back memories of goodwill in Alaska. The more we learn about each other as human beings, the more we will be able to accomplish.

Tundra Times

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, Calif. 90503

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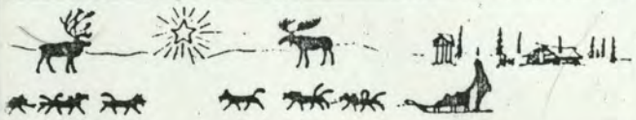

dra Times

Soviet writers discuss role of perestroika

By Jennifer Gordon
Tundra Times reporter

Soviet journalists have more freedom since the initiation of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, but the press is only now exploring the limits of this new freedom and many are cautious of the new ideology, journalists from the Soviet Union, Alaska and Canada said Wednesday night.

They spoke as part of a panel sponsored by the Alaska Press Club to discuss Soviet journalism.

"When Americans speak of *glastnost*, we think they enjoy it maybe more than we do," said Gennady Alferenko, chairman of the Fund for Social Invention.

For the first time, he said, people in the Soviet Union have the freedom to speak their beliefs, and thanks to journalistic power, they have the power to act on those beliefs as well.

Aleksy Bukalov, a correspondent for the Soviet journal *Novoye Vremya*, meaning "New Time," said that there is another side to *perestroika*. He said he works at a Soviet journal that only printed international politics before the change. Now, the journal has a page on local news — a change created for the people's interests.

Bukalov said that Soviets are interested not only in the problems of their country, but in the facts.

Facts and Arguments, a weekly paper in the Soviet Union, printed 800,000 copies last year, Bukalov said. This year, the circulation went up to 20 million copies.

Yuri Ustmenko, correspondent for the news agency "TASS," said that one reason that the people of the Soviet Union are concerned with figures and facts, is that they still do not trust Soviet journalists.

He said that to him, *glastnost* means that when Gorbachov speaks, the reader gets the correspondent's view of the speech, not the government's view.

Valentina Golubchikova, assistant editor in chief of *Severnye Prostory*, meaning "Northlands," said that *glastnost* will be the link between the Soviet Union and Alaska to find ways to help the Native communities of both countries. There are 26 minorities in the Soviet Far North, she said and added that many people in the Soviet Union view the Natives as people condemned to disappear.

She said she believed when she came to Alaska that the problems facing Natives would be solved in this

and the Rolling Stones, "because they were aggressive." According to Sasha, "American music and English music is a good school for (a beginning) musician."

He also feels there are only two types of music, "good and bad." With this he breaks out dancing in his chair and singing the Michael Jackson tune, "Because I'm bad, I'm bad..."

When Sasha is on stage, he feels an "energy exchange" between the audience because he had a great idea. Your condition of life depends on yourself (how hard you work)."

According to Sasha, before reforms were implemented there was a lot of censorship and regulation, now it has become easier to play what you wish.

Most of *Stas Namin's* songs are about life and the emotions and situations involved. A few songs have political lyrics, and only recently has the group felt

the station, which mixes all formats, everything from folk and classic to rock and news.

Twenty years ago, when Sasha joined *Stas Namin*, his mother thought maybe he was "stupid." Now, Sasha says, "maybe she was wrong."

Lingering over some genuine Alaskan vodka, Sasha began talking about drinking games in the Soviet Union. In one, everyone playing sits around a table and

favorites are fruits and juices, which are hard to come by in the cold climate of Russia. He says, "Americans don't *eat* food, they *kill* food." They eat more for quantity than quality, he says.

When asked if there is something he wants to take back home with him, Sasha replies, "the warmth of the American people."

Glastnost festival warms the cold front

Continued from page 13

"Glasnost Folkfest." Relatives were able to dance with their families again and carry forward their traditions.

Esthero Davison of Gambell also travelled to Siberia in 1986 with the dance group and rediscovered friends and family she hadn't seen in 70 years. Her impressions of the people and the Soviet Union prepared her for seeing them again here in Anchorage.

"When I found out how friendly they are I feel at home and also I found out that the land is really a land of music, all kinds of music," Davison said.

Getting to know the Russians is something the young people as well as the old need to experience, Davison said .

"I wish our children would learn more about them because some of our young people do not know them. When they get used to them and know them, they will cling to them."

Becoming acquainted with the Soviets and their music posed no problems for the audience. The Pokrovsky Singers made their entrance through the audience, dancing and singing their way to the stage. Their energetic, joyous voices and the harmony of the old traditional ballads and songs they sang gave the audience a view into the heart and soul of Russia.

Dmitri Pokrovsky, the leader of the group, received a roar of applause when he said, through an interpreter, "The song is the soul of the people and I think the peoples will understand each other much better if they would sing together more often."

Every act and every performer seemed to communicate the same idea. Coming together in song an expression of hope was repeated by every group in some form. The performers gave their all as they rode the crest of audience feedback.

In the second half of the program, there was a shift from the traditional Alaskan dances and Soviet songs, to a modern American style of music presented by the Martin Luther King Anchorage Community Choir.

With their rocking gospel songs and a special appearance by Susan Osborne, a gospel singer from the east coast, the Martin Luther King Choir maintained the energy created by the native and Soviet groups, giving the theme of hope and communication in a modern perspective.

In the end, it was the children who brought the message home. An Anchorage children's choir sang of peace and hope in beautiful synchronization and harmony, representing the faith they have that the future will be even brighter.

It seemed that this was all the audience could ask for, but just as the show seemed to be winding down, the Soviet rock band *Stas Namin* came on stage and brought the house down with high energy, solid beat rock and roll.

Not scheduled to perform before Saturday night at the Sullivan, *Stas Namin* shook the rafters with three songs in Russian and one well-done song in English.

Dispelling all doubts as to whether a Soviet band could tap into the great mystique of rock and roll, the spirited, talented five-member ensemble established themselves as a true rock and roll entity in Alaska.

This sense of concern about the future and communication in the present was the main theme for the whole folkfestival. Through combined singing and dancing in every phase of the show the performers expressed the fervent desire that the bridge across the waters be fortified with public support.

By the end of the peformance the audience was standing, singing and waving their arms over their heads along with the performers; natives from Alaska and Siberia, the Soviet folk singers and the combined Martin Luther King and children's choirs.

The evening brought people from around the world closer together and established a bond that will survive the distance between cultures and countries. As the audience left the ACPA that evening they were singing newly learned songs of peace and smiling with the pleasure of new found friends.

No longer is the philosophy about the visit with the Soviets described as, "we are all the same." Now the feeling seems to be "we are all headed in the same direction, across the Bering Sea Bridge of music and song."

lead singer Alexandr Losev (Sasha) delivered his lyrics with a force and sophistication that only comes from 20 years of the music business and all the ups and

more freedom and has helped Soviet bands such as *Rondo* and *Gorky Park* – which is the number one band in the USSR – get started.

Th ended with the audience on its feet, demanding an encore. The band responded by teaching the crowd how to sing the chorus of *'I Love Only Rock and Roll'* in Russian, and everybody

"This is a big-league event people! didn't have to go there like *Bon Jovi* and *Santana*. They came here. *They came here*," Money said.

Crowds enjoy the Summit of Rock

Continued from page 15

himself on the stage and sang the words with little difficulty as the audience held up lighter-flames of peace in tribute to the Soviet rockers who clearly understood what the power of rock 'n roll can really do.

When *Stas Namin* took the stage the audience immediately felt the change to a heavier beat and message. Calm and cool lead singer Alexandr Losev (Sasha) delivered his lyrics with a force and sophistication that only comes from 20 years of the music business and all the ups and downs that go with it.

Offstage, Sasha has been called a soft-spoken diplomat. But on stage he is the rockstar, moving to the beat and enchanting the audience with charismatic style.

While the band *Stas Namin* played on stage, the man for whom the band was named wandered through the audience. The super-star, soviet rocker Stas Namin, who arrived in Anchorage on Friday, walked down the aisle, totally anonymous to the American audience and arena security. Namin had to flash his backstage pass each time he returned to the stage area.

Namin is the kingpin of rock in the USSR and his influence has been a major factor for the music business in his country. It was 20 years ago that he started the band *Stas Namin* under a governmental regime that was not encouraging of his art. Now he enjoys more freedom and has helped Soviet bands such as *Rondo* and *Gorky Park* – which is the number one band in the USSR – get started.

Namin now runs a private center in Moscow called the Stas Namin Center, that is known for its role in helping aspiring musicians. *Gorky Park* is now on tour in New Jersey.

Namin has had a lot of contact with American performers but there are stars that Namin respects above the others.

"The two that I count as friends, as well as great musicians, are Frank Zappa and Peter Gabriel," Namin said.

It was rumored that Namin might join his band on stage for a song or two. But he decided to stay in the shadows and continue the mystery of Stas Namin.

"I'm a backstage star," Namin said.

Namin's band did not suffer for his absence. Their last song was the band's, and Sasha's own testimony to the music they have dedicated their lives to.

"This song is called 'I Love Only Rock 'n Roll.' And I really do, I love only rock 'n roll," Sasha said.

The set ended with the audience on its feet, demanding an encore. The band responded by teaching the crowd how to sing the chorus of *'I Love Only Rock and Roll'* in Russian, and everybody sang. *Stas Namin* would have even had hardcore rock-lyric critics believing they loved rock.

When Eddie Money took the stage the crowd easily made the transition to good American Rock 'n Roll. There was dancing in the aisles as Money delivered one hit after another. Even Arliss Sturgelewski, state legislator, was bopping to the sounds as she stood tiptoe on her chair to get a better look at the stage.

In an interview, Sasha had promised an "explosion" at the end of the concert. What came was an explosion of melody, not only of music, but also of what is Russian and what is American. Eddie Money and his band were joined on stage by the members of *Rondo* and *Stas Namin* for two rock classics. Eddie and Sasha shared the lyrics in *"Born to be a Rock 'n Roll Star"* and *"Back in the USSR."*

"This is a big-league event people! We didn't have to go there like *Bon Jovi* and *Santana*. They came here. *They came here*," Money said.

As the bands took their bows and congratulated each other, the spotlight hit upon the giant-size flags of the USSR, the USA and Alaska, hanging together above the audience.

"We're building a better world," Money said as the audience clapped cheered and called the names of the stars. They too believed the Soviet visit is part of a progress towards a better world, and they know it is a world that moves to the beat of rock music.

Sasha lives life of Soviet rock and roller

Continued from page 14

about performing in America.

"Russians and Americans as a nation are more closer to each other. They have the same point of views, same feelings for the conditions of life, and the same sense and himself. He and the other group members project energy into the crowd, who in turn transform it and give it back to the performers through cheers and applause. This cycle continues until it finally ends in what he calls a "big comfortable singing them. Sasha says his views haven't changed since Gorbachev, it's just become easier to express them. This has made it easier for other groups to enter the music business, and with this Sasha hopes the rock industry in Russia finishes off a bottle of vodka or wine. One person then places the bottle in the center of the table and spins it. The person who is staring into the opening of the bottle when it stops spinning then receives a kiss from the person who initiated the

Soviets arrival makes history

By Sören Wuerth
Northern Light News Editor

As the Soviet Aeroflot plane rolled into Anchorage International Airport, people in the lobby began to get excited.

The Aeroflot plane, carrying 90 Soviets, had a large red Soviet flag and "CCCP" painted on its tail.

Anchorage area journalists gathered by the windows and photographers shot their film furiously.

"Journalists," a well-dressed man yelled.

From the end of a long ramp, several men, dressed in heavy fur coats, walked quickly to the press area. They melded with the other journalist and exchanged curious glances with the American press.

The Soviet's spoke like buzzing bees among themselves, but one finally got the courage to introduce himself.

"I'm Aleksandr Andorshin, Magadan correspondent for The Pravda Daily Newspaper," he said. "Thanks Alaska for an extra day in our life. We left Moscow yesterday tomorrow."

Soon the other member of the Soviet delegation arrived – dancers, dignitaries, Yupiks and even a group of hard rockers, who slapped their hands against the windows separating the lobby from customs and made funny faces.

As the Soviet first secretaries and chairmen walked from the customs area, they were greeted by a procession of press and Alaskan statesmen.

Gov. Steve Cowper, Anchorage Mayor Tom Fink and Congressman Don Young shook hands and warmly exchanged greetings with the statesmen.

After a few words from Cowper and a Russian statesman, Mayor Fink and Congressmen Young attempted to get a speech out over the microphone but it was lost in the confusion and excitement.

The procession drained downstairs into the main lobby of the airport, where the Soviets got a taste "Camai," or a warm Alaskan welcome.

See **Soviet** *page 13*

Yupiks strengthen relations

By Robert Devine
Northern Light Reporter

Siberian and Alaskan Yupiks joined together Feb. 22 for ceremonies filled with laughter and tears at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Sixty UAA students, staff and faculty members joined with other community members to welcome five Siberian Yupiks to the festivities of Soviet-American Friendship Week.

During the official reception in room F-138, Cuddy Center, UAA Chancellor Donald Behrend extended warm greetings, presented gifts and provided a feast unavailable in Siberian Russia - pizza!

More than a dozen Soviets arrived and warm smiles and laughter were shared by all.

But on a less conspicuous level, a human drama was unfolding.

The Siberian Yupiks had requested permission to visit their relatives living on St. Lawrence Island. In the U.S.A., freedom to visit one's family is taken for granted. But this human right has long been denied to many Yupik people.

For centuries, interrelated Yupik families have lived on both sides of the Bering Strait. Today many Yupiks dwelling on St. Lawrence Island are closely related to Yupiks living in Siberia.

Occasionally, a grand mirage called "fata morgana" brings the coastline of Siberia into plain view of the Yupiks on St. Lawrence. For more than four decades, fata morgana has been the only legal contact permitted between the Yupiks of St. Lawrence and their Siberian relatives.

Gone are the freedom-filled days when Yupik skin boats crossed the waters of the Bering Strait for family reunions and potlatches. Cold war politics put an end to all that.

Vera Kaneshiro, a UAA language instructor, knows about the hardships imposed upon Yupik people by extended separation. Kaneshiro, an Alaskan Yupik, was born on St. Lawrence Island.

See **American** *page 13*

Soviet neighbors visit Anchorage

Continued from page 11

A few of Soviets were introduced to their host families, who led their nervous guest quickly away.

"Look – Stas Namin, Rondo," a group cheered.

Several casually dressed men walked amidst a shuffling crew of reporters and cameramen. One was wearing a pair of Wayfarer sunglasses.

The band members eventually squeezed out of the crowd inside. They gathered by the front door and waited for their shuttle while a few lingering reporters tried to get quick interviews.

CHORDS OF HARMONY USA/USSR '89

Traditional dancers give emotional performance

By Nikishka Stewart
Northern Light Reporter

The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (ACPA) was the site of a once in a lifetime, joyous celebration of visiting artists and dignitaries from the Soviet Union and the United States on February 24.

The travelers shared music, hopes and dreams with Alaskans and other people from around the world in a night of entertainment that will not soon be forgotten.

The haste with which the production was staged was evident from the air of confusion that reigned before, during and after the show. But the failings were forgivable and actually made the event all the more personal.

Instead of being a polished, slick Broadway style production, the Soviet/American Reunion 1989 "Glasnost Folkfest" was an emotional meeting of friends, old and new.

Chuna McIntyre and his Yupik dancers introduced the evening's events. The humor they expressed and the intensity of the dancing captivated the audience right from the start.

Their authentic re-creation and explanation of the dramatic and comedic dances was a mini-history lesson for those in the audience unfamiliar with the artistic expressions found in native cultures.

The Chevak dancers are a Chupik Inupiaq group from near Bethel. These people traveled to the Soviet Union in 1986 in the cultural exchange group that went over from Alaska.

After one segment of dances by the Chevak dancers their Siberian counterparts came onstage and joined in with their own selections and then a group dance.

The pride and assertion with which these Soviet Eskimos performed took the audience back in time to the village shores as the hunters prepared for war.

"I had fun over there. I wouldn't mind going back again," said Xavier Norteck, a Chevak dancer who travelled with the group in 1986.

The relationships established in 1986 were renewed during the

*See **Glasnost** page 25*

Northern light/Ken Foley

Traditional Native dancer at the Folkfest '89.

American, Soviet Yupiks swap history and books

Continued from page 11

Indeed, the reunion of Alaskan and Siberian Yupiks at UAA took place in her classroom.

Much about the Yupik way of life has changed during the last 40 years.

Even the Yupik language has changed somewhat. Siberian Yupiks speak a dialect increasingly influenced by the Russian language. And the Alaskan dialect reflects English influences.

Thus during their reunion at UAA, the Yupik people concerned themselves with preservation of a language uniquely their own.

For hours they spoke Yupik, talking about Yupik history and sharing Yupik books. One book, written for Yupik school children, tells of a language that was quite small, until, like the embers of a fire, it grew into a great flame.

Lighthearted moments arose often as they swapped stories.

The eyes of one Yupik twinkled as she talked. A very enthused Siberian woman had accompanied her on a whirlwind shopping spree. But a tight schedule soon required the Siberian woman to join with other Siberians for rehearsal of a big dance number.

The Siberian woman protested that she already knew how to dance, and continued to shop. According to the teller of this tale, the woman had "fallen under the spell of an Anchorage mall."

During the festivities, Elaine Abraham of the Native Student Services, removed her handmade raven necklace and placed it around the neck of Ludmilla Ainana, Siberian education researcher. "We are family," Abraham said.

Shortly thereafter, tears in her eyes, Ainana spoke.

"Those of us who are sitting here, we are sitting here in peace, and war is far from our minds," she said. "This is what getting together should be all about. It seems as though the storm has passed. Everywhere we go, American people are very friendly."

Yes, the warmth of people meeting people in friendship was in evidence everywhere in that room. Yet something very important was missing.

"It is ironic," said Donna Willoya of Native Student Services. "These Siberian people can visit faraway Anchorage, but they cannot visit their own relatives living on St. Lawrence Island."

But this story has a happy ending, of sorts.

According to Abraham, two days after the get-together, government officials visited UAA will be permitted to join in a history making reunion with their relatives on St. Lawrence Island.

However, for the general Yupik population in Siberia and Alaska, no such rights have been granted. To this day, Yupik people die within miles of their relatives across the Bering Strait without ever having met them face to face.

Visit with Soviets dispels many myths

By Sören Wuerth
Northern Light News Editor

One day with a few Soviets can dispel a lot of myths.

The Pokrovski dance group of about 16 members was at the University of Alaska Anchorage by chance. Their driver didn't exactly know where to take the performers, so when someone yelled out "UAA" the driver carted the curious travelers to Anchorage's beloved campus.

Once the dancers were here, they lounged wearily in building K, exhausted from the day's activities and confusion. They collected in the Counseling and Growth Center, and most of them dozed off in chairs.

Outside the dividers surrounding the Center, students walked to and from their classes unaware that people from a culture entirely unique sat yards away.

Meanwhile, a nervous driver frantically called the Egan Center, or "the HUB," trying to find out where they were supposed to be.

Finally, after much miscommunication, the group followed each other to the front of building A and waited for someone to drive them somewhere. There, they still weren't really sure what was going on.

A few of the Soviets took out wooden wind instruments and began to entertain the others, until a UAA employee offered to take them somewhere in a university van. The consensus was to go to the Northway Mall.

There wasn't enough room in the van for all the performers, so I volunteered to take a few of them in my car.

I felt as though I was doing something wrong by driving these people around. In fact, I thought I could face repercussions of an incriminating sort for abetting a dissident.

But as it would turn out later, both the Soviet guests and coordinators were extremely grateful to drivers for taking the Soviets anywhere.

They were as free to ride along with

Many people believe that Soviets in America would want to "run away" from their country, or "defect."

Nadejda Pokrovskaya is 16 and was in Alaska as a member of the Pokovski group. She lives and goes to school in Moscow.

When I asked her if she would choose to live in America if it were made possible to her, Nadejda cut me off mid-question, "No, no," she said. I asked her why. "Because I love my country most of all," Nadejda said.

I wanted more evidence that Soviet's are highly patriotic and so I asked an interpreter to ask a Soviet rocker the same question one evening.

"No, I don't need to ask him that," said the interpreter at first, "Soviets love their country."

I suggested he ask the rocker anyway, to which he agreed.

"Every man has the right to live in the country of his birth," he said, translating for Serguei Markin, a guitarist for Stas Namin. "In other words the grass is always greener. If every man leaves his own country, he also leaves the place he flees to – he's a wanderer."

There are some who think all Soviet's are atheists.

When we arrived at the Northway Mall, I asked Nadejda what she would like to buy.

"A bib-bela," she said. No sooner had she asked someone to translate, than I escorted her to a Book Cache to find a Russian Bible.

The Soviet's that were here blended with our society almost imperceptibly.

They had a good time, they rocked, and hardly anyone knew it.

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Goodwill delegation includes Soviet officials, various Party members

Here is a list of the Soviet delegation and others associated with the goodwill trip to Alaska:

1. Aleksandr A. Bogdanov, first secretary of the Magadan region Party committee; 2. Vyacheslav I. Kobets, chairman of the Magadan region executive committee; 3. Nicolai I. Kashtykin, first secretary of the Chucotka area Party committee; 4. Nadejda P. Otke, chairman of the Chucotka area executive committee; 5. Antonina M. Logachova, first secretary of Providenya Party committee.

6. Oleg Y. Kulinkin, chairman of the Providenya Party committee; 7. Victor B. Timakov, head of the press department Magadan region party committee (spokesman for the Magadan part of the delegation); 8. Otto S. Sukhanov, director of the construction project research institute "Dalstroiproekt"; 9. Victor B. Trezubov, head of the Magadan branch of the Aeroflot company; 10. Gennadi M. Shishkov, first deputy chairman of the Agroprom (agricultural) regional committee; 11. Gennadi V. Zavolok, general director of the Magadan region local industry enterprise "Magadanobimestprom"; 12. Vyacheslav A. Spirin, head of the trade department of the Magadan region executive committee.

13. Sergei N. Makeev, head of the department of the Magadan region sport committee; 14. Victor V. Savchenko, deputy head of the department of culture Magadan region executive committee; 15. Vladimir V. Silchenko, head of the communication system of the Magadan region; 16. Asylbek A. Aidaraliev, director of the research institute of the biology problems of the north; 17. Boris H. Krasnopolski, head of the department of the North-Eastern complex research institute; 18. Aleksei N. Lebedev, head of the department of public health Magadan region executive committee.

19. Victor A. Mukhortov, head of the Providenya seaport; 20. Serguei V. Iolesnik, secretary of the Providenya young communist organization. 21. Dmitri Koriviye, head of the department of the native nationalities Magadan region executive committee; 22. Ludmila Aliana, researcher of the institute of native schools; 23. Antonina A. Verbitskaya, editor of the Chucotka radio and TV committee; 24. Rasul H. Mesyagutov, photographer with the "Magadanskaya pravda" newspaper; 25. Olga Nasonova, correspondent of the "Pravda" newspaper; 26. Aleksandr Androshin, Magadan-based correspondent of the "Pravda" newspaper.

27. Larisa N. Jircova, intepreter; 28. Evgeniya G. Khachaturova, interpreter. Members of "The Sun" Eskimo dance group: 29. Ekaterina Ruttyneut; 30. Vladimir Nasalik; 31. Nina I. Trapeznicova; 32. Uhsima Uhsima; 33. Guennadi Kayak; 34. Uri Kaigulgun; 35. Anatoli Salko; 36. Vladimir Yatta; 37. Galina Povolskyh. 38. Ctepan F. Mazepa, head of the political department Foreign Ministry of Russia Federation; 39. Kirill V. Kassatkin, assistant to the head of the information Directorate Foreign Ministry of the U.S.S.R., coordinator and spokesman of the Soviet delegation.

40. Aleksandr J. Eremenko, official photographer of the Foreign Ministry of the U.S.S.R.; 41. Guennadi P. Olferenko, chairman of the social innovations foundation; 42. Marina E. Paskhina, assistant to Olferenko; 43. Valeri K. Lozovoy, general director of the Asia and Pacific Association of business cooperation; 44. Serguei N. Dardykin, correspondent of the "Isvestiya" newspaper; 45. Aleksandr E. Bogomolov, correspondent of the Sovetskaya Rossiya" newspaper; 46. Juri V. Ustimenco, correspondent of the TASS news agency; 47. Arcadi Kudrya, correspondent of the Novosti Press Agency; 48. Vasili V. Juraviev, correspondent of the "Sovetskaya kultura" newspaper (scriptwriter for the TV film); 49. Natalya Davydova, correspondent of the "Moscow News"; 50. Aleksei Bukalov, correspondent of the "News Times" magazine.

51. Serguei K. Mendvedev, correspondent for Soviet television; 52. Elena A. Pozdnyak, Soviet TV producer; 53. Serguei T. Shishkin, cameraman; 54. Vasili P. Alekseev, soundman; 55. Valentina D. Golubchicova, deputy editor-in-chief of the "Severnye prostory" magazine; 56. Povelas P. Krivitskas, correspondent for the "Chervony shtandar" newspaper.

Performers from Stas Namin and Rondo groups: 57. Ludmila Bratash, coordinator; 58. Victor T. Zernicov, director of the Stas Namin Group; 59. Aleksandr N. Losev, 60. Igor A. Procophiev; 61. Serguei K. Grigorian; 62. Vladislav A. Petrovski; 63. Serguei V. Markin; 64. Igor S. Krujalin; 65. Nicolai F. Saphonov, Rondo; 66. Juri A. Pissakin; 67. Evgueni N Rubanov; 68. Aleksandr J. Ivanov; 69. Aleksandr N. Lukiyanov.

Performers from Pokrovski group:
70. Dmitri V. Pokrovski; 71. Aleksandr V. Eremeev; 72. Marina R. Balashova; 73. Dmitri L. Fokin; 74. Ramiz A. Akhundov; 75. Aleksandr J. Danilov; 76. Andrei N. Kotov; 77. Artur P. Partosh; 78. Serguei O. Jirkov; 79. Tamara I. Smyslova; 80. Elena Sidorenko; 81. Maria P. Nephedova; 82. Anna B. Konukhova; 83. Olga J. Jukecheva; 84. Nadejda D. Pokrovskaya.

85. Branko Vlakhovich, "Vlyesnik" newspaper, Yugoslavia; 86. Kent Venstrem, Swedish TV; 87. Anatoli Kupriyanov, cameraman; 88. Yamaya Kenre, "Hokkaido simbun" newspaper, Japan; 89. Antony Wilson-Smith, "Maklins" magazine, Canada; 90. Jan Tigiarlik, "Rude pravo" correspondent, Czechoslovakia; 91. Aleksei Khokhlov, Rondo group.

Soviet citizens traveling to Soldotna:
1. Grigori SH. Valsenberg, school teacher; 2. Irina V. Petrova, school teacher; 3. Lubov M. Shaitnoova, director of the Magadan school; 4. Ilia Koptilin, student; 5. Elena Tulupova, student; 6. Oksana Havanskaya, student.

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UAA working on pact with Siberians

TIMES STAFF

The University of Alaska Anchorage is working with the Academy of Magadan to establish a joint commission to study social and economic development between the two northern regions.

UAA Chancellor Donald Behrend announced two protocol agreements recently between UAA and several scientific and government entities in Magadan.

Protocols are the preliminary agreements that reflect negotiations, but still need ratification by additional parties.

Professor Boris Krasnopolski of Magadan met with UAA officials during the recent visit of representatives of the Soviet region. Krasnopolski was invited by the UAA Institute for Social and Economic Research and the Alaska Center for International Business based at UAA.

Krasnopolski represents the Department of Comprehensive Research of Natural and Economic Systems at the Academy of Sciences in Magadan.

UAA and the Magadan institution have agreed to cooperatively research common concerns about social and economic development in northern regions, according to UAA spokeswoman Nancy Killoran. With the cooperation of government agencies, the two institutions will investigate establishing the Alaska-Magadan Commission, an organization to study and promote trade and other cooperation between Alaska and Magadan.

Nancy Killoran
. . . reports progress

The agreement calls for the Magadan school and ISER to share research reports, arrange for visits between researchers from both institutes and assist other scientific organizations in making contacts, Killoran said.

Similarities between the two regions include mineral wealth and relative isolation from central populations.

In Magadan, Krasnopolski said, mineral wealth drives the economy. While the region currently mines gold and silver, it is preparing to extract oil, coal and other minerals. Like Alaska, he said, the Magadan region is far removed from the central government in Moscow and the region's population consists of newly settled people and natives.

The second protocol is between UAA's Alaska Center for International Business, ISER, the Governor's Office of International Trade, the Magadan institution and the Magadan Department of External Relations. It would establish the joint commission.

The proposed organization would research, exchange information, aid travel and communication and enhance trade between Magadan and Alaska. Under the protocol, representatives from both areas will discuss proposals to create the commission later this year.

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Times photos by AL GRILLO

Soviet students, left to right, Ilia Koptilin, Lena Tulupova and Oksana Navanskaia share a joke at school Thursday. Chairman Kobets, below, hands out samples of rock mined in Magadan.

Students bridge countries

Official: Friendship begins in classroom

By JOE HUNT
Times Writer

SOLDOTNA — The visiting governor of Magadan, U.S.S.R., told an attentive group of sixth graders Thursday that true friendship between their two nations begins in the classroom.

Magadan students sitting down and talking to Alaska students as friends will do more to warm relations between their two countries than long talks between politicians, said Gov. Vyachelsav Kobets.

Those talks are productive, he said, "but the most important meetings are with the children."

Kobets spoke to Larry Rockhill's sixth-grade class at Soldotna Elementary, a sister school to his own alma mater, Magadan No. 1.

Students from the two cities have been exchanging letters for the past three years. Through the week-long "Soviet-American Reunion," the two cities were finally able to exchange students as well.

Three Soldotna students traded places with three Magadan students for the week, giving the children in Rockhill's classroom a personal lesson about their neighbors across the Bering Sea.

"Mostly I learned that they're just kids, same as us," said Daymon Doshier. "I didn't know what to expect."

"You expect them to be a lot different than they really are," Amanda Bugg added.

"They're fun to be around," said Mike Leach. "I expected them to be more down to earth, more serious."

"I just like 'em. I really like 'em and I don't want to see them go," Matt Hobbs said.

Kobets, however, gave the students some hope that they would meet again someday. The governor, a mining engineer before entering politics, brought the students gifts of cut and polished rocks from Magadan.

Magadan students take part in searching for new minerals in the region each year, he told the Soldotna class. Perhaps, he hinted, Alaska students could someday join the Magadan students in collecting the rocks.

Teen-agers from Nikolaevsk, the village of Russian-speaking Old Believers near Homer, acted as interpretors for the students.

Kobets and an entourage of Soviet, American, and Japanese reporters toured Nikolaevsk earlier in the day, finding a friendly reception from the villagers who

Thank you, Valentina

'our insight helps bridge the gap between two not-so-different lands

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BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

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studied
a few

years in college. Like many experiences in life, I didn't know why I was doing it. Maybe I was curious because I loved Russian literature and music. As they say in the Soviet Union, "Who knows? Only God knows."

Although I eventually spent a few weeks in the Soviet Union in the mid-'70s, ostensibly speaking Russian most of the time for college credit, it was *nothing* like having a non-English-speaking house guest for eight days.

That said, I would like to introduce you to my guest, Valentina Davidovna Golubchikova — which loosely translated might mean in English: Valentine, daughter of David, last name Darling. You will be reading her byline in The Times within a few

weeks; she has agreed to write a guest article for us.

Meeting this charming red-haired woman, whose sparkling green eyes are the color of apple jade, has been nothing short of extraordinary.

The first day with Valentina was scary. My Russian was about at a 3-year-old's level. By the second day, I had skipped a few years to a 5-year-old's level.

By the fourth day, I was speaking like an 8-year-old. And today, my seventh day, I've probably hit a plateau at about age 10. It's nice to be young again, but let me tell you — such a growth spurt is exhausting.

Valentina is the editor of a magazine called "Severnye Prostory" ("Northlands") which is published six times a year in Moscow and read by about 90,000 people living on the "north slope" of the Soviet Union and in Siberia. "It was born of perestroika," she said of her publication. Now only three years old, the magazine's circulation has doubled in the last year.

In the arctic region and Siberia, there are 26 indigenous tribes of natives peoples, each with its own unique cultural heritage. Valentina's mission is to

See Valentina, page E-5

Valentina: Insight

Continued from page E-1

expose the social problems of these people to help them find pride and dignity in their own cultures. There is a lost and confused generation of native peoples in the U.S.S.R., just as we have in the United States, I learned.

At an extremely interesting press seminar Wednesday night, Valentina explained with great emotion that she came to Alaska as one of the 90 visiting Soviets to find answers to her country's problems with cultural displacement. She thought that since we had solved such problems, she would be able to study our solutions. What she found instead, she said, was the fact that we have not — as a people and as a government — come to terms with such problems either. Her revelation has been that, essentially, both countries are in the same boat with such problems.

It's one world, she continued, her voice filled with passion, and just as there is an ecological balance with which we must be concerned, there is also a symbiotic relationship between cultures.

Her short speech was enormously moving to me — and I think to many in the audience.

Her message carried a warning: if we ~~wil~~ don't act quickly to provide a nurturing environment for indigenous people — whom we have displaced — it may be too late for them and for us.

"It takes genius to live in the far north," she said, and for that reason it should be treasured. Should just one of those gene pools be lost, taking with it all the accumulated knowledge of its history, the entire world will be impoverished, she said.

Listening to her helped me put

Valentina Golubchikova
... 'it's one world'

into perspective many things and confirmed some of my own beliefs. Those of you who read this column regularly already know what I mean. It's very hard for me to put this into words, but I'll try.

We cannot separate visual art, music, dance and literature — those things about which you read every Sunday in these pages — from our daily lives. No people can afford to do that because these things are integral to our humanity. They make us *what we are* — whether our skins are white, black, brown; whether we speak English, Russian or Yupik; whether we carve ivory, or paint in watercolor; whether we sing or play flutes or drums.

We are all one in one very small world.

Catherine Stadem is The Times arts editor.

rossing
e border

-Soviet talks to begin

N TETPON
ws reporter

awaited talks to allow Alaska Eski-
d their Siberian relatives to again
ch other's homelands, are set to
ere Thursday, Alaska Sen. Frank
rski announced at a press conference

nk Murkowski

Eskimos from both nations last sailed across the international dateline without restriction in 1948, when the onset of the Cold War closed the borders of each nation.

"When you're only 2½ miles apart, it shouldn't take 40 years" to become friends, Murkowski said.

The two nations are separated by less than three miles of
ng Straits between Little Diomede
Diomede. The smaller island, a tiny
hamlet, is in Alaska, while the
ne is a Soviet military outpost.
owski said Native villagers from
a, Gambell and Nome, will meet in
ge with representatives of the U.S.
epartment and the Soviet Union to
a re-unification plan for Yupiks
int Lawrence Island and Little
and their kinfolk in Siberia.
a Eskimos said they would like the
compact to closely resemble an
forgotten 1938 U.S.-Soviet agree-
hich said Alaska and Siberian Na-

Please see Page C-3, BORDER

BORDER: U.S., Soviets to begin talks Thursday

Continued from Page C-1

tives could visit settlements on each other's shores with little restriction.

Until 1948, Alaskans wanting to visit relatives in Siberia were issued certificates by U.S. authorities — most of whom were U.S. Department of Indian Affairs employees — that simply said who they were, where they came from, their occupation and their place of residence.

But Murkowski, noting times have changed since then, said travel requirements between Alaska and Siberia could be more complicated than that.

A U.S. Customs point of entry, most likely in Nome, would require more travel documentation than just a list of people wanting entry to Soviet territory.

He said he saw no real need for visas and passports for the Eskimos, however.

An Alaska Yupik who said he used to watch Eskimo whale boats set out to the Siberian coast when he was a child, echoed the senator's remarks.

"We been visiting each other since time immemorial," said Tim Gologergan, a 69-year-old Saint Lawrence Islander now living in Nome.

Gologergan, in Anchorage to meet Siberian Eskimos visiting Alaska with a Soviet delegation this week, said islanders from Saint Lawrence used to go to Siberia every summer in 30-foot whaling boats that were powered by sail.

"Then the U.S. said no more," he said.

Gologergan also said he would like to see relations between the two powers normalized to the point where it is possible to give and receive home-crafted gifts made from, for example, walrus tusks.

But that also may not be possible, according to Murkowski. "The (federal) Marine Mammal Act doesn't allow that," he said.

Yupiks also want to be able to take Native food across to their relatives in Siberia, and to bring Siberian Yupik food back. Neither country allows it now.

Caleb Pungowiyi, a Native leader from Nome, will head the eight-member negotiating team for the Yupiks. Pungowiyi recently returned from a trip to Siberia, where he met many of the Siberian Natives now visiting Anchorage.

"We'll try to make it as simple as possible," Pungowiyi said.

Kiril Valeninovich Kassatkin, an information aide in the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will lead a nine-member Soviet delegation.

John Herbst, deputy director of Soviet affairs for the U.S. State Department, will represent the United States in the talks.

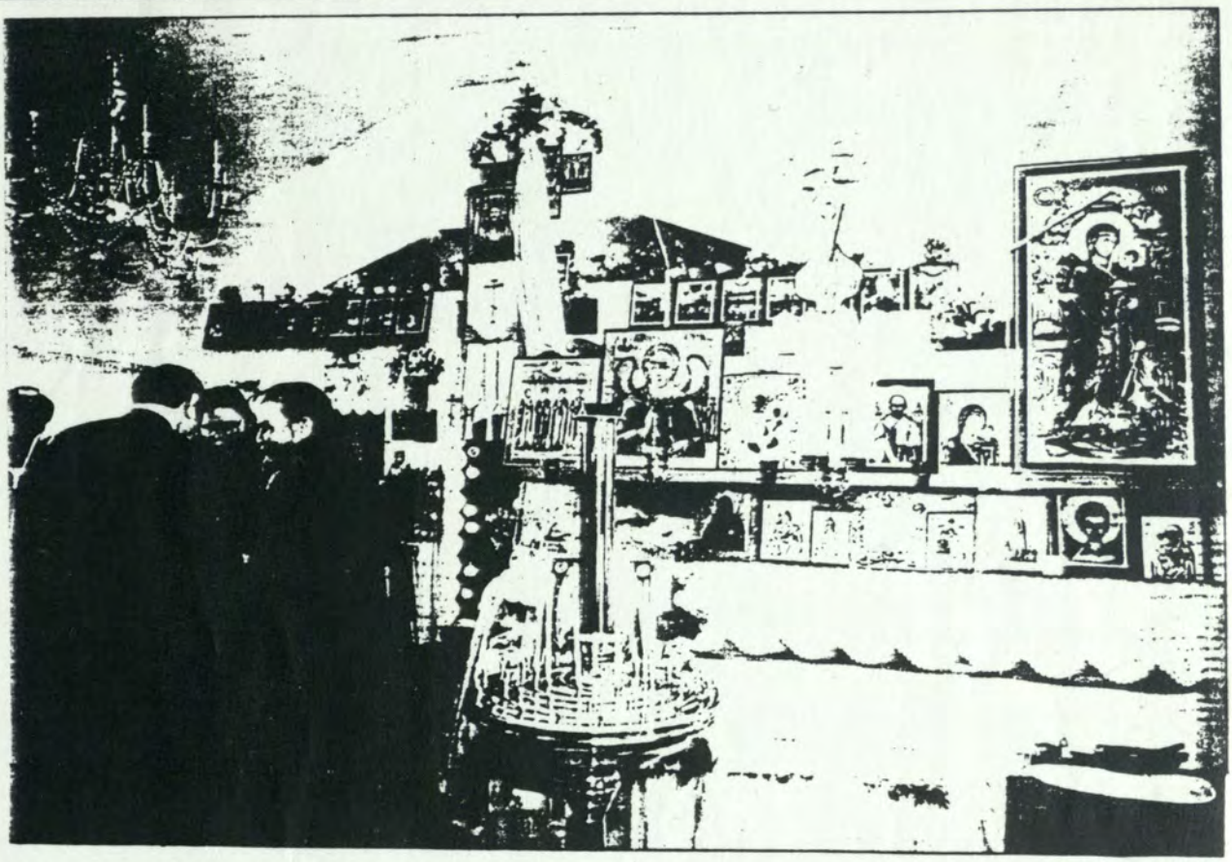
Murkowski said the state of Alaska and an aide from his office also will participate.

The delegates also plan to discuss establishing a bilateral border commission to help ease U.S. relations with the Soviets, Murkowski said.

The commission would handle inadvertent border crossings, fishing boats blown off course and people who walk over to the Soviet side from Little Diomede.

The Anchorage Times

SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26, 1989 50¢



Times photos by AL GRILLO

Nikolaevsk priest Kondraty Fefelov Thursday opened the village church to allow photographs to be taken of the treasured religious icons.

Old and new embrace

Old Believers open Nikolaevsk church to Soviet visitors

Gov. Vyacheslav Kobets, left, and Deacon Paul Fefelov

By JOE HUNT
Times Writer

NIKOLAEVSK — Russian-speaking Old Believers in this small Kenai Peninsula village shun politics as a matter of principle just as the communist government they fled years ago shunned religion.

More than 60 years after thousands of Old Believers fled religious persecution in Russia, old-time Russian Orthodox religion and new-wave Soviet politics met without fanfare or malice Thursday in Nikolaevsk.

A group of nine Soviet visitors, enthusiastic about the common language and heritage they shared, warmly embraced the community. In return, they received a cordial but tempered welcome from community leaders, who said they enjoyed hearing the pure Russian language spoken by their visitors.

Paul Fefelov, a church deacon dressed in a black cassock, walked side by side through the center of this one-street Alaska village with Vyacheslav Kobets, governor of Soviet Magadan Territory. It was a first for Nikolaevsk and a rare welcoming from a town that, as a matter of religious principle, likes to keep to itself.

"I (didn't) think they would be able to come to our village," said Stan White, an Old Believer and teacher from Voznesenka, one of five religious settlements in the Kachemak Bay area. White is a college-educated

See Nikolaevsk, page A-7

ikolaevsk: Old Believers open village to Soviet visitors

ntinued from page A-1

ıkan who married into the vi- and adopted the ways of the Believers.

ıt the other villages, he said, visitors would be ignored by e more strict among the Old evers, but not because they pen to be from the Soviet on.

"They wouldn't welcome re- ters and outside groups of any e, generally," he said.

However, elders in the Old Be- ers church practice East- st diplomacy, even though y abhore the politics involved. a rare move that surprised e longtime residents of the mmunity, the Soviets and ac- panying reporters were en- raged to tour the church and e photographs of the sacred ns inside.

Old Believers feel that a pho- raph of the 300-year-old reli- us relics is as sacred as the ns themselves. Non-believers't treat the photos with per reverence, said a sur- sed Steve Fefelov.

"They get dropped on the r and walked on. It's like ding on an icon," he said. e walking on a cross in any er church."

The village priest, Father dratv Fefelov, appeared newhat uneasy with his decis- n, but explained that he nted to send a message. Per- s, he said, the photographs of church will show Soviets ev- where how a religion sup- ssed in Russia can flourish in ree land.

Moments before, Father Fefe- had deflected questions on itics from Soviet journalists o interviewed him in front of a evision camera. "What do you nk of perestroika," they asked n in Russian.

Bob Moore, the school princi- , interpreted his answer. "We n't worry about those kind of ngs," Moore interpreted. "We ive that to God. Whatever is will."

Paul Fefelov, the church dea- red the same question. "I see eiping the church and helping people there," he said.

"But, they asked for my defi- on of perestroika, not my feel- s," he said later. "I have my n feelings, but I don't want to into politics. I shun politics as ch as I can."

The elders in Nikolaevsk pio- red a square mile section of lerness 25 miles north of chemak Bay in 1967. It was latest in a long string of ves that brought them around world in search of a home- d where children could be ed without the religious intol- nce of communism or the nning influence of modern lization.

Their struggle actually began e 1650s when the Russian Pa- ch Nikon issued major re- ns in the Russian Orthodox Church. Rather than accept a change in their religion, they chose excommunication from the church and even death. Thousands committed suicide. As many as 15 million formed their own order and became the Old Believers.

Today, an estimated three million Old Believers remain, scattered in settlements around the globe. The stories of Nikolaevsk families are typical of others around the world.

Threatened with jail and harassment by the new communist government, they left Russia in the 1920s, crossed the Sungacha River, and settled in Manchuria in northeast China. After 26 good years in China, the Old Believers, wary of communism, chose to move again. They went on to Hong Kong and then to Brazil, where poor crops and fears of a leftist government again forced them to leave.

One group of Old Believers moved to Oregon, but there they faced another problem. Civilization — television, radios, and rock 'n' roll — threatened to rob their children of traditions kept intact over centuries and thousands of miles.

The answer, some said, was to look toward Alaska.

A small party of Old Believer men walked every square foot of the land along the North Fork of the Anchor River and bought it from the state in 1967. They named their new homeland after St. Nicholas. The following year they moved north and cleared the land, opened up crude roads, built a church, and slowly moved their children from tents into simple box-style homes. They eventually laid their own pipe, bringing running water to the houses from an artesian well.

The village of about 400 is a stirring compromise between the modern and the traditional. Even in rural Alaska, civilization cannot be kept at bay. Now — with a state-maintained road, electricity and a modern new school — change is inevitable.

Some, like the families of Nikolaevsk, accept some modern influence. Others were less toler-

laevsk, establishing less accessible communities in the area, such as Voznesenka, Kachemak Selo, and Razdolna.

"Do you feel pressured by the surrounding population?" a Soviet reporter asked Paul Fefelov.

"It's a little bit crowded now," the deacon answered, "but we are self-sufficient."

"Could you go farther?" another asked.

"I'm not sure, maybe we could go to Siberia," he joked.

The small, boxy homes of Nikolaevsk may be reminiscent of Siberia on the outside, but they are thoroughly 20th century inside. Families own microwaves, televisions, and radios. An oversized satellite dish outside the school contrasts with the simple surroundings of the community. A million-dollar boat factory employs about 15 village men through the winter and produces a dozen 40-foot and 42-foot fishing boats each year.

Christine Fefelov, 4, ignores all the commotion that the visiting Soviets are causing here.

The walls inside the small boat-building plant are covered with colorful posters featuring blonde beauties wearing bikinis and promoting Budweiser, Lowenbrau and Makita tools.

Young boys, dressed in colorfully embroidered rubashkas or shirts, were intently playing foosball in the school during the Soviet visit, easily slipping between Russian and English as they talked.

"Kids growing up now are growing up a lot different than I did, I'll tell you that," said Steve Fefelov, a 28-year-old who crosses from the old to the new generation. Though he was born in Brazil, he grew up during the years in which Nikolaevsk was transformed from an isolated wilderness settlement into a community with all the amenities.

The younger Fefelov received an eighth-grade education in the village, but successfully maintained a B-average during two years at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He has traveled extensively to visit other Old Believer communities in all corners of the world.

He said he's concerned today's children are not learning the independence he learned. Most of the boys today, he said, don't even know how to set a trap.

"I've always thought that if I didn't grow up the way I did, I could have been like any other kid in the U.S.," Fefelov said.

Hopefully, he said, the bilingual lessons taught in school will help the younger generation keep the traditions alive. That's what's really important to the elders, he said. In Oregon's Willamette Valley, the young Old Believers can't even speak Russian, Fefelov said.

The modern school, which now anchors the community, teaches in both Russian and English. Fifteen of the school's 112 students are not from the families of Old Believers, but those children are equally intent on learning Russian, according to Moore, the school's principal.

Two of the four Nikolaevsk graduates last year are attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Moore said, adding "50 percent's not bad."

The Soviet journalists were not shy in their curiosity. They asked about marriage of the young girls, how they avoid problems of incest, and if they have any desire to return to Russia.

Girls in the community tend to marry young, Paul Fefelov told the Russians, often by the time they're 15 years old. "A lot depends on temptations," he said. "They tend to get in trouble and that sort of thing before they get married."

Men often have to go to other villages to find a wife. The church has strict rules against marrying within the family, he said. A couple must be separated from kinship by at least six steps, he said, before a marriage can take place.

And do they want to return? Paul Fefelov did return last year to take part in the millenium celebration of the Russian Orthodox Church. It was a good experience, he told them, but there's no reason to move back to Russia.

"I don't think there's a desire to move back, but there is a desire to keep in contact because people have many relatives over there," he said, "and we want to keep communicating."

"This is my home," Steve Fefelov said when asked the same question. "That's the way I see it. I've lived here too long to leave now."

souvenirs, taking home Russian magazines and Old Believer songbooks as gifts. They were just as eager to return the favor, asking if they could send Russian textbooks and magazines to the school.

A few of the journalists handed out Russian coins and label pins to the school children. The kinship of heritage was there, but they were not as family, said Larissa Zhirkova, a translator for Gov. Kobets.

"We are very different now," she said. "But something is there that unites us, our history, our language, our appearance."

For Kobets, it was a very emotional day. "I have very deep feelings. It's hard to say it in words.

"The soul of a Russian person is never broken in spite of past hardships and problems. The Russian people have no hatred toward each other.

"We had a good talk. I think we'll become good friends."

Times photos by AL GRILLO

Soviet students, left to right, Ilia Koptilin, Lena Tulupova and Oksana Navanskaia share a joke at school Thursday. Chairman Kobets, below, hands out samples of rock mined in Magadan.

Students bridge countries

Official: Friendship begins in classroom

By JOE HUNT
Times Writer

SOLDOTNA — The visiting governor of Magadan, U.S.S.R., told an attentive group of sixth graders Thursday that true friendship between their two nations begins in the classroom.

Magadan students sitting down and talking to Alaska students as friends will do more to warm relations between their two countries than long talks between politicians, said Gov. Vyachelsav Kobets.

Those talks are productive, he said, "but the most important meetings are with the children."

Kobets spoke to Larry Rockhill's sixth-grade class at Soldotna Elementary, a sister school to his own alma mater, Magadan No. 1.

Students from the two cities have been exchanging letters for the past three years. Through the week-long "Soviet-American Reunion," the two cities were finally able to exchange students as well.

Three Soldotna students traded places with three Magadan students for the week, giving the children in Rockhill's classroom a personal lesson about their neighbors across the Bering Sea.

"Mostly I learned that they're just kids, same as us," said Daymon Doshier. "I didn't know what to expect."

"You expect them to be a lot different than they really are," Amanda Bugg added.

"They're fun to be around," said Mike Leach. "I expected them to be more down to earth, more serious."

"I just like 'em. I really like 'em and I don't want to see them go," Matt Hobbs said.

Kobets, however, gave the students some hope that they would meet again someday. The governor, a mining engineer before entering politics, brought the students gifts of cut and polished rocks from Magadan.

Magadan students take part in searching for new minerals in the region each year, he told the Soldotna class. Perhaps, he hinted, Alaska students could someday join the Magadan students in collecting the rocks.

Teen-agers from Nikolaevsk, the village of Russian-speaking Old Believers near Homer, acted as interpretors for the students.

Kobets and an entourage of Soviet, American, and Japanese reporters toured Nikolaevsk earlier in the day, finding a friendly reception from the villagers who fled the Soviet Union in the 1920s to avoid religious persecution.

Exchanging outlooks

Times photos by AL GRILLO

East High teacher Michelle Whaley, left, talks to Soviet teacher Raissa Mikhai.

Soviet student Liliana Tsu gives East And age High School student Andy Beam a p

Soviet teens warm to stai

By MICHAEL DEAN
Times Writer

Soviet teen ager Marchela Andronik use in her English class and daydream about Al

She had heard it was cold, so cold that people were dying. But she was not worried all, she would be coming to Anchorage, a had been told was much like New York.

A week ago, the 16-year-old Moldavian, panied by nine companions and their teach out from Kishinev on a journey to disco truth. By train, they traveled through thei try's vineyards and orchards to Moscow, they boarded an airliner for a 13-hour fl Washington, D.C. After two days touring tion's capitol, they were aboard a 16-hour fl Alaska — their home for the next three wee

See Guests, p

THE BAC

BUSH: President makes stop

Continued from Page A-1

manager for Sen. Frank Murkowski.

Barbara Bush will accompany the president, but is not expected to deliver any public remarks, according to members of the president's advance team. Air Force One is scheduled to arrive at Elmendorf at 9:30 a.m., and depart at 11 a.m. The president's jet is stopping in Anchorage to refuel, en route from Washington, D.C., to Tokyo, where Bush plans to attend the funeral ceremonies for Emperor Hirohito, who died last month.

A text of Bush's speech was not available Monday, said Bruce Zanca, an assistant White House press secretary. "I expect he will touch on trade in the Far East and the Pacific Basin. Trade issues are an important topic with this administration."

Zanca said the president may also discuss what he hopes to accomplish during his five-day journey. Bush's itinerary includes three days in Japan, where he will meet with French President Francois Mitterand and about a dozen other leaders from Asia, Europe and South America.

Bush is scheduled to spend Sunday in Beijing, where he will meet with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. The president will meet with Korean President Roh Tae-woo at the Blue House in Seoul on Monday, and address the Korean national assembly, Zanca said.

Air Force One will stop back in Anchorage on the return leg Monday, said Zanca, but no public ceremony is planned.

Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

Service High freshman Kirstein Heyman works in a sign-making blitz to welcome President Bush.

Half of the 6,600 tickets to see the president have been reserved for members of the military, Heller said. Other blocks of tickets included several hundred each to the municipality and the Anchorage Chamber of Com- [illegible] sealed at 9 a.m., and he suggested people arrive at 7 to go through the security checkpoint. Cameras are allowed, he said, but people should be prepared for airport-style security checks.

While there won't be chairs, Heyman said, there

A CELTIC NO MORE: Boston deals Danny Ainge to Sacramento, Sports, B-1

BEATLES, STONES AND SASHA

Undisputed kings of rock

Impulse, E-1

Soviet singer is a class act

Lifestyles, F-1

nchorage Daily News

PAGES

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1989

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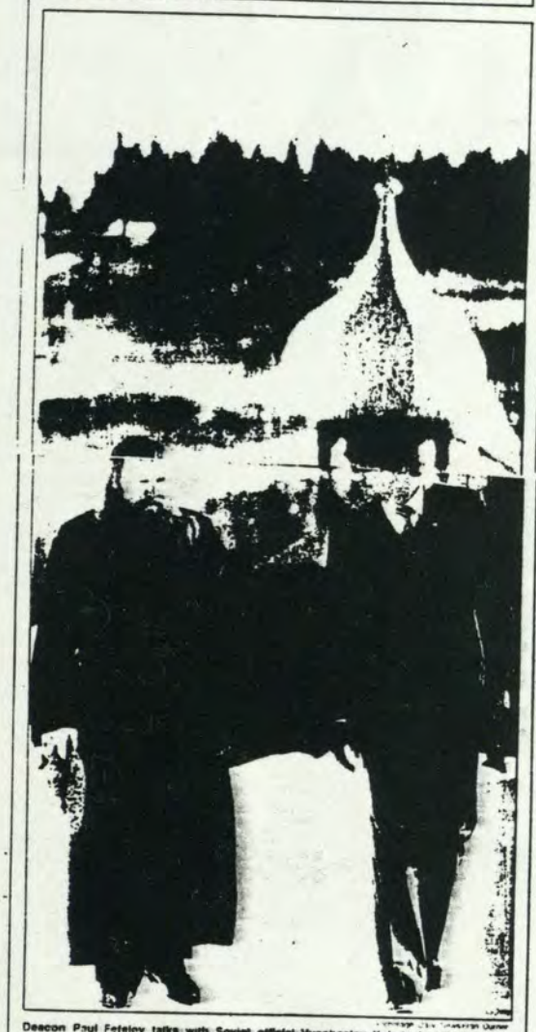
A WALK THROUGH HISTORY



Deacon Paul Fefelov talks with Soviet official Vyacheslav Kobets in Nikolaevsk.

Kenai village of Old Believers welcomes some Soviet guests

By LARRY CAMPBELL
Daily News reporter
and NATALYA DAVYDOVA
Moscow News correspondent

NIKOLAEVSK — More than 50 years ago, the ancestors of this tiny village on the lower Kenai Peninsula fled [illegible] the Communists and a new [illegible] society bent on crushing their [illegible].

But on [illegible] citizens of that new society [illegible] "dangerous-minded." [illegible] They were met with open arms.

Nikolaevsk [illegible] Old Believers welcomes the Soviet [illegible] first men visit since the village [illegible] founded in 1968. Vyacheslav Kobets, chairman of the Magadan Regional Soviet executive committee, and Victor Timakov, head of the press department of the Magadan region party committee, came to see a part of their empire's past.

"Here in the distant part of Alaska we met a part of Russian soul," Kobets said. "We came to see American Russians, simply because we could not miss such an opportunity. We had no intention to make some propaganda. All we wanted was to look at their eyes and to find out how they make it possible to keep their traditions, and to wonder if they need some help.

"Maybe we could help them to preserve Russian culture and language. Why not send here a good teacher from the Old Believers communities from the Soviet Union?"

The Nikolaevsk people are staunch Russian Orthodox, descendants of traditionalists who fled persecution in the Soviet Union. They speak both Russian and English, embrace capitalist ideals and consider themselves patriotic Americans. They live apart from other Americans to keep pure their religion, its customs and their heritage.

Yet both sides said there was no reason why they couldn't break bread and talk together for a day.

"All in all, I think it was a nice, low-key sightseeing trip for them," said Paul Fefelov, the village church deacon and one of the day's tour guides. "I think they were really surprised how we received them.

"We are citizens of the U.S. But we are Russians as well."

The Soviet leaders are part of a 94-member Soviet delegation in Anchorage this week to discuss trade and cultural exchanges with Alaska. A Soviet television crew, Japanese and American TV and print journalists crowded into the tiny settlement to document the occasion.

It was warm and sunny Thursday morning, as the Soviets walked along the village's single street. They talked with students in the school and visited the village's church and boat works, a big warehouse-size building where men build fiberglass boats. In the summer they fish.

The outside of their houses resemble ones in villages in the central part of Russia. But inside, these houses look like American ones, with all the typical cozy living rooms, TV sets and modern electronic devices like microwave ovens.

Yet these people remain Old Believers. They keep traditional clothing, habits and religious rules. But the language and clothing of the inhabitants of any Russian village nowadays is much more international.

"We feel the civilization coming, and most of us promote this process ourselves," Fefelov said. Then he joked, "And soon we'll have to escape from this civilization to Siberia."

Perhaps more curious to the villagers than the Soviet visitors was the throng of news people who outnumbered the visiting dignitaries. The Soviets thought it incredible to meet compatriots in Alaska, and bombarded the American Russians with a barrage of questions.

"What is it like living in America?"

"Do you have connections with Russia?"

"What do you think of perestroika?"

The villagers answered in English and Russian, accommodating all.

"Perestroika is like rebuilding of a house," Fefelov said. "And it's good that you are trying to improve your state laws and regulations."

"I think it's cute that they're here," said villager Peter Kurmin, who was working on a boat engine. "Happy to see them. I want them to see that when they come here, they can move around. Not like when we go there."

Another villager, Bill Bodunov, 47, welcomed the visitors, too.

Bodunov built some of the first homes in Nikolaevsk. He was born in China, moved to Brazil where he was 17, then to New York City, then to Oregon. He is one of the Russian Old Believers. His father still lives in Siberia, but Bodunov has never been there.

"Communists take my relatives to Siberia nine years just for nothing. That's why they leave even before I was born," Bodunov said.

He grinned wide, and added, "But these people, these Russians. They can visit, fine. We're Americans, we don't care about it. If we are friendly, it's OK. If America says it's OK, it's OK."

Times are changing. In the village is one former village outsider, Stan White. He is now an Old Believer married to a Russian girl and his children speak Russian. If even Old Believers, with their strict traditions, accept strangers to their families, the Soviets wondered, why can't they and Americans be friends and speak the same language?

To the village children, the day was like a vacation from school. Kobets, Timakov and others handed out Soviet pins, coins and other trinkets.

The youngsters, who have not [illegible] the opportunity [illegible] know, saw the visitors as [illegible] curiosity.

"It's a little bit [illegible]," said David Kalugin, 17, editor of the high school's Nikolaevsk News. He was also planning a story for his newspaper about the visit. "My parents left that country, and now the Soviets are coming back to see us. Interesting."

A group of teen-age girls stood to one side watching Sergunl Medvedev, a young Soviet TV correspondent, doing interviews.

"He's cute," said Anna Martyshev, 18. "He's a fox."

The other girls giggled.

To some of the youngest ones, the whole day of cameras, questions and outsiders talking Russian was [illegible] mild confusion.

"Where are you from?" said 9-year-old Kea Fefelov, talking to a reporter. The reporter told her Anchorage, and Kea's eyes grew big.

"Anchorage? I thought you were Russian." Kea then pointed to the Soviets. "And I thought they were English."

"You are Russian," insisted Elena Kurmin, 8. "You are. You have glasses. All Russians have glasses."

☐ Natalya Davydova is a Soviet journalist visiting Anchorage.

Please see Back Page, NIKOLAEVSK

Vyacheslav Kobets presents some books about the Magadan region to Paul Fefelov at the Nikolaevsk school.

NIKOLAEVSK: Old Believers meet Soviet visitors

Continued from Page A-1

Sheltering the homeless

Shelter inscription: 'Respect the place. Respect each other'

By ALEXANDR BOGOMOLOV
Sovietskaya Rossia

When I go back to Moscow, I'll tell my fellow journalists that I was in, perhaps, the northernmost shelter in the world.

I do not suppose that such a visit would be highly praised by them. Going around to shelters, soup kitchens and so on is considered, among professionals, as a hangover from the Cold War era. It's just the same, I suppose, for Western journalists in Moscow to concentrate only on what they call "human rights dissidents."

America is not only poor people; and there is more to the Soviet Union than restrictions to travel abroad. The prime purpose for me, in asking my host Bob Ortega to help me visit the Brother Francis Shelter, was merely curiosity: This is my first visit to the United States.

And it was a really unusual experience, to see those mats on the floor, a wall separating males from females, people watching a TV set and eating the remnants of the nearby

Alexandr Bogomolov
... asks Brother Bob Eaton

Roman Catholic hospital's dinner.

I feel very sorry for these people. What happened to them? Why are there so many alcoholics, drug addicts? Why are there so many natives among them?

One unusual thing in the shelter, to me, was an attitude towards life among the guests.

I was talking to a man of 60. He is thin and poorly dressed; his hands are shaking and his eyes are red.

I asked him if he thought his life was a failure.

He was honest, and he said, "It's not a failure. I've spent my life doing what I wanted."

In a way he is happy, walking Anchorage in search of random jobs, and living for two years in a shelter. I wonder why he is so content . . .

I wouldn't say there are no homeless people in the Soviet Union. But it isn't because they can't find work and a roof to live under. As to the Soviet homeless — they are called "displaced" — to my mind, it's more a problem of their marginal psychology, than of the economy.

But still, the problem exists. I would wish my country to have more people like Anchorage's shelter director Bob Eaton to help them.

There is an inscription on the doors of the shelter. It reads: Respect the place. Respect each other.

Maybe that should hold not only for the shelter, but for the entire planet.

The state of our ecology and the stockpiles of weapons reflect our failure to respect the place and each other. What shall we do?

Maybe it would be useful to ask Bob Eaton?

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two visiting Soviet journalists submitted articles to The Times on their observations. Alexandr Bogomolov writes for Sovietskaya Rossia. Sergei Dardykin is a staff writer for Izvestia, the Soviet government newspaper.

Soviet-U.S. bond up to businesses

By SERGEI DARDYKIN
Izvestia

The first tourist airline flight between Alaska and Chukotka may make regular service possible. Harbors have opened for ships from both nations. Telephone, telegraph, and postal service also is projected.

But the relations that are leading to these contacts are not coming through Moscow, Washington or New York.

All these matters were discussed at business meetings held last week with leaders and businessmen from the Magadan region and Alaska. What will the outcome be? Are these just fantastic dreams, or are they tomorrow's reality — the first step from which the rest will follow?

As a private citizen and as a press correspondent on Soviet American relations in recent years, I don't see anything unrealistic in the project of Unalaska Mayor Paul Fuhs.

(Fuhs has proposed a joint venture that would give the Soviet Union access to a trans-Pacific fiber optic cable in exchange for using its fleet of ice-breaking cargo ships to open far north shipping routes to the Eurasian landmass.)

Sergei Dardykin
... tomorrow's reality

Why shouldn't American companies be permitted to take goods from the Bering Sea to Europe by the northern

See Companies, page B-6

Companies: U.S., Soviet ties

Continued from page B-1

sea route? In return, the Soviet Union receives modern communications systems for the Soviet Far East, according to the conditions outlined by Fuhs.

Although the Magadan region is very large, its representative delegation does not have the authority to resolve this question. It is essential that such decisions are made at the Moscow government level. And if Alaska Airlines is interested in direct air connections with the Chukotka Peninsula for tourists, it will also have to get permission — from Washington.

The desires and efforts of the local authorities and business people are leading to an era of normal economic relations. But it is up to Moscow and Washington to improve the political climate for such relations, just as they are partners in talks relating to the decrease in armaments. This will lead to good and close neighborly relations in the narrow strip of the Bering Sea.

Not as quickly as we need, but we are slowly beginning to learn a common political language. Together we can count missiles and nuclear warheads, as was done in the successful realization of the intermediate-range nuclear missile treaty. With tanks, airplanes and artillery in Europe — all that is called conventional weapons — it is a little more difficult, but even here you can see progress. Even in such a delicate area as human rights, our official representatives have gingerly opened mutual discussions. And the messages carried in mass media change in response to politics.

As far as I can judge in relation to the American press, dissidents and visa problems in the Soviet Union no longer seem to be the main themes, just as my colleagues writing about America no longer focus primarily on the problem of unemployment in America.

Both we, the Soviet Union, and you, here in America, have our problems. But now people in both countries receive the full, factual and multi-colored picture, and not just the black-and-white facts they received previously. To see one's own problems, and to try to understand those of others, is the foundation of communication.

In the economic field, we discussed matters in various languages from the outset. For many American businessmen who attended seminars on Soviet economics held at the Egan Center Wednesday, it was news that there are no duties imposed on goods imported into the Soviet Union. Soviet merchant specialists who brought their goods to America for the first time on a trial basis knew well that the U.S. employs a system in which some nations enjoy favored-nation status, which we in the Soviet Union do not enjoy.

I do not yet know how Fuhs' idea will be received in Moscow. But I also do not know how it will be received in Washington.

What if one of the components of a communication system for the Soviet Far East was found to fall within the list of goods allowed into the nations of the Commmunity for Mutual Economic Assistance, and it was prohibited from being delivered into the Soviet Union for "strategic reasons?" Only when the realization of such projects is no longer beholden to the military and the decision-making politicians, will the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. be able to proceed beyond the framework of the restricted levels of trade we have seen to date.

The traditional thinking with respect to mere "buying and selling" gives us only limited possibilities, either for future contacts between our two countries as a whole, or for contacts between given regions, like Alaska and the Magadan region. There should be no doubt that Alaska's businessmen will have little trouble finding commodities with a big demand in the Soviet mamrket, but what will they do with all the rubles they earn?

On their first visit to Anchorage, Magadan trade organizations found people here literally waiting in line for the goods they brought. But we must surmise that the Alaskans snapped up all our Russian ear-flap caps and linen tablecloths not, by any stretch of the imagination, because they had nothing with which to cover their ears or tables, but rather because it is still quite exotic to discover such Soviet goods in Alaska.

But what will happen when, sooner or later, something Soviet is no longer exotic?

Even after the new developments of the last three years — which have brought what President George Bush in his inaugural address called "a new closeness" between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. — we still have not been so accustomed (as we are in Anchorage) to expressions like "our Soviet friends" and "our American friends." Such expressions have disappeared from both our political and everyday vocabularies since soon after the end of the Second World War. In 40 years we have learned to prove to ourselves, to each other and to the rest of the world that we could get by without mutual cooperation. This was not so difficult. It turned out to be more difficult to convince ourselves that we could get along with such cooperation.

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Times photo by AL GRILLO

President and Mrs. George Bush deplane during a refueling stopover at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

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President perks up Alaskans

By BOB ORTEGA
Times Writer

President George Bush's first visit to Alaska since his inauguration was long on pomp and circumstance, and short on substance.

That mattered not a whit to the flag-waving, packed house at Elmendorf Air Force Base's Hangar 1 this morning. They cheered long and loud at everything the president had to say.

Nearly 7,500 Alaskans, military and civilian, gave Bush a warm greeting during his brief refueling stop on the way from Washington, D.C., to Japan, on both Alaskan and national issues.

But while Bush did reiterate his support for responsible oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, he did not say what form his support would take.

"I know we can and must develop our energy resources for the sake of economic development and particularly national security," he said. "There is too much dependence on foreign oil as it is. As a sportsman, with a love and respect for this country's unparalleled natural beauty, I could never support de-

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Crossing the border

U.S.-Soviet talks to begin

By JOHN TETPON
Daily News reporter

Long-awaited talks to allow Alaska Eskimos and their Siberian relatives to again visit each other's homelands, are set to begin here Thursday, Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski announced at a press conference Tuesday.

Sen. Frank Murkowski

Eskimos from both nations last sailed across the international dateline without restriction in 1948, when the onset of the Cold War closed the borders of each nation.

"When you're only 2½ miles apart, it shouldn't take 40 years" to become friends, Murkowski said.

The two nations are separated by less than three miles of the Bering Straits between Little Diomede and Big Diomede. The smaller island, a tiny Eskimo hamlet, is in Alaska, while the larger one is a Soviet military outpost.

Murkowski said Native villagers from Savoonga, Gambell and Nome, will meet in Anchorage with representatives of the U.S. State Department and the Soviet Union to establish a re-unification plan for Yupiks from Saint Lawrence Island and Little Diomede and their kinfolk in Siberia.

Alaska Eskimos said they would like the proposed compact to closely resemble an almost forgotten 1938 U.S.-Soviet agreement, which said Alaska and Siberian Na-

Please see Page C-3, BORDER

BORDER: U.S., Soviets to begin talks Thursday

Continued from Page C-1

tives could visit settlements on each other's shores with little restriction.

Until 1948, Alaskans wanting to visit relatives in Siberia were issued certificates by U.S. authorities — most of whom were U.S. Department of Indian Affairs employees — that simply said who they were, where they came from, their occupation and their place of residence.

But Murkowski, noting times have changed since then, said travel requirements between Alaska and Siberia could be more complicated than that.

A U.S. Customs point of entry, most likely in Nome, would require more travel documentation than just a list of people wanting entry to Soviet territory.

He said he saw no real reed for visas and passports br the Eskimos, however.

An Alaska Yupik who said he used to watch Eskino whale boats set out to he Siberian coast when he vas a child, echoed the senabr's remarks.

"We been visiting each ther since time immemorid," said Tim Gologergan, a 0-year-old Saint Lawrence Islander now living in Nome.

Gologergan, in Anchorage o meet Siberian Eskimos isiting Alaska with a Soviet delegation this week, said slanders from Saint Lawence used to go to Siberia very summer in 30-foot whaling boats that were owered by sail.

"Then the U.S. said no nore," he said.

Gologergan also said he would like to see relations between the two powers normalized to the point where it is possible to give and receive home-crafted gifts made from, for example, walrus tusks.

But that also may not be possible, according to Murkowski. "The (federal) Marine Mammal Act doesn't allow that," he said.

Yupiks also want to be able to take Native food across to their relatives in Siberia, and to bring Siberian Yupik food back. Neither country allows it now.

Caleb Pungowiyi, a Native leader from Nome, will head the eight-member negotiating team for the Yupiks. Pungowiyi recently returned from a trip to Siberia, where he met many of the Siberian Natives now visiting Anchorage.

"We'll try to make it as simple as possible," Pungowiyi said.

Kiril Valeninovich Kassatkin, an information aide in the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will lead a nine-member Soviet delegation.

John Herbst, deputy director of Soviet affairs for the U.S. State Department, will represent the United States in the talks.

Murkowski said the state of Alaska and an aide from his office also will participate.

The delegates also plan to discuss establishing a bilateral border commission to help ease U.S. relations with the Soviets, Murkowski said.

The commission would handle inadvertent border crossings, fishing boats blown off course and people who walk over to the Soviet side from Little Diomede.

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Journalists to discuss glasnost

Two Soviet journalists and two Anchorage journalists will discuss "Glasnost and the Soviet Media: How it's Changing," at the University of Alaska Anchorage Wednesday.

Howard Weaver, managing editor of the Anchorage Daily News, will moderate the panel. Anchorage participants will be reporters Hal Bernton of the Anchorage Daily News and Daniel R. Saddler of the Anchorage Times.

The Soviet representatives will be journalists participating in the Soviet-American Friendship Week. The Alaska Press Club and the Westmark Hotels will host a reception following the panel discussion.

The free public discussion will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the UAA Arts Building Recital Hall. It is sponsored by the UAA departments of foreign languages, political science and journalism and public communication and the Alaska Press Club. For more information, contact Cindy Luckie at 345-5825 or John Tichotsky at 786-7701.

Soviet traders hit a snag

Soviet tells lawmakers to forget stereotypes

By DAVID POSTMAN
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — Alaska legislators were told Tuesday they would have to forget their stereotypes of the Soviet Union if they are serious about improving relations with, and making money from, the Soviet Far East.

The message came from Vyacheslav Kobets, governor of the Soviet Magadan Territory, in a speech to the state House that was both stereotypical for a Soviet official in its length — really long — and its substance — not much.

Stereotypes die hard. "I knew they were the real thing when after they were introduced they clapped for themselves," said Rep. Fritz

Please see Back Page, JUNEAU

The Associated Press

Gov. Steve Cowper talks with journalist Vasily Peskov and Guennadi Alferenko.

at customs

Visit organizers look for way to meet tariff requirements

By HAL BERNTON
Daily News reporter

The Soviet delegation that arrived in Anchorage Monday brought 3 tons of handicrafts and dreams of converting the merchandise into coveted U.S. dollars

But they were unprepared to deal with the U.S. Customs Service. That meant — glasnost or no glasnost — the goods were subject to huge tariffs because the Soviet Union has not been granted favored nation trading status.

To free the goods the Soviets found they would have to pay — or post bond for — more than $100,000, according to Duane Oveson, district customs director.

U.S. sponsors of the delegation, here on a goodwill and trade visit, were stunned by the magnitude of the Soviet imports.

"This showed us that the Soviets are ready and willing to deal in a major way in these types of things," said Dave Cannon, project director for the state Chamber of Commerce's Siberian Gateway project.

On Tuesday, Cannon joined with the Soviets, Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski, the state Office of International Trade and other groups in a last minute-scramble to get the goods to the Egan Center in time for a trade show scheduled for today.

By Tuesday evening, the bail-out effort appeared almost complete.

The plan called for a

Please see Back Page, TARIFF

TARIFF: Steep for the Soviets

Continued from Page A-1

bonded broker hired by the chamber to import the goods, said Oveson. The broker will be responsible for making sure that full duty is paid on all goods sold at the trade show, but won't have to pay any duty on unsold goods returned to the Soviet Union, he said.

The bail-out plan was greatly complicated by the Soviet's inexperience with customs regulations.

"Tariff law is set up by Congress and says, basically, everything that comes into the United States cannot come in without basic documentation," said Jon Peerce, another customs official. All shipments require detailed invoices listing the contents of all boxes and the price of each item.

Cannon said he telephoned Moscow several weeks ago to warn a Soviet official about customs requirements, and the heavy duties. These duties often run 90 percent of the item's value. And he said he requested a merchandise list be sent in advance of the delegation, so an Anchorage broker could begin the work with the Customs Service.

The list never arrived, and when the delegation arrived, they had 115 boxes of merchandise with no prices and only a rough list of contents. To make matters worse, the lists were written in Russian.

"We don't read Russian," said Oveson.

The list of goods includes linen table cloths, baby clothes, wooden spoons, assorted crafts and paintings. A separate collection of fine crafts will go on display at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Cannon said.

The list had to be translated and the Soviets had to figure out how much the goods were worth in U.S. dollars, Oveson said. That task was complicated because Soviet rubles can't be converted into dollars, so there is no U.S. standard for equating values.

Dollars are scarce in the Soviet Union. And the visitors lacked enough cash to make an up-front payment on the $100,000 tariff, Cannon said.

The U.S. system of tariffs was developed in the '30s, according to Peerce, then gradually lowered for many nations as the free trade ethic took hold in the postwar era. But that ethic has never extended to the Soviet bloc.

The Soviet Union and many Eastern European nations, Peerce said, still are considered unfavored nations and their imports to the U.S. are taxed at much higher rates than those from the rest of the world.

Silk fabrics of favored nations, for example, are taxed at 5 percent of their value, Peerce said; The same products brought in from the Soviet Union are taxed at 90 percent of value.

Those tariffs create a major obstacle for Alaska-Soviet trade, said Sam Salkin, president of Alaska Commercials Co., a chain of Alaska mercantile stores that has considered importing Soviet goods.

The Soviets must be willing to sell their products at a price that — even after the addition of tariffs — is still competitive on U.S. markets, Salkin said.

As of late Tuesday, Salkin was huddling with Soviet trade officials to try to help get the trade show off the ground.

"What I'm trying to do is not get terribly bent out of shape about this," Salkin said. "My view is, let's view this as an object lesson in how to resolve (trade) issues. We have an opportunity to learn from each other."

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Cowper, Soviets w

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

By LARRY PERSILY
Associated Press

JUNEAU — Gov. Steve Cowper and Soviet officials say they are not satisfied with the progress made toward increased cooperation and visitation between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

They want more.

"As for the development of our relations, I will not make a mistake if I say . . . we did many good things, but we're not satisfied . . . we could do much (more) in order to make our original contacts more fruitful," said Vyacheslav Kobets, governor of the Magadan Territory in the Soviet Far East.

Kobets spoke through an interpreter at a press conference in Juneau.

"I have more hope for our children," Kobets said. "I would hope in 10 years the borders between our two states would be secured only by friendship."

Cowper said more needs to be done to establish trade, tourism and cultural exchanges between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

"It won't be the easiest thing

Trade show exhibits spirit of enterprise

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Alaska's efforts to boost Soviet trade are off to an unexpectedly quick start, as a planned "mini-trade show" of goods from Moscow and Magadan has mushroomed into a two-day show and sale of three tons of goods.

But for most of Tuesday it looked like the first shipment of Soviet goods was going to be stopped at the gate.

Organizers of the visit of 90 Soviets to Anchorage this week had expected the trade officials to bring a few cases of goods for a small show at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center.

But they were amazed to learn Tuesday that the Aeroflot jet was loaded with 6,000 pounds of goods, including linens, tableware, fur hats and clothes, ornamental objects, and 40,000 books of picture postcards, according to a freight manifest.

"We had no idea they brought this much stuff," said Kathy Tarr, project supervisor for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, which organized the visit. "We'll have our own Russian Fred Meyer here."

The Soviets were unwilling to pay the duty costs, estimated by customs officials to be as high as $100,000.

Various schemes to cut or sidestep the duty were considered, but finally members of the chamber's Siberian Gateway Project, aided by pressure from Alaska's congressional delegation,

See Trade, page B-5

David Cannon and Shane Johnson inspect sor

ant more goodwill

in the world to establish a lot of trade relationships right away," Cowper said.

Joint ventures for fishing, trading information on Arctic construction technology and easing tensions between the world's superpowers are some of the possibilities that may come out of the new Alaska-Soviet friendship, he said.

"We're only limited by our imaginations," Cowper said in answer to a question from a Soviet journalist.

Kobets and a dozen other government officials and Soviet journalists spent the day in Juneau meeting with Cowper and legislators, touring stores and attending a public reception in their honor.

They arrived in Anchorage Monday and were scheduled to return there Wednesday morning for more activities in the state's largest city and a visit to the Kenai Peninsula.

Their Alaska visit will end with a folk concert Friday and a rock concert Saturday in Anchorage, with a Soviet rock band to share the stage.

The Soviets were invited here as part of Alaska's continuing effort to encourage cooperation and trade.

"Trade isn't necessarily the main purpose here," Cowper said, adding that Soviet and U.S. State Department officials would start negotiations Thursday in Anchorage to allow easier access for Eskimos between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

The negotiations will key on establishing a commission to discuss allowing Eskimos to travel across the border without a visa to visit relatives, Cowper said.

Times photo by WALT JOHNSON

ne of the Soviet products that will be sold at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center.

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Trade: U.S. Customs wants duty paid on imports

Continued from page B-1

won a deal delaying duty payment on the $130,000 in goods for 10 days, said Dave Cannon, a volunteer for the Chamber's Siberian Gateway Project.

Robert Broadheadt, a customs service broker, posted a performance bond of $10,000 for the Soviets in lieu of having to pay full $100,000 duty, according to an aide for Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska. The bond allowed the merchandise out of the airport and requires payment of the full amount of the duty owed in 10 days. The Stevens aide said the Soviet Union is a Column 2 country, which means they do not have preferred nation status and are charged a 100 percent duty. Stevens was working with customs and Fish & Wildlife for the release of the merchandise, the aide said.

Any goods not sold may be returned to the Soviet Union duty-free, Cannon said.

The Soviets may sell all the goods to one retailer, or chose to sell it all at their trade fair, which runs from noon to 8 p.m. today, and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday. A $5 donation will be collected at the door, Cannon said.

The fair will follow a luncheon program that will include seminars teaching businessmen from Alaska and the Soviet Union about business in each other's countries.

"By the end of this trade fair, the Russians will have some idea of how this stuff will do in the Alaska marketplace," said Mead Treadwell, also of the Siberian project.

One company with high hopes for the goods is the Alaska Commercial Co., which had earlier offered to post a $40,000 bond to permit them into the country just for display. The company wants to import such goods to sell to tourists in Alaska, and hopes the displays would generate orders and boost the chances for a deal.

"We originally figured it would be a couple of suitcases, that would go on a couple of tables," Cannon said. "The quality of the goods far exceeded our expectations as well."

Items at the show will include furs, crystal, clothing, table linens, tableware, decorative boxes, and many items made by the native Eskimos and Chukchis of the Soviet Far East region.

"It's crate upon crate upon crate of beautiful Soviet-made goods," Cannon said. Said another volunteer, "It's a regular Nordstroms of the North."

Prices for the goods will range from $5 up to $1,000 for some furs, Cannon estimated.

Chamber volunteers unloaded about a third of the 122 crates of goods early today, while the rest of the shipment will be held at Alaska Airlines' cargo warehouse. Chamber volunteers, plus salespeople from Fred Meyer's, will help the Soviets prepare the displays.

Feeling the merchandise

Times photo by DOUG VAN REETH

Sue Nichols, left, and her mother Lesia, visiting from California, examine a scarf at the Soviet trade fair at the Egan Center.

Shoppers snap up Russian goods

Trade show paves way for bigger ventures

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Soviet trade officials watching eager Anchorage shoppers snap up Russian goods at a trade show Thursday needed no translators to tell them their first try at international trade was a success.

After thousands of shoppers hunting for "a little bit of Russia" spent nearly $130,000, the message was so clear that the nouveau-capitalists are eager to raise the stakes, said a show organizer.

"They've told me that based on what happened here, they have got $1 million in goods ready to export to us in six months, at their cost," said Dave Cannon, an organizer with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce's Siberian Gateway Project.

By the time the sale ended at 9 p.m., only a quarter of the three tons of goods carried over Monday on an Aeroflot jet from Moscow and Magadan were left, mostly the remnants of the 40,000 books of Magadan picture postcards.

The goods were to be moved to the lobby of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, where they'll be on sale today from 9 a.m. to the 8 p.m. start of a Soviet folk music show, Cannon

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Soviet author and poet,
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Trade: Russian trade officials eager to raise stakes

Continued from page A-1

said. Leftovers will either be sold to Alaska retailers, or returned on the Aeroflot jet that takes the visitors away Monday.

The sale benefitted from a combination of novelty, goodwill, price and quality, said officials of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce's Siberian Gateway Project, which organized the sale.

"For most people, this was the first opportunity to buy goods imported from Russia," said Kathy Tarr, project coordinator. "There's a mystique about it."

Although $500 mink fur hats sold out rapidly, most items cost from $15 to $50, and the average shopper took home goods worth about $60. And while people enjoyed the convenience of American credit cards and checks, many had to endure long lines and some limited selections, more in the style of Soviet shopping.

Many shoppers considered embroidered linens the best deals. A tea set including a tablecloth, table runner, five napkins, center pad, and curtain valence sold for $30. Other popular items were sets of two wooden spoons for $10, various table linens for under $20, and $1 badges commemorating the 50th anniversary of the city of Magadan.

While some were concerned over Soviet quality, knowledgable shoppers were impressed with many items, especially the Russian mink, sable, and arctic fox furs.

"The quality of these furs is excellent, the best I've ever seen," said North Slope oil worker and fur collector Bill Vogeler. Blowing on one of his two mink furs for which he paid $60 each, he demonstrated that the mink hair was dark to the roots, a sign of quality.

The success of the sale increases the chances of more and bigger deals to come.

"The Soviets will probably realize more profit than they anticipated, and this'll generate so much good will that in the future they'll be very eager to do business with Alaska," said Steve Zelener, a Kiev-born Anchorage businessman serving as translator for Vecheslav A. Spirin, head of the Magadan trade department.

"We in the Soviet Union had the preconception that in America, no one takes a step until they make a profit," said Spirin. "This enthusiasm makes me happy and we look forward to doing more business with Alaska."

Prospects for the show were not always so rosy. There was early confusion with appraising the goods for import taxes, and a lack of labeling that changed the sale's first planned day into a look-but-don't-buy show.

Volunteers had to work Wednesday night unpacking and pricing the goods, and through Thursday manning the sale. One woman who came to shop was shanghaied into working at a sales counter for four hours.

But the glitches are part of the rocky beginnings of any new relationship, and will allow a firm foundation for any future deals, said Shane Johnson, Gateway Project coordinator.

"In international trade you have to have more than your everyday business relationship," he said. "You have to have a good deal of trust, so that if you turn your backs you know you won't get shafted."

Johnson estimated the sale took in between $100,000 to $130,000, but Cannon said the money came in so fast volunteers couldn't count it quick enough. A special account was opened at First National Bank of Anchorage, Cannon said.

A private broker will help figure the basis for customs charges, Cannon said. The Chamber of Commerce, which served as a broker for the goods, has about a week left to settle accounts with the U.S. Customs.

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Eskimos take part in U.S-Soviet talks

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Eskimo comment on U.S.-Soviet negotiations to renew travel over the Bering Straits is a major part of a process that could end with President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signing a new travel agreement, according to officials close to the talks.

Soviet and U.S. foreign officials met for five hours Thursday in Anchorage with Eskimos from both the Soviet territory of Magadan and Alaska's St. Lawrence Island, said Jessica Gavora, Soviet affairs aide to Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

"This was the beginning of a process in which the U.S. and the Soviet Union decided to commit to expanding Eskimo contacts on both sides of the border," said Wayne Neill, a State Department Soviet affairs officer who arrived in Anchorage Wednesday.

While Neill said he was ready to present the U.S. position on both the Eskimo travel agreements and on a Soviet-proposed commission to handle unauthorized border crossings, Gavora said the talks focused mainly on the travel issue.

See Border, page A-6

Border: Negotiations include input from Eskimos

Continued from page A-1

Neill said natives expressed with emotion their desire to cross the ocean between the regions in ships. That type of travel was common before Cold War tensions caused the suspension in 1948 of a U.S.-Soviet agreement reached in 1938.

This desire is at the root of recent warming of U.S.-Soviet relations at their nearest border, were boosted by summit talks between Gorbachev and then-President Ronald Reagan in Moscow in May 1988.

And, say sources close to the issue, its importance to superpower international relations may cause any final agreements to be signed at high levels: either Bush and Gorbachev, or their top foreign ministers.

"It should be apparent from the outset that this is a negotiation that is not over, but it has definitely begun," said Gavora. "It's going to go up through diplomatic channels to a higher level now . . . It's in the best interests of both sides that it happens at that level."

Neill said both the State Department and the Soviet foreign ministry were likely to be sensitive to prohibitions cutting relatives off from one another. This concern was reflected in the Eskimo participation in the talks, he said.

"There are very few cases in which the U.S. government has had to talk with the people (involved in such divisions)," Neill said. "There are very few situations in which the divided people are citizens of the United States. Not to solicit their opinions would be unjustified."

Neill would not comment on the substance of the meeting, which was closed to the press, saying diplomatic bargaining should be kept private.

Likewise, the leader of the Soviet delegation, Stepan F. Mazepa, would not disclose details of his country's position on the issue except to say he hoped the Alaska Eskimos would want to come to the Soviet Union.

The Russian republic is the largest political unit in the Soviet Union, and includes the Magadan territory, which contains Magadan, the capital, and much of the Soviet Far East that borders the Bering Sea.

Other members included Kiril Kassatkin, assistant of Foreign Minister spokesman Gennadai Gerasimov; Nadezhda P. Otke, chairman of the Chukotka district executive committee; six Siberian Yupiks and at least six Alaskans from Gambell and Savoonga. About 35 people attended the meetings.

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Talks will focus on Siberian visits

Western Alaska natives would travel across Bering Strait

By BOB ORTEGA
Times Writer

Officials of the U S. State Department and the Soviet Foreign Ministry, with Alaska native leaders taking part, will start negotiations Thursday in Anchorage on renewing a 1938 agreement allowing Western Alaska natives to travel across the Bering Straits to visit their Siberian counterparts.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker gave official authorization late Tuesday for the negotiations, according to Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

"This will be the first official U.S. government action to open the border across the Bering Strait," Murkowski said during a stop Tuesday in Anchorage on his way to the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

The negotiators will also discuss a Soviet proposal to create a joint border commission to regu-

See Bering, page A-8

Bering: Renewed agreement

Continued from page A-1

late travel and minor incidents between Alaska and Siberia, according to Jessica Gavora, a Murkowski aide who also will take part in the negotiations.

The goal of the discussions is to "allow the Eskimo people to go back and forth across the border to visit their relatives without the necessity of a visa," said Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper, who also will have a representative at the talks.

Vyacheslav Kobets, governor of the Magadan Territory in the Soviet Far East, wasn't predicting fast action on an agreement.

"I have more hope for our children," Kobets told the Associated Press in Juneau. "I would hope in 10 years, the borders between our two states would be secured only by friendship."

Travel between Alaska and Siberia has been prohibited since 1948, when the Soviet Union terminated an agreement allowing relatively free travel and trade by American Eskimos.

Before 1938, Eskimos living on both sides of the Bering Straits had traveled and traded without any official oversight by the governments of either the United States or the Soviet Union, according to State Department files.

In April of that year, the two powers agreed to allow the visits by American Eskimos to continue as long as they registered with officials in the Soviet Union and stayed less than three months. The agreement also regulated trade in furs and other materials.

On the U.S. side, schoolteachers living on St. Lawrence and Little Diomede Island were delegated to certify for the Soviets what natives traveled to Siberia.

Ten years after it was signed, the agreement fell victim to the Cold War.

Gavora said the American proposal will not call for allowing Soviet citizens to travel to Alaska.

"We would like to see two-way travel, but it would make the negotiations much more complicated," she said. "If they ask for reciprocal travel, then we'll go back to the drawing board" with the U.S. proposal, she said.

The negotiators will discuss allowing trade, and the possibility of allowing native artifacts to be transported across the border, Gavora said. Any such provision would require an exemption from the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which prohibits international trade in items made from marine mammals, Murkowski said.

As part of the discussion of the proposed commission's responsibilities, Gavora said the American negotiators will propose joint medical evacuation arrangements for Big and Little Diomede Islands (which are respectively on the Soviet and U.S. side of the border).

The unusual nature of the negotiations is underscored by the fact that citizens as well as government officials are taking part. Those announced Tuesday as participating in the negotiations include:

- U.S. State Department Deputy Director John Herbst.
- Three residents of Savoonga, a village on St. Lawrence Island, in the Bering Sea. They are: Caleb Pungowiyi, vice president of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, George Noongwook and John Wahiyi.
- Three residents of Gambell, another village of St. Lawrence. They are: village Mayor Hansen Irrigoo, Leonard Apangalook and Gerard Koonooka. Three additional Gambell residents will attend the negotiations as observers.
- Two residents of Diomede Island: Moses Milligrook and John Ipayana, Jr.
- Michael Krauss, director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Alaska Native Language Center.
- Ginna Brelsford, representing Gov. Steve Cowper
- Gavora, representing Murkowski.

On the Soviet side, the negotiators are expected to include two officials with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two officials with the U.S.S.R Fund for Social Intervention, and two officials apiece from the city of Magadan, the city of Providenya, and the Chukotsk region.

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

Alaska firm dreams of Soviet boutique

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Anchorage may one day have its own boutique specializing in Soviet-made furs, clothes and gifts, if the Alaska Commercial Co. resumes its centuries-old tradition of trade across the Bering Sea.

A plan for a joint venture between the Soviet territory of Magadan and the firm once known as the Russian-American Company was one of several discussed by top trade officials from the Soviet Union who toured Anchorage Tuesday.

See Venture, page A-8

Venture: Soviets

Continued from page A-1

The officials in industry, agriculture, aviation, shipping, construction, trade and culture visited the city's facilities for industry and international trade, at each stop discussing deals that could further dreams of increased trade across the Bering Sea.

In the last two years, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov's economic restructuring has encouraged regional officials to seek deals that will bring the country hard currency profits.

One such deal could be the Anchorage Soviet store outlined by Alaska Commercial President Sam Salkin.

"Alaska Commercial would pay for all the expenses for payroll, advertising, and overhead," he said. "They provide the inventory, and we'd send regular reports on what was selling . . . so they'd see how much products sold and at what price, our costs, and the net result."

"At the end of the year they get half the profit, and we get half the profit," he said.

The store would target tourists with leather products, furs, linens, tableware and items tied in with Alaska's Russian heritage, Salkin said.

Negotiations on this venture were informal and frank, with the Soviet officials eager to encourage such a deal by giving Salkin a look at the three tons of goods they had carried with them on their Aeroflot jet from Magadan Monday.

"You have to see the merchandise first, though," he said. "We may have to add to the product line with domestic product line, or products from other Soviet provinces. We won't know until we see the merchandise."

Recent visits between Alaska and the Soviet Far East have generated an atmosphere of optimism and excitement that was apparent in exchanges between Salkin and the officials, and in other discussions.

"These meetings represent the first chance these people have had during their visit to focus on the questions they came here to talk about," said Gunnar Knapp, economics professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage's Institute of Social and Economic Research.

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Times photo by AL GRILLO

nt Sam Salkin, right, trades business cards with Vecheslav A. Spirin, center, and Valerii C. Lozovoi.

Unalaska Mayor Paul Fuhs proposed giving the Soviet Union access to a U.S. Japanese fiber optic communications cable to be laid in 1990, in return for using their ice-breaking cargo ships to carry Alaska's raw materials to the European market through Vladivostok's ice-free port.

The proposal drew interest from Valeri C. Lozovoi, director of the Association for Economic Cooperation in Asian Pacific region.

He warned U.S. technology transfer laws, and unknowns on ice conditions on the proposed trade route could scuttle it.

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Daily News 2/27/89

Soviets turn a profit

Tradesmen leave money in Alaska

By LARRY CAMPBELL
Daily News reporter

Last week's international goodwill also meant at least marginal profits for Soviet tradesmen in Anchorage.

> "We intend to do more business in Alaska"
>
> — Soviet official

Trade officials from the Magadan region said they grossed more than 100,000 selling furs, linens, postcards and other items they brought with them during the Soviet visit last week.

The Magadan officials were members of a 94-member Soviet delegation hosted all week by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and the Juneau-based cultural organization Camai. The visit was billed as a trade and cultural promotion.

Vyacheslav Spirin, head of the Magadan Trade Department, said Sunday that the cash will stay at the National Bank of Alaska, "as faith, a guarantee that we intend to do more business in Alaska."

Still unknown, however, is how much in U.S. Customs tariff the Soviets must pay on the merchandise. State and local government officials and Alaska businessmen pulled strings last week that won the Soviets 10 days to pay the tariff, a detail that neither the Soviets nor Americans had taken care of before the Aeroflot plane landed with the three tons of merchandise last week.

Spirin and state chamber officials said Sunday they still don't know exactly how much the tariff will be, but estimated it will be less than $50,000.

Spirin said what's left over will be used to buy American or Alaska goods for export back to Magadan. But they haven't decided what to buy.

While the Soviets seemed happy about last week's capitalist encounter, they didn't sell everything. Many boxes of postcards and other items are left over. Spirin said negotiations were still going on with local businesses to buy the leftovers so they won't have to carry all them home when they leave this morning.

Trade winds tempt Alaska

Obstacles don't deter businesses

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Language differences and red tape barriers haven't dampened the enthusiasm of businessmen from Alaska and the Soviet Far East, who are talking turkey this week.

On the third day of the Soviet visit to Anchorage, merchants and trade officals on both sides discussed the opportunities and obstacles that abound for increased trade between the two regions.

"This week is a good case study of what it will take to do business with the Soviets," said Ron Miller, of the Alaska Office of International Trade.

In seminars and at luncheons at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center, and at innumerable personal business conversations, deals flew thick and fast. Proposals filled the air as Alaska entrepreneurs scrambled to make their patch for business in the Soviet Far East.

Alascom wants to set up satellite links. Unalaska Mayor Paul Fuhs wants to trade fiber optic communications for use of tourists from Nome to Provideniya. Indian Valley Meats wants to build plants in the Magadan territory to make reindeer sausage. Great Land Exploration wants cooperation in developing Northwest Alaska mineral deposits. Society Expedition cruise lines wants to take naturalist tourists to Provideniya and the Soviet Arctic.

"We Alaskans tend to look for a quick fix to our economic problems," Alaska Commercial Company President Sam Salkin told a luncheon meeting at the Egan Center presented by the Alaska State and Anchorage chambers of commerce, and supported by the city of Unalaska.

While Salkin warned in his remarks that "the true value of this trade cannot be measured only in dollars and rubles," he admitted "financial returns from Alaska-Soviet trade will likely be modest."

Salkin's message was a wind of caution blowing through the heady atmosphere surrounding talks for what both sides hope is an expansion of trade. While progress toward real deals is encouraging, the hard work of striking deals in unfamiliar and changing legal frameworks is revealing some difficulties.

Hopes are high for numerous joint plans for exchange of tourism, agriculture, technology, and natural resources. The deals are possible under changes in Soviet law encouraging joint ventures with Western nations, to bring hard currency to the economy.

But Salkin and others foresee problems likely in several areas:

- The Soviet ruble is not traded on world markets, so most deals must be through barter instead of simple monetary exchanges.
- Satellite and telephone communications are limited, slowing down the interchanges necessary for business.
- The Soviet Union is not a favored nation under U.S. trade laws, bringing stiff tariffs against Soviet exports to Alaska.
- Transportation of goods is still difficult, as evidenced by the problem of getting three tons of Soviet goods into Anchorage earlier this week. However, the products have cleared customs, and are at the Egan Center for a trade show and sale today from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Efforts are underway to remedy these and other impediments, and both Soviet officials and American businessmen are eager to proceed.

Valerii C. Lozovoi, head of the Association for Economic Cooperation in the Asian Pacific Region, presented a decree of the Soviet Council of Ministers that will expand greatly the number of government cooperative production enterprises that can enter contracts with foreign countries.

He and other officials in industry, trade, agriculture, aviation, culture and shipping answered questions on what it will take to cut deals.

Precedents already exist for joint ventures with the Soviet Far East, which is already dealing with Japan and recently expanded trade contacts with China, Australia and New Zealand, Lozovoi said.

Trade zones are opening up to introduce new capital and manufacturing to the region, he said. Arrangements are underway to allow Western nations to use letters of credit with international banks to back their Soviet ventures. And the soviet government is developing new procedures for profit accounting.

"There seems to be great interest in cutting down barriers both ways," said Sen. Arliss Sturgelewski, R-Anchorage, who met with a Soviet delegtion in Juneau Tuesday during a joint legislative foreign trade

See Trade, page B-8

Businessmen discuss proposals for trade between Alaska and the Soviet Far East at the Egan Center Wednesday.

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

Women look over Soviet fur pelts at Egan's trade fair.

Shoppers quick to buy Russians' trade goods

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Soviet trade officials watching eager Anchorage shoppers snap up Russian goods at a trade show Thursday needed no translators to tell them their first try at international trade was a success.

After thousands of shoppers hunting for "a little bit of Russia" spent nearly $130,000, the message was so clear that the nouveau-capitalists are eager to raise the stakes, said a show organizer.

"They've told me that based on what happened here, they have got $1 million in goods ready to export to us in six

See Trade, page A-6

BRIDGE ☆ TO THE ☆ FUTURE

Eskimos participate in travel negotiations

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

Eskimo comment on U.S.-Soviet negotiations to renew travel over the Bering Straits is a major part of a process that could end with President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signing a new travel agreement, according to officials close to the talks.

Soviet and U.S. foreign officials met for five hours Thursday in Anchorage with Eskimos from both the Soviet territory of Magadan and Alaska's St. Lawrence Island, said Jessica Gavora, Soviet affairs aide to Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

"This was the beginning of a process in which the U.S. and the Soviet Union decided to commit to expanding Eskimo contacts on both sides of the border," said Wayne Neill, a State Department Soviet affairs officer who arrived in Anchorage Wednesday.

While Neill said he was ready to present the U.S. position on both the Eskimo travel agreements and on a Soviet-proposed commission to handle unauthorized border crossings, Gavora said the talks focused mainly on the travel issue.

Neill said natives expressed with emotion their desire to cross the ocean between the regions in ships. That type of travel was common before Cold War tensions caused the suspension in 1948 of a U.S.-Soviet agreement reached in 1938.

This desire is at the root of recent warming of U.S.-Soviet relations at their nearest border, which

See Border, page A-6

Trade: Russian trade officials eager to raise stakes

Continued from page A-1

months, at their cost," said Dave Cannon, an organizer with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce's Siberian Gateway Project.

By the time the sale ended at 9 p.m., only a quarter of the three tons of goods carried over Monday on an Aeroflot jet from Moscow and Magadan were left, mostly the remnants of the 40,000 books of Magadan picture postcards.

The goods were to be moved to the lobby of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, where they'll be on sale today from 9 a.m. to the 8 p.m. start of a Soviet folk music show, Cannon said. Leftovers will either be sold to Alaska retailers or returned on the Aeroflot jet that takes the visitors away Monday.

The sale benefitted from a combination of novelty, goodwill, price and quality, said officials of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce's Siberian Gateway Project, which organized the sale.

"For most people, this was the first opportunity to buy goods imported from Russia," said Kathy Tarr, project coordinator. "There's a mystique about it."

Although $500 mink fur hats sold out rapidly, most items cost from $15 to $50 and the average shopper took home goods worth about $60. And while people enjoyed the convenience of American credit cards and checks, many had to endure long lines and some limited selections, more in the style of Soviet shopping.

Many shoppers considered embroidered linens the best deals. A tea set including a tablecloth, table runner, five napkins, center pad, and curtain valence sold for $30. Other popular items were sets of two wooden spoons for $10, various table linens for under $20, and $1 badges commemorating the 50th anniversary of the city of Magadan.

While some were concerned over Soviet quality, knowledgable shoppers were impressed with many items, especially the Russian mink, sable and arctic fox furs.

"The quality of these furs is excellent, the best I've ever seen," said North Slope oil worker and fur collector Bill Vogeler. Blowing on one of his two mink furs for which he paid $60 each, he demonstrated that the mink hair was dark to the roots, a sign of quality.

The success of the sale increases the chances of more and bigger deals to come.

"The Soviets will probably realize more profit than they anticipated, and this'll generate so much goodwill that in the future they'll be very eager to do business with Alaska," said Steve Zelener, a Kiev-born Anchorage businessman serving as translator for Vecheslav A. Spirin, head of the Magadan trade department.

"We in the Soviet Union had the preconception that in America, no one takes a step until they make a profit," said Spirin. "This enthusiasm makes me happy, and we look forward to doing more business with Alaska."

Prospects for the show were not always so rosy. There was early confusion with appraising the goods for import taxes and a lack of labeling that changed th sale's first planned day into look-but-don't-buy show.

Volunteers had to work We nesday night unpacking and pri ing the goods and through Thur day staffing the sale. One woma who came to shop was shan haied into working at a sal counter for four hours.

But the glitches are part of th rocky beginnings of any new r lationship and will allow a firr foundation for any future deal said Shane Johnson, Gatewa Project coordinator.

"In international trade yo have to have more than your e eryday business relationship," h said. "You have to have a goo deal of trust, so that if you tur your backs you know you won get shafted."

Border: Negotiations include input from Eskimos

Continued from page A-1

were boosted by summit meetings between Gorbachev and then-President Ronald Reagan in Moscow in May 1988.

And, say sources close to the issue, its importance to superpower international relations may cause any final agreements to be signed at high levels: either Bush and Gorbachev or their top foreign ministers.

"It should be apparent from the outset that this is a negotiation that is not over, but it has definitely begun," said Gavora. "It's going to go up through diplomatic channels to a higher level now . . . It's in the best interests of both sides that it happens at that level."

Neill said both the State Department and the Soviet foreign ministry were likely to be sensitive to prohibitions cutting relatives off from one another. This concern was reflected in the Eskimo participation in the talks, he said.

"There are very few cases in which the U.S. government has had to talk with the people (involved in such divisions)," Neill said. "There are very few situations in which the divided people are citizens of the United States. Not to solicit their opinions would be unjustified."

Neill would not comment on the substance of the meeting, which was closed to the press, saying diplomatic bargaining should be kept private.

Likewise, the leader of the Soviet delegation, Stepan F. Mazepa, would not disclose details of his country's position on the issue except to say he hoped the Alaska Eskimos would want to come to the Soviet Union.

The Russian republic is the largest political unit in the Soviet Union, and includes the Magadan territory, which contains Magadan, the capital, and much of th Soviet Far East that borders th Bering Sea.

Other members included Kir Kassatkin, assistant of Foreig Minister spokesman Gennad Gerasimov; Nadezhda P. Otk chairman of the Chukotka di trict executive committee; s Siberian Yupik Eskimos and r least six Alaskans from Gambe and Savoonga. About 35 peopl attended the meetings.

ALASKA ACTION

Newsletter of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

April 1989

"Alaska and the USSR: Open for Business"

Glasnost Changing Trade Relations

"The possibility of trade (as in profit) excites the Alaska State Chamber which has taken a lead role in helping open the border between Alaska and the Soviet Union."

—Anchorage Daily News, Feb. 5, 1989—

Alaskans and Soviets joined in a spirit of cooperation and friendship when an Aeroflot jet carrying 94 Soviets made an historical trip to Anchorage on February 20, 1989. The week was billed as the "Soviet-American Reunion" calling attention to past historical ties and the continuing efforts to open up trade and communication between Alaska and the Soviet Union. "Russian fever" spread quickly as Alaskans eagerly welcomed the Soviet visitors. The delegation, which included performers, journalists, government officials, teachers, and businessmen, spent an intensive eight days learning as much as they could about Alaskan business, education, culture, and the intracacies of American shopping malls.

The Siberian Gateway Project of the Alaska State Chamber, with the assistance of many businesses and volunteers, hosted the group and was primarily responsible for all the events which led up to the Glasnost Folkfest and Superpower Rock 'n Roll concerts.

The concerts were organized by Camai, a non-profit from Juneau under the leadership of Dixie Belcher, a peace activist who took the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace to the USSR in 1986.

It wasn't the music alone, however, which brought people together, but also the desire to do business. The Soviets are keenly interested in developing trade with Alaskans. As a surprise demonstration of that desire, a Russian trade fair was held at the Egan Center on February 22. State Chamber organizers were

(continued on page 3)

Soviet delegates tour the Port of Anchorage, one of many facilities they visited. Photo by David Ford

This issue sponsored by **USIBELLI COAL MINE, INC.**

USSR *(continued from page 1)*
expecting to set-up a few scattered display tables of Russian goods, but instead found themselves at U.S. Customs processing entry of 6,000 pounds.

The USSR does not have "favored nation" status with the U.S. which made customs processing a little more challenging, time-consuming, and expensive for the Soviets.

"The duty was figured on each article independently," according to Robert Broadhead, a U.S. Customs broker who handled the shipment to Anchorage for the Soviet Trade Fair. "Each article had a different rate of duty attached to it. For example, leather goods require a 25% average duty and jewelry is 110%. The large range of products which the Russians brought with them to Anchorage made duty calculations difficult," said Broadhead.

Although the Soviets had to pay an average 87% tariff on the goods, the trade fair went on and proved to be one of the most popular events of the "Soviet-American Reunion". Alaskans lined up before the doors opened and paid an admission fee to inspect a variety of Russian-made products. The trade fair was like a market survey to the Soviets enabling them to test the "capitalist" waters. They found their goods had a definite "curiosity appeal"; the demand was there for the higher-quality items in particular, such as mink hats and hand-painted black lacquer plates.

As business meetings progressed for the rest of the week, it became clear to people on both sides that the possibilities for creating more trade were real, not simply hyperbole. Many high-level Soviet businessmen made the trip to Anchorage including, Vyacheslav A. Spirin, head of the trade department of the Magadan Region Executive Committee, and Valeri K. Lozovoy, general director of the Asia and Pacific Association of Business Cooperation.

Lozovoy presented an overview of the current business climate in the Soviet Union and briefed a gathering of over 125 Alaskans on the decree from the Soviet Council of Ministries concerning joint ventures with foreign enterprises. After Lozovoy's lecture, Soviet trade officials fielded questions regarding specific joint venture proposals from some of the Alaskans in attendance. (Effective April 1, USSR's joint venture laws were reformed paving the way for Soviets to enter into direct business partnerships with foreigners and greatly loosening the control from Moscow.)

Throughout the week, individual meetings and negotiating sessions were held between the Soviets and Alaskans interested in joint ventures in the following areas: fisheries, mining, tourism, reindeer products, folk crafts, art exchanges, educational exchanges, and sports exchanges.

"The elements and desire to do business are there," said Dave Heatwole, chairman of the ASCC. "Alaskans are building a bridge in business while at the same time they are promoting the higher goals of friendship and world peace. Twenty years from now, all of the small steps Alaskans are taking will have added up to make a difference in world trade."

Following is an update on some of the negotiations and proposals which were discussed with the Soviet delegation:

V. Spirin, of the Magadan Executive Committee (far left) at the Anchorage International Airport Terminal before boarding Aeroflot to return to the USSR.
Photo by David Ford

Soviet businessmen met daily at Egan Center.
Photo by David Ford

ALASCOM

Alascom is working to establish the first phase of a direct communications link between the Soviet Far East and Alaska. "Alascom does see the need for more direct communications to accommodate trade, commerce, and cultural exchanges," said Lee Wareham, Vice President

(continued on page 7)

—THANKS—

Thanks to all the volunteers, host families, translators, businesses, and organizations who supported the Siberian Gateway Project through the donation of time, money, and services. Without the commitment of our volunteers and the help from the business community, the "Soviet-American Reunion" would not have been possible.

PROJECT TEAM

Dave Cannon • Shane Johnson • Bill Bredesen • Mead Treadwell • Vic Fischer
Dr. Gunnar Knapp • John Tichotsky • Shirley Staten • Keith Mosely
Ron Miller • A.J. McClanahan • Hilary Hardwick • Heather Johnson • Kathy Tarr

(Thanks also to Joan Manuel, Anthony Lastufka, Stephanie Bellinger, Steven Rouse and Irene Peterson.)

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Alaska State Troopers • Dutch Harbor Chamber of Commerce
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"Soviet American Reunion" to thaw bridge of ice

By Robert Devine
Northern Light Reporter

International attention focuses on the University of Alaska Anchorage this week as a 90-member Soviet delegation joins together with Alaskans for a seven day celebration of the "Soviet American Reunion" in Anchorage.

UAA students will have front row seats as history making events begin to unfold on campus. Numerous Soviet seminars, speeches, get-togethers and classroom visits have been scheduled, said Nancy Killoran of University Relations.

Even a Soviet television/film crew will be on hand to capture the spirit of the occasion, said Gunnar Knapp of the Institute of Social and Economic panel discussion by American and Soviet newspaper people, talks and meetings with Soviet scientists and economic seminars about "doing business" in the Far East.

A group of 10 to 20 Yupik natives from Siberia will join in the festivities, according to Elaine Abraham, coordinator Research (ISER). According to Knapp, the crew wants to interview students, document classes in action, visit the Center for Circumpolar Health Studies and generally capture the essence of higher education UAA style.

Major events for the week include a

*See **UAA** back page*

Curtain goes up on 'Boys Next Door'
– See page 7

USSR – UAA Schedule
– See page 19

UAA desti

Continued from page 1

for native student services. In the spirit of international brotherhood and sisterhood, all the visiting Siberian

Yupiks will be adopted by students, staff or faculty members on Wednesday, and that day will be known as "Adopt a Soviet Russian Day," she said.

"You can adopt one of the natives for the day or the week or for a lifetime, whatever you like," Abraham said. "At the adoption we'll have sort of a potluck with donations, whatever anyone can bring, between noon and 1:30 p.m. (Feb. 22, room F-138, Cuddy Center). We're trying to get some donations to feed them pizzas, because they don't get pizzas in Soviet Russia."

According to Abraham, this get-together with Siberian Yupiks will be anything but dull.

"They're really interesting people," she said. "One is a hunter, one is retired, one is a researcher in minority education and there's cultural dancers, too. At 3 p.m. they will be back at the PAC to practice the big dances they'll be doing Friday night (at the Performing Arts Center)."

After that performance, an encore event will be staged.

"On Saturday we're having a potluck in K-building," Abraham said. "There

ORMING ARTISTS FOR PEACE
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nation for Soviet travelers

will be Alaskan Siberian Yupiks to welcome Russian Siberian Yupiks, and there will be a very informal exchange of dances and getting to know each other from noon until whenever."

Abraham encourages all students to take full advantage of this opportunity to meet Russian and American native people who, during recent years, have played a vital role in easing tensions between Super Powers.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime happening for all of us," she said. "These native people were instrumental in opening the Iron Curtains, because they've all got relatives (on one side or the other of the Bering Straight)."

Other Soviets will also meet the public during the Reunion.

According to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist John Strohmeyer, a UAA professor, a rare opportunity to meet with members of both the Soviet and American press will take place Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the UAA Arts building.

"It is going to be a panel discussion in which American and Soviet newspaper people will address differences, and perhaps similarities, of gathering news in both countries," he said. "There'll be a minimum of speeches and a lot of discussion involving questions from the floor."

According to Strohmeyer, Managing Editor Howard Weaver of the Anchorage Daily News will moderate the discussion. Soviet journalists, yet to be named, will sit on the panel with Daniel Saddler of The Anchorage Times and Hal Bernton of the Anchorage Daily News, he said.

"I think it's a chance of a lifetime to see people who actually work in the trenches give us their candid views on how the press operates in both countries," said Strohmeyer.

Two meetings with leading Soviet research scientists will also take place during the week and will be open to the public.

Bernard Segal, director of the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, said an open forum with three prominent Soviet medical scientists will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in room 226 of the Administration building. "I think the most important aspect is the growth of personal and professional relationships that will come out of this," Segal said.

An additional public meeting with three Soviet scientists will take place on Monday, Feb. 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Campus Center, room 104. According to Larry Weiss, assistant professor of sociology, the topic will be "Health and Social Problems in Modern Siberia."

Weiss said it is difficult to overstate the value of meeting face to face with our Soviet neighbors.

"In a democracy each of us has some say, in the voting booth if nowhere else, and we can't promote world peace unless we have a good understanding of the issues," he said. "And one of the issues we have to understand is that the negative images (presented in this country about Soviet people) over the last few decades have not been realistic."

Information about Soviet-American business opportunities will also be shared during Friendship Week.

One seminar is scheduled to take place at the Eagan Convention Center from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 22. Topics will include setting up joint ventures with a Soviet partner and opportunities for joint ventures with Alaska businesses in the areas of mining, transportation and agriculture.

On-campus business seminars will be offered too. According to Knapp, Professor Boris Kransnopolski of the North Eastern Research Institute will give seminars at ISER on Thursday and possibly Friday as well. Kransnopolski will discuss the Soviet Far East and economic development in Magadan, Russia, and probably other Soviet visitors will attend, Knapp said.

According to some observers, the events and festivities of Friendship Week will mark yet another step toward a warmer, stronger, more dynamic UAA-Soviet relationship. And Knapp said the future of that relationship looks bright.

"I think it reasonable to hope that Russian exchange students may be here (within a couple of years)," he said, adding that UAA students might be attending Soviet universities within the same period of time.

"Perhaps some of the Russians will play on the UAA hockey team," said Knapp.

A Russian exchange student playing for the team might stimulate phenomenal cultural exchange, said Mark Ostapina, assistant coach of the UAA men's hockey team.

"If we could have someone come in and give us a little bit of their culture and the European style and the European flavor, and if he was a blue chipper, that would be a tremendous asset to the program," said Ostapina. "My feeling is that it's something we would welcome forthwith."

Killoran offered additional interpretations of burgeoning UAA-Soviet relations. According to her, the interchange of ideas, cultures and knowledge during recent years has helped to melt the "ice curtain."

But Killoran said the overall significance of the warming trend is bigger than Alaska and Siberia put together.

"It's international, it's quality and it's UAA that is standing out head and shoulders above all the rest," she said. "We're setting the pace in international relations. We kind of helped start it, and I'm glad we can continue with it, because what we started is much, much bigger."

However, according to Killoran, the greatest values are, and will ever remain, human values.

"When it comes right down to it, people meeting people is what it's all about in this world," she said.

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Professor of Linguistics,
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Michael Metty
President, Tanana Community
College, Fairbanks

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
U.S. Senator, Alaska

Tennys Owen
Owner, Artique Art Shops,
Anchorage

Pat Peacock
Librarian, Kotzebue

Rosie Porter
Editor, *Tundra Drum*, Bethel

John Pingayuk
Chevak Mayor, lead APAP performer

Yuri Ryktieu
Soviet author and poet,
Chukotka Peninsula

Soviet-U.S. bond up to businesses

By SERGEI DARDYKIN
Izvestia

The first tourist airline flight between Alaska and Chukotka may make regular service possible. Harbors have opened for ships from both nations. Telephone, telegraph, and postal service also is projected.

But the relations that are leading to these contacts are not coming through Moscow, Washington or New York.

All these matters were discussed at business meetings held last week with leaders and businessmen from the Magadan region and Alaska. What will the outcome be? Are these just fantastic dreams, or are they tomorrow's reality — the first step from which the rest will follow?

As a private citizen and as a press correspondent on Soviet American relations in recent years, I don't see anything unrealistic in the project of Unalaska Mayor Paul Fuhs.

(Fuhs has proposed a joint venture that would give the Soviet Union access to a trans-Pacific fiber optic cable in exchange for using its fleet of ice-breaking cargo ships to open far north shipping routes to the Eurasian landmass.)

Sergei Dardykin
. . . tomorrow's reality

Why shouldn't American companies be permitted to take goods from the Bering Sea to Europe by the northern

See Companies, page B-5

ALASKA PERFORMING ARTISTS FOR PEACE
1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801 USA Telephone (907) 789-0449; Telex 090 45380

Companies: U.S., Soviet ties

Continued from page B-1

sea route? In return, the Soviet Union receives modern communications systems for the Soviet Far East, according to the conditions outlined by Fuhs.

Although the Magadan region is very large, its representative delegation does not have the authority to resolve this question. It is essential that such decisions are made at the Moscow government level. And if Alaska Airlines is interested in direct air connections with the Chukotka Peninsula for tourists, it will also have to get permission — from Washington.

The desires and efforts of the local authorities and business people are leading to an era of normal economic relations. But it is up to Moscow and Washington to improve the political climate for such relations, just as they are partners in talks relating to the decrease in armaments. This will lead to good and close neighborly relations in the narrow strip of the Bering Sea.

Not as quickly as we need, but we are slowly beginning to learn a common political language. Together we can count missiles and nuclear warheads, as was done in the successful realization of the intermediate-range nuclear missile treaty. With tanks, airplanes and artillery in Europe — all that is called conventional weapons — it is a little more difficult, but even here you can see progress. Even in such a delicate area as human rights, our official representatives have gingerly opened mutual discussions. And the messages carried in mass media change in response to politics.

As far as I can judge in relation to the American press, dissidents and visa problems in the Soviet Union no longer seem to be the main themes, just as my colleagues writing about America no longer focus primarily on the problem of unemployment in America.

Both we, the Soviet Union, and you, here in America, have our problems. But now people in both countries receive the full, factual and multi-colored picture, and not just the black-and-white facts they received previously. To see one's own problems, and to try to understand those of others, is the foundation of communication.

In the economic field, we discussed matters in various languages from the outset. For many American businessmen who attended seminars on Soviet economics held at the Egan Center Wednesday, it was news that there are no duties imposed on goods imported into the Soviet Union. Soviet merchant specialists who brought their goods to America for the first time on a trial basis knew well that the U.S. employs a system in which some nations enjoy favored-nation status, which we in the Soviet Union do not enjoy.

I do not yet know how Fuhs' idea will be received in Moscow. But I also do not know how it will be received in Washngton.

What if one of the components of a communication system for the Soviet Far East was found to fall within the list of goods allowed into the nations of the Commmunity for Mutual Economic Assistance, and it was prohibited from being delivered into the Soviet Union for "strategic reasons?" Only when the realization of such projects is no longer beholden to the military and the decision-making politicians, will the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. be able to proceed beyond the framework of the restricted levels of trade we have seen to date.

The traditional thinking with respect to mere "buying and selling" gives us only limited possibilities, either for future contacts between our two countries as a whole, or for contacts between given regions, like Alaska and the Magadan region. There should be no doubt that Alaska's businessmen will have little trouble finding commodities with a big demand in the Soviet mamrket, but what will they do with all the rubles they earn?

On their first visit to Anchorage, Magadan trade organizations found people here literally waiting in line for the goods they brought. But we must surmise that the Alaskans snapped up all our Russian ear-flap caps and linen tablecloths not, by any stretch of the imagination, because they had nothing with which to cover their ears or tables, but rather because it is still quite exotic to discover such Soviet goods in Alaska.

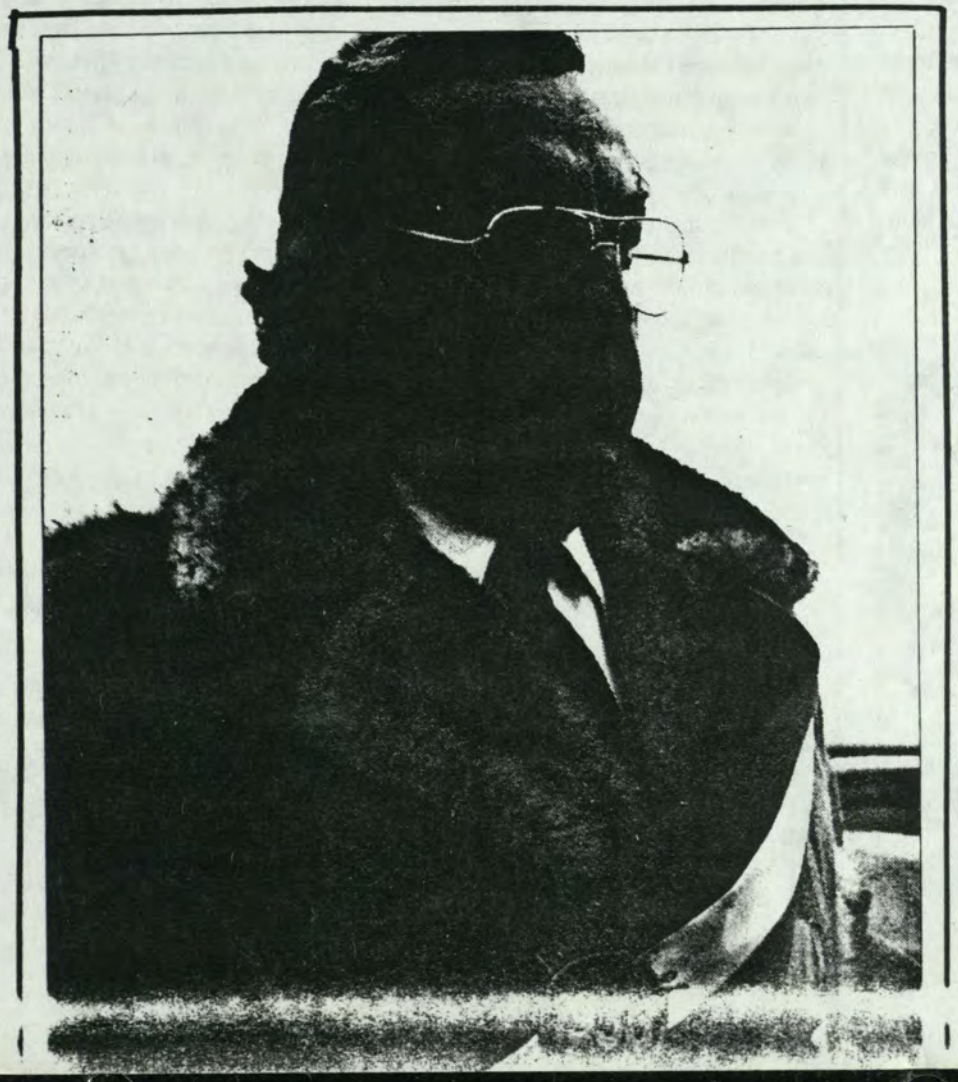
But what will happen when, sooner or later, something Soviet is no longer exotic?

Even after the new developments of the last three years — which have brought what President George Bush in his inaugural address called "a new closeness" between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. — we still have not been so accustomed (as we are in Anchorage) to expressions like "our Soviet friends" and "our American friends." Such expressions have disappeared from both our political and everyday vocabularies since soon after the end of the Second World War. In 40 years we have learned to prove to ourselves, to each other and to the rest of the world that we could get by without mutual cooperation. This was not so difficult. It turned out to be more difficult to convince ourselves that we could get along with such cooperation.

Shopping malls a destination for Soviet delegation

By Louise O'Brien-Dominguez
Northern Light Reporter

For the Soviet delegates who descended on the Northway mall last week, it was a time to explore the excitement of the American shopping scene. For the many Anchorageites who visit the mall everyday, shopping is usually done out of boredom or the necessitous urge to blow ones paycheck.



The mall was filled with curious people, anxiously waiting to catch a glimpse of the Soviet shoppers. Nobody in the mall, including security, seemed to know the exact time the Soviets would arrive at the mall. If anyone did know, it was being kept well under wraps. After three hours of numerous delays, the red double-decker bus finally parked in front of the mall entrance and the anxiety of the waiting on-lookers were lifted.

As they entered the mall, the obvious looks of excitement and awe could be seen on the faces of the on-lookers. The Soviets themselves remained placid as they walked up to meet their guides, but did exchange warm greetings eventually.

Their guides, who were mainly mall workers that volunteered, greeted each Soviet shopper with an American-style hello, and a bag-o-goodies. These

Electronics were mostly what Makeev was concerned with purchasing. "I would like to buy some double tape cassette deck from the Japanese," he said.

A few of the Pokrovski performers, a group of Russian folk dancers, also participated in the shopping expedition. Their main attraction was the camera shop. According to Artur Partosh and Ramiz Akhundov, a good camera will cost a months salary, about 140 rubles, in the Soviet Union. Partosh, 29, is a singer and dancer, while 39 year old Akhundov is a pianist.

Through interpreter Ostrovsky, Partosh and Akhundov spoke about their first trip to America. Although the performers won't be continuing on to other U.S. cities this time around, both performers look forward to coming back next summer to visit such places as Washington, D.C., New York, and Disneyland. In the meantime, they are

Northern Light/ Ken Foley

Otto Lincoln stages a non-violent protest at the Northway mall.

Protesting a lonely job

By Louise O'Brien-Dominguez
Northern Light Reporter

He stood in front of the Northway Mall, alone and proud, just waiting for their arrival. He was decorated like a war hero, with a colorful banner draped around his body and a sign which made a powerful statement: VASANYGNNUA PASHLY DOMA- MURDERERS RUSSKI GO HOME!

Otto Lincoln arrived before the Soviet shopping tour to protest their communist government. Lincoln said he doesn't personally hate the Russian delegates who visited Alaska last week but he does despise what they stand for. Lincoln who has been an American citizen for 27 years, bitterly remembers the 1956 uprising in his homeland of Budapest, Hungary.

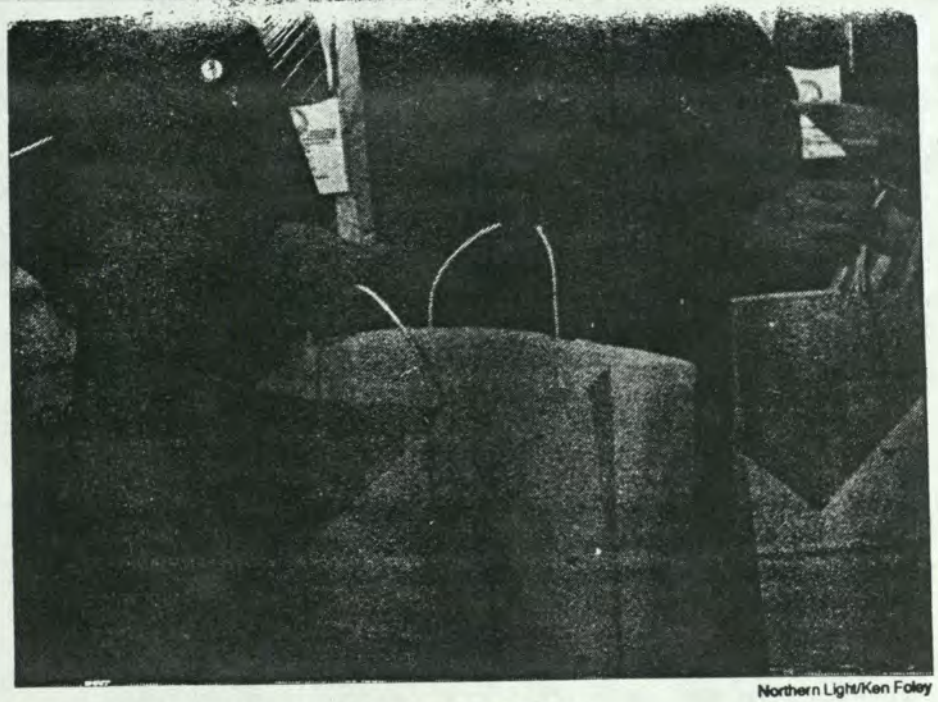
"I was the leader fighting against the communist system," Lincoln said. "I was one of the leaders who managed to escape before I was arrested in November of 1956. During the war, the Kruschev government duly and diplomatically recognized the independent new Hungarian government.

"After three days there came a telegram from Eisenhower, and he sent a telegram to the Yugoslav Embassy in Budapest. I managed to have access to it and translated it to english. It simply means quoting word by word, ' We, the people of the United States, do not favor to establish an anti-communist government neighboring Russia' After he signed it, an already mobilized Russian army invaded from the north," Lincoln said.

The end of this war story has an ironic twist. According to Lincoln, the only help the Hungarians received during the war was from the Russian soldiers who were already stationed in Hungary. Despite their noble efforts, these soldiers were all killed after the Revolution.

"When the delegates come, they are not representing the Russian people they are representing the most brutal, murderous, international gangsters, the ultimate of the mafia in Russia.

"Whether they were born in Russia or not, the only ones I would say that could be classified as real Russians are the defectors. Those that don't defect, I classify as communist agent," Lincoln stated.



Northern Light/Ken Foley

Soviet shoppers check out their goodie bags.

shopping bags were filled with donated gifts ranging from a stuffed Mickey Mouse to jewelry and soda pop coupons.

With bags in hand, the Soviets strolled through the mall, followed by an entourage of curious members of the press, flashbulbs and recorders.Some of the shoppers headed straight for chocolate chip cookies and Coca-Cola, while others bee-lined to Radio Shak searching for desired electronic devices.

Sergei N. Makeev is a Soviet businessman who was among the shoppers at Northway. Through interpreter Yuri Ostrovsky, Makeev commented on the people of Alaska. "I like the friendly people and the friendliness I receive here. Siberia is very similar to Alaska. All of the memories I pick up here will stay with me for the rest of my life," Makeev said.

finding Alaska to be "very interesting."

When asked about their favorite American things, Partosh and Akhundov voted hamburgers,pizza, and Kentucky Fried Chicken as their favorite foods. Ray Charles, Paul Winter, and Oscar Peterson were their favorite American performers.

The person they most wanted to meet was not Michael Jackson or George Bush, but World Chess Champion Robert Fisher. "Because he is a recluse and nobody can beat him," both men said.

When their short stay in Alaska is over, the Soviets will return to their homeland with various American trinkets, and Alaskans will return to the malls to deplete their checkbooks for another round of the shopping routine.

ock Sullivan Arena

Although their lyrics were Russian, the emotion their songs carried transcended the language barrier with a beat that any American rock fan could identify with.

Rondo not only incorporated a fast-paced rhythm in their music, but also an element of comedy that had the audience fixed to the antics on stage. Their fourth song was "a song about a woman who comes home and finds her husband in bed with another woman," explained keyboard player Evgeny Rubanov.

"'Hold on, says the husband. Let me explain. I was driving and saw her walking. I gave her a ride home. She was hungry so I gave her the food you didn't want. I noticed she was naked so I gave her the clothes you never wear. She was sleepy so I let her sleep in the bed you never want. Then she asked me, 'What else can I have that your wife doesn't want?'

"This is a song about what wives don't want," says Rubanov as the crowd exploded in laughter.

Rondo's final song was done in English. The audience was hushed as Ivanov took a crumpled paper from his pocket that held the lyrics to Rod Stewart's "Sailing." Ivanov seated

See **Crowds** page 25

A talk with Sergeui

By Sören Wuerth
Northern Light News Editor

Sergeui Markin celebrated his birthday this year in two countries on the same day.

Markin, 28, had a birthday party at his home in Moscow on Feb. 20 before boarding an Aeroflot plane to the U.S.

After a 24-hour time change, he got to do it again.

"He only celebrated his birthday (in America) symbolically, he's been running around so much," said a translator for Markin at Chilkoot Charlies one evening.

Markin, the lead guitarist for the Soviet rock group Stas Namin, had little time to settle down. An hour into the interview, the wispy-haired, smiling Markin was on the stage playing his guitar with the enthusiasm and intensity of a cat playing with a ball of yarn.

See **Stas** page 27

Shasha a rock veteran

By John Raffetto
Northern Light Reporter

His name means "Son of the man who killed the moose," he drives a Russian sports car called a Lada Samara, and he loves his mother.

Alexander Losev: known to the music world as "Sasha," the lead singer of the Russian rock group *Stas Namin*. During his stay last week he offered a personal glimpse of his life in an interview at the Clarion Hotel.

For three hours Sasha talked to reporters from the *Northern Light* and Campus Radio. What can a rock star say in three hours? Plenty...

Sasha has been performing for over twenty years in *Stas Namin*. He has toured all over the world. As Sasha says, "I have swam in all oceans."

He feels audiences are the same everywhere, and there's nothing different

See **Sasha** *page 25*

East and West r

By Arlitia Jones
Northern Light Features Editor

Guitar licks, sax solos, loud lyrics and a heavy beat were the tools of negotiation between the audience and the musicians at the Superpower Rock Concert last Saturday night.

The concert featured international rock at its best. Fans cheered hard as the two Soviet bands – *Rondo* and *Stas Namin* – filled the Sullivan Arena with the universal sound of rock n' roll, Soviet-style.

East was followed by West as American rocker Eddie Money took the stage. Wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a huge hammer and sickle emblem, Money brought the crowd to its feet, and for the rest of the night fans stood on their chairs or crowded around at the base of the stage.

First up was *Rondo* to play their pop-style music. Lead singer, Alexandre Ivanov brought the stage alive with his frenetic performance. The motion and antics never ceased as the band members played and responded to the audiences' feedback.

Rondo's music does not deal with political issues, says Ivanov, but rather love and the people who experience it.

Soviet press gaining freedom

Continued from page 12

writing to include human interest topics in the news.

"We also began to cover the internal life of the Soviet Union and the coverage was much more interesting for us," Bukalov said.

The circulation of a weekly newspaper in Moscow, *Facts and Arguments*, grew from 800 thousand to 20 million in only three years, Bukalov said.

Ustmenko said new freedoms have created a nation of letter-to-the-editor writers. Even Gorbachov has been critically mentioned by name, said Ustmenko.

"The Russians, for the first time in their lives, are really enjoying themselves by writing whatever comes into their heads," he said.

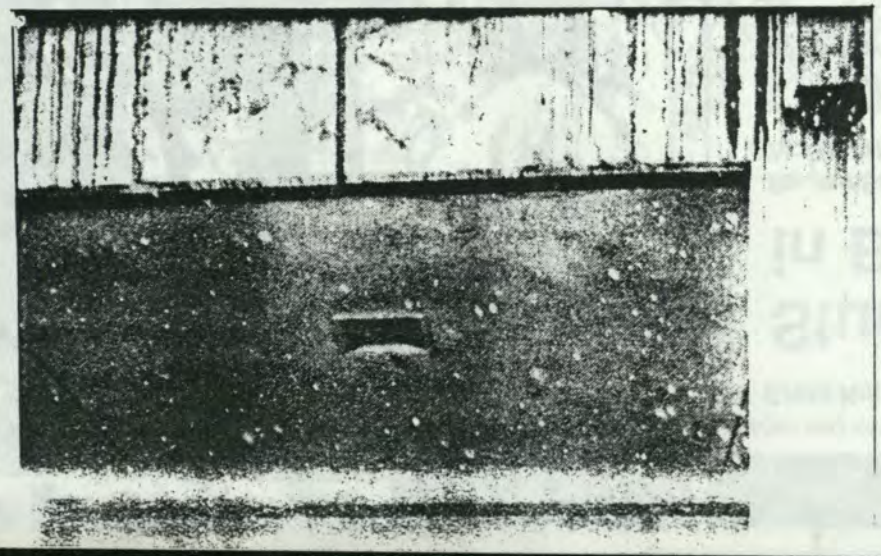
Ustmenko said many letters to the editor arrive with the following words written on the envelope - "Copies have been sent to the KGB and the Party Secretary." Motivating editors to print letters is the idea behind this practice, Ustmenko said.

Although all the panelists agreed that the quality of Soviet journalism has improved, Preskov said the Soviet press has many problems yet to solve.

Solving those problems will be like renovating an inhabited house.

"Maybe it is not so interesting to live (in that house), but it is very interesting to read about it," he said.

Preskov also said that until Soviet leaders grow more comfortable with expanded freedom of the press, "perestroika can be choked to death by a strong embrace of love."



AOC considers athletic exchanges with Soviets

Whether or not West can meet East in the sports arena is one of the questions the Magadan Director of the Sports Organizing Committee, Sergei Makeev, arrived in Anchorage to answer this week.

Makeev slashed through barriers of language and culture with a weapon that members of the Soviet delegation wield frequently: humor.

Without an interpreter present, UAA Athletic Director Ron Petro was unsure how much English Makeev understood at their meeting Thursday in Petro's office. But on a short walking tour of UAA's athletic facilities Petro gave, Makeev humorously did his part to break the ice outside the tiny entrance to a racquetball court.

"It's a prison?" he asked.

Makeev met with Petro and the rest of the Anchorage Organizing Committee Thursday to discuss the possibility of future athletic exchanges between the region of Magadan and the state of Alaska.

"We discussed (through an interpreter) his agenda for coming over here, what he has as far as sports concerns and (the possibility of) exchanges," Petro said.

Magadan, located in the northeast corner of Siberia, is Alaska's closest non-contiguous neighbor. The cities of Magadan and Anchorage share similar northern latitudes (approximately 60 degrees) and, according to Makeev, we share interests in the same sports.,

Boxing, skiing, gymnastics, swimming and wrestling are the top professional sports in the region of Magadan, Makeev said.

The AOC board meeting discussed four general categories of sporting concerns with Makeev, according to Petro.

The first was professional or elite sports for athletes aged 18 to 26 which would match the level of Alaska's university programs. Second on the list were the Arctic Winter Games.

Northern Light Photo/Soren Wuerth

Vasily Juavlev plays radio-tag in front of Building B.

Zaikinos was the first step in re-establishing contact between the two peoples who were separated by Russian-American policy during the Cold War.

The Bering Bridge Expedition is on track to establish new policies from the grass-roots level up, according to Wayne Neil of the U.S. State Department of Soviet Affairs.

Six Americans, including UAA graduate Ernie Norton, Darlene presentation on his Nome tour. I heard of him through a mutual friend and she mentioned that there would be a Bering Bridge expedition but it was just in the planning stage."

"When I heard of the purpose of the trip, I really wanted to get on board," said Norton.

Though Norton will not lead the expedition – that job is for Shurke, 33,

See Norton page 27

JUNEAU: Talk of better relations

Continued from Page A-1

Pettyjohn, R-Anchorage.

"And I told some of my conservative friends that were skeptical of this visit, say what you will about the Soviets, but the Supreme Soviet has a lot higher turnover than our U.S. House of Representatives. So what the heck. I think it's good they're here."

The Soviets have come to Alaska to try to cut some business deals, negotiate an agreement to allow Natives to travel between here and there without visas and to have a good time. They came to Juneau to meet with Gov. Steve Cowper and legislators.

Kobets said economic and social changes in his country are driving him to forge what everyone here calls the historic bond between Alaska and the Soviet Far East.

But perestroika only goes so far. And it was clear even from the Soviet's short visit to Juneau that all voices are not yet heard equally.

"I don't agree with a lot of people who say we are the same," said Guennadi Alferenko. "We are different and it is important to understand what is different."

As chairman of the Soviet Union's Fund for Social Innovation, created by Mikhail Gorbachav two years ago, Alferenko was billed as a grand kahuna of glasnost and perestroika. "He has access to the inner circles in the Kremlin," according to a memorandum by the governor's Office of International Trade.

But Alferenko's comments were not heard on the House floor, at the joint meeting of the legislature's international trade committees or at a formal lunch at the Governor's Mansion. Alferenko's only audience was a group of Alaska and Soviet journalists and the governor's press secretary who lunched at a small restaurant downtown while the "official delegation" was at the mansion.

Alferenko had been on the list for the mansion lunch but the Soviet delegation removed him. "We don't know why. You can only ask so many questions and still retain diplomacy," said Ginna Brelsford from the international trade office.

While denied an official forum, Alferenko was not shy to speak his mind on the Soviet Union's attempts to strengthen ties with the United States, particularly Alaska.

Alferenko said real changes in the relationship between the two countries will have to come from outside the government. And that's what his organization is designed to do. Formed by Gorbachav two years ago, the Fund for Social Innovation promotes various causes. It sponsored a meeting in Moscow last year between U.S. veterans of the Vietnam war and Soviet veterans of the Afghan war.

"Kobets is at the government level. I want the people level," Alferenko said. "Because without that, people say, 'Where is perestroika.' "

He said it is important success comes soon. "Just sign protocols and have press conferences and no results, no working systems is not enough."

"Without success it will be political games and Kobets understands this very well."

Indeed he does. In the House and at an afternoon press conference, Kobets stressed that the Soviet economy is getting worse and the United States has done little to help.

He said the Soviet Union has to pay incredibly high tariffs on goods imported into America. "This situation doesn't contribute to deepening relations for trade."

But both he and Cowper stressed that money is not the only issue. "Trade isn't necessarily the main purpose here," Cowper said. "I think people have to remember that Alaskans are also citizens of the world and what we are doing here today is taking steps to make sure tensions on an international scale are reduced. We have a lot more to contribute than trade."

Said Kobets through his translator: "I am satisfied with the fact that we are pioneers in making contacts between our people and we have to leave many stereotypes between our nations right here."

'raise roof'; crowd 'gets down'

BELTING IT OUT—Sasha Ivanov, lead singer with the Soviet band Rondo, belts out some Russian rock 'n' roll during the Tuesday evening performance at The Roof.

Mike Mathers/News-Miner

Russian rockers

WELCOME TO ALASKA—Ed Davis of Fairbanks chats with Sasha Ivanov, lead singer of the Soviet rock group Rondo, during a community potluck at Alaskaland Monday night.

Brian Schneider photo

Soviet rockers roll in, a bit weary but ready

By MARTHA ELIASSEN
Staff Writer

It was a hostess's nightmare come true.

At 7 p.m. Monday, the Alaskaland Civic Center was decked out for a potluck feast in honor of Soviet musicians visiting Fairbanks. About 150 men, women and children milled around the tables, some—members of the Russian Culture Club—boning up on their Russian, others tinkering with their cameras in anticipation of the Soviets' arrival.

The guests of honor, meanwhile, were on a Grayline bus on the icy Parks Highway, making a slow, careful journey from Anchorage.

Stas Namin, the Soviet Union's top rock band, and Rondo, a popular new band in the U.S.S.R., were part of a delegation of Soviet entertainers, government officials and journalists who visited Anchorage last week. Their visit was sponsored by Camai, a Juneau-based non-profit agency dedicated to cultural exchange across the Bering Strait.

Two weeks ago, Camai arranged for the rock bands to come to Fairbanks for two concerts, which are at 8 and 10 p.m. tonight at The Roof. Last week, Robyne Martin, a local Camai volunteer, began arranging a community potluck to welcome the rockers.

More than 30 volunteers showed up Monday night to clean tables, spread tablecloths and help set up the party. Musicians Tim Sprout and Ben Rogers, a guitar duo who call themselves Mylar, played soft jazz in the background as the crowd grew restless in anticipation.

"If this were a wedding reception, I'd be so humiliated," Martin said, laughing.

At about 8 p.m., when it appeared that the special guests would not make the party, Martin gave the word for the feast to begin. As piles of ribs, hot dogs, cole slaw, potato salad and pastries disappeared,

(See SOVIETS, Back Page)

Soviets . . .

From Page 6

other, because we have only one world," she said, "and it is a small world."

The visit from the Soviets implies that the future of the world is perhaps a little brighter today and Americans are a bit more enlightened for having exchanged ideas and caught a glimpse of Soviet citizens.

"The sun shines now," Bratash concluded.

Fairbanks waited; Russians finally came

by A.M. Meikle
AAW reporter

For most people at Monday night's potluck reception for the Soviets, it looked like it had been a few years since they waited 3 hours for a rock 'n' roll band. But despite icy roads that delayed the arrival of Stas Namin and Rondo into Fairbanks, the enthusiasm of the crowd never diminished. For the 200 or so people at Alaskaland, the Soviets were worthy of their time.

One observer, Meridee Schmid, who had accompanied her photographer husband on a "shoot," said she had visions of guards accompanying the band. But not only was the Soviet group totally accessible, but even the language barrier that existed between the guests and their Alaskan hosts was broken — through the international language of smiles, laughs, handshakes and hugs.

As the travel weary rockers sat down

See SOVIET, Page 6

Soviet musicians arrive . . .

From Page 1

for an all-American meal of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut supreme, their inquisitve hosts sat right down next to them and gazed in amazement at the incredible wonder of sharing a meal with their Soviet neighbors. The curiosity level was high.

One couple, Mary and Doug Jatczak, came just to check things out. "It's different," said Mary, who held vigil in the lobby, clutching her camera, waiting to get a shot for her scrapbook as the band walked thorugh the door. By evening's end, though, the Jatczaks were more than just detached observers. Mary got a big bear hug from Rondo band member Sasha Ivanov after she explained that the two cans he had received as gifts actually contained smoked salmon, not something you smoke.

And while communications might have been muddled, the message was clear: Please come into our home — as neighbors and as friends.

The laid-back atmosphere of the potluck helped the time pass quickly for those who were waiting. Two girls, noticeably younger than the majority of the crowd, flittered in merriment to the folksy music of the two-man band that entertained the crowd. While the girls, Donna Martin and Jennifer Mathison, students at Lathrop High School, were both born in the 70s, their style and dress were very much 60s.

The anachronism isn't lost on them.

"We kind of wish we were born in the 60s," said Mathison as she scanned the vast room quickly filling with people whom she said looked like they came from the hippie generation. "It looks like a lot of neat people," she commented.

And while the pair were obviously drawn to the affair by the intrigue of Soviet 60s-style music, their motivations for waiting three hours to meet two bands they'd never heard was a little deeper.

Martin traveled to the Soviet Union as part of a school trip a few years back, and describes it as a place with many trees and not as bleak as one might imagine. The Soviet Union and its people, she said, don't fit the mold we've cast for them. And misconceptions are something that Martin and Mathison are accustomed to misconceptions, as teenagers and as nonconformists.

Martin explained that she and Mathison are considered rebels by many of their classmates, because of how they dress and the people with whom they associate. She understands the stereotyping, but nevertheless views many of her classmates as close-minded. "They don't open their eyes," she said, building to the analogy between their perceptions and the notions Americans generally have toward Soviets.

The only difference between people — any people — according to Martin, is "Who will take the risk of looking a little deeper?"

Later, the Soviets received numerous gifts, among which were several journals of poetry, writing and drawing, given by the underground youth movement of Fairbanks.

At a press conference on Tuesday morning, band members and their manager responded to all sorts of questions about music in the U.S.S.R., changes under Mikhail Gorbachev, and life in general. The image of the Soviets as cold, hard-edged communists was effectively dispelled as the relaxed and candid group spoke through a translator. Like Pete Townsend's ritualistic smashing of his guitar at the end of every show, the Soviet rockers shattered stereotypes.

Their message is simple: People are just the same everywhere. Rock musicians in the U.S.S.R., just as in America or Britain, make music about life, politics, feelings and family.

But what about potlitical differences and governmental discord?

"Government are people too," said Stas Namin lead singer Sacha Losev, who added defiantly that rock 'n' roll is a never ending story.

Lucy Bratash, who manages both bands, explained the role of rock is to help people live freely and communicate about the things that really matter.

"We must take care of each

See SOVIET, Page 16

Soviet officials, rock stars plan Juneau appearances

By KIRK McALLISTER
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Politics and rock 'n' roll — Soviet style — are headed for Juneau.

On Feb. 21, a six-member delegation led by Gennadi Gerasimov, chief Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, will visit the Capital City to meet with Gov. Steve Cowper and members of the legislature.

Then on March 3, two Soviet rock bands will turn up the volume on glasnost with a concert tentatively set for Centennial Hall. Stas Namin, perhaps the most famous of Russian rock stars, will perform as well as a band called "Rondo."

The unusual combination of politics and music is part of the Siberian Gateway Project, a celebration of the opening of the Soviet-Alaska border. The event, most of which is scheduled for Anchorage, is co-sponsored by Camai, a non-profit group dedicated to cultural exchange, and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

Camai, which means hello in Yupik, is headed by Juneau's Dixie Belcher, who in the past few years, has been instrumental in opening up cultural and political contacts between Alaska and the Soviet Union. In 1986, she organized the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace tour of the Soviet Union.

"This is a celebration of the opening of the border and the melting of the ice wall," Belcher said. "It's also a celebration of the unification of Soviet and American Eskimo families."

Last June, the so-called "friendship flight" carried a planeload of Alaskans to the Siberian town of Provideniya. A group of Alaska Eskimos on the flight were able to see family members from Siberia for the first time since the border was closed in 1948.

Belcher said the idea of a concert celebrating the warming of relations between the Soviet Union and Alaska came from her friend Stas Namin, a musician who has attained legendary status in the Soviet Union similar to that of Elvis Presley.

Namin's career began in the Brezhnev era when Soviet rock and roll was strictly an underground phenomenon and he was unable to perform in public. Nevertheless, he sold 40 million records. Now under the glasnost policy that has opened up Soviet society, he manages more than three dozen rock bands.

The Soviet officials coming to Juneau later this month besides Gerasimov, who will be making his third trip here, include Vyacheslav Kobets, governor of the Magadan Territory in Siberia; Oleg Kulinkin of Provideniya; Mrs. N.P. Otke of the Supreme Soviet; Vitaliy Vorotnikov, Russian Federation president; and Yevgenty Primakov, director of the Soviet Committee for Economic Cooperation in the Pacific.

In all, about 80 Russians are expected to visit Alaska during the festivities.

American performers scheduled include Yupik singer and dancer Chuna McIntyre; two Anchorage choirs; Susan Osborn, former lead singer for the Paul Winter Consort; three Eskimo dance troupes; and top U.S. rocker Eddie Money.

The music festival is scheduled for Feb. 24-25 at the Sullivan area.

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, Calif. 90503

JUNEAU EMPIRE
'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'
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March 6, 1989

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1991

Hot rock helps melt Ice Curtain

Editor's Note: Empire reporter Ed Schoenfeld was master of ceremonies during Friday night's concert by Soviet rock groups Stas Namin and Rondo.

By ED SCHOENFELD
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

In Centennial Hall's crowded Miller Room, Sasha Ivanov, the lead singer of the Russian rock 'n' roll band Rondo, adjusted his skin-tight turquoise-and-black spandex pants and explained to the translator that his group didn't want a fancy introduction.

"Just say 'Rondo' – 'Rondo Band,'" he said in broken English. Glitter fell from his curly hair as he shared a joke in Russian with the group's chubby keyboard player, Evgeny Rubanov, who laughed as he sewed a popped button back onto his pants.

Next door in the Hammond Room, Kelly Burnett, one of the dozens of local people who contributed their time to make the concert happen, supervised the setup of a buffet of food donated by local businesses so Rondo and their Soviet musical cohorts, the Stas Namin Group, would have something to eat during the show. "They're big on fish so I got some herring and smoked salmon," she said, setting out plates.

Down the long backstage hall, volunteers strolled, walked and ran, carrying soft drinks, delivering messages and comparing notes on ticket sales. It was 10 minutes past the concert's projected starting time and people were still filing into the auditorium.

"We're ready," said Rubanov in a heavy accent, standing in a stage-side corridor wearing a button-laden, blue-green jacket, discussing the makeup of the assembling crowd with volunteer Chip Thoma.

"Lots of kids and old hippies," Thoma said, confusing Rubanov.

"Hippies – like Woodstock. You know Woodstock?" he explained to a nodding Rubanov as outside, the restless crowd began clapping and stomping their feet in rhythm.

The lights flashed as Rondo took the stage and began playing their instrumental theme, almost a cross between classical Russian harmonics and late-1970s hard rock set to a pop reggae rhythm.

As the band broke into a rocking vocal number with a beat that swept through the crowd, saxophone player Igor Kruzhalin, wearing neon pink pants and blues sunglasses, danced across the stage beneath hanging Soviet, American and Alaska flags.

On one side of the hall, high school students in sweatshirts and laceless sneakers crowded the aisle, looking for a place to dance. In the fifth row, a kindergarten-aged boy stood on his chair and bounced up and down to the beat, almost losing his red-and-white baseball hat. In the back, a woman in an embroidered peasant blouse and a jeans skirt swayed slowly from side to side.

As the six members of Rondo

Please turn to Rock, Page 12

BRIAN WALLACE/JUNEAU EMPIRE

In concert: Stas Namin Group performs at Centennial Hall.

Rock...

Continued from Page 1

danced, joked, played and sang their way through their set, a conflict began brewing between the security volunteers – concerned about keeping the aisles clear and a safe zone in front of the stage – and some of the younger members of the audience, who wanted room to dance.

Outside the hall, sitting on the floor by the vending machines, three teen-age girls shared their frustrations. "This music is wonderful and all these old fogies do is sit on their butts," yelled one, to no one in particular.

While the hall's no-dancing-during-a-concert rules were maintained, a few chairs were moved and some room was created for the energetic rockers.

Leaning against a wall near the stage, a half-dozen of the concert's volunteers compared notes on the music, the turnout, the weeks of unpaid effort put in by members of Cama'i and other supporting groups, the goals of the event, and the lack of sleep of all of those involved.

"I'm fine," joked organizer Susan Clark. "I got a chance to take a shower today."

The concert was part of an ongoing effort to thaw what organizers call "The Ice Curtain" between Alaska and Siberia and their respective countries. Cama'i – Yup'ik for "hello" – began in 1986 as Alaska Performing Artists for Peace and took a group of Alaska performers on a tour of the Soviet Union. It has since sponsored or participated in other cultural exchanges aimed at opening the borders between Siberia and Alaska and creating a greater understanding between the people of the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The Friday night concert was a spinoff of a larger event, "The Superpowers of Rock Concert" featuring the Stas Namin Group, Rondo and the American band Eddie Money the previous weekend in Anchorage. It was also the predecessor of a series of goodwill concerts this week and next in Washington by the two Russian groups, whose members are also volunteers.

"As musicians, they were not paid anything. They were donating all their artistic talent for the concert," said Clark. "It was for peace and for opening the borders."

While the concert – a financial success – was difficult to pull off, there were no problems with the egos of the musicians, said Gustavus resident Debbie Woodruff, one of the event's organizers. "They were terrific. These guys were absolute gentlemen," she said.

After a brief intermission, it was the Stas Namin Group's turn to play. Wearing a black silk jacket and sipping a Pepsi, lead singer Sasha Losev wandered behind stage while the band played an instrumental introductory piece with roots in the psychedelic sounds of the '60s.

Less flashy than Rondo, the group's rock 'n' roll sounds varied from heavy metal guitar riffs to melodic pop ballads. From a long solo by drummer Nikolai Saphonov to a wild guitar lead by Sergei Markin, the group played directly to the audience, smoothly reflecting its 20 years in the music field.

As the concert neared its end, a smiling Losev addressed the audience. "Now, we do an American song," he called out, as Saphonov's drums rapped out the heartbeat introduction of the Huey Lewis 1980s pop anthem, "The Heart of Rock 'n' Roll" as the crowd went wild.

By the time the group had finished another Lewis hit, "The Power of Love," a good portion of the audience was on its feet.

"Are you tired?" asked Losev?

"You're not," he proclaimed, as the band broke into the lighthearted Beatles hit, "Back in the U.S.S.R." to the cheers of the crowd.

As the audience filed out of the hall, there was time for its members to compare notes on the Soviet musicians' version of rock.

"I thought Rondo had an incredible amount of energy and great moves," commented local bar-band guitarist Cliff Meteer, who volunteered on sound. "Stas Namin was mature. They had a real good sense of dynamics."

The reaction of 9-year-old Cedar Stark, attending his first rock concert, was less complex: "It was great. I liked it a lot. I'd like to play drums."

WEDNESDAY
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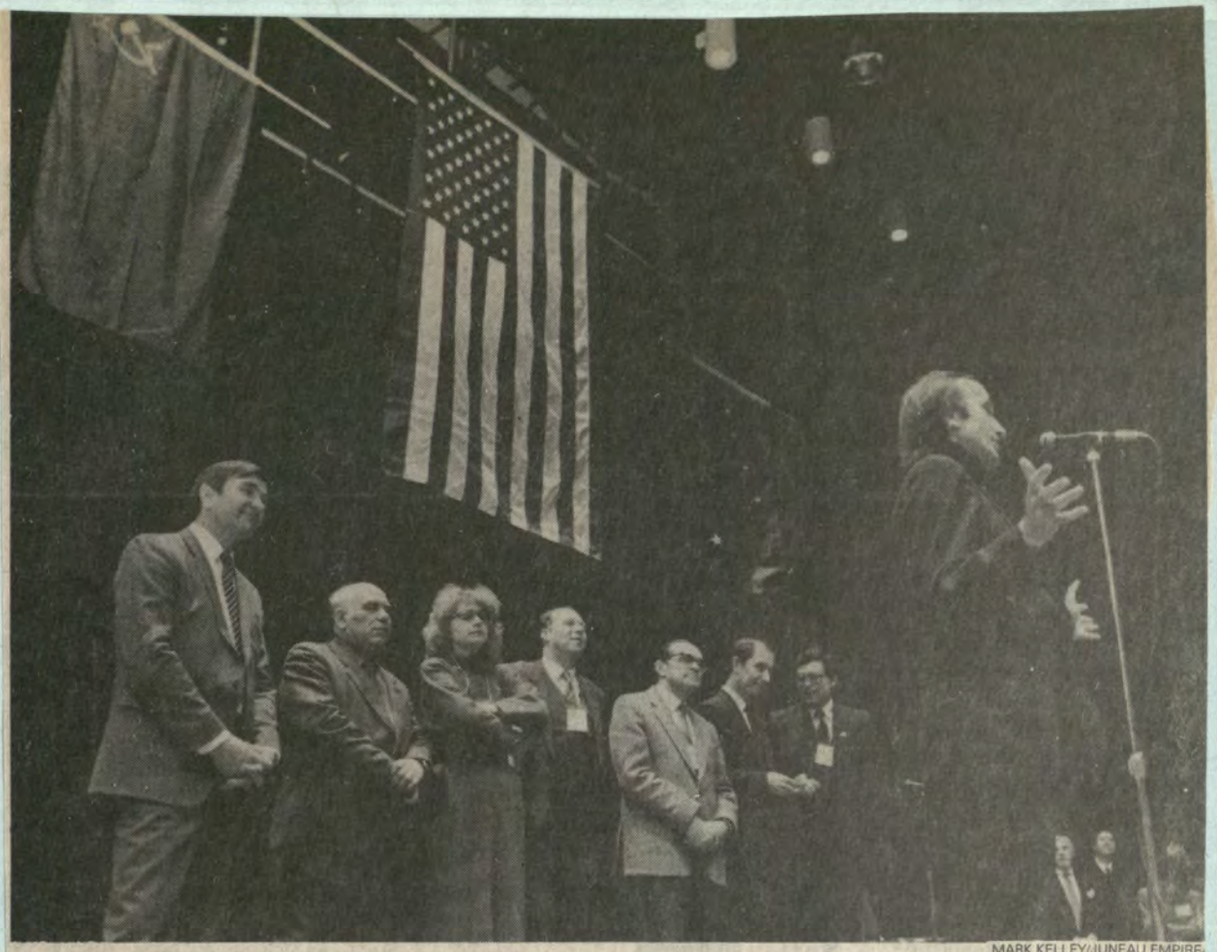

MARK KELLEY/JUNEAU EMPIRE

Delegation greets crowd: 'I would hope in 10 years the borders between our two states would be secured only by friendship.'

Warm greetings for Soviets

Delegation, Cowper call for increased cooperation

By LARRY PERSILY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Steve Cowper and Soviet officials said Tuesday they are not satisfied with the progress made toward increased cooperation and visitation between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

They want more.

"As for the development of our relations, I will not make a mistake if I say ... we did many good things, but we're not satisfied ... we could do much (more) in order to make our original contacts more fruitful," said Vyacheslav Kobetes, governor of the Magadan Territory in the Soviet Far East.

Kobetes spoke through an interpreter at a press conference in Juneau.

"I have more hope for our children," Kobetes said. "I would hope in 10 years the borders between our two states would be secured only by friendship."

Cowper said more needs to be done to establish trade, tourism and cultural exchanges between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

"It won't be the easiest thing in the world to establish a lot of trade relationships right away," Cowper said.

Joint ventures for fishing, trading information on Arctic construction technology and easing tensions between the world's superpowers are some of the possibilities that may come out of the new Alaska-Soviet friendship, he said.

Reception offers perfect end to Soviets' busy day

By ERIC PETER
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

The last official stop at the end of a very busy day for nine Soviets visiting Juneau was a reception with the public at Centennial Hall.

The air in the room was rich with the smells of Alaska seafood – crab, clams and shrimp – and other hors d'oeuvres that covered three tables. The flags of the Soviet Union, the United States and Alaska hung together above a stage.

A large chunk of ice sat on one of the tables, perhaps symbolic of the melting of a diplomatic "ice curtain" that has separated two great nations since the end of World War II.

The visit of the Russian delegation is a result of efforts by the Camai Cultural Exchange. The Juneau-based organization is dedicated to enhancing cultural exchanges between Alaska and the Soviet Union to break down diplomatic barriers. Members of the delegation are also interested in establishing economic links with Alaska.

The room quickly filled with people who had no trouble finding their way to the delicacies.

The Soviets were a little late, no doubt the result of a busy day that began with their arrival from Anchorage that morning. From the airport they had been taken to the Alaska Legislature, met with Gov. Steve Cowper and the press and then shown the area.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alaskan hello: President and Mrs. Bush shake hands this morning at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Soviets...

Continued from Page 1

"We're only limited by our imaginations," Cowper said in answer to a question from a Soviet journalist.

Kobetes and a dozen other government officials and Soviet journalists spent the day in Juneau meeting with Cowper and legislators, touring stores and attending a public reception in their honor.

They arrived in Anchorage Monday and were scheduled to return there Wednesday morning for more activities in the state's largest city and a visit to the Kenai Peninsula.

Their Alaska visit will end with a folk concert Friday and a rock concert Saturday in Anchorage, with a Soviet rock band to share the stage.

The Soviets were invited here as part of Alaska's continuing effort to encourage cooperation and trade.

"Trade isn't necessarily the main purpose here," Cowper said, adding that Soviet and U.S. State Department officials would start negotiations Thursday in Anchorage to allow easier access for Eskimos between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

The negotiations will key on establishing a commission to discuss allowing Eskimos to travel across the border without a visa to visit relatives, Cowper said.

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Chukotka Peninsula

Party...

Continued from Page 1

They arrived in Anchorage from the Soviet Union on an Aeroflot jet on Monday along with other Soviets who will be participating in a celebration in Anchorage of the opening of the Bering Straight to diplomatic and cultural exchange.

When the Soviets arrived at the reception they were quickly engulfed by the crowd. The Soviets were recognizable only by name tags they wore and by enamel pins of the Soviet and Alaska flags together.

Members of the Juneau Folk Ensemble wearing Hungarian folk costumes took the stage and began stepping to a lively Slavic tune. The folk dancers followed with traditional African and Russian dances. A chorus of children led by Linda Buckley sang and they were followed by Southeast Native dancers.

Some of the Soviet visitors were farther from home than others.

Victor Timalov and Boris Krasnopolski are from Magadan, a Siberian city of 170,000 on the Sea of Okhotsk just on the other side of the Kamchatka Peninsula from Alaska. Timokov is the chief of the press department on the Magadan committee of the Communist Party. Krasnopolski is a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

"I feel like I'm at home here," Krasnopolski said when asked if his part of the world is like ours.

He struggled with his English to get his point across. His work is in social and economic research and he's involved in a five-year project to promote economic development between Magadan and Alaska.

When asked if he's seen the effects of perestroika in his area he responded, "This visit is the result of perestroika."

Vyacheslav Ivanovich Kobetes is the governor of the Magadan Territory.

"We thank you for opening your hearts to us," he said through interpreter Larisa Jirkova. "I hope that our visit will open the feelings of people from both countries. We share the same nature and climate and we are a similar people."

Vasily Peskov is much farther from home. A journalist for the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, he joined the group as an observer. He's from Moscow, almost 3,000 miles west of Magadan and on the opposite side of the earth from Juneau.

"We are all people of one world and that world isn't very big," he said. "There are so many good feelings between our people and our countries are growing closer and closer."

Moscow journalist Gennady Alfrenko is a special correspondent for Komsomolskaya Pravda, an edition of the newspaper Pravda aimed at Communist Party youth, and a member of the Foundation for Soviet Social Innovation. His face is thin and intense and his English is good.

One of the projects initiated by the foundation was a meeting of American Vietnam veterans with Soviet veterans of the war in Afghanistan recently in the Soviet Union.

"We are a part of a huge project to reach communication between Siberia and Alaska without government support," he said. "So far people have been able to cross the Bering Strait by plane and yacht.

"Love and forgiveness are the main driving forces in society and humanity. The exchange of Soviet and Alaskan groups is a historical opportunity to celebrate life."

He added that if the United States and Soviet Union agree now to support mutual activities, he was ready to open a business office in Juneau.

The delegation is returning to Anchorage today to join the other Soviets leaving in their wake personal contacts with Juneau residents and the hope that diplomatic, cultural and linguistic barriers between our two countries are really no wider than the narrow slip of water that separates U.S. and Soviet territory.

Empire - 2/22/89

ALASKA PERFORMING ARTISTS FOR PEACE
1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801 USA Telephone (907) 789-0449; Telex 090 45380

Melting the 'Ice Curtain'

Extraordinary. That's the only way to describe the weekend concert by the Soviet rock bands the Stas Namin Group and Rondo.

Why was it so noteworthy? Because of the music? Because of the performances? Because it was standing-room-only? All of those factors were important, but the most important aspect was that it happened at all.

Think back a year, five years, 10 years. Then consider what the odds were of a couple of Soviet rock bands traveling halfway around the globe to perform in Juneau, Alaska.

Even a year ago, you'd get better odds on a bet that former President Reagan would flap his arms and fly to Nicaragua on a peace mission. While Alaska-Siberia and U.S.-Soviet exchanges had been taking place, they were usually on the scientific level. The chilly relationship between the two superpowers precluded more than the most perfunctory activities.

ISSUE: Exchanges between U.S., Soviet Union

While Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has done much to warm the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union, something else very special was also taking place on a person-to-person level. A group called Cama'i – formerly known as Alaska Performing Artists for Peace – has bypassed clogged diplomatic channels. First with a performing tour of the Soviet Union, then with a Friendship Flight to Provideniya, Siberia, and now with an exchange of Soviet and Siberian officials and the rock bands, Cama'i has been rapidly melting the "Ice Curtain" between Alaska and Siberia.

Along the way a lot of good is being done. Eskimos whose cultures and families are divided by the political boundaries are being allowed to get back together. Trade and tourism between the two regions are being cultivated. And, equally importantly, a realization has developed that our neighbors across the Bering Strait are just that – neighbors – and not sworn enemies.

While for national security reasons it would be unwise for either nation to put away all the defensive weapons, the recent exchanges do more for our peace of mind than any Trident submarine or aircraft carrier ever could.

These exchanges are remarkable. They are not token displays meant solely for the media. Rather, they represent a genuine search for understanding between Alaskans and Siberians, Americans and Soviets.

A dreamer and a doer in need

Listen to the Mustn'ts, child,
listen to the Don'ts
listen to the Shouldn'ts
the Impossibles, the Won'ts
listen to the Never Haves
then listen close to me –
anything can happen, child,
Anything can be.
–Shel Silverstein

There are dreamers and there are doers.

Then there are the dreamers who dare to do.

This last group is those all too rare individuals who act from their hearts and not their heads. They are the people most of us enviously stare at from the sidelines as they pursue their dreams. While the rest of us are mindful of life's "Mustn'ts" and "Don'ts," "Shouldn'ts" and "Won'ts" these dreamers who do seemed never to have learned the meaning of "no," "can't" and "never." They have a knack for making the impossible possible.

Dixie Belcher of Juneau is one of those people. For about the last four years, Dixie has been pursuing her dream of world peace in a grassroots sort of diplomacy that uses the performing arts to bring people together. It's a pie-in-the-sky sort of idea. The kind of idea that most of us would put in the "nuttier-than-a-fruitcake" file. At the most, we would say let the diplomats or a vague "someone else" take care of the business of peace.

Not Dixie. She's the kind of person who believes that one person, one ordinary person, can make a difference in the world. She's proof of that.

Just look at the February celebration she organized in Anchorage to mark the melting of the "Ice Wall" that for more than 40 years has separated the people of Alaska from those in the Soviet Union. For the celebration, a delegation of 92 Soviets flew across the Bering Strait in an Aeroflot jet. The delegation included Soviet party officials, rock stars, Eskimos, business leaders, educators, students.

It was a first. Dixie was a large part of the energy that made it happen. Some would say she is THE energy that made it happen, but Dixie is quick to say lots of others were involved and without their help it wouldn't have been possible.

Dixie describes it as the wildest week of her entire life. And a dream come true. Ever since 1986 when she took the 67-member Alaska Performing Artists for Peace on a tour of the Soviet Union and was so warmly received there, she has wanted to give Alaskans a taste of the Soviets and to return in some measure to the Soviets the hospitality shown to the Alaskans. That week in February she did both.

"It was worth every single minute of the last four years. ... It was incredibly rewarding," says Dixie.

The celebration helped many people understand Dixie's dream. Dixie puts it this way: "It's really hard to talk about killing someone when you've just eaten breakfast with them."

In almost every way during the past four years Dixie has been incredibly successful. When she started her peace mission with the Soviets, everyone just sort of stared at her, shook their heads and shrugged. Today, it seems everyone wants to be friends with the Soviets.

The one arena Dixie has not been successful in is finances. In fact, one of the many lessons she has learned in the last four years is that peace is not profitable. Not that she was looking to make money in the name of peace. But because of her dedication to the cause of peace and because she has invested her savings in that cause, Dixie now stands to lose her house through foreclosure.

As executive director of Camai, the non-profit group that grew out of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, Dixie is scheduled to receive a salary of $3,000 a month. The organization, however, has never had any money to pay her. At one point last summer, Dixie even toyed with the idea of giving up her dream and getting a steady job and living like a "normal" person. She abandoned that idea for a reason: "If we all march together and none of us takes any risks, we're going to march together right off the edge of the cliff. Big stuff doesn't happen unless you're willing to take risks."

Dixie will tell you the house isn't that important to her. The world won't come to an end if she loses it and somehow things will all work out. The house does enable her to pursue her dream, however. It was designed to be self-sufficient with renters paying the lion's share of the mortgage – a concept which worked fine until a few years ago when the bottom fell out of the rental market and Dixie had some empty rooms. She missed three payments during that time. She was told of the bank's decision to foreclose shortly before the Anchorage celebration. The house is scheduled to be auctioned off May 25.

Don't get us wrong. We believe people should pay their debts. We know business is business, and we're quite certain bank officials have heard every reason under the sun why homeowners in trouble deserve some leniency.

On the other hand, we think dreamers who do should be encouraged. It is through their efforts that the world is changed. Those of us who are merely dreamers or doers reap the benefits of those who dare to do their dreams.

Alaskans will have the chance to help the cause of Camai, and consequently help Dixie, in some fund-raisers scheduled for later this month and in early May. The last weekend in April people all across the state are being asked to host 10 people in their home for a Soviet-Georgian dinner. The guests will pay $35 for the evening; hosts are donating their food and energy. In addition, a "roast" in Dixie's honor is being planned for May 6 at the Elks' Lodge. We encourage everyone who believes in peace and making impossible dreams possible to participate. Details about the events can be obtained by calling Camai at 789-0449.

We'd like to see the fund-raisers produce enough money not only to keep Dixie in her house, but to keep her dream alive.

Local peace activist honored in Moscow

By ERIC PETER
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

While the world's attention has been focused on Washington D.C. and Moscow in the opening of barriers between East and West, a Juneau woman and a Soviet man ran around to the back door to open it.

So went a anecdote by Soviet government spokesman Gennady Gerasimov when he and Juneau resident and cultural exchange activist Dixie Belcher received an award in the Soviet Union in January for their work in opening the Bering Strait separating Alaska from Siberia.

This was the eighth trip to the Soviet Union for Belcher, executive director and president of Camai, a group devoted to opening barriers between the two superpowers through performing arts.

"Camai started out as the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace," Belcher, 49, said. "We toured the Soviet Union in 1986 to dramatize the proximity of Alaska with the U.S.S.R. This began a movement in both countries to open the Bering Strait. This started a series of trips and exchanges with the Soviet Union."

Camai is a Yupik Eskimo word meaning hello and an Inupiaq Eskimo word meaning "I want to come in," Belcher said. The Eskimo groups are significant because they occur on both sides of the Bering Strait, she said.

Belcher received the award in Moscow for her work in late January during a Citizen's Summit on Restoring Global Environment. Gerasimov, who worked toward opening the Bering Strait from the Soviet side, was also honored, she said. The award was a heavy bronze sculpture of a woman holding the world in one hand and a baby in the other.

"What was emphasized (at the citizens' summit) was that many people feel we've taken major steps toward peace, but both sides continue to build weapons," Belcher said. "Billions of dollars are poured into the military while we're having a losing battle with the environment."

Human rights, feminist issues, global communications, energy and business issues were also discussed at the summit, which was attended by about 300 Americans and Soviets.

While in Moscow, Belcher also attended a global forum with political, religious, environmental and cultural leaders from around the world.

"There were Hindu, Jewish, Moslem and Christian religious leaders and even American Indians in traditional head dress," she said.

EMPIRE FILE PHOTO

DIXIE BELCHER

After the forum the participants were taken to an imposing, ornate hall in the Kremlin, she said. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev walked into the hall and sat down to applause.

"Just then an elderly Hindu in traditional dress came in and chanted in Hindi and then omed (intoned a mantra)," Belcher said. "He was joined by the other 300 people in the hall. When he finished Gorbachev spoke. My reaction was that I had seen everything there was to see."

Camai is now active in a World Ice Lottery for Peace, a lottery in which people buy tickets to predict when the ice in the strait between Big Diomede and Little Diomede breaks up.

JUNEAU EMPIRE

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Rest of the story

Amid the excitement of the recent Friendship Flight from Alaska to Siberia, an important fact was lost in the shuffle. News stories prominently mentioned that the flight was a vision of Nome businessman Jim Stimpfle, who had long dreamed of drawing Alaska and Siberia closer together through trade, tourism and reuniting Alaskan Eskimos with their relatives across the international border.

Mr. Stimpfle is to be congratulated for his vision, but lost amid the hoopla was the fact that others have long shared those dreams, especially that of reuniting the Eskimos, whose families had been separated when the border was closed decades ago.

ISSUE: Juneau woman key factor in Friendship Flight

Dixie Belcher of Juneau is one of those who shared that dream. More than that, she helped make it a reality in her own unique, unassuming way that has included personal sacrifice and dedication to the cause of peace she deeply believes in. During the last three years, she has traveled many times to the Soviet Union and Washington, D.C., to meet with high-level officials, including Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Ms. Belcher, however, has done more than talk about better U.S.-Soviet relations. Two years ago, she organized the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, a group of 67 Alaskans that included gospel singers, Eskimo dancers and even former Gov. Jay Hammond. Working on the slimmest of budgets, that group toured the Soviet Union, bringing the people of our two nations closer together with a lyrical, universal message of peace.

Ms. Belcher has not stopped there. She has continued her efforts through her many contacts in Washington and Moscow. Just last spring, she toured the United States with Mr. Gerasimov, who came to Alaska a second time to meet with Gov. Steve Cowper and the Eskimos who live in the Bering Straits.

She even traveled to Moscow during the recent summit between President Reagan and Soviet Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev. It is not coincidental that approval for the Friendship Flight came soon after that summit.

Ms. Belcher's efforts may not be the only reason the Friendship Flight took place. It is doubtful, however, that it would have taken place without them.

nation of Israel, nor any "group" of people, but rather to bring the knowledge of God and the revelation of his love and mercy to the individual believer as a genuine personal experience. Jesus will return to those individuals who have faith in God.

Secondly, although there may be some "New Agers" out there who think of themselves as godlike, to say "The New Age dream is a lie. We are not Gods nor are we capable of being godlike outside of the salvation God offers freely..." is to say all New Agers think of themselves as godlike. The New Age movement is so diverse it cannot be labeled by narrow statements. It has sprung up as a result of improvements in the quality of thinking. The quality of thinking is a step in the progression following the standard of living. Once a people reach a comfortable standard of living, they begin thinking, "Is this all? Am I happy now that I have surrounded myself with food, shelter, and conveniences?" This thought process has been labeled the New Age Movement.

Sincerely,
Daniel Mark Anderson
Auke Bay

Belcher not mentioned in Friendship Flight

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, I followed all of the press in anticipation of the long awaited reunification of the Yupik speaking Eskimos of both Alaska and Siberia. I kept looking for some mention of Dixie Belcher without whose perseverance and vision "Friendship Flight I" would never have taken place.

Each account mentioned a man from Nome as having a vision in November 1986. A woman from Juneau had a vision in April 1985 and by November of 1986 had already traveled to the Soviet Union several times. In October, 1986, a group of 67 Alaskans, including former Gov. Jay Hammond and many Eskimos, traveled to Siberia in the hopes of visiting Provideniya and returning to Alaska across the Bering Straits. A disappointed crew of Alaskans were denied permission and sent back to Alaska across twenty-two time zones at great personal cost.

I read a "history" of the Friendship Flight provided for all of the passengers on June 13. The so-called history began with the vision of Nome resident Jim Stimpfle. It completely omitted Dixie Belcher's role and her performing troupe. Tracking the history of the Friendship Flight I without mentioning Dixie Belcher is like tracking the history of the abolishment of slavery and failing to mention Abraham Lincoln! Ridiculous? Right.

Two Alaskans had a vision. Dixie Belcher had a vision to reunite the Eskimo people of Alaska and Siberia. Jim Stimpfle had a vision to open up trade and tourism between Alaska and Siberia. Both are exciting visions.

Sincerely,
Linda Buckley
Juneau

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Even the editor-in-chief's spacious room wasn't big enough for this animated friendship dance performed by Chuna with his friends John and Teresa Pingayak.

Photo by Artur RIKKELMAN

Warm wishes from a cold region

I was working in the quiet of my room, when my ears caught sounds that were not exactly usual for our office. Going into the corridor, I found myself in the centre of a peculiar procession. Its participants wore fur parkas and trousers, embroidered fur boots, colourful beaded headdresses, and were singing to the accompaniment of a tambourine!

"These are American Eskimos from the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace group," said Dixie Belcher, its President, as she later introduced herself. "We know that Gennady Gerasimov, **Moscow News** Editor-in-Chief, is the only Soviet journalist to have visited the northernmost point of Alaska, Point Barrow, and we are eager to meet him."

"What differentiates American Eskimos from Soviet Eskimos?" I asked Chuna McIntyre of the Yupik tribe, when we entered the editor's office.

"There's practically no difference. Some of our tribes speak the same languages as Soviet Eskimos. We even still have Russian names. There are Russian names also on the geographical map — the Chichagof or Baranof islands. According to old Russian tradition we celebrate Christmas on the night of January 6, and on January 7.

"On New Year's eve," said Dixie Belcher, "We filmed a video cassette showing how the performing artists and 360 other residents of Alaska went down to the ice of the Bering Strait to perform a symbolic dance of peace and unity with the Soviet people. At the end we all sang your 'May There Always Be Sunshine' song in Russian and English. The cassette is our New Year's present to you. Next August I'm planning to take a new group to the Soviet Union — 70 artists from various folklore companies."

"The C.U.S. Public Television ordered for me a film about your country, the life of the peoples of the North, their meetings with American Eskimos and their folk pop-session," said Terry Sanders, a Hollywood film director who accompanied the group of Eskimo artists. "It will be telecast in all 50 states of America. I'm sure that the picture will be a success. First, because there have been no such films on our film market. Second, because we'll show positive aspects of our countries. Enough film describing the negative aspects of our countries has already been shot to pave a road from Washington to Moscow. Third, and this is the main thing, ours will be an antiwar picture — meaning that it will leave no one indifferent. Everyone understands today that in the event of nuclear holocaust no one will escape its consequences — even those who live in the most remote parts. Does a nuclear mushroom need a visa?!"

"There is a legend in my country," Chuna McIntyre rejoined the conversation. "Once upon a time there was a lake in Alaska that was so transparent that schools of fish were visible in it. On one occasion it turned crimson because of the blood shed by the Eskimos' internecine wars. Since then the lake has become known as Bloody. At that time our ancestors decided to make peace, and for five hundred years since, we have not violated it.

"Today Eskimos live partly on Soviet land and partly on American. There was a time when we used to visit our Soviet brothers across the Bering Strait on dogsleds in winter and in light boats in summer. But in 1948, the cold war grew unbearably 'cold'. We were denied the chance to contact our relatives.

"But who if not us, Soviet and American Eskimos, should get together to 'smoke the "peace pipe" together'? We have brought warmth with us from the North and we want our heads of state to conclude the same kind of peace pact as my ancestors did long ago."

Yelena KHANGA

Cold War separates Eskimo peoples

Continued from page E-1

proximity to that land, Alowa observes.

"From time immemorial, they had been in contact with each other," he says.

Although Alowa never made it to the Siberian mainland, his relatives have stood upon its shores. If he were to travel to eastern Siberia, chances are he would find a native who could converse easily in Siberian Yupik. He estimates up to 10 percent of the native Siberians speak the language.

However, not many folks on Saint Lawrence Island are fluent in Russian, he observes.

It wasn't until this century that the Yupik language was ever written down, Alowa notes, "so our language and history is based in memory."

For generations, long before Vitus Bering sailed into the area in the early 17th century, village elders handed down the oral history and culture of the Siberian Yupik people.

Isaac Alowa, Alowa's father and Savoonga's postmaster, died when Allen was a youngster.

"I had to learn about hunting to support my sisters and my mother," he says. "I hunted walrus and seals. I was only 13 years old — I skipped school in Savoonga to hunt for food."

Those hunting trips for walrus and seal took him to points within sight of the Siberian coastline.

But his father, perhaps knowing that the island could no longer escape the encroachment of the Western world, urged Alowa to become more than a subsistence hunter.

"He was a bright person," Alowa recalls. "He told me, 'Son, go to college. Learn the Russian language.' "

With that advice, Alowa sought to learn about Soviet politics in an attempt to gain further insight into the status of his Siberian-bound relatives. He eventually attended Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka and later the university.

But Alowa has not forgotten his homeland, which he visits frequently. The past and present coincide on the island, he observes. Bowhead whale bones bleach on the shore near Gambell, and "there are still tons and tons of whale and walrus bones," he says.

But the drumming hoofbeats of countless reindeer no longer thunder across the island. He estimates there are now no more than 1,000 reindeer.

Yet the past continues to haunt the present, he adds, noting the cargo of the first whaling ship docking at the island in 1843. "That's when alcohol arrived," he says. "The alcohol was traded to the people at Gambell."

Now, he says, the island has an alcohol and drug abuse problem, not unlike most parts of the world.

But the trading vessels which he witnessed in his youth were well received by the Yupik people. "They would trade goods to the native people — for fox furs, baleen, muktuk, ivory carvings," he recalls. "They would take gun powder, tea, lard, sugar, flour. They made the trip every summer.

"I like that bartering system," he adds.

In fact, Alowa plans to start a similar trading venture this summer.

However, his dream would be to eventually regain contact with Eskimos on the Siberian shore.

"People are trying to figure out a way to get to Siberia," he says. "Perhaps we could meet on Little Diomede Island and implement a good relationship."

Unfortunately, information filtering to the West indicates that many people who lived in villages in eastern Siberia have been relocated by the Soviets in an attempt to permanently sever whatever bonds remain, Alowa says.

But he is encouraged that there may be a thaw in the Cold War, thanks to overtures toward the West by the new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"We may have a good chance today," he says. "We would like to open up one or two days over there. It would be very interesting."

Alaskan seeks reunion wi

by Paul Fattig
Times Writer

Faces of Alaska

When the two titans — one in Moscow; the other in Washington, D.C. — thundered vocal volys to

on the Siberian mainland, a scant 40 miles distant.

"In 1948, visits were cut off from Savoonga and Gambell

wants to see con resumed betwee inhabitants and Siberian shores.

Alaska Life

Two lands, one people

Bob Hallinen of The Times

Whaling crews from St. Lawrence Island sail the Bering Sea in this 1978 photo, top, as they have done for centuries. Allen Alowa, above, raised on the island, hopes to break down political barriers that will not allow islanders to visit their Siberian relatives. The island's proximity to the Soviet Union, right, made the voyage relatively simple in years past.

Alaskan seeks reunion with Siberians

by Paul Fattig
Times Writer

Faces of Alaska

When the two titans — one in Moscow; the other in Washington, D.C. — thundered vocal salvos to launch the Cold War in the late 1940s, a young Siberian Yupik Eskimo boy standing on St. Lawrence Island felt the chill.

The political winter without end gripped the island like no Bering Sea ice floe ever had. And the Siberian Yupik Eskimos on the island were exiled from friends and relatives on the Siberian mainland, a scant 40 miles distant.

"In 1948, visits were cut off from Savoonga and Gambell to Siberia," recalls Allen Alowa, now 45. "Until then, there had been a lot of exchange between the people. They went back and forth in June and July each summer.

"There had been trading, competition in sports," he recalls. "But that came to an end."

Alowa, now living in Nome, wants to see communications resumed between the island's inhabitants and those on the Siberian shores. He was born in a reindeer camp not far from Savoonga, one of the island's two largest communities along with Gambell.

His native tongue is Siberian Yupik. English is his second language, followed by Russian, which he studied at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

"Most of us people from St. Lawrence Island would like to visit (Siberia)," he says. "We would like to exchange our thoughts and materials. We just want it to be between two peoples. But we can't because of the Russian regime and American imperialism."

However, he especially faults the Soviets for their unwavering hard-line attitude.

"We would like to contact a small group of people over there on the other side," Alowa says. "It would be very hard to do politically because there is a hard-line government in Russia. From the American point of view, people have been trying to go over there."

The American government tried to arrange to send a group to Siberia about 15 years ago, but the Russian embassy in Washington, D.C. reacted strongly against the effort, Alowa recalls.

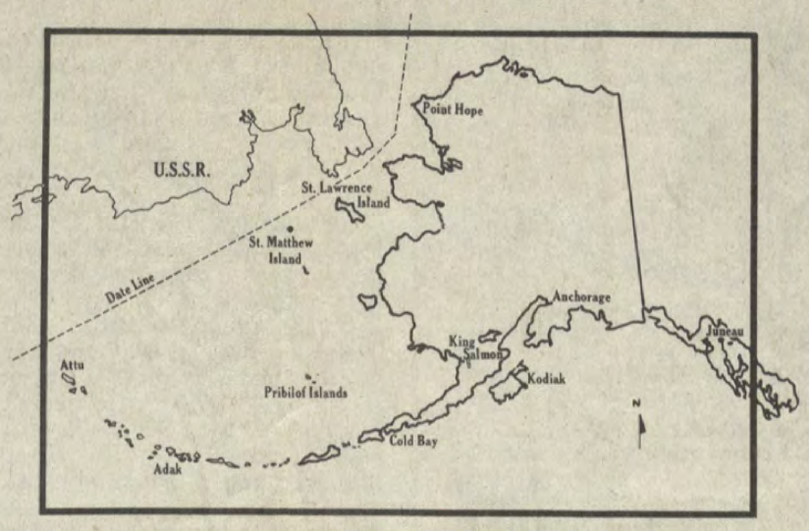
"When we attempted to try to go from Gambell to Siberia by airplane, the Russians instigated heavy provisions — you had to have proper ID, you had to have proper political papers, you couldn't carry anything you might want to take a note with," he recalls. "Things become very difficult if you are talking about going to Siberia."

The trip never got off the ground. Never mind that in recent history St. Lawrence Island residents sailed their skin boats to the Russian mainland.

"It used to take about 10 hours to get over there with an outboard motor," he says. "Of course, 100 years ago they used to paddle across."

Although Saint Lawrence Island has long been independent from mainland Alaska and Siberia, it has closer ties to Siberia because of the close

See Cold, page E-5



Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Siberian Gateway Project
801 B Street, Suite 406
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Soviet Performers

Stas Namin Group - probably the best known rock group in the USSR. Have sold 40 million records underground

Kalenov Bridge - rock group from Novosibirsk, Siberia. One of the hottest rock bands on the contemporary Soviet scene.

Pokrovsky Singers - One of the top Russian folk groups. Their leader Dmitri Pokrovsky, has just received the highest award for the performing arts from Secretary Gorbachev. They completed a successful tour of the United States last summer.

White Sail Dancers - Eskimo dancers from the Chukotka Peninsula. They have performed all over the Soviet Union and in Greenland and Copenhagen.

American Performers

Eddie Money - top American rock artist. Currently has a hit record on the top 20 on the charts.

Eskimo dancers from St. Lawrence Island, Chevak and the North Slope

Susan Osborne - lead singer with Paul Winter for 8 years

Martin Luther King Anchorage Community Choir - led by Dorothy Grant, gospel choir director from Detroit. Dorothy Grant has been featured on 8 albums - 5 as lead soloist and 3 as director

Anchorage Children's Choir

Chuna McIntyre - well known Yupik dancer, singer and artist

Camai is currently negotiating with several top American performing artists to appear at these concerts.

SIBERIAN
gateway ☆ project

THE VISION

In the far north, in the middle of the Bering Sea, lie two islands, two miles apart--one American and one Soviet. Every day, people on both islands watch each other through binoculars. Sometimes they wave.

On St. Lawrence Island, 38 miles from the Siberian coast, Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimos pick up the Yup'ik songs of their Soviet brethren on radio. The older people speak familiarly of the Siberian mainland, where they visited years ago, where some were born.

There has been no official contact between these people since the Second World War. They speak the same language, hold the same cultural heritage and share relatives.

Few People realize the geographic, cultural, historical and linguistic ties between the Soviet Union and Alaska. Alaska was a part of Russia for nearly a century. Many of its geographical names are Russian. Yup'iks have discovered more than 100 commonly used words in their language that are Russian. Many Alaskans have Russian family names and use Russian music and dance in family celebrations. The Russian Orthodox Church is still a power ful force in the State, particularly in the villages.

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace (APAP) was formed in February, 1985 to create long term cultural exchange, and through the medium of song and dance, send a message of world peace from the people of Alaska to the people of Siberia.

In October, 1986, 67 APAP members performed across the Soviet Union on a three week tour of peace and friendship. Included were white performers from Juneau and Homer, Black gospel singers from Anchorage and twenty-five Eskimos from six villages around the State. Their focus was on the re-unification of the Soviet and American Eskimos, on their decision to end war five hundred years ago, and on the Eskimo drum as an ancient symbol of peace. Fourteen performances were given to standing room only crowds from Leningrad to Khaborovsk. The Soviet press billed them as "Alaska's gift to the Soviet Union" and thousands were turned away at the door. During one performance 1200 Soviets broke down a door trying to gain entrance. Four and five standing ovations were given throughout almost every performance.

In Leningrad, Siberian Yup'ik Eskimo students tentatively approached the Alaskan Eskimos, speaking in Siberian Yup'ik. There are two thousand people in the world that speak this language, one thousand on each side of the Bering Straits. That night and during the remaining days in Leningrad, these people shared photographs, stories, hugs, and tears. One woman learned that her adopted brother with whom she had shared the first twenty years of life, was still alive.

After the performances, party officials across the Soviet Union phoned Yuri Rytkheu at his home in Leningrad. Yuri is Soviet co-chair of APAP, and a renowned Eskimo author from the village of Eulan, located directly across the Bering Straits from Alaska. It has been his lifetime goal to reunite these people. The officials had been deeply touched by the performances and wanted to help to reunite the Alaskans with their Soviet relatives. Rusty wheels are turning in the Soviet Union and for the first time in forty years, Soviet Eskimos are preparing to cross the Bering Straits to visit their Alaskan neighbors this summer.

Yuri Rytkheu has just completed a trip to Alaska, where he and Dixie Belcher sopke to Eskimo villagers, members of the State Legislature, Governor Cowper, and other native leaders and State officials regarding the summer visit of their Soviet neighbors. Yuri spoke and showed slides of his side of the Straits, garnering great enthusiasm around the State.

It is the hope of APAP that the Soviets will be allowed to cross the Straits in walrus skin boats, as they routinely did until 1948. If this is not possible, APAP will arrange to fly them to Alaska from Tokyo.

The villages of Gambell and Savoonga, located on St. Lawrence Island, 38 miles from the Soviet coast, are prepared to welcome their relatives, with traditional feasting, singing and dancing. Alaska native peoples around the State also wish to extend a traditional welcome. The Tlingit Indian nation in Southeast Alaska, which successfully fought the Russians during their occupation of Alaska, plan to have a formal ceremony of peace in Sitka, the old Russian American capitol. There has never been a treaty of peace between the Tlingits and the Russians and technically, they are still at war.

On July 23rd, the annual Eskimo Olympics will be held in Fairbanks. Eskimos from all over Alaska will compete in traditional sports, and the national press will be in attendance. At that time, the Alaskan performers that toured the Soviet Union will perform together with their Soviet neighbors. Traditional songs and dances and a blanket toss will be performed together. Plans will be discussed regarding the re-opening of the Straits to native peoples, and the possibility of a bi-annual festival of the arts, to be held in alternating countries. Also scheduled are discussions regarding a performing troupe composed equally of Soviets and Alaskans that would perform in both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. This troupe would focus on traditional peoples common to both countries, but would include non-traditional performers as in the October tour.

Anchorage Daily News/Claire Rich

ents of Little Diomede cluster around Soviet spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov after his arrival on the Island Sunday.

ERASIMOV: Soviet speaks of melting the 'ice curtain

Continued from speaking on nuclear disarma- copters and boats on the big plains

Anchorage Daily News

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1988

TOP SOVIET SPOKESMAN CALLS AT LITTLE DIOMEDE

Photo by Theresa Horvath

With the news media in tow, Gennadi Gerasimov walks in front of a one-word sign on the Little Diomede Store. The Russian word is "Peace."

Villagers give visitor warm welcome

Gerasimov makes no promises, but talks of melting the 'ice curtain'

By CLAIRE RICHARDSON
Daily News correspondent

Gennadi Gerasimov did not want to go to Little Diomede. At least, not when he first heard the idea from organizers of his whirlwind Alaska trip that took him through Juneau, Anchorage and Nome.

"That island is so far away," said Gerasimov, chief spokesman for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The island is also known for unpredictable weather that often strands visitors.

But when the weather cooperated Sunday afternoon, Gerasimov gamely boarded a chartered twin-engine plane and flew the 150-mile, 45-minute trip to the tiny island overshadowed by its Soviet neighbor, Big Diomede, almost three miles away.

The clouds hung low over the Bering Strait as Gerasimov's plane landed on the ice runway. The island's village perches precariously along its steep, rocky base. And while the residents of Diomede had no trouble scrambling up the slippery path to the school, Gerasimov and his entourage — surrounded by curious children — gingerly made their way up the ice steps.

Once inside the school gym, Gerasimov spoke to the villagers about opening the border between Siberia and Alaska.

"It's not an iron curtain," Gerasimov said, "it's an ice curtain."

He also pointed out that it was the FBI that in 1948 ended a 10-year agreement between the governments that allowed Eskimos to trade and visit with their neighbors across the Bering Strait.

"Of course, we also collaborated," Gerasimov added. "Now I think the Cold War years must be over, and with the Cold War over this ice curtain must melt and I

See Back Page, **GERASIMOV**

Anchorage Daily News/Claire Richardson

Residents of Little Diomede cluster around Soviet spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov after his arrival on the island Sunday.

GERASIMOV: Soviet speaks of melting the 'ice curtain'

Continued from Page A-1

think we have hope to see each other more often now."

Several of the nearly 200 villagers presented their international visitor with ivory carvings. Andrew Kunayak gave Gerasimov a charm.

"I hope we see our cousins across there someday in person, so this is our good luck to you," he said.

"Thanks," replied Gerasimov, "I need it."

Later the villagers performed several Native dances for Gerasimov. He refused to join in the dancing but spoke to everyone who approached him.

The children said they had helped to clean the school in preparation for the VIP visit.

"Everyone washed up and curled their hair to meet him," said Myrna Kunayak excitedly. "I'm glad he's here and I hope they open the international date line."

Gerasimov has spent the last two weeks in the United States speaking on nuclear disarmament and Soviet-American relations. His Alaska trip came at the invitation of Dixie Belcher, head of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. The trip, which began Friday, was primarily sponsored by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Office of International Trade.

At one point during the two-hour Diomede tour, Gerasimov asked the U.S. television crews to take photos of him standing next to a huge sign with the word "Peace" painted in Russian. The sign, propped in front the Native store, usually hangs from the building as a silent greeting to those on the Soviet island who might watch the village.

Gerasimov was shown the numerous polar bear skins and homes, but he was not invited into the National Guard armory. For years, since the Eskimos who used to live on Big Diomede were relocated by the Soviets in the 1950s, local guardsmen have used the armory to watch by telescope for any movement of Soviet helicopters and boats on the big island.

There have been a few instances where Eskimos have met each other at the date line, but travel is forbidden. Two Americans who walked across the dateline were arrested and held by the Soviets in 1986 and 1987.

But last August, Californian Lynne Cox was given permission to swim between the two islands and was warmly greeted by the Soviets who had flown to the desolate island from Siberia.

Sunday, while gazing toward the hidden Siberian coastline almost 35 miles away, Gerasimov said the trip to the international date line was worth it.

"it really is an experience to see how close we are geographically, and still worlds apart in other ways."

Later, at a dinner in Nome, Gerasimov told a crowd of 200 that he was impressed by the openness and friendliness of Alaskans. While Gerasimov was being presented numerous gifts, Lonnie O'Connor of Nome asked him to autograph Gorbachev's book, "Perestroika," which explains the restructuring of the Soviet economy.

The crowd roared with laughter when Gerasimov held his boss' book and said, "It's very interesting that his book has even made the best-seller lists, and it's also very interesting that you are paying for Soviet propaganda."

Gerasimov was asked if plans for a friendship flight between Nome and Provideniya would actually happen.

"I personally view this flight as kind of a symbolic gesture," Gerasimov said, adding that he didn't think anyone could sustain such an effort commercially. "Well, not yet," he continued, "but maybe in the future it will be commercially sound."

After watching the King Island Dancers perform, Gerasimov sloshed through the mud to a waiting van, taking back to Moscow gifts of ivory, a gold pan and a giant framed photo of Nome.

"I have seen a picture of Provideniya," Gerasimov said, "and I must tell you that your skyline is more appealing to me."

Americans break the ice in Siberia

Associated Press

PROVIDENIYA, U.S.S.R. — A planeload of Americans landed to a warm welcome Tuesday in this remote Siberian city as a 'friendship flight' broke through a border closed since 1948.

"After 40 years, we are really excited about seeing our relatives," said John Waghiyi, 64, a Siberian Yupik Eskimo born on St. Lawrence Island, 43 miles from the coast of Siberia.

Schoolchildren waved Soviet and American flags. Local officials and visitors shouted greetings in Russian, English and Yupik over the roar of jet engines at the airport.

Leaders of the Alaska delegation were handed carnations in front of an airport building adorned with a sign proclaiming "Peace and Friendship Between Alaska and Chukotka!"

Chukotka is the province in which Provideniya is located.

Formality soon gave way to a frenzy of hugs, handshakes and trading of pins, flags, chewing gum and postcards.

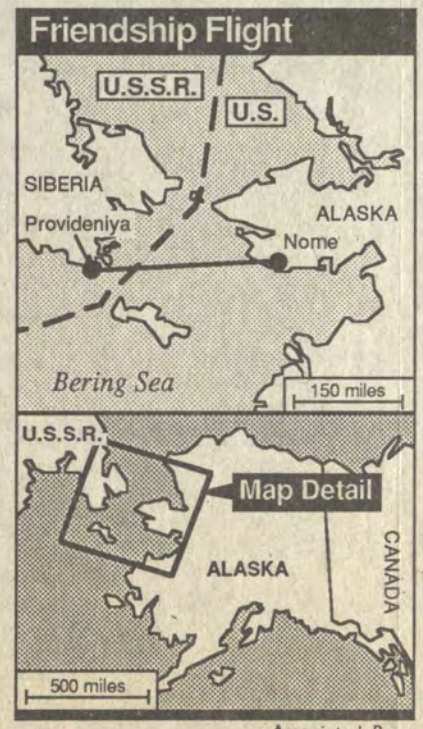
"We are very glad to see you," said Galina Tegret, secretary of the local Communist Party committee, told a busload of Eskimos on the way into town from the airport.

> **"There's security in friendship."**
>
> James Stimpfle
> 'Friendship flight' organizer

Waghiyi said he planned to spend his day in Siberia looking for a distant relative on his father's side, whom he remembers visiting as a young man, just before Cold War tensions closed the Alaska-Siberia border.

"The next year, I was going to see him at Gambell (on St. Lawrence Island). He was going to give me a Russian coat, but they closed the Russian border."

Waghiyi was among 80 Eskimos, Alaska politicians, peace activists and journalists who made the 225-mile flight aboard an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 from the western Alaska town of Nome.



Associated Press

The Soviets approved the one-time charter flight earlier this month, after two years of work by Alaskans promoting the idea.

It was a day long in coming for James Stimpfle, 40, a Nome resident who dreamed up the flight two years ago as a way to help thaw the icy relations between Alaska and Siberia.

Stimpfle said he wrote hundreds of letters to U.S. and Soviet officials, trying to win acceptance for his idea of breaking down polical barriers with goodwill.

"There's security in friendship," Stimpfle said.

His idea won greater acceptance when Alaska Airlines, the largest air carrier serving Alaska, hopped on the 'friendship flight' bandwagon last September.

The airline is seeking Soviet approval for twice-weekly tourist excursions between Nome and Provideniya.

Provideniya, with about 5,000 residents, is a gray port city of concrete-block apartments surrounded by mountains. Remnants of the winter's pack ice still clog the fringes of the harbor. Like the western Alaska town of Nome, an old gold-rush town of 3,700 people, Provideniya has no roads leading to more populous areas inland.

Soviets . . .

From Page 6

other, because we have only one world," she said, "and it is a small world."

The visit from the Soviets implies that the future of the world is perhaps a little brighter today and Americans are a bit more enlightened for having exchanged ideas and caught a glimpse of Soviet citizens.

"The sun shines now," Bratash concluded.

Belcher seeks to have tour of U.S./Soviet performers

By Imre Nemeth

The headlines of Soviet intervention into Alaska culture have long since faded from state newspapers but organizer Dixie Belcher is just getting started.

She calls this last tour by 94 residents of the USSR just a spark in a fire she hopes will melt the ice curtain separating the two countries both politically and culturally. Belcher opts to leave politics to those who promote either a donkey, an elephant or, in this case, a hammer and sickle. The direction she chooses to charge will be the arts.

It's a language the Juneau resident says we all comprehend on a fundamental level. The Native singers and performers, the rock acts, the actors, the dancers who have since performed on both continents — they all communicate in ways much deeper than words, she contends.

"It's communication everybody understands," she said while in Anchorage recently. "It's worth a thousand words."

Her latest adventure (and it may just succeed) is to put together a major tour made up of half Soviet and half U.S. performers and go on a world tour. It would start with the first concert April 15 in Hiroshima, Japan, and wind through Korea, China, through the Soviet Union, across Europe and into the United States.

"It won't be government sponsored," she said. "We're already in contact with several international ad agencies that may fund us through their clients."

Belcher thinks big. She's one of the founders of the Camai organization which teamed with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce to put on a USSR rock tour by the biggest name band in that country in Alaska even though nobody ever believed it could be possible.

Like a visionary, she doesn't think in terms of failure. Others may discount the possibilities, but Belcher says we as a world have no choice. Living together is just one of the things we'll eventually have to learn and interacting on any level is the only way to start, she adds.

There's only a slight problem.

Funding.

"We don't have any support right now as of this minute," she said. "That's why I'm losing my house."

World peace isn't a paid position. Belcher's involvement in the grand scheme to light a fire under the Cold War has pushed volunteerism to new heights and hours of labor into a custom category for dedication. But her kids are grown and at least they don't have to eat Tongan food anymore.

(Belcher's career has taken her across the globe several times over.)

See SPONSORS, Page 8

• Sponsors sought for Soviet tour

Continued from Page 1

She's looking for sponsors. Any sponsor regardless of size of company. She predicts heavy international advertising and promotion in a program she bills "could be the largest goodwill tour in the world."

Thus far, maybe 50 or 60 people are involved in the project on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Dixie Belcher

She calls it a grassroots effort. Her dedication, while personally fulfilling, hasn't translated into any kind of compensation for the four years she's been involved. Camai will continue to push projects, with the world tour headlining efforts, she says. The organization will also press for no-visa travel between Siberia and Alaska for Inuit people and continued cultural exchange on a regular basis.

"There's so many ideas, there's no end to the possibilities," Belcher said.

She listed youth conferences, volleyball tournaments, boxing, kayak expeditions and all sorts of joint venture opportunities on the business side as potential curtain melters of the coming months.

The biggest event that Belcher considers a continuing coup is the establishment of an Alaska branch office of the Soviet Foundation for Social Inventions by Gennady Alferenko, a Soviet geophysicist by trade. Heading up the effort on this side in Juneau is JoAnn Zentner.

"Alferenko is in charge of putting joint ventures together," Belcher said. "He's sort of like my brother over there. The possibilities for joint ventures between Alaska companies and Soviet agencies right this minute are unlimited."

When Belcher was in Moscow last November planning the final details for the trip by Soviet dignitaries this past February, she had to act the part of a U.S. representative. Her position forced her into almost an ambassadorial role when the people of that country questioned her on everything from business ties and available products to the weather in her home state.

"All I had to say prior to my visit is that I had an Alaska businessman who was interested in joint ventures coming along and the sky opened up," she said of reaction by Soviet citizens and contacts. "Their economy is pressing the incentive."

The Soviets want to diversify. Alaska, or meeting with the United States through an avenue that is increasingly being referred to as the U.S. economic back door, appears to be their best route.

"My experience with the Soviets is if you go through the bureaucracy, you may or may not be successful," she said. "In any case, it will take quite a bit of time. If you go over there and make friends who can run around the system or come in through back doors of the appropriate agencies and make end runs, you can find yourself with a signed contract in days.

"The trick is to find who those individuals are, and my experience is that that's by personal contact."

Belcher originally got the idea to open up the Bering Straits in 1985. Back then, people thought she was crazy. Now, all sorts of newspaper people are interviewing her as a visionary and hero (including myself). Nome's Jim Stimpfle came on board some two years later and the two have worked closely on the project ever since. Their focus began as a reunification of Inuit people and expanded in scope from there. In fact, Belcher said she made a pinhole of sorts and more and more just came flowing through. It was just tough starting the first tear in that curtain.

In 1986, she made three trips to the Soviet Union. The last was a tour of 67 Native dancers and singers and black gospel singers. Since the performing arts is her forte, she originally intended to light people's imaginations over there.

"I couldn't get any interest in Washington D.C.," she said. "People said it was a crazy idea."

But the tour came off, somehow. Concerts were held throughout Siberia and the reception was, in Belcher's words, "wonderful."

"Thousands broke down doors to get into our concerts," she said. "Several times all over the Soviet Union, thousands in the audience even began singing 'We shall overcome.'

"It changed my whole cell structure. I was overwhelmed. Party officials started calling Moscow saying how touched they were. It kind of started things moving a little bit.

"It just shows that anything can happen anywhere."

Belcher plans a letter writing campaign to help settle the debt rolled up by the last arts project. New features may include a visit by Yevtushenko Yevegeny, the Soviet Union's most famous poet, a tour by Georgia SSR chefs ("fantastic food," she says), and a number of others.

If you're interested in contributing to the effort, call 789-0449 or drop a letter in the mail to 1991 Hughes Way; Juneau 99801.

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, Calif. 90503

U.S. CO-CHAIR
Dixie Belcher

A dreamer and a doer in need

Listen to the Mustn'ts, child,
listen to the Don'ts
listen to the Shouldn'ts
the Impossibles, the Won'ts
listen to the Never Haves
then listen close to me –
anything can happen, child,
Anything can be.
–Shel Silverstein

There are dreamers and there are doers.

Then there are the dreamers who dare to do.

This last group is those all too rare individuals who act from their hearts and not their heads. They are the people most of us enviously stare at from the sidelines as they pursue their dreams. While the rest of us are mindful of life's "Mustn'ts" and "Don'ts," "Shouldn'ts" and "Won'ts" these dreamers who do seemed never to have learned the meaning of "no," "can't" and "never." They have a knack for making the impossible possible.

Dixie Belcher of Juneau is one of those people. For about the last four years, Dixie has been pursuing her dream of world peace in a grassroots sort of diplomacy that uses the performing arts to bring people together. It's a pie-in-the-sky sort of idea. The kind of idea that most of us would put in the "nuttier-than-a-fruitcake" file. At the most, we would say let the diplomats or a vague "someone else" take care of the business of peace.

Not Dixie. She's the kind of person who believes that one person, one ordinary person, can make a difference in the world. She's proof of that.

Just look at the February celebration she organized in Anchorage to mark the melting of the "Ice Wall" that for more than 40 years has separated the people of Alaska from those in the Soviet Union. For the celebration, a delegation of 92 Soviets flew across the Bering Strait in an Aeroflot jet. The delegation included Soviet party officials, rock stars, Eskimos, business leaders, educators, students.

It was a first. Dixie was a large part of the energy that made it happen. Some would say she is THE energy that made it happen, but Dixie is quick to say lots of others were involved and without their help it wouldn't have been possible.

Dixie describes it as the wildest week of her entire life. And a dream come true. Ever since 1986 when she took the 67-member Alaska Performing Artists for Peace on a tour of the Soviet Union and was so warmly received there, she has wanted to give Alaskans a taste of the Soviets and to return in some measure to the Soviets the hospitality shown to the Alaskans. That week in February she did both.

"It was worth every single minute of the last four years. ... It was incredibly rewarding," says Dixie.

The celebration helped many people understand Dixie's dream. Dixie puts it this way: "It's really hard to talk about killing someone when you've just eaten breakfast with them."

In almost every way during the past four years Dixie has been incredibly successful. When she started her peace mission with the Soviets, everyone just sort of stared at her, shook their heads and shrugged. Today, it seems everyone wants to be friends with the Soviets.

The one arena Dixie has not been successful in is finances. In fact, one of the many lessons she has learned in the last four years is that peace is not profitable. Not that she was looking to make money in the name of peace. But because of her dedication to the cause of peace and because she has invested her savings in that cause, Dixie now stands to lose her house through foreclosure.

As executive director of Camai, the non-profit group that grew out of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, Dixie is scheduled to receive a salary of $3,000 a month. The organization, however, has never had any money to pay her. At one point last summer, Dixie even toyed with the idea of giving up her dream and getting a steady job and living like a "normal" person. She abandoned that idea for a reason: "If we all march together and none of us takes any risks, we're going to march together right off the edge of the cliff. Big stuff doesn't happen unless you're willing to take risks."

Dixie will tell you the house isn't that important to her. The world won't come to an end if she loses it and somehow things will all work out. The house does enable her to pursue her dream, however. It was designed to be self-sufficient with renters paying the lion's share of the mortgage – a concept which worked fine until a few years ago when the bottom fell out of the rental market and Dixie had some empty rooms. She missed three payments during that time. She was told of the bank's decision to foreclose shortly before the Anchorage celebration. The house is scheduled to be auctioned off May 25.

Don't get us wrong. We believe people should pay their debts. We know business is business, and we're quite certain bank officials have heard every reason under the sun why homeowners in trouble deserve some leniency.

On the other hand, we think dreamers who do should be encouraged. It is through their efforts that the world is changed. Those of us who are merely dreamers or doers reap the benefits of those who dare to do their dreams.

Alaskans will have the chance to help the cause of Camai, and consequently help Dixie, in some fund-raisers scheduled for later this month and in early May. The last weekend in April people all across the state are being asked to host 10 people in their home for a Soviet-Georgian dinner. The guests will pay $35 for the evening; hosts are donating their food and energy. In addition, a "roast" in Dixie's honor is being planned for May 6 at the Elks' Lodge. We encourage everyone who believes in peace and making impossible dreams possible to participate. Details about the events can be obtained by calling Camai at 789-0449.

We'd like to see the fund-raisers produce enough money not only to keep Dixie in her house, but to keep her dream alive.

MING ARTISTS FOR PEACE
1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801 USA Telephone (907) 789-0449; Telex 090 45380

ЛЮБОВЬ С ПЕРВОГО ВЗГЛЯДА

Любовь с первого взгляда может произойти и по отношению к стране. Так и случилось с Дикси Белчер, жительницей Аляски, едва она оказалась в Иркутске, где сразу нашла столько друзей, что невольно стала своей.

Впрочем, Дикси и сама покоряет с первого взгляда: обаятельная улыбка, внимательные серые глаза, мягкая манера беседы, живой ум и искреннее проявление чувств.

Уже в четвертый раз она, дирижер по профессии, приезжает в нашу страну со своей мечтой: наладить общение северных народностей Аляски и Сибири, имеющих общие проблемы в схожих условиях существования, завязать культурные контакты, а также взаимовыгодное сотрудничество в формах «малого бизнеса».

«Русская Америка» — ее идеи и программы — стала делом ее жизни. Простым интересом к соседней стране ее усилия не исчерпываются. Она испытывает все тяготы дальних дорог и нашего быта со спартанской выдержкой и мужеством человека, видящего в поставленной цели смысл своей жизни.

Неоднократно она уже принимала у себя на Аляске наши делегации, открывала им Америку на уровне семейных встреч. Ненцы, чукчи, якуты, ханты, манси — люди разных национальностей находили среди жителей Аляски много общего и обоюдного, учились житейской мудрости и промысловым хитростям. Их контакты напоминали встречи родственников. Воистину, оживала, как говорится, память крови об общих сибирских предках, заселивших когда-то американский континент. Дикси одна из тех, кто верит в эту гипотезу.

Госпожа Белчер в этом году намеревается провести в штате Нью-Мексико конгресс коренных народностей, где гости из СССР будут жить в семьях индейцев. В следующем году предполагается подобная встреча на берегах Байкала. Планы у Дикси Белчер под стать ее целям и ее широкой натуре неисправимого жизнелюба. Причем ее усилия не ограничиваются лишь «народной дипломатией». Вот и сейчас она здесь, в Советском Союзе, сопровождает конгрессменов от Аляски в их поездках в Москву и на Север.

Она очень хочет реальных сдвигов как во взаимопонимании людей, так и в повседневной жизни народов Крайнего Севера. И мне кажется, Дикси Белчер из тех мечтателей, которые умеют добиваться поставленной цели. По крайней мере, до сих пор это ей удавалось довольно неплохо.

С Дикси БЕЛЧЕР беседует наш корреспондент Владимир ДАГУРОВ.

Владимир Дагуров: — Госпожа Дикси Белчер, расскажите немного о себе. Кто ваши родители, где вы выросли?

Дикси Белчер: — Я родилась на Аляске, в Джуно. Живу и сегодня в родном городе. Сюда, на Аляску, мои родители приехали в 30-е годы во время Великой депрессии. Мой отец Фриц Джонсон, швед по происхождению, мечтал здесь найти золото. Он был настоящий золотоискатель. Именно о таких, как он, писал Джек Лондон. Чего стоит хотя бы тот факт, что он приплыл сюда на весельной лодке из Сиэтла, преодолев расстояние в тысячу километров. Да, это было трудное для всех время. Мама моя — Элис Моо, англичанка, была идеалистически настроенной миссионеркой — она пыталась донести до каждого ценности христианства среди коренного населения Аляски.

В. Д.: — Когда пробудился у вас интерес к России?

певцы, просто жители сибирских земель — то есть то, что обычно называют культурным обменом. Тогда это была мечта, но, представьте себе, через 18 месяцев ему ее удалось осуществить. После встречи с ним я стала ходить в библиотеку, всерьез занялась изучением жизни Советского Союза, чтобы получить представление о вашей жизни.

В. Д.: — Кто был первым советским человеком, с которым вы встретились?

Д. Б.: — Первым человеком, с кем я встретилась, был журналист Геннадий Герасимов — он тогда был редактором газеты «Московские новости». Мы пригласили его на Аляску, и он потом еще несколько раз приезжал к нам, по своим впечатлениям от путешествий писал очерки, статьи об Аляске, а мы были тоже рады, что советские люди узнают больше о нашем северном крае.

впечатление о советских людях.

Д. Б.: — У меня сложилось впечатление, что советские люди — очень хорошие люди, я просто влюбилась в них. Во время первого посещения СССР в 1986 году нас всюду так тепло принимали, что это покорило наши сердца, и мы, американцы, наша делегация, всей душой потянулись вам навстречу. Люди буквально ломились в огромные залы, желая участвовать во встречах с нами. Мне вспоминается, в Иркутске пришли послушать нас тысячи человек, когда весь зал встал и запел нашу песню «Мы преодолеем», мы были потрясены этой картиной. Помню, я долго не могла успокоиться и с этого момента поняла, что мы должны общаться друг с другом, что мы, американцы и русские, должны протянуть сквозь границу руку дружбы.

черт, и сама жизнь подсказывает совместное разрешение северных экономических и экологических проблем. Нас не гипнотизируют государственные границы. Рыбы, птицы и животные — дети природы, да и сама природа не знает о их существовании.

В. Д.: — До революции существовала «Российско-Американская компания». Не является ли конечной целью программы «Русская Америка» создание организации, подобной ей?

Д. Б.: — «Российско-Американская компания» занималась в основном интересами бизнеса между Америкой и Россией, созданием экономических связей между ними. «Русская Америка» — эта программа преследует гуманитарные цели, общение между народами Аляски и Сибири, сохранение единого экологического пространства между ними, и лишь во вторую очередь ста-

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ГОЛОС РОДИНЫ

Д. Б.: — Об этом очень трудно сказать кратко. Я очень люблю музыку с самого детства. Получила хорошее музыкальное образование и работала дирижером с хором местных жителей. Нас охотно принимали во всех поселках и городах Аляски, о нас много писали и показывали по телевидению. И однажды я поняла, что музыка — это язык сближения разных людей, язык общечеловеческого общения.

Однажды в феврале 1985 года, то есть еще до вашей перестройки, ко мне домой приехал один из агентов, который занимался обменом групп путешественников на Аляске. Кроме того, он был представителем ассоциации «Мир без войн», в которую предложил и мне вступить. Эта организация занимается благородной целью сближения людей разных стран, и у него возникла идея путешествий от Аляски до Сибири, обмен группами населения между коренными народностями регионов. Он желал, чтобы были открыты границы и у нас, на Аляске, бывали бы танцоры,

Не могу не упомянуть и еще одного русского, с кем мне тогда, на первых порах, выпало встретиться и который оказал нам большую поддержку, — это Геннадий Алференко, председатель Фонда социальных программ. Он был тем человеком, кто сделал все возможное, чтобы границы наконец-то открылись для нашего общения.

В. Д.: — Дикси, вы посетили много городов. Если бы вам предложили пожить один год в нашей стране, какой из увиденных вами городов вы бы выбрали?

Д. Б.: — Мне довелось посетить действительно много интересных городов — Ленинград, Иркутск, Хабаровск, Братск, Новосибирск, Ереван, Баку, Ташкент. Совсем недавно, в этот приезд, посетила Киров, Норильск. Особое впечатление на меня произвел Тбилиси — пожалуй, это самый прекрасный город из увиденных мной. Но вообще-то я бы предпочла жить в Москве, потому что это центр всей советской жизни, и многое для судьбы народа решается именно здесь.

В. Д.: — Вопрос довольно традиционный — ваше

Мы, к сожалению, мало общаемся, но при ближайшем знакомстве выясняется, что у нас так много схожего, будто мы двоюродные сестры и братья. Советский Союз и США, обе страны имеют много похожих проблем и могли бы теснее сотрудничать в их преодолении. Меня поразила большая духовная культура вашего народа, глубина мировосприятия — то, чего недостает в американцах.

В. Д.: — В чем вы видите перспективы сотрудничества между Аляской и Сибирью?

Д. Б.: — Нет конца и предела в деле нашего сотрудничества. Народы Аляски и народы Сибири имеют много общего, в том числе и много общих проблем — этнических, культурных, экономических и экологических. Аляска очень далека от Вашингтона, а Сибирь — как вы понимаете — от Москвы, зато Аляска соседствует с Сибирью, и потому наши проблемы мы вынуждены решать сами и в перспективе — с помощью друг друга. Малые эскимосские поселения на Аляске и небольшие деревушки и поселки на Чукотке, в Якутии имеют очень много общих

вит экономические задачи, так что программа «Русской Америки» значительно шире задач компании.

В настоящее время я участвую в подготовке визита двух официальных лиц из Аляски. Они собираются установить торговые связи между бухтой Провидения, Магаданом, Норильском, Ханты - Мансийским национальным округом и Аляской в форме «малого бизнеса». Один из них, известный бизнесмен, снискал себе особую популярность на Аляске тем, что заставил Конгресс США выделить миллиарды долларов на развитие Аляски, что сделать было очень непросто. Он хорошо понимает нужды коренного населения, так как сам родом из племени атабаскан.

Мы предполагаем в этом году в штате Нью-Мексико, а точнее в индейском Таунсе, что расположился возле большого города Санта-Фе, провести конгресс коренных народностей Америки, Аляски и пригласить гостей из Сибири. Отчасти можно сказать, что индейский Таунс в Нью-Мексико — это резервация. Там живут индейские писатели, художники, а также мексиканцы, белым даже не рекомендуется заходить туда.

Артисты Фляски За Мир Аляски

Cama'i

and

The Siberian Gateway Project

present

Soviet American Reunion Concerts

"Glasnost Folkfest"
Friday, February 24, 1989

and

"Superpower Rock 'n' Roll"
Saturday, February 25, 1989

Anchorage, Alaska

$1.00

Special thanks to George Nelson and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
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THE PROGRAM

GLASNOST FOLKFEST
Evangeline Atwood Concert Hall, PAC, Anchorage, Alaska
Friday, February 24, 1989

SOVIET PERFORMERS

Pokrovsky Singers

White Sail Dancers

AMERICAN PERFORMERS

Susan Osborne

Chevak Dancers

St. Lawrence Island Dancers

Alaska Performing Artists For Peace

Martin Luther King Anchorage Community Choir

Chuna McIntyre

(not necessarily in order of appearance)

THE PROGRAM

SUPERPOWER ROCK 'N' ROLL

Sullivan Arena Anchorage, Alaska

Friday, February 24, 1989

SOVIET PERFORMERS

Stas Namin Group

Rondo

AMERICAN PERFORMERS

Eddie Money

(not necessarily in order of appearance)

WE
WELCOME
The Soviet Delegation to Anchorage, Alaska

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Paul Fuhs, Mayor
City of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

City of Unalaska Box 89 Unalaska, Alaska 99685 (907) 581-1251

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

GLASNOST FOLKFEST
FRIDAY NIGHT

Soviet Performers

Pokrovsky Singers: Formed in 1974, the Pokrovsky Singers spent many years in the underground of Soviet culture and only recently have emerged as one of the most popular vocal groups in the Soviet Union. They sing traditional Russian folk songs and completed a highly successful tour across the United States last summer. Dmitri Pokrovsky, the group's leader, has just been awarded the highest Soviet award for the performing arts.

White Sail Dancers: a traditional Eskimo dance group from the Chukotka Peninsula located just across the Bering Strait from Alaska. White Sail has performed across the Soviet Union and in Denmark and Greenland. All have relatives in Alaska.

American Performers

Chevak Dancers: these well known young performers have performed in the Soviet Union, Australia, Vancouver, Alaska and in other states. They are directed by Josh Weiser.

St. Lawrence Island Dancers: these dancers hail from Savoonga and Gambell and most have relatives living on the Soviet coast.

Chuna McIntyre: well known Yupik dancer, singer and artist. Chuna has performed across the Soviet Union, at the Salzburg Music Festival in France, and in the western United States and Alaska. He was recently featured at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Susan Osborne: lead singer with the Paul Winter consort for 8 years. Susan has toured extensively in the United States and her music is played on radio stations around the world. Susan will appear with Camai on the 1990 world tour.

Martin Luther King Anchorage Community Choir: led by Dorothy Grant, gospel choir director from Detroit. Dorothy Grant is featured on 8 albums – 5 as lead soloist and 3 as director.

Anchorage Children's Chorus: well known children's choir that regularly performs in Anchorage.

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace: Alaskans who performed across the Soviet Union in 1986, focusing on the Yupik Eskimo tradition of peace and the melting of the ice curtain.

SUPER POWER ROCK
SATURDAY NIGHT

American Performers

Eddie Money: Last year Eddie Money joined the major leagues with *Can't Hold Back*, Eddie's fourth platinum-selling LP which contained three Top 10 hits. Brooklyn-born, full of New York Irish blarney, Eddie Money was probably the NYPD's only moonlighting rocker. Cop by day, entertainer at night, he finally hung up his dress blues to sing the blues professionally, moving west after winning a battle of the bands in Bill Graham's Winterland Club. Graham became his manager, and in 1977 Eddie's self-titled debut album took the music world by storm with two smash singles, "Baby Hold On" and Two Tickets to Paradise." The LP was certified platinum, and over the next six years, he released *Life for the Taking, Playing for Keeps, No Control* (which turned platinum in the past year); and 1983's *Where's the Party*.

After the world tour for that last album, Eddie took an extended break, his first in years, to recharge and regroup. He produced other artists and continued writing. Eventually, he returned to the studio with Richie Zito to record *Can't Hold Back*. The album, released in the summer of 1986 was a spectacular success, propelling three songs high into the Top 10: "Takes Me Home Tonight," a sizzling duet with Ronnie Spector, "I Wanna Go Back," and "Endless Nights." He toured North America several times over, reestablishing tries with old fans at the same time making millions of new ones.

Soviet Performers

Stas Namin: Probably the best known rock group in the Soviet Union, Stas is known as the "Czar of rock" and the Stas Namin group has been around for 20 years. They have sold over 40 million records during the time that Soviet rock still performed underground. Stas manages 40 rock bands. His group performed across the United States and appeared on many national TV talk shows including the Today Show. In addition they have performed in Australia, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East.

Rondo: Formed in 1986, its first success came as a prize winner at the largest Soviet rock-festival "Rock-Panorama." Later that year Rondo released its first LP which had more than 1.5 million sales. They were the only rock-band chosen to play in the historic TV bridge between Soviet and American youth organized by Phil Donahue. An unusual combination of theatrical performance and rock music turns their concerts into bright emotional experiences.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Musical Director

Dixie Belcher: Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Camai. Dixie was born in Alaska and has devoted her adult life to major public service and music projects. She was founder, arranger and conductor for the St. Paul Singers, a 40 person folk-rock choral group that toured Alaska and Northwest Canada for 10 years.

In February, 1985, Ms. Belcher founded the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace and organized the October, 1986 three week performing tour of the Soviet

Union. Belcher is the recipient of the Kempton Award for Service to Humanity, and the Giraffe Award, a national award given to people who "stick their necks out". The 15th Alaska State Legislature passed a resolution in her honor for her work towards opening the Bering Strait and bringing Soviet and Alaska peoples together.

Production Director

Mr. George Lichter, Northern Stage Company: Were it not for the services of George Lichter, his expertise, his willingness to donate his time and effort, this concert would probably not be taking place. He was our guide and our reality check in the world of rock stars, production and promotion. Thank you George, we're mighty glad you have a sense of humor.

ABOUT THE SPONSORS

CAMA'I

CAMAI (cha mai) – the Yup'ik Eskimo word meaning "hello" – is a non-profit organization established in 1985 to increase international understanding through music and dance the voices of the heart.

CAMAI evolved from the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, who in 1986 sponsored a spectacularly successful performing tour by 67 Alaskans across the Soviet Union to raise consciousness about the existence of the "ice wall" and the fact that brothers and sisters are separated by this artificial boundary.

Thousands of Soviets broke down doors to see the Alaskans. Four and five standing ovations were given throughout each performance. Music and dance successfully bridged geographic, linquistic, cultural, political and idealogical barriers.

The Alaskans returned home determined to work to open the border. Lecture tours were held around Alaska and the United States and people from all walks of life were asked to lobby for this effort in both countries.

In 1987 and 1988 Alaska Business people, natives, educators, politicians and many others joined this effort, some working independently, some with CAMAI. Jim Stimpfle sent a balloon filled with gifts from Nome to Profideniya, and began working almost full time to open the Strait. Dr. Ted Mala, continued his prodigious efforts towards medical cooperation with the Soviets. Larry Rockwell, a 6th grade Soldotna teacher began a pen pal program between Alaskan and Siberian students. The Alaska Federation of Natives passed a motion calling for the opening. The Alaska Chamber of Commerce formed the Siberian Project Gateway to promote trade across the Strait. Senator Frank Murkowski took the issue to the President, getting it placed on the May, 1988 Summit agenda. On May 25, Dixie Belcher, Executive Director of CAMAI, flew to Moscow to lobby for the opening.

Two months before the May summit, CAMAI sponsored Ambassador Gannady Gerasimov, famed Soviet spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on a trip across the United States traveling to 19 cities in 19 days. The tour ended with Ambassador Gerasimov standing on Little Diomede, gazing 2½ miles across the ice to his country. He returned to Moscow and began a one man crusade to open the border, appealing personally to officials and publicly an national television.

On May 28 permission was granted to Alaska Airlines for a "Friendship Flight" from Nome to Providenia on June 13th. CAMAI then enlisted Gennady Alferenko, founder and president of the Foundation for Social Innovation for help in obtaining permission for Alaskan Eskimos to travel to the villages of the Soviet Eskimos later in the summer with Drs. Mimi George and David Lewis. These villages had been closed to everyone, including Soviet citizens, since the Russian Revolution in 1917. After long months of negotiation by Drs. Lewis and George on the American side and Alferenko and his staff working full time seeking permission from 34 Soviet agencies including the military and the KGB, permission was finally granted.

On August 3, 1988 Drs. George and Lewis crossed the Strait carrying 11 Eskimos from Gambell to the Soviet village of Novo Chaplino, where the Alaska Eskimos stayed in the homes of their Soviet relatives for five days.

Many excursions across the Strait are planned for 1989. On February 27th a combined group of Soviets and Americans, under the direction of Paul Schurke, will ski to Soviet Eskimo villages, cross the Strait and ski to nine villages in Alaska. Plans are underway for crossings with kayaks, balloons and light airplanes. Indegineous peoples of Siberia and the Far East plan a major crossing to Alaska in August. Dr. Ted Mala has just returned from a visit to reindeer camps in the Soviet far north and plans a major expedition to study medical problems and help with control of disease in Soviet villages. School children all over Alaska are studying Russian and writing to Soviet pen pals and many student exchange trips are planned. Arrangements are underway for a Siberian/Alaskan youth conference this fall. And, perhaps most heartening, negotiations are underway for Soviet and American Eskimos to cross the Strait freely, without passports or visas. Governor Cooper plans to meet the Soviets at the International Dateline March 31, 1989 to sign a treaty regarding travel and other issues related to the Straits. CAMAI's hope of a "traffic jam in the Bering Straits" is coming true.

In 1990, CAMAI will sponsor a world tour of 130 Soviet and American performers that focuses on the melting of the "ice wall" and the hope that walls will come down all over the world. CAMAI's itinerary includes Japan, China, Korea, the Soviet Union, East and West Europe, Great Britain and the United States.

CAMAI is staffed by volunteers dedicated to the vision of people getting to know each other as people, through the universal languages of music and dance. It receives broad coneptual support from the State of Alaska, the Soviet Foundation for Social Innovation and other influential groups in the United States and the Soviet Union. We are working to establish a foundation to support our efforts at building international understanding through the performing arts and welcome contributions.

SIBERIAN GATEWAY PROJECT
ALASKA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

When historians go back to look at how the "ice curtain" melted between Alaska and Siberia, they will point to the work of a small group of people. The Siberian Gateway Project (SGP) was established an ad hoc citizens/business committee of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce to promote business and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union. One of the most important events leading to the success of the Siberian Gateway Project was the April 1988 visit to Alaska by Gennadi Gerasimov, chief spokesman of the USSR. Gerasimov, who has since visited Alaska on two other occasions, saw how opening the border could show the world the new course of friendship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The Siberian Gateway Project worked with the Nome Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Office to make the First Friendship Flight from Nome to Provideniya, Siberia a reality in June 1988. The SGP is continuing its leading role to develop trade and tourism opportunities between Alaska and Siberia by sponsoring the Soviet-American Reunion.

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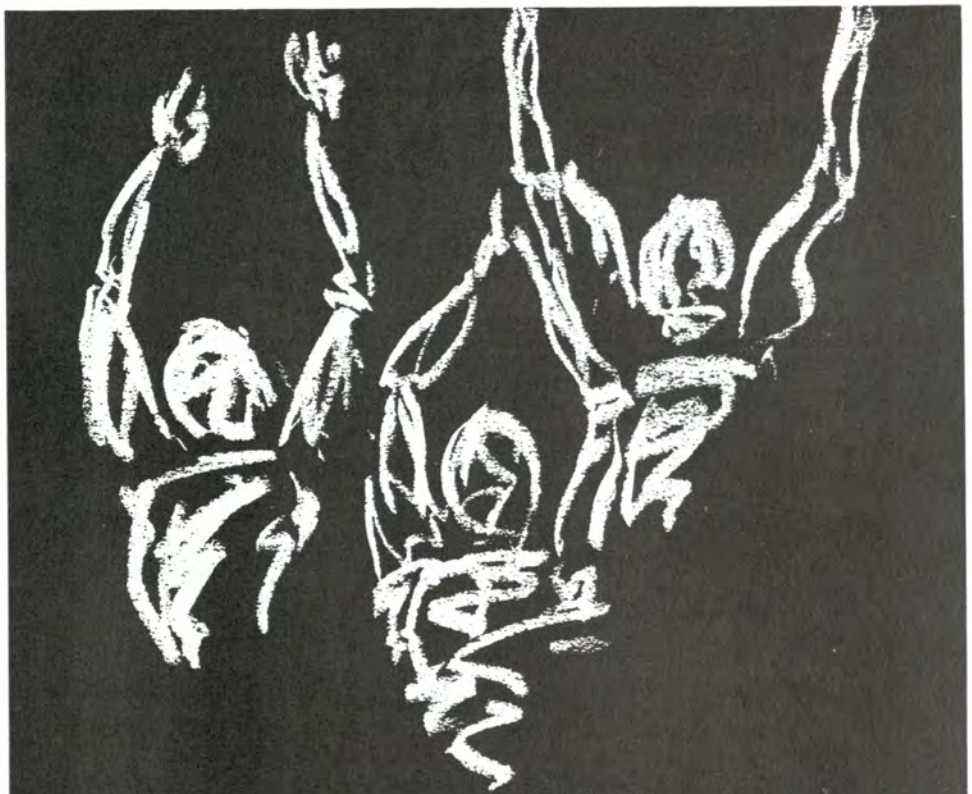

Heat Wave

Relations are warming between the US and the USSR. Thanks to everyone involved in the Glasnost Folk Fest and Superpower Rock concerts for turning up the heat in Anchorage.

Отношения прогреются между США и СССР! Покорно благодарём вас которые оживлают международный фестиваль гласности и "Супер Пауер" рок концерт. Большое спасибо для разогревания Анкореджа

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PEACE IS POSSIBLE

By Dixie Belcher

It is something I will never forget.

Thousands of Soviets standing with their arms lifted in the air, holding hands, singing "We Shall Overcome", tears streaming. Unbelievable warmth, hugs, tears, children's kisses of welcome, the sharing of hope.

Peace is possible.

There were sixty-seven of us. Whites, Blacks, Eskimos. We were sponsored partially by the State of Alaska and we called ourselves Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. For three weeks, we performed across the Soviet Union. We sang and danced for intellecturals, soldiers, peasants, Comunists, students, Eskimos, Blacks, the press. And they sang and danced with us. The response was always the same.

We were billed as "Alaska's gift to the Soviet Union". Thousands were turned away. Crowds broke down doors trying to get in. For the Alaskans, such a response was totally unexpected, overwhelming and deeply moving. It changed our lives.

At our first concert in Leningrad, Soviet Yupik Eskimos tentatively approached Alaskan Yupik Eskimos, speaking in Siberian Yupik. Two thousand people in the world speak Siberian Yupik. One thousand Live in Siberia one thousand in Alaska. For the first time since 1940, these Eskimos, who live only fifty miles from each other and have been one people for thousands of years, spoke to each other, touched, shared news of relatives. There were no dry eyes in the auditorium that night.

Peace is possible.

Our Intourist Guide sobbed through every performance. It was the best thing that happened to her, she said. She was sure it was the best thing that would ever happen to her. "You can't imagine how suspicious English-speaking tourists are," she said, "Surely you've guided peace groups?" I asked. "They're worst of all," she replied. "Not only are they suspicious, but they want to change us."

Maybe we're too intellectual. In our efforts toward peace, both official and unofficial, maybe we rely too much on our heads. On conditioned responses. Responses learned well on both sides, in both systems. We must recognize our common humanity. With languages from the heart, which is, after all, an international organ of communication. Music, dance, laughter transcend political, ideological and language barriers, instantly. Talk is easier after sharing songs, dances, laughter, tears. After we have experienced our common humanity. After we like each other. After we trust each other. Then we can decide about sharing the planet, about peace.

How can we expect to reach understanding when we try to negotiate with "the enemy"? With people we don't like, don't trust, don't respect. If we are ever to achieve peace, we must first experience each other as human beings. We must balance languages of the head with those of the heart. With simple ways of comunicating we share from time immemorial.

We have much to learn from each other. We are not all right and they all wrong. Ethnocentrism. We must grow beyond it if we are to survive. We point to their lack to freedom, their faltering economy. They point to our pornography, violence, poverty. We can share economics, technology, freedom. They can teach us about responsibility, about caring. Soviets leave their babies in buggies outside stores in the Soviet Union. Mothers know that passersby will comfort the baby if necessary. I was in Moscow in January, 1986, when Challenger blew up. Soviets stopped me in the street, took my hands, and with tears in their eyes expressed their sorrow. Some could say only the word "Challenger", but their message was clear.

I believe they want peace. All over the Soviet Union are signs that say "What have you done for peace today?" Signs for the word "Peace" in many different languages. Signs showing the horrors of war. Signs showing people beating swords into plowshares. Peace art fills the schools. My favorite is a picture of a globe with blue sky above. Four clasped hands protect the sky, one black, one red, one white, one brown. Above the hands, bombs are falling. It was drawn by an eleven year old girl in Moscow. Soviet children's art projects have a common theme of the world's children holding hands in peace and friendship.

Peace is possible.

We must first recognize our common humanity. Our shared hopes, needs, problems, aspirations. Then we can play at being politicians, intellectuals, idealogues. We are, after all, human beings and our similarities far exceed our differences.

Let's have more cultural exchange. Let's get to know each other. Let's have televisions and movies showing Soviets as real people. We have to outgrow the bad guy/good guy mentality. Where we are always the latter. We must recognize Soviets as people. We must outgrow ethnocentrisem. Our lives depend on it.

Peace is possible.

Written by Dixie Belcher, U.S. Co-Chair, Alaska Performing Artists for Peace

Congratulations to the Alaska State Chamber's Siberian Gateway Project

Here's to a Successful Soviet-American Week February 20-26, 1989

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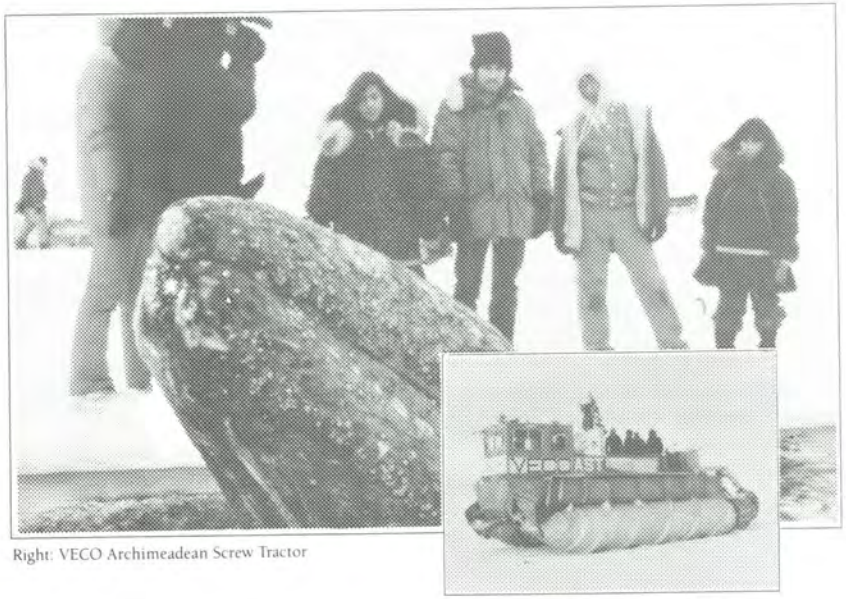
Another Routine Assignment.



Right: VECO Archimeadean Screw Tractor

Some saw the rescue of the Gray Whales off the coast of Alaska as a dramatic mission to save three endangered animals. We saw it as a problem to be solved. That's the way we work.

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We extend our deepest thanks to those individuals, organizations, and businesses who have provided time, sevices and goods on our behalf.

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Governor's Office
Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau
Alaska Center for International Business
Municipality of Anchorage

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Ermalee Hickel
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Manor House
Sourdough Mining Company

SIBERIAN GATEWAY PROJECT/CAMAI CHRONOLOGY

October 1986 Camai, a group of 67 Alaskan performers toured the Soviet Union giving performances in Moscow, Leningrad, Bratsk, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, and Khabarovsk, for three weeks. This trip led to important friendships between Alaskans and Soviets.

February 1988 Initial Organizational meeting for Siberian Gateway Project held in Nome.

April 1988 Camai executes national Goodwill Tour for Gennadi Gerasimov.

June 1988 Siberian Gateway Project/Camai help pave the way for historic First Friendship Flight between Nome and Provideniya, Siberia on Alaska Airlines.

October 1988 Camai/Siberian Gateway Project host Ambassador Gennadi Gerasimov to Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Annual Convention in Sitka.
Siberian Gateway Project pledges $25,000 seed money to produce the Soviet-American Reunion.

February 1989 Aeroflot "Friendship Flight" arrives Anchorage at the invitation of Camai and the Siberian Gateway Project. A Soviet delegation of 100, including businessmen, performers, academics, journalists, and government representatives, participate in a week of exchange, culminating with the Glasnost Folkfest and Super Power Rock and Roll concerts. The "Soviet-American Reunion" was a complete success.

Summer 1989 Siberian Gateway Project leads a trade mission to the Soviet Far East.

August 1989 Camai begins three month world tour of American and Soviet performers.

We Wear A Lot Of Hats In Our Job.

In most Alaskan communities, the service of Alaska Airlines doesn't end at the airport. Because in addition to flying all over Alaska, our employees live all over Alaska.

And they do their best to be an important part of the communities where they make their homes. So you'll find our people helping Shriners get medical care to crippled children, serving the Boy Scouts, rescuing injured animals, helping get the salmon catch out, bringing cultural events to the wilderness and doing a hundred other things to improve the quality of life in every part of Alaska.

Because, like everyone else who lives here, we're working hard to help make Alaska all it can be. Admittedly, that involves a little more work than some jobs, but it also involves a lot more satisfaction.

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1 IN THE SENATE BY HENSLEY

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a Siberian crossing and

6 cultural exchange.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, recognizing

9 the desires of the citizens of their countries, signed an agreement in 1986

10 encouraging people-to-people exchanges between the United States and the

11 Soviet Union; and

12 WHEREAS the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace brought this agreement

13 to life by visiting the Soviet Union last year; and

14 WHEREAS the people of Alaska and the Soviet Union have a shared

15 history; and

16 WHEREAS some of the inhabitants of the Alaska and Soviet Union coastal

17 communities on the Bering Strait have family and cultural ties; and

18 WHEREAS the people of St. Lawrence Island in Alaska have extended an

19 invitation to the people in Siberia to participate in an Alaska whaling

20 festival this summer; and

21 WHEREAS other Alaska communities are planning activities to welcome

22 the people from Siberia and would like to include the Siberian visitors in

23 the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics in August; and

24 WHEREAS, if Siberian residents are allowed to visit Alaska, the visit

25 will be the first Siberian crossing for the residents in almost 40 years;

26 and

27 WHEREAS the proposed exchange would promote international understand-

28 ing and world peace;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports a Siberian

1 crossing and cultural exchange in Alaska for Alaskan and Siberian residents
2 this summer; and be it
3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully en-
4 courages the President of the United States to support and assist this
5 proposed Siberian crossing and exchange; and be it
6 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges
7 the members of the state's Congressional delegation to support this pro-
8 posed Siberian crossing and cultural exchange.
9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
10 Reagan, President of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
11 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
12 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

STATE OF ALASKA

Executive Proclamation

by

Bill Sheffield, Governor

In September of this year, performing artists from Alaska will visit the Soviet Union. The artists' troupe will perform at several locations across Siberia and hopes to reunite Siberian and Alaskan Eskimos for the first time in more than 40 years.

The leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States have been working toward increasing cultural exchanges, in the hope of fostering greater understanding between our peoples. This is especially fitting for the citizens of Siberia and Alaska, for in addition to sharing the planet, they share common hopes and dreams for peace, common aspirations for themselves and their children, common culture, and even common weather. Siberian and Alaskan Eskimos share historical roots, speak a common language and, indeed, have relatives across the border between their respective countries.

The efforts of Soviet and American leaders to encourage cultural exchanges reflect the belief of people throughout the world that our survival may depend on our learning to coexist peacefully. Cultural exchanges are one way citizens of one country learn more about citizens of another.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Sheffield, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim the month of September 1986, as:

SIBERIA-ALASKA CULTURAL EXCHANGE MONTH

in Alaska, and take great pleasure in inviting the performing artists of Siberia to visit Alaska in May of 1987, or whenever it is possible for them to do so. The people of Alaska hope that the performing artists of Siberia will be as honored to visit us as we will be to receive them as our guests.

DATED: July 14, 1986

Done by—

Bill Sheffield, Governor
who has also authorized
the seal of the State of
Alaska to be affixed to
this proclamation.

CAMA-I
1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 789-0449

AN ESKIMO'S VISION OF HOPE: MELTING THE ICE CURTAIN

In October 1986, 67 Alaskan performers toured the Soviet Union as members of the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace (APAP). For 21 days, this diverse group of Yup'ik Eskimos, Black gospel singers, and Caucasians, ranging in age from 13 to 70, participated in a cross-cultural person-to-person musical exchange of peace and hope between Alaskans and their Soviet neighbors. A major part of the performance focused on the cultural and musical heritage of the Yup'ik Eskimos who, although they share a common language, culture, and for some, the same parents, have been separated by political boundaries since 1948. To all who participated, either as performers or as members of the audience, the tour demonstrated the power of people to reach out to each other across geographical and political boundaries.

"An Eskimo's Vision of Hope: Melting the Ice Curtain" presents an audio-visual account of the tour and a discussion of the future vision of reuniting the Yup'ik people; and features a special presentation of the spiritual traditions, art, symbolism, and dance of the Yup'ik people by Eskimo performer Chuna McIntyre.

Dixie Belcher, executive and artistic Director of APAP, is a well-known Alaska activist and has initiated and been involved in innovative projects for social change in Alaska for the last 20 years. She was also music director for the successful St. Paul Singers for over 10 years. She has spoken extensively about the project in Alaska and the Soviet Union and has been featured in the Soviet, European, Japanese, and American press. Her personal experience in bringing together this diverse group of performers, most of whom were beginning amateurs, turning them into what the Soviets called "Alaska's Gift to the Soviet Union", and touring throughout the Soviet Union as musical ambassadors of peace is an intensely moving and human account of person-to-person diplomacy.

Chuna McIntyre, well-known Eskimo artist, dancer, and storyteller, is known throughout Alaska as a spokesperson for the Yup'ik Eskimo tradition. He has performed throughout Alaska and the U.S. West Coast, Hawaii, and New Zealand; has been featured at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.; and will perform this fall at the Salzburg Arts Festival in France. He has appeared on Praire Home Companion, CBS, and National Public Radio; and has been interviewed by a wide variety of European, Soviet, and American media. His life's work is the sharing and preservation of the Yup'ik Eskimo tradition.

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/ Commissioner Milt Barker

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ermanent Fund.

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many, Kelly said.

The primary is set for Aug. 23, and Kelly is confident lawmakers would pass a measure adding the issue to the ballot if legislative action is required.

The Anchorage assembly and Anchorage Organizing Committee have called for a new vote of public support on the city's bid to host the 1994 Winter Olympics.

scheduled to select the host city for 1994 Winter Games in September. The Anchorage committee wants a public vote on the city's bid prior to that meeting.

"If we're going to lose, I'd rather lose now than after we get the games," said Rick Mystrom, chairman of the Anchorage committee.

Kelly said he has discussed the ballot issue with the Division of Elec-

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Prospects dimming for Alaska-to-Siberia flight

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE – Soviet concerns make it unlikely that Alaska Airlines will be able to fly from Nome to Provideniya, Siberia, on May 31 as planned, says Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, who has just returned from the Soviet Union.

"Unless we can coordinate a top-level mandate. . .I think the flight will not happen on that date," Murkowski said. "There are substantially more hurdles than I anticipated."

The charter flight by an Alaska Airlines jet on May 31 has been billed as a way to open the door for regular flights between Nome and the Siberian city. But Soviet officials are cool to the idea, citing the costs, security risks and lack of facilities in Provideniya, Murkowski said.

"It would be a sweeping change. They asked me a couple of times, 'Are you serious?'," Murkowski said of his meetings with officials of the Soviet Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Murkowski returned Sunday from a week-long trip to the Soviet Union as part of an 11-member delegation from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

He took with him a long list of questions from Alaska Airlines about facilities at Provideniya. Topics included the length of the runway and the availability of air traffic control systems. Soviet officials said they will respond to the questions, Murkowski said.

"They said Provideniya has been closed to Westerners, and it is not a port of entry," Murkowski said. "I said, 'Yes, but this is a charter and there is no charge.'"

The Soviets also said no customs or visa facilities are in place in Provideniya, there are no ground facilities, and it's possible speakers of English would not be on hand in Provideniya to act as guides for the Alaskans.

"I responded that in the spirit of 'glasnost'. . .the U.S. stands ready," Murkowski said.

"We would work out the problems."

Search for fishermen halted

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Coast Guard has suspended the search for three Oregon men missing from a wrecked fishing boat that washed ashore in Icy Bay earlier in the week.

Wednesday was the first good weather searchers had all week and Coast Guard aircraft covered the area from Yakutat to Cape St. Elias, but found nothing.

Coast Guard spokesman Robert Goodrich said Thursday the search is suspended pending further developments.

The bodies of Mark von Schweinitz, 26, Coos Bay, Ore., and Danny Lamons, 38, Puyallup, Wash., were found in the wreckage of the 52-foot Emerald Sea. The Coast Guard said the men apparently were thrown from their bunks and were crushed under a refrigerator and a microwave oven.

The hull of the vessel, its superstructure missing, was spotted by a passing airplane Sunday.

Missing are Greg von Schweinitz, 26, the ship's captain and brother of Mark; Gregory Lamons, 39, brother of Danny; and Eric Myrman, 39. Greg von Schweinitz and Gregory Lamons are from Coos Bay. Myrman is from Ashland, Ore.

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JUNEAU EMPIRE

June 4, 1988

'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'

Friendship Flight unites Alaska, Siberia

Eskimos catch up on old times as officials exchange greetings

By DAVID FOSTER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENIYA, U.S.S.R. – For Alaska Eskimo John Waghiyi, the 40-year wait for the Siberia border to open was a few years too long.

Waghiyi, a Yupik Eskimo from St. Lawrence Island, was among 82 Alaskans on a "Friendship Flight" Tuesday to this remote Siberian city.

Alaska Eskimos once freely crossed the icy Bering Sea in motorboats and walrus skin umiaks to trade and visit with relatives on the Siberian coast. But Cold War tensions closed the border in 1948, and the Soviets moved many villagers inland from their coastal settlements.

The border remained closed to the Eskimos until Monday, when an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 made a 45-minute flight across the international dateline and into Soviet territory.

Waghiyi, 64, had his heart set on finding a distant cousin he knew only as Amquairqun from visits before the border closed.

But Amquairqun, like many Siberian relatives the Alaskans had hoped to see, was not among the crowd that turned out to greet the visitors.

"They said he passed away," Waghiyi said.

Other Alaska Eskimos found long-lost relatives, however, and even Waghiyi soon was lost in conversation with Siberian Eskimos.

The daylong reunion started after the Alaska delegation of Eskimos, politicians, business leaders and peace activists touched down on Provideniya's gravel runway, following a 225-mile flight from the western Alaska town of Nome.

AP

School children waved Soviet and American flags, while local officials and Alaskans shouted greetings in Russian, English and Yupik over the roar of the jets' engines.

Leaders of the Alaska delegation were handed carnations beneath a sign proclaiming, "Peace and Friendship between Alaska and Chukotka!"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Provideniya greetings: Franklin Irrigoo of Gambell, Alaska, 33 miles from the Soviet border, talks with Soviet Eskimos after 40 years.

Chukotka is the district in Provideniya is located.

Formal greetings soon gave way to a frenzy of hugs, handshakes and trading of pins, flags, bubble gum and postcards.

"We are very glad to see you," said Galina Tegret, secretary of the local Communist Party committee.

Provideniya officials escorted the visitors on a tour of the city of 5,000, then presided over a banquet at a downtown dining hall.

Provideniya residents packed an auditorium at the "Palace of Culture" for four hours of speeches, gift-giving and Native dancing.

Soviet and Alaska officials struggled with the language barrier all day, but the Eskimos chatted easily in their common Yupik dialect.

Drinking tea from samovars and munching on sweet rolls, they tried

Please turn to Flight, Page 8

Flight...

Continued from Page 1

to catch up on 40 years of gossip.

Timothy Gologergen, 68, of Nome, shared a traditional song with a Siberian Eskimo who identified himself as Kaygigun, 41, from the village of New Chaplino, several miles from Provideniya.

Gologergen later translated his talk with Kaygigun. "They got three walruses last night," Gologergen said. "They were hauling them back and forth by dog team and he heard that we were coming. He dropped everything and came over."

Gologergen said the Siberian Eskimos would love to visit Alaska, governments willing.

"He said this way is really good – just to speak our own dialect and not listen to the war stories or think about war ... just be doing our thing, speaking our Yupik language and hunting and being relaxed," Gologergen said.

Alaska and Soviet officials promised to continue exchanges between the regions, and Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper invited residents of Provideniya to visit Alaska.

The Soviets admitted making a mistake years ago when they forced Natives from their villages. "At the time we thought it was expedient," said Vyacheslav Kobets, president of the region's Communist Party executive committee.

"It is our fortune that this situation was not carried on too long," Kobets said. "We consider it was a mistake. Every village now with Native people will be developed in accordance with the needs of the Native people."

The "Friendship Flight," two years in the planning by Alaskans, was approved this month by the Soviets.

Alaska Airlines sponsored the flight and is hoping the one-time charter paves the way for twice-weekly tourist flights from Nome.

Provideniya may seem an unlikely tourist destination. It is a city of concrete block apartment buildings, peeling paint and muddy streets pocked with potholes. Remnants of the winter's packed ice remain in the harbor, and snow lingers on the gravel-domed mountains that cast long shadows on the city.

"The Soviets are a bit puzzled why we want to go to a place like Provideniya," said Bob Clarke, a State Department official on the flight.

But airline officials say curiosity about Siberia runs high. They are hoping tourists to Nome will pay to fly the extra miles to Provideniya.

Cruise ship lines also have applied for permission to dock at Provideniya.

James Stimpfle, a Nome resident who first proposed the flight two years ago, believes that if the Alaska-Siberia border is opened wider, then Nome could become an economic and cultural center for both sides of the Bering Strait.

"From here there is no limit to what we can do," Stimpfle said. "We live so close to each other. We ought to visit more."

Soviet-American Rock Concert Scheduled for February

The Siberian Gateway Project (SGP) and Cama'i (formerly the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the cultural relationship between Alaska and the Soviet Union, will cosponsor an international rock concert at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage on February 24 and 25, 1989.

Continuing to promote increased interchange between East and West, the Alaska State Chamber's Siberian Gateway Project is providing the initial money to Cama'i to host top rock stars from both the Soviet Union and the United States.

"The seed money we provide will allow Cama'i to retain a professional team of experts to transform this event into a concert the world will watch," remarked Mead Treadwell, SGP Secretary Treasurer.

Stas Namin and his band, the most well known Soviet rock band in the USSR, will be the lead group representing the entourage of performers attending the international event from the Soviet Union. In addition to Namin, a large native delegation will also participate in the concert, performing traditional Eskimo music and dance.

"This concert was Stas Namin's idea and he will be performing free of charge because he's dedicated to the gesture it symbolizes," explained Dixie Belcher, Executive Director of Cama'i.

From the American side, the headliner will be Eddie Money, a rocker that has had several number one hits since he began his career many years ago. Paul Winter, a well known United States performer, will also participate in the Soviet-American Concert.

Dixie Belcher

Several peripheral activities will take place around the concert but those projects are still in the planning stages. One initiative that is being publicly pursued by the sponsoring organizations and the Governors Office of International Trade, is the possibility of having the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, fly an airliner directly into Anchorage International Airport with the attending Soviet delegation.

"Governor Cowper extended an invitation to Mr. Vladimir Krurkov, General Manager of Aeroflot, on February 20th to fly from Magadan to Anchorage. However, the United States State Department Soviet Desk is requiring Aeroflot to follow regular procedures concerning the request," explained Ginna Brelsford, Trade Specialist, Office of International Trade. "The State Department procedures are cumbersome but we're confident the flight will happen," concluded Brelsford.

Specific details concerning the concert will be released at a later date. For more information contact Dixie Belcher at 789-0449 or Shane Johnson at 278-3741.

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace (Cama'i), perform with Soviet Eskimos while on tour in the Soviet Union in 1986.

Holland America Promotes Alaska Down Under

The 2-day Alaska Days celebration at the World Expo in Australia would not have been the big success that it was without the help of "Holland America Line/Westours," said Jane Angvik, Expo 88 Director. "Their support was critical."

Holland America Line/Westours made a cash donation to ASCC for $31,000 to underwrite the Alaska Days events in Brisbane. Most of the money was used to pay the transportation costs for the Chevak Dancers to travel from Chevak, Alaska to Australia where they performed before 20,000 on the Riverfront Stage for two evenings. The donation also paid the way for entertainers Hobo Jim, Trish Hamm and Jeff Macktaz, North Country Productions, Anchorage, the show's producer and his technical crew. All of the entertainers and technicians volunteered their time to produce the Alaska Days concerts.

Rolf Klug, Holland-America Line's Director of Overseas Marketing and Sales travelled to Australia in mid-September to take part in the celebration. A reception for over 600 Australians and Expo personnel was hosted by Holland America Line. (Alaskan Gold Seafoods donated the smoked salmon for guests to sample.)

A major part of Alaska Days included two seminars, each sponsored by Holland America Line, which provided Alaskan and Australian business people an opportunity to discuss trade and tourism. Over 150 Australian travel agents and visitor industry officials attended the Alaska tourism seminar.

A chance to win a two week, all expenses paid, cruise for two through Alaska's Inside Passage, donated by Holland America Line/Westours, doubled the attendance at the Alaska Pavilion, from 10,000 per day to 20,000, Angvik said. "Expo 88 and the promotional efforts by Holland America Line greatly enhanced the company's ability to attract more tourists to Alaska," she added.

"Al Parrish, president of Westours, and Rolf Klug made Alaska Days possible," Angvik acknowledged. "I'm confident that Alaska's increased visibility, as a result of Expo 88, will pay off for all of Alaska's visitor industry."

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

20	John Hale, City Manager, Mat-Su Borough — Anchorage. "A New Dawn for the Valley: Economic Development Plans for the Future," ABR.
30	Business After Hours — Anchorage, Egan Convention Center, hosted by Bill Elander and the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau.

FEBRUARY

3	Ambassador Daniel G. Amstuts, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C. — Anchorage. "Japanese Trade," ABR.
17-19	ASCC Board meeting — Juneau & Whitehorse.
24-25	Soviet-American Rock Concert — Anchorage, Sullivan Arena. Co-sponsored by Dixie Belcher and Camai, and the Siberian Gateway Project (ASCC).

Peace artists return

Alaska contingent says Soviets liked their performances

By CHUCK KLEESCHULTE
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

They practically wobbled from exhaustion, but their eyes sparkled as they relived for well-wishers the memories of their three-week trek for peace across the Soviet Union.

Between hugs and kisses, most of the 28 members of the Juneau contingent of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace raved about their trip after arriving back in Juneau late Sunday night.

"It was great. We were very well-received. I think by and large the people are very interested in anything American. They seemed very inquisitive and wanted to know about our lives, not about what our government does," said Dave Moe, one of the 67 people, all but two from Alaska, who traveled throughout the Soviet Union as part of a people-to-people artistic exchange designed to promote goodwill.

"I'm exhausted. We got on the plane in Helsinki at 2 p.m. their time, flew for 9½ hours straight to reach Seattle by way of Los Angeles and then after a layover, flew the rest of the way. But it was a pretty amazing trip. It will take a lifetime to get over the emotions from it all," said Juneau doctor Scott Jamison, as he waited for his luggage.

The performing artists, organized by Dixie Belcher, a force behind Juneau's local harmony group, the St. Paul Singers, featured Eskimo dancers from Chevak, Savoonga and Gambell, rock performers from Anchorage, gospel singers from throughout the state and modern sounds and dance, largely choreo-

Please turn to Page 12

Artists...

Continued from Page 1

graphed by the Juneau contingent. Former Gov. Jay Hammond also went along, talking about American society at many of the performances.

The group performed 14 times from Leningrad, their first stop on the six-city tour, to Khabarovsk, 11 time zones away in western Siberia. Then the group headed back to Moscow, stopping to sightsee at Baykal, and perform in Bratsk, Tulun and Novosibirsk, besides in the two major cities of the Soviet Union.

"The people who went completely changed their minds about the Soviet people. We all had this idea that Russians are reserved, but the trip showed us they have incredible warmth. I think it proved to all of us the true power of people-to-people exchanges," said Belcher.

She said all of the performances proved tremendously powerful and emotional as Russians, who seldom get to travel abroad, showed real emotion at seeing forms of traditional Russian and Eskimo dance performed by Americans – emotion that elicited tears at every stop from the Alaskan performers. The trip also elicited overflow crowds at every stop, 1,500 Soviets, for example, turned away at Bratsk where the group performed to an overflow crowd of 1,200.

"Our Intourist guide said a group of amateur performers had never elicited such a response before," said Belcher.

"It was really incredible," added Juneau resident Russ Josephson. "Because they had heard a lot of bad things about Americans, and even though we have a free press, we had never heard very much about the average Russian. The trip showed that the people and the government are entirely different, that people really can communicate at a personal level, even if you can't speak each other's language."

One goal of the trip was to reunite some of the St. Lawrence Island Yupiks with Soviet relatives – contact between families severed after World War II. The goal was partially met when a Leningrad student recognized one of the Gambell performers as a relative, while in Moscow another aunt was reunited with a member of the Alaska group.

"The really moving part of every performance was when we would sing 'We are the World.' The crowd would all join and sing it is English. It was an incredible experience," said Belcher.

The group, which hopes to arrange an exchange visit for May of Siberian performers, now has to set out to raise at least $45,000 to pay off the reminder of the $200,000 trip. The group still owes Finn Air for part of the airfare. They also would like to raise up to $300,000 more to pay for completion of a documentary program about the visit.

"We have it all on film. It will be wonderful to see it. We all can't wait," said Belcher.

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Dixie's dream came true

As I watched the news and read the newspaper on the Provideniya flight, I could not help but feel the excitement of the historical event. I understand that in order to have such successful results, a large number of people must have worked many long hours. My hat goes off to one of the unsung heroes of that event — Dixie Belcher.

In 1985, Dixie Belcher started her quest to unite the St. Lawrence Island Eskimos with their relatives across the Bering Strait. Dixie's dream was to use the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace as a vehicle to communicate the need to reunite a culture of people. I am sure that many saw the need for this unification, but it was Dixie Belcher who hand carried a proposal to Gov. Steve Cowper, Sen. Frank Murkowski, Sen. Ted Stevens, Yuri Rytkheu (the Soviet poet), Peter Jennings of ABC News, and Gennady Gerasimov, a spokesperson of the General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and countless others.

It was Dixie's perseverance and dedication that brought about the successful Provideniya Friendship Flight.

Dixie's dream of reuniting the St. Lawrence Eskimos with their relatives just two and a half miles across the Bering Strait is a dream she made come true.

Dixie Belcher, we commend you for your efforts.

— Shirley Staten
Raye Scully

Sheraton to spend $4.2 million

-Page 2

PRIVYET!
Alaska's Chamber of Commerce, Camai, host the Soviets

-Inside

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Volume 13, Number 9, 24 Pages

February 27, 1989

Monday Lineup

International Edition

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• The Fairbanks International Ice Festival, and more **12**

Soviet Alaska visit may set stage for free trade

By Sally J. Suddock

Nowhere but in Alaska has the effect of General Secretary and President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of *perestroika* and *glasnost* been so evident in the U.S., and last week's mission of 92 Soviets to the 49th state likely will set the stage for free trade throughout the Pacific Rim.

The Soviet Far East is to be the test case for the free trade goals the Soviet Union has been pursuing since the landmark 1987 Soviet Joint Venture Law was enacted by the Soviet Council of Ministers two years ago, and the delegation of businessmen, artists, scientists and others who visited Alaska last week were in America to talk business.

"With a view to infusing dynamism into the foreign economic ties, and with account for the specificity of those regions of our country, we are now working on measures which may be described as a 'favored treatment' (for Asia and the Pacific)," said Gorbachev in a speech at a major Asia-Pacific region conference in Krasnoyarsk last September. That "favored treatment" status was granted to the Far Eastern region in a 41-point resolution of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. in December, and Alaska is seeing the first fruit of these new Moscow policies.

Last week was not the first time *perestroika* arrived in Alaska. Last summer, the first tentative trade ties were begun in the Friendship Flight from Nome to Provideniya. Soon thereafter, a delegation of officials and Native leaders visited Anchorage and Nome from the Magadan region and Provideniya. In October, Ambassador and chief Gorbachev spokesman Gannadi Gerasimov urged Alaskans to continue pursuing Soviet ties through the Far North and Siberian "back door."

And last week, the change brought on by detailed guidelines of the December Council of Ministers resolution were apparent within the Soviet delegation. The devolution of decisionmaking authority begun two long years ago in Moscow is bearing fruit in the North Pacific.

The December resolution removed a series of uncertainties that had confronted state, cooperative and trade union enterprises; and the resolution makes significant concessions to capitalist corporate practice:

• Shares of Soviet and foreign partners can be fixed by agreement; foreign citizens may act as board chairmen or director generals (CEO's) of a joint venture; and JV activities can be determined individually by the ventures.

• Although the Soviets will explore tariffs (there are none now), joint venture imported goods can be ex-

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Shane Johnson of the State Chamber does his best to impersonate a resident of Magadan, distributing his wares at the recent Soviet trade fair at Anchorage's Egan Center. The money went to the Siberian Gateway Project then to the Soviets themselves, minus tariffs. AJC PHOTO BY IMRE NEMETH

'Exploratory visit' to state tests easing of econ regs

By Imre Nemeth

Last year in early December, the Council of Ministers of the USSR agreed to allow its industries and socialized business operations greater economic freedom.

This decree, which takes effect April 1, is expected to boost Soviet joint ventures with the West and increase cooperation in manufacturing, import-export operations and result in the overall independence of enterprises formerly hampered by very unclear Kremlin dictated guidelines. Under the new guidelines, each agency and enterprise will be free to pursue its own contacts outside the Communist Bloc nations.

The Soviets recently tested the waters of the resolution on what they called an "exploratory visit" to Alaska when 90 dignitaries spent a week touring the state. The Soviets exchanged economic information, discussed future business ties with Alaskan entrepreneurs and participated in cultural events. The top rock and roll act in USSR, Stas Namin which has sold 40 million records in that country, even performed a concert in Anchorage.

Interest in establishing corporate relations reached such a high level, it caused Ron Miller, in charge of joint ventures with the governor's Office of International Trade, to say, "It's been a snowstorm of business cards."

Gennadyi Zavolok, a member of the Soviet delegation and general director of Magadan Region Industry Enterprises, said he's received many inquiries from foreign companies interested in establishing business relations with cooperatives in his area.

Zavolok's specialty and oversight is in manufacturing.

"Foreign businesses are contemplating this (April 1 decree)," he said following an Anchorage seminar on doing business in the Soviet Union attended by more than 100 people. "They are already arriving to look at (what Magadan has to offer)."

Because the involvement by Soviet entities is so new, fledgeling operations are treading virgin territory. Many hurdles must be breached. Soviet specialist and business consultant Steve Smirnoff, owner of the Transmart Company, says protocol in the USSR is very different from that in a capitalist country and proper procedures must be followed when attempting to initiate a project. Even

See GREAT, Page 9

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• Great opportunities await 'adventerous entrepreneur'

Continued from Page 1

though joint ventures can be established by any branch ministry and not the huge bureaucracy of the Central Council of Ministers in Moscow due to a 1987 decision, the subject of profits remains hazy. Because the USSR doesn't allow its currency outside the country, outside operators must take profits out on a barter basis. This means a U.S. company may have to take goods in lieu of cash.

Regardless of barriers, Smirnoff feels there is great opportunity awaiting the adverturous entrepreneur.

"For decades, little, if any, direct authority to enter into agreements with foreign interests rested with the dozens of Soviet foreign trade organizations," Smirnoff wrote in his book *Doing Business With the Soviets During Pestroika.*

"With pestroika, Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has mandated a new era in foreign trade and development. Virtually daily, more and more autonomy is being granted to individual interests, regions, and organizations to enter into productive enterprises with foreign governments and business interests. Never before has there been such an opportunity for American and other foreign enterprises to enter into successful and profitable ventures."

But, Zavolok warns, "You have to be very specific in what you offer."

During the interview a ranking official of the NANA regional Native corporation, which has mining and resource interests, asked Zavolok if he thought the two countries could exchange information on reindeer husbandry techniques and products as well. The Soviet official said the information exchange would be fine, but added Siberian herders provided his country with an abundance of products already.

The USSR is looking to export, Zavolok said.

Another in the delegation, Magadan Director of Agriculture Gennadi Shiskov, met with sausage manufacturer, Doug Drum, to iron out details of a plan to export Drum's factory technology to the Soviet Union. Once there, Shiskov said that as many as 20 plants could be built to produce Drum's many varieties of sausage.

"We are interested in his technology, packaging and advertising," Shiskov said.

Shiskov said he also discussed possibilities of manufacturing clothing, shoes, crafts and hats by way of joint venture with Alaska business people.

Zavolok said opportunities also abound in timber products. Soviet systems are highly inefficient and currently waste a large percentage of material that could be made into related products, he said.

Otto Suhanov, director of the Dalstroiproekt or Far East Building Project Institute, said he discussed the possibility of joint ventures to sell semi precious stones. He said a proposal had been received and would be going through a review process.

Following the April 1 decree, a Soviet version of a free trade zone is to be established at the port of Nahotka. It will be the first in the USSR and is expected to generate quite a bit of activity in the manufacturing sector.

"Unfortunately, right now there are restrictions on both sides," said Victor Mukhortov, chief of the Port of Providenya. "The port call was the result of warming of relations. We hope the trend will continue."

Providenya is currently the only Soviet port open to foreign vessels. Magadan is to follow suit shortly.

Last year, Society Expeditions sent one of its cruise ships to Providenya celebrating the port's new status prior to a cruise through the Northwest Passage north of Canada. Spokesman Mike McBride said a similar trip is planned for the Soviet's Northeast Passage with further USSR pit stops.

"This has been a fantasitic meeting so far," Miller said halfway through what has been dubbed the Siberian Gateway Project. "And meetings over the next few days will go a long way in cementing business relationships with Alaska and the Soviet far east."

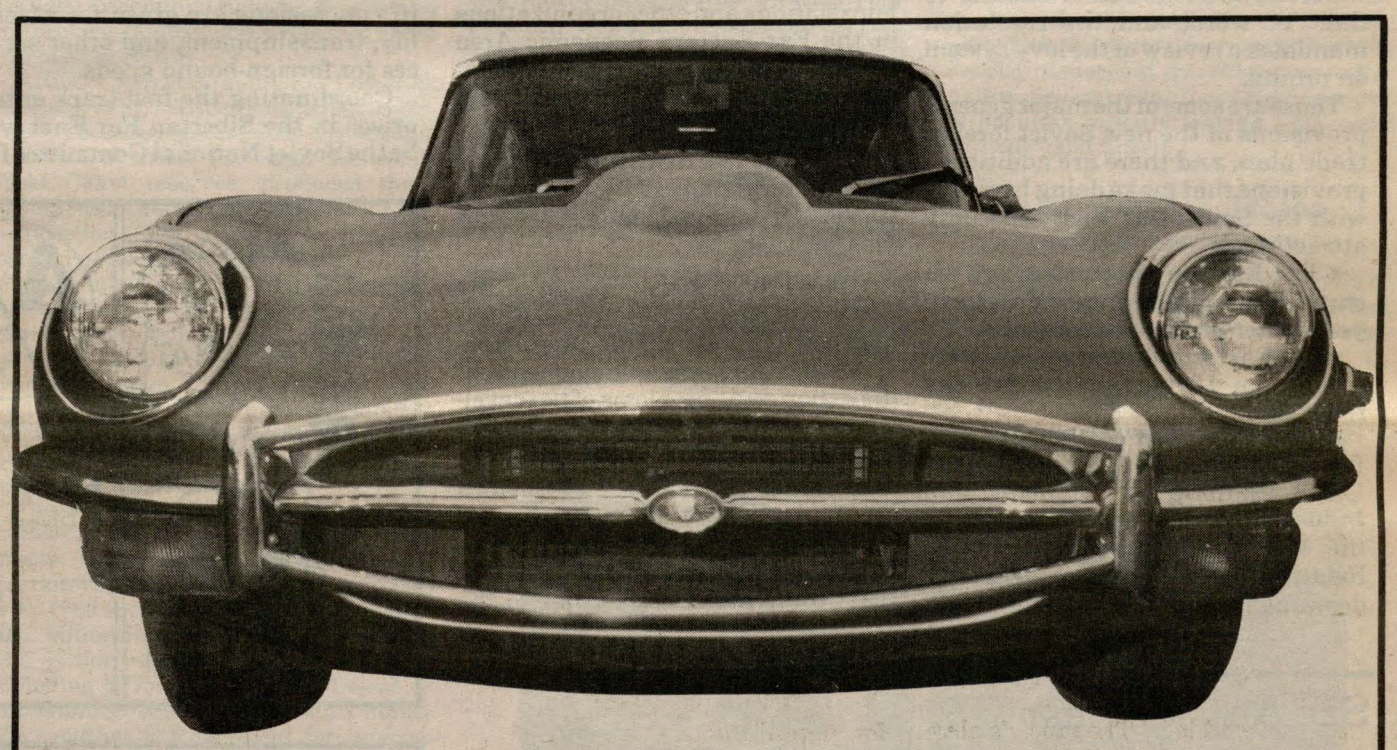
Larry Campbell of the Anchorage Daily News and Soren Wurth (right) of UAA's Northern Light try to understand Russian with the boys in the premier Soviet band Stas Namin. AJC PHOTO BY IMRE NEMETH

Seattle in wings

When the U.S. is no longer Forbidden Territory to the Soviet Union, and when Soviet foreign traders get ready to do business in the coming months, Seattle will also be waiting in the wings with Alaska.

Fishing interests in the Emerald City have already negotiated joint venture Bering Sea agreements with organizations in the Khabarovsk regions of the Soviet Far Eastern economic zone, and a Seattle Russian-American Leadership Committee currently is organizing a cultural exchange among Alaska, the Soviets and Washington State. Alaska Airlines' Jim Johnson is one of the committee chairs, which hopes to organize an exhibit on "Russian America: the Forgotten Frontier." The exhibitry would be developed by the Washington State Historical Society and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

Targetted for opening in the summer of 1990, the exhibit would recount 130 years of Russian trade and cultural influence from Kodiak Island, Sitka and St. Petersburg to San Francisco. The exhibit would move to Alaska in 1991.



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• Uncertainties in Soviet foreign trade eliminated

Continued from Page 1

empted from these tariffs.

• The Bank of Foreign Trade of the U.S.S.R. (Vneshekonombank) has been authorized to issue foreign currency lines of credit to enterprises of up to five million roubles, repayable with currency earned from exports.

• "All export revenues are to be spent to buy consumer goods to meet requirements of the border areas, as well as machines, equipment, materials and other goods" on a region-by-region basis (and these goods may be imported).

• The December resolution calls for the State Planning Committee, the State Committee for Supply, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Council of Ministers (of the Union Republics) to begin the arduous task of normalizing the currency rate between the rouble and the European (and U.S.) community during the first quarter of 1989. Gerasimov has said this currency conversion task may take a decade or more to complete; the foreign trade bank will mitigate the transition.

• Even the U.S.S.R. is looking to the "T" word, and the resolution mandates a review of the levy system on profits.

Those are some of the major general provisions of the new Soviet foreign trade plan, and there are additional provisions that make doing business with the Soviet Far East especially attractive:

• Far Eastern enterprises are exempt from profits taxes for three years after profits are achieved.

• Far Eastern enterprises also were granted a 10 percent profits tax reduction.

• The Council of Ministers wants fast action in the Siberian region; the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations were given a three-month deadline in December to bring forth specific proposals for "direct economic relations and other organizations in the Far Eastern Economic Area with firms and organizations of countries of the Asia-Pacific region."

• Beginning this year, Soviet enterprises in the Far East are to begin an open bidding process to invite participation for foreign joint ventures in the Far East.

• The Far Eastern Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences has been instructed to undertake a comprehensive study on economic potential of the region and "problems of the development of foreign economic ties of those territories."

• "Above all in the Far Eastern economic area," the government wants proposals for "zones of joint enterprise" by the first quarter of 1989; these areas are similar to the U.S. Foreign Trade Zones, where tariff concessions are given for assembly, transshipment, and other services for foreign-bound goods.

Coordinating the fast-track enterprises in the Siberian Far East will be the Soviet National Committee for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Sovnapec). Valeri Lozovoy, director general of the committee, told attendees at a trade seminar in Anchorage last week that the initiatives allowed under Gorbachev's leadership "were not even imaginable two years ago."

Strangely enough, this Aeroflot Tupolev TU-154 was elusive after its initial drive-by past the press last week. Here it is refueling, waiting to take American passengers to the USSR before returning in a week. The Soviets even brought their own pump mechanism to allow for the fill up. Cute, isn't it. AJC PHOTO BY IMRE NEMETH

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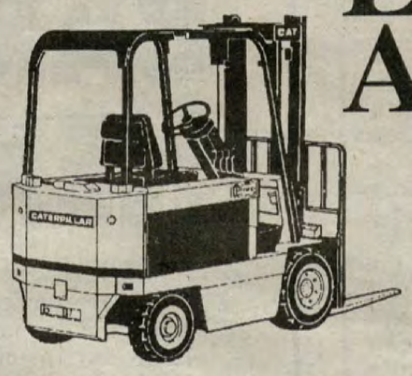

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ALPAC reorganizes

ALPAC Corp., Seattle-based Pepsi
tling Co., has announced a reorgan
tion of the firm. Ron Stanley has b
named vice president/division mana
of ALPAC's Alaska and Oregon op
tions. He will also have responsibility
corporate operations. Preceding this
organization, Stanley was vice presid
of marketing.

In a related move, Rich Miailovich
been named vice president/division m
ager of Hawaii and Washington op
tions. He also will assume responsib
for corporate marketing. Previou
Miailovich was vice president of s
and operations.

Lee Leake, Alaska's general mana
will report directly to Stanley; and N
Billsborough, Alaska's marketing m
ager, will now report to Leake.

Scott Hickey, former director of m
keting for Western Washington, has b
appointed director of corporate ma
ing under the direction of Miailov
Hickey will act as primary marke
contact for all of ALPAC's franchise

In announcing the changes, AL
President Carl Behnke referenced
company's recent acquisitions and
changing requirements of its custo
as impetus for the reorganization.
my intention to continue to expand
PAC into an even larger business,
said. "We must prepare for growth
an organization that reflects the
lenges of our industry and capitaliz
the strengths of our people."

ALPAC is the fourst largest inde
ent Pepsi bottler in the U.S. and the
est distributor of Pepsi in the North
The company currently has 13 opera
in Alaska, Oregon, Washington, I
and Hawaii.

Humana Blood Bank ear
renewed accreditation

Humana Hospital-Alaska's blood
recently earned renewal of its accre
tion by the American Association of B
Banks, says Kay Hanks.

Accreditation follows an on-site in
tion by specially-trained representa
of the association and establishes
the level of medical, technical and a
nistrative performance within the
ity meets or exceeds the rigorous st
ards set by the AABB.

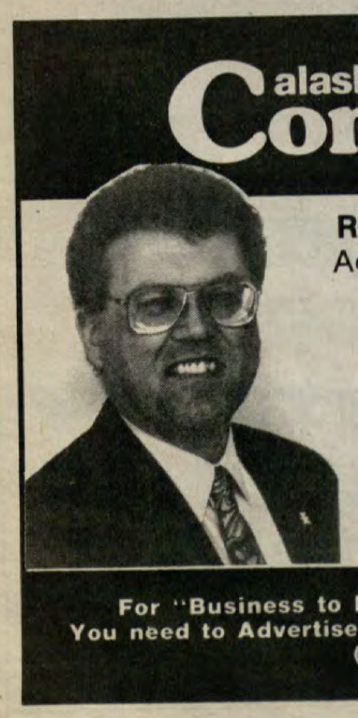
"The AABB's inspection and ac
tation procedures are voluntary," H
said. "It is not legally necesssary
Humana's lab sought accreditatio
cause it represents a level of profess
and medical expertise that meets
exceeds government regulations."

Carr Gottstein signs
new crafts store

The state's largest arts and
store will be opening for busines
spring in midtown Anchorage.

Tenant improvements for the
store, Ben Franklin Crafts, are al
underway in the new location
Old Seward Highway near 36th A
The building formerly housed the
ie Market, and is managed by
Gottstein Properties, a division o
Gottstein Inc.

The 14,000-square-foot store w
ture a variety of materials and su
for all kinds of art- and crafts-r
activities. In addition, the stor
feature a bridal section, floral sup



ACTS

At gallery receptions, some come for the food, some for the art

By LINDA BILLINGTON
Daily News arts editor

Picture this: A Paleolithic artist proudly displays his wall painting of a mammoth to some hairy compatriots. One caveman a little larger, louder and shaggier than the rest squints at the art work and growls, "My *kid* could do that!"

Picture this: About 30,000 years later, Anchorage artist Catherine Doss proudly displays her "fish maps" — monotypes with squiggles drawn across them — during her opening at Artique Ltd. A man squints at her works and announces, "My 6-year-old *daughter* could do that!"

Art critics haven't changed much since the Stone Age: When a new show goes up, they still come to look and, occasionally, gripe. Artists haven't changed that much, either: They still stand around at their gallery openings, talking with the visitors and worrying about what that

Please see Page G-3, **OPENINGS**

Soviet rockers strive to connect

By KATHLEEN McCOY
Daily News reporter

Glitter, groupies, leather and Spandex — the Superpower Rock Concert at the Sullivan Arena Saturday night had all the trappings of a typical American rock event.

But it was different.

Not everyone agreed all of it was rock. And some in the audience were frustrated by the lack of lyrics they could understand. The crowd was small — 3,000 — in an arena set up to handle 4,500. But they were curious, and eventually warmly receptive to the two Soviet rock bands Rondo and Stas Namin. American rocker Eddie Money closed the show.

Rondo hit the stage first, in tight bright Spandex and loaded with energy. Depending on who you talked to, the six-man band — complete with a spirited sax — sounded like Ted Nugent, current new-wave, new Bad Company, or not rock at all.

"I don't know exactly," said Miranda

Please see Page G-2, **SOVIET**

Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

Soviet rock band Rondo opened the Superpower concert.

U.S.-Soviet folkfest successfully unites a variety of styles

By ALAN SCHMITZ
Daily News music reviewer

REVIEW

Friday night's "Glasnost Folkfest," commemorating peace and the Soviet/American reunion across the Bering Strait, was a complete success. The sold-out concert had the atmosphere of religious intensity as the people of two politically opposite nations celebrated by coming together through music and dance.

The "folkfest" title might have been a little limiting since the program consisted of much more. A great deal was said, in both Russian and English, to and about the people who made this event possible, including concert coordinator Dixie Belcher.

Participants and performance styles ranged from outstanding Eskimo dances by Soviet and Alaska natives to the rock 'n' roll sounds of the Soviet Stas

Please see Page G-6, **FOLKFEST**

TRADE AND FRIENDSHIP ACROSS THE BERING STRAIT

TWO NIGHTS OF MUSICAL CELEBRATION

" The Soviets danced their American audience right out of their seats."

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- MARTIN LUTHER KING CHOIR

Superpower Rock n' Roll

Saturday, February 25th
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- SOVIET ROCK GROUP "RONDO"

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Almost 100 of our Soviet Neighbors visit Alaska this week.
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MY TURN

Alaska group builds bridge of friendship during Soviet trip

By JOY LYON

Alaska Performing Artists for Peace is a group of singers, Eskimo dancers and comedians, Gospel singers and folk dancers from all over Alaska.

•••••

As we traveled across the Soviet Union together this past October, we put our hearts and souls into "melting the ice barrier between our countries, and building a bridge of peace there instead," as former Governor Jay Hammond was fond of saying. We found the Russian people more than ready to meet us halfway.

I could write pages about the impressive architecture, the beautiful scenery, and interesting aspects of their daily lives. But it is the people that I remember most, so it is the people I will tell about here.

Our first real chance to meet the Soviet people came at our first concert, in Leningrad. We were all a little tense and nervous. Shortly before the concert began, Dixie Belcher, our leader, told us that Soviet audiences are very reserved and not to expect much response.

We were overwhelmed when they gave us a standing ovation on our entrance song and continued the most unreserved clapping and cheering I'd ever heard, throughout the show. So much for that stereotype!

Our audiences were warm and enthusiastic at all 14 shows, in the six cities we visited. Altogether we performed for just under 10,000 Soviet citizens, and taped the show for nationwide television.

Relating with the audiences during shows was always exciting and uplifting, but meeting individual people after the shows was even more enjoyable.

After the first concert in Leningrad we could barely get off the stage, there were so many people waiting to greet us. Everyone was trading postcards, pins, addresses, and hugs. One of the Eskimo ladies from Savoonga, just 40 kilometers from Siberia, met the son of a good friend whom she hadn't been able to contact since World War II. They spoke in Yupik to each other, and it was a very emotional experience for them and all who were watching.

A college girl named Victoria grabbed me by the hand and dragged me off to sit with her. She used up her few English words and I used all my Russian, and we still had so very much to say to one another. It was both frustrating and exhilarating to communicate with our eyes and gestures. We visited the next night in her home, and during a few more moments snatched from our busy schedules. As we parted for the last time, she took the scarf from around her neck and wrapped it tenderly around mine. Leaving her was like leaving a sister.

In Irkutsk, we ended our part of the show by singing "We Are The World," as we walked out into the audience greeting and shaking hands with people. Then we sat down in the first two rows and watched a group of local Russian performers share their culture with us. Since we had sung one of their favorite songs in Russian, they surprised us with a song in English – "We Shall Overcome." Spontaneously, we all turned to the audience and sang the last verse, "we shall live in peace," to them in Russian. There were tears in many eyes.

Afterwards, little groups clustered everywhere. People with guitars singing songs in each other's language, showing picture albums of Alaska, a Russian teaching one of us the Cossack style jig, the Eskimo boys giving a break dance demonstration, talking and laughing ... no one wanted to leave.

In a show in Novosibirsk, Dixie made a short speech saying how experiencing the warmth of the Soviet people had changed our lives. We all waved to each other as the curtain slowly closed, and stayed backstage with the Russian performers, playing frisbee and sharing some simple Russian and American songs and dances. I was carrying on a philosophical discussion with some women, all in gestures of course, when one of the women kissed me on the cheek, leaving a dark red lip print. So one of the other ladies decided I should have a matching kiss on the other cheek. We were all having so much fun, it could been my Aunt Margaret and Aunt Elaine there.

During this Christmas season I often think of the man we met at a meeting with the Friendship Society in Irkutsk. What was to be a formal meeting soon turned fun and relaxing. The local museum director, instead of filling us with facts and information, played a waltz for us on the piano, saying it used to be a sad song about the cold Siberian winters, but since we had arrived it had become much warmer and happier. Another man told us a little of the history of Irkutsk, saying that we were all honorary citizens there since Irkutsk used to be the capital of Alaska and Siberia.

My favorite fellow, with a silver handlebar mustache and twinkling eyes, was quite the orator and joker. He told us that every year he plays "Father Frost" for his grandchildren. By the time he finished talking we were all about ready to climb on his lap and tell him what we wanted for Christmas.

A few days later he unsuspectingly came with friends into a restaurant where all 67 of us were eating. We all spontaneously stood and clapped and cheered for him. "Father Frost" then had some very rosy cheeks to match his twinkling eyes.

It was hard saying goodbye to our guides, Slava and Masha, who had traveled with us throughout the trip. In three short weeks we broke them down from prim and proper, memorized speeches guides, to members of our snowball-fighting, spur-of-the-moment, fun-loving group. Masha told us that we were the best thing that ever happened in her life. On the bus to the airport we all sang "I'm Leaving on a Jet Plane," and other sad goodbye songs to her. I can still see her trying to wipe the tears away with her red mittens.

Now that we are back home again, I have already started receiving letters from some of my new Russian friends, and have a warm neighborly feeling about their country, in spite of what I may read about their government in the newspapers. I also have the realization that living in peace with these people is not an impossible dream. It is a dream that all of us together can make happen.

Our system isn't perfect, our government officials do not always make the best decisions. Yet we still have a deep and unshakeable love for our country. Russians feel the same way about their country. Why don't we all start feeling that way about each other?

"There comes a time, when we heed a certain call, and the world must come together as one ... and we all must lend a hand, to life, the greatest gift of all...."

A slide/video presentation of the trip is available for church groups, meetings, holiday parties, etc. For reservations please call 586-6989 or 789-2028. A small donation will be requested.

•••••

Joy Lyon is one of 24 people from Juneau who took part in the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace trip to the Soviet Union. She is a carpenter apprentice.

Soviet officials, rock stars plan Juneau appearances

By KIRK McALLISTER
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Politics and rock 'n' roll – Soviet style – are headed for Juneau.

On Feb. 21, a six-member delegation led by Gennadi Gerasimov, chief Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, will visit the Capital City to meet with Gov. Steve Cowper and members of the legislature.

Then on March 3, two Soviet rock bands will turn up the volume on glasnost with a concert tentatively set for Centennial Hall. Stas Namin, perhaps the most famous of Russian rock stars, will perform as well as a band called "Rondo."

The unusual combination of politics and music is part of the Siberian Gateway Project, a celebration of the opening of the Soviet-Alaska border. The event, most of which is scheduled for Anchorage, is co-sponsored by Camai, a non-profit group dedicated to cultural exchange, and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

Camai, which means hello in Yupik, is headed by Juneau's Dixie Belcher, who in the past few years, has been instrumental in opening up cultural and political contacts between Alaska and the Soviet Union. In 1986, she organized the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace tour of the Soviet Union.

"This is a celebration of the opening of the border and the melting of the ice wall," Belcher said. "It's also a celebration of the unification of Soviet and American Eskimo families."

Last June, the so-called "friendship flight" carried a planeload of Alaskans to the Siberian town of Provideniya. A group of Alaska Eskimos on the flight were able to see family members from Siberia for the first time since the border was closed in 1948.

Belcher said the idea of a concert celebrating the warming of relations between the Soviet Union and Alaska came from her friend Stas Namin, a musician who has attained legendary status in the Soviet Union similar to that of Elvis Presley.

Namin's career began in the Brezhnev era when Soviet rock and roll was strictly an underground phenomenon and he was unable to perform in public. Nevertheless, he sold 40 million records. Now under the glasnost policy that has opened up Soviet society, he manages more than three dozen rock bands.

The Soviet officials coming to Juneau later this month besides Gerasimov, who will be making his third trip here, include Vyacheslav Kobets, governor of the Magadan Territory in Siberia; Oleg Kulinkin of Provideniya; Mrs. N.P. Otke of the Supreme Soviet; Vitaliy Vorotnikov, Russian Federation president; and Yevgenty Primakov, director of the Soviet Committee for Economic Cooperation in the Pacific.

In all, about 80 Russians are expected to visit Alaska during the festivities.

American performers scheduled include Yupik singer and dancer Chuna McIntyre; two Anchorage choirs; Susan Osborn, former lead singer for the Paul Winter Consort; three Eskimo dance troupes; and top U.S. rocker Eddie Money.

The music festival is scheduled for Feb. 24-25 at the Sullivan area.

Anchorage Daily News/Claire Richardson

Residents of Little Diomede cluster around Soviet spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov after his arrival on the island Sunday.

GERASIMOV: Soviet speaks of melting the 'ice curtain'

Continued from Page A-1

think we have hope to see each other more often now."

Several of the nearly 200 villagers presented their international visitor with ivory carvings. Andrew Kunayak gave Gerasimov a charm.

"I hope we see our cousins across there someday in person, so this is our good luck to you," he said.

"Thanks," replied Gerasimov, "I need it."

Later the villagers performed several Native dances for Gerasimov. He refused to join in the dancing but spoke to everyone who approached him.

The children said they had helped to clean the school in preparation for the VIP visit.

"Everyone washed up and curled their hair to meet him," said Myrna Kunayak excitedly. "I'm glad he's here and I hope they open the international date line."

Gerasimov has spent the last two weeks in the United States speaking on nuclear disarmament and Soviet-American relations. His Alaska trip came at the invitation of Dixie Belcher, head of Alaska Performing Artists for Peace. The trip, which began Friday, was primarily sponsored by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Office of International Trade.

At one point during the two-hour Diomede tour, Gerasimov asked the U.S. television crews to take photos of him standing next to a huge sign with the word "Peace" painted in Russian. The sign, propped in front the Native store, usually hangs from the building as a silent greeting to those on the Soviet island who might watch the village.

Gerasimov was shown the numerous polar bear skins and homes, but he was not invited into the National Guard armory. For years, since the Eskimos who used to live on Big Diomede were relocated by the Soviets in the 1950s, local guardsmen have used the armory to watch by telescope for any movement of Soviet helicopters and boats on the big island.

There have been a few instances where Eskimos have met each other at the date line, but travel is forbidden. Two Americans who walked across the dateline were arrested and held by the Soviets in 1986 and 1987.

But last August, Californian Lynne Cox was given permission to swim between the two islands and was warmly greeted by the Soviets who had flown to the desolate island from Siberia.

Sunday, while gazing toward the hidden Siberian coastline almost 35 miles away, Gerasimov said the trip to the international date line was worth it.

"it really is an experience to see how close we are geographically, and still worlds apart in other ways."

Later, at a dinner in Nome, Gerasimov told a crowd of 200 that he was impressed by the openness and friendliness of Alaskans. While Gerasimov was being presented numerous gifts, Lonnie O'Connor of Nome asked him to autograph Gorbachev's book, "Perestroika," which explains the restructuring of the Soviet economy.

The crowd roared with laughter when Gerasimov held his boss' book and said, "It's very interesting that his book has even made the best-seller lists, and it's also very interesting that you are paying for Soviet propaganda."

Gerasimov was asked if plans for a friendship flight between Nome and Provideniya would actually happen.

"I personally view this flight as kind of a symbolic gesture," Gerasimov said, adding that he didn't think anyone could sustain such an effort commercially. "Well, not yet," he continued, "but maybe in the future it will be commercially sound."

After watching the King Island Dancers perform, Gerasimov sloshed through the mud to a waiting van, taking back to Moscow gifts of ivory, a gold pan and a giant framed photo of Nome.

"I have seen a picture of Provideniya," Gerasimov said, "and I must tell you that your skyline is more appealing to me."

BOSS BLUES
Scalpers keep old fans away
Entertainment, Page C-6

SPECTACLES
Glasses go well in board rooms
Business, Page D-6

MARIJU
Ofbot
an the l
Form, Page D

Anchorage Daily Ne

VOL. XLIII, NO. 117 52 PAGES

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1988

TOP SOVIET SPOKESMAN CALLS AT LITTLE DIOMEDE

Photo by Theresa Horvath

With the news media in tow, Gennadi Gerasimov walks in front of a one-word sign on the Little Diomede Store. The Russian word is "Peace."

Villagers give visitor warm welcome

Gerasimov makes no promises, but talks of melting the 'ice curtain'

By CLAIRE RICHARDSON
Daily News correspondent

Gennadi Gerasimov did not want to go to Little Diomede. At least, not when he first heard the idea from organizers of his whirlwind Alaska trip that took him through Juneau, Anchorage and Nome.

"That island is so far away," said Gerasimov, chief spokesman for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The island is also known for unpredictable weather that often strands visitors.

But when the weather cooperated Sunday afternoon, Gerasimov gamely boarded a chartered twin-engine plane and flew the 150-mile, 45-minute trip to the tiny island overshadowed by its Soviet neighbor, Big Diomede, almost three miles away.

The clouds hung low over the Bering Strait as Gerasimov's plane landed on the ice runway. The island's village perches precariously along its steep, rocky base. And while the residents of Diomede had no trouble scrambling up the slippery path to the school, Gerasimov and his entourage — surrounded by curious children — gingerly made their way up the ice steps.

Once inside the school gym, Gerasimov spoke to the villagers about opening the border between Siberia and Alaska.

"It's not an iron curtain," Gerasimov said, "it's an ice curtain."

He also pointed out that it was the FBI that in 1948 ended a 10-year agreement between the governments that allowed Eskimos to trade and visit with their neighbors across the Bering Strait.

"Of course, we also collaborated," Gerasimov added. "Now I think the Cold War years must be over, and with the Cold War over this ice curtain must melt and I

See Back Page, **GERASIMOV**

Rapist finishes parole, but outrage over

By CATALINA ORTIZ
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Larry Singleton, who raped a young

California Department of Corrections.

"We have no legal right to follow him any further and no statutory means of requir-

near Modesto, 45 miles east of San Francisco, in 1978. He served eight years of a 14-year sentence.

He was under no obligation

or if he falls off the

Singleton, who w
ing heavily the da
attack, has not ha

Singer: Russians not so different

(Editor's note: David Moe of Juneau was a member of an Alaska singing group who traveled to the Soviet Union.)

By DAVID MOE
For the Log

JUNEAU — When I left Juneau for Kings Lake Camp near Wasilla on Oct. 4 with a group of local singers as part of Alaska Peforming Artists for Peace, I still wasn't convinced we were going to the USSR.

We still needed $15,000 just to get the tickets from the San Francisco travel agency, but I thought the trip to Kings Lake would be enjoyable because it would provide the chance to meet other performing groups from around the state who were meeting to rehearse.

After meeting the group at Kings Lake Camp, I became convinced this event would happen. Three Eskimo groups, a black gospel group from Anchorage and the Juneau singers combined for a family of entertainers who were destined for the USSR.

We gave a concert on Oct. 8 at the Anchorage Museum and left Oct. 9 for Los Angeles, Helsinki (Finland) and Leningrad (Russia).

Leningrad is a city of 4.5 million people that was under seige for 900 days during World War II and whose people have spent the past 40 years rebuilding the city, as Atlanta, Ga., did after the Civil War in the U.S. We toured the city, went to the opera, "Lucia," and performed for a language school.

The people of Leningrad look the same as the people in the U.S. When I went for an early morning walk, people were walking their dogs, jogging or waiting for the bus on their way to work.

The people of Leningrad look the same as the people in the U.S.

On the morning of Oct. 17, we spent 10 hours flying from Leningrad to Khabarovsk, a city of 500,000 people. We sang two concerts as the first American performing arts group ever to perform in Khabarovsk.

We left the next day for Irkutsk, a city of 850,000 near Lake Baykal, the largest freshwater lake in the world. We sang at the friendship hall in Irkutsk and it was here that I met the poet, Mark Cepteeb, who gave me a copy of his latest book of poetry. I promised to send him a book of my poetry and that was one of the first things I did upon my return to Juneau.

On Oct. 20 we flew to Bratsk, a city of more than 800,000 people. They have a huge hydroelectric dam and it was there we sang a concert to a capacity crowd of 1,300. More than 2,000 were outside trying to get into the concert hall.

On Oct. 21, we flew back to Irkutsk and attended a circus that evening. The next evening we sang a concert at the sports arena to a crowd of more than 2,000. The military attache from the U.S. embassy in Moscow and his wife had come to Irkutsk to hear our concert.

The highlight of the trip for me came on the morning of Oct. 23. We visited a pioneer school in Irkutsk, a school where the children learn music, dance, arts and crafts. We were ushered into a room to hear a small group of children (6 to 8 years old) sing a few songs.

After their performance, most of our group had left the room, but I stayed behind to watch the children's faces for a moment. Two children came toward me and I thought they were going to give me a pin (a common custom in the USSR). I knelt down on one knee to be at eye level and they both gave me a kiss at the same time on each cheek.

I could not keep back the tears. At that moment, all the museums, memorials and propaganda became unimportant. Two small children had bridged all the barriers and with a kiss communicated their love and trust for an American.

The rest of the trip was anti-climatic. We visited Novosibirsk, a city of 1.5 million people. We visited their Scientific Institute, saw another opera and sang another concert. Their Bolshoi theater was constructed by the women of Novosibirsk during World War II and the first opera was performed there in 1945, a month after the war ended.

On Oct. 27, we flew to Moscow, a city of more than 8 million. We saw the Moscow circus, visited the Kremlin grounds and sang several concerts. We met many people and had varied experiences, but the people were friendly and seemed to like Americans.

The people, like the two small children in Irkutsk, expressed their warmth and friendship in many ways, not always with a kiss, sometimes with a tear.

Soviet audiences enthusiastic

JUNEAU (AP) — The Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, returning to the state after a tour of the Soviet Union, say Soviet audiences were enthusiastic about their goodwill mission.

"I think by-and-large the people are very nterested in anything American. They seemed very inquisitive and wanted to know about our lives, not about what our government does," said Dave Moe, one of the 65 Alaskans on the tour of six cities.

The group, including Eskimo dancers, rock performers, gospel and folk singers, returned to Juneau Sunday night after 14 Soviet performances.

Organizer Dixie Belcher reported that Soviets had to be turned away at evey stop.

"Our Intourist guide said a group of amateur performers had never elicited such a response before," Belcher said.

"It was really incredible because they had heard a lot of bad things about Americans, and even though we have a free press, we had never heard very much about the average Russian," said Juneau resident Russ Josephson. "The trip showed that the people and the government are entirely different, that people really can communicate at a personal level, even if you can't speak each other's language."

One goal of the trip was to reunite some of the St. Lawrence Island Yupiks with Soviet relatives. The Siberian leg of the trip was cut back because of Soviet security concerns, but one student in Leningrad recognized one Alaska performer as a relative, as did a Moscow woman, according to the group.

"The really moving part of every performance was when we would sing 'We are the World,' " Belcher said. "The crowd would all join and sing it in English. It was an incredible experience."

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Highlights

Continued from B2

lessen travel restrictions," said Jamieson. He felt that change would be gradual and require a global effort.

Alex Majewski, general manager and translator for the group, said the trip would be complete when a Russian group visits Alaska. Plans were discussed with the Ministry of Culture in Moscow to bring a Siberian Yupik group here in May which could lead to a series of exchanges involving performers. Majewski said Alaska "rings a bell" for Russians because of our shared history. He sees the state as a bridge between the two countries.

In the meantime, the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace must raise funds to cover more than $200,000 in trip expenses. The group owes Finn Air $50,000 and hopes to raise enough to produce a full-length movie of the tour. Some group members went into debt to cover equipment freight expenses on the trip.

Persons wishing to contribute can send donations to Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace, 1991 Hughes Way, Juneau, Alaska, 99801. Donations are tax deductible.

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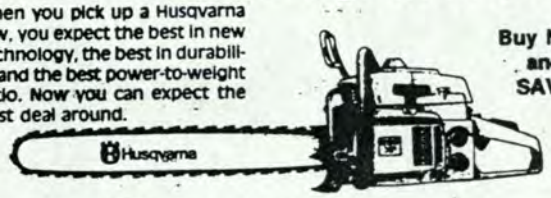

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Save for Dixie

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Rest of the story

Amid the excitement of the recent Friendship Flight from Alaska to Siberia, an important fact was lost in the shuffle. News stories prominently mentioned that the flight was a vision of Nome businessman Jim Stimpfle, who had long dreamed of drawing Alaska and Siberia closer together through trade, tourism and reuniting Alaskan Eskimos with their relatives across the international border.

Mr. Stimpfle is to be congratulated for his vision, but lost amid the hoopla was the fact that others have long shared those dreams, especially that of reuniting the Eskimos, whose families had been separated when the border was closed decades ago.

ISSUE: Juneau woman key factor in Friendship Flight

Dixie Belcher of Juneau is one of those who shared that dream. More than that, she helped make it a reality in her own unique, unassuming way that has included personal sacrifice and dedication to the cause of peace she deeply believes in. During the last three years, she has traveled many times to the Soviet Union and Washington, D.C., to meet with high-level officials, including Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Ms. Belcher, however, has done more than talk about better U.S.-Soviet relations. Two years ago, she organized the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, a group of 67 Alaskans that included gospel singers, Eskimo dancers and even former Gov. Jay Hammond. Working on the slimmest of budgets, that group toured the Soviet Union, bringing the people of our two nations closer together with a lyrical, universal message of peace.

Ms. Belcher has not stopped there. She has continued her efforts through her many contacts in Washington and Moscow. Just last spring, she toured the United States with Mr. Gerasimov, who came to Alaska a second time to meet with Gov. Steve Cowper and the Eskimos who live in the Bering Straits.

She even traveled to Moscow during the recent summit between President Reagan and Soviet Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev. It is not coincidental that approval for the Friendship Flight came soon after that summit.

Ms. Belcher's efforts may not be the only reason the Friendship Flight took place. It is doubtful, however, that it would have taken place without them.

Belcher not mentioned in Friendship Flight

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace, I followed all of the press in anticipation of the long awaited reunification of the Yupik speaking Eskimos of both Alaska and Siberia. I kept looking for some mention of Dixie Belcher without whose perseverance and vision "Friendship Flight I" would never have taken place.

Each account mentioned a man from Nome as having a vision in November 1986. A woman from Juneau had a vision in April 1985 and by November of 1986 had already traveled to the Soviet Union several times. In October, 1986, a group of 67 Alaskans, including former Gov. Jay Hammond and many Eskimos, traveled to Siberia in the hopes of visiting Provideniya and returning to Alaska across the Bering Straits. A disappointed crew of Alaskans were denied permission and sent back to Alaska across twenty-two time zones at great personal cost.

I read a "history" of the Friendship Flight provided for all of the passengers on June 13. The so-called history began with the vision of Nome resident Jim Stimpfle. It completely omitted Dixie Belcher's role and her performing troupe. Tracking the history of the Friendship Flight I without mentioning Dixie Belcher is like tracking the history of the abolishment of slavery and failing to mention Abraham Lincoln! Ridic*ulous? Right.*

Two Alaskans had a vision. Dixie Belcher had a vision to reunite the Eskimo people of Alaska and Siberia. Jim Stimpfle had a vision to open up trade and tourism between Alaska and Siberia. Both are exciting visions.

Sincerely,
Linda Buckley
Juneau

JUNEAU EMPIRE

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Local peace activist honored in Moscow

By ERIC PETER
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

While the world's attention has been focused on Washington D.C. and Moscow in the opening of barriers between East and West, a Juneau woman and a Soviet man ran around to the back door to open it.

So went a anecdote by Soviet government spokesman Gennady Gerasimov when he and Juneau resident and cultural exchange activist Dixie Belcher received an award in the Soviet Union in January for their work in opening the Bering Strait separating Alaska from Siberia.

This was the eighth trip to the Soviet Union for Belcher, executive director and president of Camai, a group devoted to opening barriers between the two superpowers through performing arts.

"Camai started out as the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace," Belcher, 49, said. "We toured the Soviet Union in 1986 to dramatize the proximity of Alaska with the U.S.S.R. This began a movement in both countries to open the Bering Strait. This started a series of trips and exchanges with the Soviet Union."

Camai is a Yupik Eskimo word meaning hello and an Inupiaq Eskimo word meaning "I want to come in," Belcher said. The Eskimo groups are significant because they occur on both sides of the Bering Strait, she said.

Belcher received the award in Moscow for her work in late January during a Citizen's Summit on Restoring Global Environment. Gerasimov, who worked toward opening the Bering Strait from the Soviet side, was also honored, she said. The award was a heavy bronze sculpture of a woman holding the world in one hand and a baby in the other.

"What was emphasized (at the citizens' summit) was that many people feel we've taken major steps toward peace, but both sides continue to build weapons," Belcher said. "Billions of dollars are poured into the military while we're having a losing battle with the environment."

Human rights, feminist issues, global communications, energy and business issues were also discussed at the summit, which was attended by about 300 Americans and Soviets.

While in Moscow, Belcher also attended a global forum with political, religious, environmental and cultural leaders from around the world.

"There were Hindu, Jewish, Moslem and Christian religious leaders and even American Indians in traditional head dress," she said.

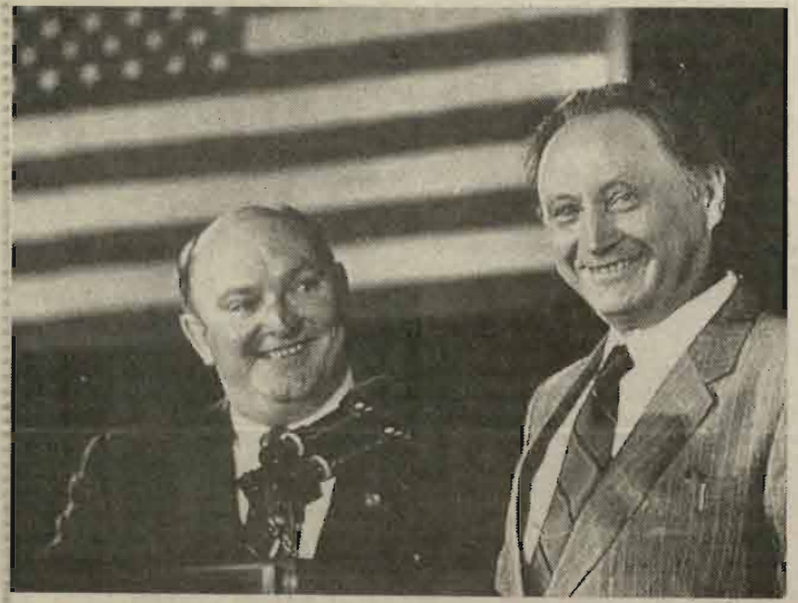
EMPIRE FILE PHOTO

DIXIE BELCHER

After the forum the participants were taken to an imposing, ornate hall in the Kremlin, she said. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev walked into the hall and sat down to applause.

"Just then an elderly Hindu in traditional dress came in and chanted in Hindi and then omed (intoned a mantra)," Belcher said. "He was joined by the other 300 people in the hall. When he finished Gorbachev spoke. My reaction was that I had seen everything there was to see."

Camai is now active in a World Ice Lottery for Peace, a lottery in which people buy tickets to predict when the ice in the strait between Big Diomede and Little Diomede breaks up.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, left and Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov in Washington

Soviet press spokesman shows media skill

Queries dodged, stonewalled

By RUDY ABRAMSON
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Until President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev come down from the summit to tell their own tale of their negotiations, the world will rely upon Marlin Fitzwater and Gennadi Gerasimov who made their first tandem appearance before an international news media horde on Monday.

"Anchormen of America, look out," said White House spokesman Fitzwater as he introduced his Russian counterpart to thousands of reporters and photographers, then watched with relish as the suave Soviet spokesman carefully fended off the first barrage of questions.

The consolidation of the American and Soviet press briefings in a hotel ballroom three blocks from the White House came after more than a week of separate, incessant briefings, with the two sides competing for an enormous world-wide audience.

Although the Soviets began adopting more Western press relations techniques at the two previous Reagan-Gorbachev summits, they have in recent days stepped out to fully match the Reagan administration stride for stride, as evidenced by Gerasimov's sharing the briefing podium twice a day with the chief spokesman for the White House.

A stranger to the cast could have mistaken the American and the Russian when Fitzwater and Gerasimov showed up for their first joint briefing of the three day summit.

The White House spokesman is bald, beefy, red-faced and sartorially indifferent, if not reckless. Gerasimov, who has moved from one American television program to another in recent days, might have stepped from the pages of Esquire.

He was impeccably dressed, from his gray-striped suit to his wing-tipped shoes and the red "power tie" favored by Washington politicians. His hair was blown dry, and his face was lightly covered with pancake makeup.

He deftly turned aside every question on the controversy over interpretation of the U.S.-Soviet Salt I treaty, and dodged queries on the identity of American businessmen invited to meet here with the Soviet leader. He would not criticize the 200,000 American Jews who gathered here Sunday to protest Soviet restrictions on Jewish emigration, but he suggested that Palestinians might have equal cause to march for human rights.

He fended off questions on Afghanistan, showing no irritation when he was asked, "How many more Afghans do you have to kill before you stop the war in Afghanistan?"

And he good naturedly stonewalled a brief barrage of questions on the activities of Gorbachev's wife, Raisa.

More than anyone except Gorbachev himself, Gerasimov is at the point of the Soviet effort to put forth a positive image while the world's attention is focused on the meetings at the White House.

He has become, perhaps, the most visible press spokesman in Soviet history. Although, Moscow correspondents often find him less affable than he was while on public display Monday, he is still a breed apart from the hectoring, party officials.

SOVIET DREAMS...

By JOE HUNT
Times Writer

Adventurers have been staring at maps of the Bering region for decades — and dreaming of a crossing that could not be. Alaskans who see themselves as good neighbors and peacemakers looked at the same maps and dreamed of opportunities that were being missed.

The arrival Monday of 90 Soviet diplomats, musicians, journalists, and students provides hope that that is changing. It has opened doors of opportunity for some of those Alaskans and brought hope to others. They are the dreamers who plan to be among the first to take advantage of the awakening of the Bering corridor.

Three students from Soldotna are already living their dream. The 12 and 13 year-old students, their teacher and three other adults hopped aboard the Soviet's Aeroflot jet for its return flight to Magadan Monday, beginning a mission that began as a vague hope years ago.

They are spending the week in Magadan as part of a student exchange program between Soldotna Elementary and Magadan School No. 1. The student exchange is the first ever between Alaska and Magadan, according to Larry Rockhill, the Soldotna teacher who initiated the program.

BRIDGE FUTURE

Another first will get under way next week when a team of six Americans and six Soviets begin a two month skiing and dog sledding expedition across the Bering Strait. The Bering Bridge Expedition will travel 1,200 miles from Anadyr, U.S.S.R., to Kotzebue and become the first joint American-Soviet ski tour of the Beringia region.

A wide range of proposals — each involving the crossing from one continent to the next — just keep coming in, according to Ginna Brelsford, the Alaska-Soviet specialist with the Governor's Office of International Trade.

An Alaska sea kayaking group hopes to join with Soviet kayakers in June to follow the shores from Nome to Provideniya, U.S.S.R. Two Fairbanks men hope to fly across the strait this spring in ultra-light aircraft. They plan on carrying two saplings to the Soviet Union and eventually planting them in Moscow to commemorate the trip.

Hot air balloonists want to make a similar air crossing while soloists propose making the 50-mile trip on foot over Bering Sea ice. Pilots want to circumnavigate the Arctic Circle and a San Francisco group plans to cross the strait in 26-foot Bidarka canoes, a traditional means of transportation in Southeast Alaska.

It all began with Lynne Cox, the Californian who became the first person to swim the 2½ miles between Little and Big Diomede Islands in the Bering Strait in 1987. Brelsford said that she has been besieged with ideas, ranging from the sincere to the bizarre, ever since Cox made her swim.

"I get the whackos and the real serious people who have thought through the logistics of it and who've made some contacts already," Brelsford said.

At least two Alaskans are lobbying for support from the various Soviet dignitaries this week in hopes of turning their dreams of adventure and diplomacy into reality.

"Dreamer?" said Doug Van Etten, somewhat surprised by the tag. "I'm a realist. I may not have my plans approved yet, I may not have my three Soviet paddlers, but I'm going. It's going to happen."

Van Etten, an Anchorage kayaking promoter, began putting together a joint Soviet-American kayaking expedition along the old Beringia land bridge last fall. He plans on putting together a team of six American and three Soviet kayakers for the two-month trip.

The idea began forming last October when a narrow beam of sunlight literally focused all of Van Etten's attention on a wall map of the Bering region.

He's a sea kayaker with a long stream of expeditioning to his credit, but as a child of the Cold War, he never before considered the possibility of a joint American-Soviet adventure. Suddenly, he said, it all seemed possible.

In putting the plan together, Van Etten said that he learned that he can accomplish more from Anchorage than he ever could from Washington, D.C., New York City or Moscow. "Anchorage is just a hotbed," he said. "There is so much going on in this town that there's not comparable resources or enthusiasm anywhere in the country.

"To be here in Anchor-

See Soviet, page C-3

Times photo by AL GRILLO

Virginia Harvey of Soldotna greets Gov. Vyacheslav Kobets at the Anchorage Airport.

Exchange culminates 3 years of letter writing

By JOE HUNT
Times Writer

Virginia Harvey, an eighth grader from Soldotna, stood at the end of the reception line Monday, a bouquet of roses in her hands, and waited for the Soviet dignitaries to stroll by.

As Gov. Vyacheslav Kobets of Magadan led the entourage through the line, he stopped, smiled, yelled excitedly and embraced the girl. It was a short-lived but emotional reunion between the Soviet official and the young girl from Soldotna he calls his "Alaska daughter."

It was a meeting in passing. Harvey is one of three Soldotna students and four adults who boarded the Soviet Aeroflot jet a short time later and took off for Magadan as part of a week-long exchange between the two cities. In turn, three Soviet students and their teachers from Magadan No. 1 are spending the week as guests of the Soldotna students.

The exchange is the culmination of three years of letter writing in which students from the two cities became good friends as pen pals. Their enthusiasm has developed a strong bond between the Soldotna students and their Soviet counterparts in Magadan, according to Larry Rockhill, their Soldotna teacher.

The letter exchange he initiated three years ago made instant celebrities out of the students at Magadan No. 1. The pen-pal relationship with their Alaska friends became big news in Magadan with students appearing on Soviet television

See Letter, page C-3

American Dreams...

Times photo by AL GRILLO

Nadejda Phillips, formerly of the Soviet Union, now teaches Russian in Alaska.

By BEAU BRENDLER
Times Writer

When Nadejda Phillips saw her first American supermarket, with its rows and rows of brightly colored boxes and heaps of fresh fruit and vegetables under bright fluorescent lights she thought of it as "the first concert — my first concert, of American Tchaikovsky."

The connection between the United States' taken-for-granted grocery stores and the Russian romantic composer come from Phillips' experience as a mother.

"When your child turns to you and says, 'I want a banana,' in this country you can go to a store in the *middle of the night* and buy one," she said. "In Russia, you wait in line for *three hours* to get one orange. Do you know how important this is to a mother, to give her child whatever he wants? In America, you don't see how lucky you are for things like this."

In her new home in Anchorage, Phillips teaches Russian to students at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and to soldiers at Fort Richardson. She speaks with a heavy Russian accent, and wears a Russian Orthodox cross around her neck. She is proud of the culture she has left. "I want to get people speaking lots of Russian," she said.

She came to America as Nadejda Reznitsky, by birth Zaharov. Her ancestors have a long political history and were among Russia's most famous Cossacks, taking part in the unsuccessful Decembrist revolt in 1825.

And she came to America alone with a young son, separated from her first husband, Andrew Reznitsky.

She had met Reznitsky while going to school at the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages, where a lot of children of dignitaries, politicians and diplomats are sent.

Studying there at the same time was Stas Namin — though that wasn't his name then, the Soviet rock star who has, with his group, sold 40 million albums.

Nadejda remembers him at the ripe age of 18, playing and composing songs for his first band, "The Flowers," and practicing his Chuck Berry hop in his little apartment off campus.

In some ways, she said, marrying Andrew was expected of her. "When you attend that school, it is an unwritten tradition to marry a prominent person," she said. Andrew is a Jew, also from an old political family. He is the son of Galina Poluyan, whose family

See America, page C-3

Folkfest: Building bridges through song

By CATHERINE STADEM
Times Arts Editor

It was a love fest. It was a happening. It was a peace rally. It was the '60s all over again — but this time with a Russian accent.

Friday night's Glasnost Folkfest at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts definitely was *the* social event of the season.

The 2,070-seat Atwood Concert Hall was jammed. People large and small, Soviet and Alaskan, Yupik and Siberian Eskimo, decked out in furs and jewels and jeans and cowboy boots, sat side by side, friend-to-friend, as they say in Russian, *droog-droogoo.*

Review

The message, perhaps best delivered by Dmitri Pokrovsky, leader of the Pokrovsky Singers from the U.S.S.R., was: "People would undersand each other better if they would sing together more often."

And sing they did. While the brilliantly-costumed Pokrovsky Singers sang ancient Russian folk songs, they encouraged the audience to join in with hoots and howls.

It was an evening for joining together. When internationally known Yupik storyteller Chuna McIntyre, from Eek, gave a salute to peace, he told the theatergoers to "join your hands and your minds across to our friends in the Soviet Union." They did.

The 2½-hour show opened with Eskimo dancing by the colorful Novo Chaplino troupe, who were later joined on stage by their Siberian relatives. Although taking photographs inside a theater during performance is usually forbidden, the foreign and local press snapped away with cameras — eventually causing flashbulbs to pop throughout the hall as anyone with an instamatic recorded the event for posterity.

Times photo by AL GRILLO

Folkfest activities included a traditional Eskimo blanket toss.

The Novo Chaplinos sang "welcome sun," symbolically signifying the parting of political clouds that have prevented the indigenous northern peoples from being united.

The evening's honored guest was Dixie Belcher, a Juneau resident who founded Camai, which means peace in Yupik. It has been through her efforts that the ice curtain is finally parting.

The Chevak Dancers, directed by Josh Weiser, performed an energetic and often funny friendship dance. One of the lead dancers, clad in traditional parka, said the ancient greeting words, "Welcome to our great meeting house — I hope your trip by dog sled was a good one."

Their number included a blanket toss, called Sending Someone to the Moon. "This is how we went to the moon in the old days," said commentator McIntyre, "by sealskin."

Anchorage was represented by the Martin Luther King Choir, a chorus of about 100 voices, whose members are black, white and Asian. They were led by guest conductor Dorothy Grant, a gospel choir director from Detroit.

Sharon Osborne, the lead singer with the Paul Winter Consort for eight years, joined the MLK choir. Her voice — a rich mixture of soft jazz with revival undertones — soared to the hall's Aurora Borealis acoustic ceiling and engulfed many in the crowd with emotion.

The 120-member Anchorage Children's Choir, dressed in red, white and black uniforms, filed on the by-then crowded stage and stole everyone's heart with their rendition of the international favorite, "May There Always Be Sunshine." The children, ranging in ages from 5 to 15, sang a stanza in Russian, *vsigda budiet solnse*, that brought tears to the eyes of many.

The concert closed with a sample of Russian rock by the group Stas Namin. Lead singer Sasha, a tall blonde with a voice somewhere between early Neil Diamond and Bruce Springsteen, screamed into the microphone — in excellent English and Russian — "I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL." Eventually, those in the audience who knew Russian (and who love rock 'n' roll) joined in with "*Ya Lyublyu Toylka Rock and Roll.*"

When it was all over, it was clear something important was beginning. Dixie Belcher spoke into the microphone, "Welcome to a new era."

Catherine Stadem is a 1985 Fellow of the National Critics Institute.

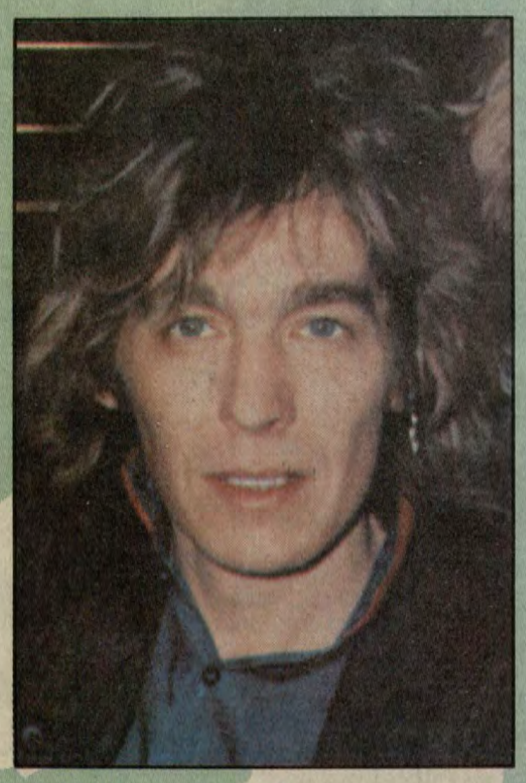
■ **ANN LANDERS:** Son on steroids / E-3 ■ **THIS WEEK IN ANCHORAGE:** Special events, club meetings, self-help / E-4

LIFESTYLES

MONDAY
SECTION E Feb. 20, 1989

Anchorage Daily News Monday, February 20, 1989

The Heat Exchange



Stas Namin

Anchorage Daily News/Fran Durner

Dixie Belcher

Soviet Union's hottest rocker looks to West for guidance

By ANDREW PERALA
Daily News reporter

The phone call to Moscow was destined for the impresario of Soviet rock, Stas Namin. He's a member of the new breed of Soviet citizens who have ventured into free enterprise. He's also the Russian heavyweight entry in Saturday's Superpower Rock Concert at Sullivan Arena.

After a byzantine routing, a Pittsburgh telephone operator connected the call to the Stas Namin Music Center in Gorky Park. The phone, at a private table in the music center's cafe, rang once. Stas Namin picked up the phone.

It was after midnight, Moscow time. Sitting with Namin, smoking cigarettes and drinking cranberry juice, were his American business manager, members of a Soviet rock band soon to leave for a recording session in Los Angeles, and a guest — who got on the line.

It was Frank Zappa.

Zappa — the original rock 'n' roll anarchist, the guy who told U.S. senators' wives where to stuff their plans to censor record albums. Zappa was in Moscow to do business. To do that, he needed Stas Namin.

Namin and Zappa had just come from a rock concert and, earlier, a reception at the U.S. ambassador's residence. They say lots of great things about each other. Mutual fans, they are.

"Get two things straight right away," said Zappa. "The guy's name is pronounced NAH-min, not NAY-min. And two, insiders know this guy is the most powerful man in Russia today next to Gorbachev.

"This guy can get things done. He has connections. Here's this guy with hair sticking out all over the place and he knows everyone: ministers, ambassadors, everybody.

"You should be honored he's coming to Anchorage."

Oh yeah, said Zappa. He can also play guitar.

□

Who is Stas Namin?

At age 47, with his Rod Stewart hairdo, leathered face and Mick Jagger body, Namin is the Soviet Union's premier advocate of rock and roll. He is equally at ease shepherding a wide-eyed Siberian rock band through a practice session as he is cruising embassy-row cocktail parties.

Because of his extensive contacts in the top levels of the Soviet Ministry of Culture, Namin can leapfrog midlevel bureaucrats. Music-industry bigwigs know this. Quincy Jones, Jon Bon Jovi, Peter Gabriel and others have all gone to Moscow to do business with Namin.

> *"(Stas Namin) can get things done. He has connections. Here's this guy with hair sticking out all over the place and he knows everyone: ministers, ambassadors, everybody."*
> — **Frank Zappa**

Please see Page E-2, **STAS NAMIN**

Dixie Belcher heats up U.S, Soviet Union connections

By DUSTY RHODES
Daily News reporter

Dixie Belcher's telephone never rings. It can't, because she's always on it. With Dixie, a five-minute conversation gets interrupted at least seven times by call-waiting.

So when the producer of this weekend's Superpower Rock Concert and Glasnost Folkfest arrives in Anchorage on a late-night flight from Juneau, I kidnap her and a friend, Joan Glenn, and take them both to my apartment. That's the only way to keep Dixie safe from The Phone. On the way, we stop at the store for saltines and ginger ale. Dixie's suffering from strep throat, a touch of the flu and exhaustion.

It takes a lot out of a 48-year-old woman, this business of melting the ice curtain. Dixie has been working for four years to open the Alaska-Siberia border, which has been frozen shut since the Cold War era.

Today, though, the ice curtain is reduced to a puddle. Ninety-two Soviets — government officials, rock stars, folk singers and dancers, journalists, businessmen, educators, students — will be flying across the once-forbidden Bering Strait to spend a week in Anchorage celebrating the newly opened border.

Which explains why The Phone has been so busy that it can't ring. "I asked the Soviets initially for 36 people, and every single time I've talked to them, they've put more people on the plane," says Dixie.

"We've been trying so hard to get Eskimos and all kinds of Soviets across the border, it's like we've been pulling and pulling and pulling. And now, it's like somebody pulled the cork out of the bottle and they're just coming out over the top," she says.

An open border and a huge Soviet-American reunion is what she's been dreaming of since February '85, when a California peace activist happened to tell Dixie that he wanted to take a bunch of Alaskans to Siberia some day.

"I just had an explosion in my head," Dixie says. "I said you know, we have to take musicians and dancers and comedians and Eskimos. . . ." And 20 months later, she actually did take a troupe of 67 Alaska performers on a three-week tour af the Soviet Union, even though she had to cash in her savings and mortgage her house to do it.

The thing about Dixie that convinces me she's human is that she does yearn for normalcy. Occasionally. The last time it happened was the summer after the tour. "I decided I was going to stop doing this stuff and I was going to settle down and get a job and act like a normal person," she says.

> *"We've been trying so hard. It's like we've been pulling and pulling. And now, it's like somebody pulled the cork out of the bottle and they're just coming out over the top"*
> — **Dixie Belcher**

Please see Page E-2, **DIXIE BELCHER**

STAS NAMIN: Soviet rocker develops strong Western ties

Continued from Page E-1

"He's perhaps the major promoter of Western rock music in the Soviet Union," said Victor Jackovich, cultural attache to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

Since perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev's radical attempt at restructuring of the Soviet economy begun three years ago, citizens can form private co-operative businesses.

"There's a new sort of movement," said Jackovich. "For operators who are quick enough and smart enough, small operations soon develop into pretty big operations."

Like Namin's music center in Moscow.

His operation has dozens of Soviet bands on contract, and they practice in the center's 20 rehearsal rooms. Namin introduces these regional bands to Western rock styles and is their promoter when they return home to perform.

But that's not all. Namin's music center also houses a graphic arts company to design concert posters, a modeling agency and, soon, a factory to build electric guitars.

Rock concerts are big draws in the Soviet Union. Recently Zappa and Namin attended a rock festival at Lenin Stadium. The four bands on the bill drew 25,000 chanting fans.

"Problem is, they just kind of wiggle," said Zappa. "They don't know how to dance."

In interviews, Namin spoke freely in fair English about the current state of Soviet rock 'n' roll.

"Now we can do what we want. (I am) independent, not under the Ministry of Culture anymore. It is music for a new generation . . . Rock and roll is a universal language; there are the same vibrations in Moscow as there (in the U.S.)."

Perestroika's arrival on the rock scene a year ago gave Soviet musicians the ability to earn royalties. Before perestroika, Namin was paid a state salary equivalent to a few thousand dollars each year for his work. Now he collects the equivalent of 10 cents in royalties for each $2 album sold. He has sold 40 million albums in the Soviet Union, most before royalties.

> *'It's gonna take a heap of perestroika to fix rock 'n' roll in the Soviet Union. They have no equipment.'*
>
> **— Frank Zappa**

Neither Namin nor his groups will be paid for playing at Sullivan Arena. "My attitude toward profits from music is rather strange," said Namin. "It's not necessary to have money all the time for playing music." Namin last summer proposed the concert be held New Year's Eve, but that date wasn't available at Sullivan.

Though he is an independent businessman, Namin still works in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. The minister, he said, approved Zappa's proposal to produce an hourlong, weekly, MTV-style show on Soviet television, although the timetable is still uncertain. Namin had introduced Zappa to the Soviet minister at a reception at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Moscow. Zappa left the reception with a pocketful of business cards.

Anchorage concert-goers can expect the Stas Namin Group to bring a show of traditional rock to town. The other Soviet group in Saturday's concert, Rondo, "is like Duran Duran," said Namin, "only more wild.

"I think we have a talent for Western music. (The Stas Namin Group) used to be called the "Soviet Beatles" — we were not a copy of them, but because of our popularity. Now for sure our music has changed style. (Now) it's melodical hard rock. Sometimes like Huey Lewis, sometimes like Joe Cocker, sometimes like Rolling Stones. Our group is more traditional."

A Boston Globe review of a 1986 Stas Namin concert in the Boston Opera House raved: "The Stas Namin Group was a real eye-opener, helping smash all stereotypes . . . they played a little bit of everything — from rap music to heavy metal, from slick funk to Chuck Berry — and they played it with a genuine excitement that had the crowd on its feet, dancing and swaying as though they were hearing Bruce Springsteen or Bob Seger."

Like his grandfather Anastas Mikoyan, who survived 50 years in the top levels of Soviet government, Namin endured more than a decade of official repression of rock.

His band has been together for almost two decades, but for half that time it played only in small clubs and university pubs. "We were forbidden for 10 years," said Namin. "In the press, TV and radio . . . nobody accepted (it).

"It's difficult to logically explain why I didn't give up (playing rock and roll during that period). But it was sort of my soul. I play guitar and my first influence was Jimi Hendrix."

The divorced father of an 8-year-old daughter, Namin takes his stage name (he won't reveal his real name) from his mother's first name, Nami. She was a musician and music critic at the prestigious Moscow Conservatory of Music. His mother, he said, thinks "rock 'n' roll is good and bad, like all music."

Namin uses his apparent business acumen to take advantage of the perks of perestroika. He's a regular visitor to the United States and will arrive in Anchorage Tuesday. After the concert here, which also will star American rocker Eddie Money, he will meet another Soviet band he manages, Gorky Park, in Los Angeles for a recording session with Polygram Records.

The money Namin now earns and the financial backing of his American business partner, Dennis Berardi, support the Stas Namin Music Center. A big obstacle to developing Soviet talent, though, is the antiquated state of Soviet electronics.

"They don't have anything available here," said Berardi. "The musical instruments are like those from 1945."

Frank Zappa is more succinct.

"It's gonna take a heap of perestroika to fix rock 'n' roll in the Soviet Union," he said. "They have no equipment."

Namin's planned guitar factory might remedy that shortage. But for now, Berardi plans to import hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment to make the Stas Namin Music Center fully operational.

Although Gorbachev's leadership has helped break barriers for rock music, said Namin, there is still major resistance in some echelons of the massive Soviet bureaucracy.

"You know the difficulties before perestroika," Namin said. "We still have big problems. Difficult problems. Bureaucracy. There are different words now, but the people are the same."

Still, "we have big changes; it's really opened, really blossomed. In our press, our TV, now everybody can say what we want. Controversial lyrics are very popular; it doesn't matter if it's punk music or folk-rock."

Observed Zappa: "(The fans are) very aware of what's going on in politics here. Like in America, we know there's an election and a new president. Here they know there's glasnost and perestroika.

"But they don't give a ---; they just want to party."

With his constant travel and far-flung business empire, Namin rarely plays with his band anymore. But since jamming with Zappa in Moscow, he said he's had his practice and will probably appear on the Sullivan Arena stage for a few songs.

"Rock 'n' roll," said Namin, "is a symbol of freedom. And young people like to feel the freedom."

DIXIE BELCHER: Working tirelessly to thaw U.S.-Soviet relations

Continued from Page E-1

But the moment soon passed.

"Once I made that decision, I thought: I'm going to spend the rest of my life working at a job so I can save a house? For a *house*? Is this what my *life's* going to be *about* is a *HOUSE*? So that put everything in perspective," Dixie says.

Indeed. And she went back to the business of melting the curtain.

On the Alaska side, she organized a grass-roots letter-writing campaign. On the Soviet side, she pressed her highest-ranking connection, Gennadi Gerasimov, into joining her crusade.

Gerasimov, who had been editor of the Moscow News when Dixie first met him, was, by this time, chief spokesman for General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. When Dixie arranged to take him to the Alaska island of Little Diomede, from which he could easily see the Soviet island of Big Diomede, Gerasimov pledged to do what he could to thaw his side of the ice curtain.

A month later, when Dixie traveled to Moscow to check on Gerasimov's progress, he told her the idea was hopeless, that nobody was even interested. But Dixie talked him into giving her dream one last try. "Then I met with him again two days later, and he said we have it," Dixie says.

She had to listen close to notice her dream was coming true. Gerasimov approved Dixie's idea of a "friendship flight," re-uniting Alaska and Siberian Eskimo families across the Bering Strait. "But I also had this idea about a boat and a whole bunch of other ideas and projects," Dixie says, revving up to a fast rattle, "and he kept saying, 'Well, yes, that's fine, that's fine.' And I said, 'Well, if all these ideas are fine, that must mean that the Bering Straits are open.' And Gerasimov said, 'Well, yes, must mean that.' "

> *Today, though, the ice curtain is reduced to a puddle. Ninety-two Soviets — government officials, rock stars, folk singers and dancers, journalists, businessmen, educators, students — will be flying across the once-forbidden Bering Strait to spend a week in Anchorage celebrating the newly opened border.*

So now, Dixie wants the world to celebrate. In the midst of the current chaos of organizing this week's "Soviet-American Reunion" along with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, she is already planning a more mammoth project.

"It will involve 130 performers, half Soviet and half American, from all over the U.S. . . . We'll start in Japan and we'll go to Korea. We are going to work on getting into North Korea, which is not quite as wild as it sounds. And we'll go to China, then across the Soviet Union, and Eastern and Western Europe, including Berlin, both sides of the wall, and then to the U.S. And that will start April 15 next year," Dixie says, all very matter-of-factly.

But I have to ask: Dixie, are you *sure* all this is going to happen?

And just as matter-of-factly, she answers: "I'm not sure of anything."

The reason she's not sure has less to do with the whims of the superpowers than it does with money. Dixie doesn't have any. And Camai, the non-profit organization sponsoring this week's concerts, doesn't have any money either, because Camai is basically just Dixie. Oh sure, she has a board of directors. That board voted to pay Dixie a salary of $3,000 a month. But the board might as well have voted to pay her $9,000 a month, because all parties understand that her salary is essentially hypothetical. It's what she would receive *if* Camai had money. And so far, that has never happened.

"It's like tap dancing on the edge of a cliff all the time. You never ever know where money's going to come from, or *if* it's going to come," Dixie says.

She gets $900 a month from her late husband's pension, and she rents out some rooms in her house. But her phone bill alone averages $1,500 a month. And there's a land payment of $3,000 due every six months. Last year, her accountant figured Dixie's net for the year was *negative* $4,000.

Finally Dixie's friend, Joan, who has sat silently during the entire interview, speaks up. "Tell the rest," she nudges Dixie.

"Tell the rest?"

"Yeah," Joan says. "About what's happening to your house."

"Oh, I'm losing it," Dixie shrugs.

"It's being foreclosed upon," Joan says, "and that's important because that's the kind of person she is, the kind of person who pushes it to the wire."

"But you know what I think all that stuff proves is that, if somebody, anybody wants to do anything badly enough, they can do it," Dixie says. "A lot of times people say, 'Well, I'm just one person,' or 'I can't do this because I don't have the money.' Well, that's baloney."

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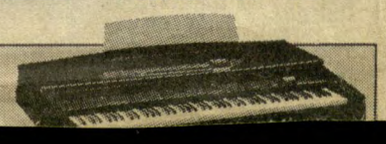

UAA men lose to Metro State SPORTS F-1

SUNDAY A.M.

ARTS E-1

Shrinking pie

State Council on the Arts faces challenges

RONDY '89

Sourdough tales B-1
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Parade highlight B-3

The Anchorage Times

75th year/210 pages SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1989 50¢

This time the Russians really are coming

Yesterday's nightmare has become the possible dream of today

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

By DANIEL R. SADDLER
Times Writer

In music, the skillful blend of different voices in the same key brings harmony. In politics, the skillful co-existence of different countries in the same region can bring peace.

In Anchorage Monday, where the arrival of a jet from the Soviet Far East will bring 90 artists, diplomats and businessmen from the U.S.S.R. together with their U.S. counterparts for a week, the result may be peace and harmony — both made even sweeter by the 40-year absence of either.

On one level the visit just renews, through native dance and music, the centuries-old Eskimo cultural ties across the Bering Straits.

But on another level, the visit offers the more recent arrivals to the area — the Soviets and Americans who closed the border at the start of the Cold War in 1948 — the chance to find a new way to live, work and thrive together across their closest border.

"There's going to be benefits in business, in education, in culture, in medicine, in every area you can think of," said Kathy Tarr, project coordinator for the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, which is organizing the event.

"If we're going to continue this warming of Soviet Far East-Alaska relations, this is going to lay more groundwork," Tarr said.

Dixie Belcher, who organized a 1986 tour of Eskimo and other Alaska performers in the Soviet Union, and whose group Camai is putting on the two concerts, said individuals have played a powerful role in reinvigorating relations between Alaska and the Soviet Far East.

"The power of this is that it's people reaching out to people over the water in spite of government, with the power of a grass-roots movement," Belcher said. "We were told this was impossible for years."

After citizen diplomats in both coun-

See Soviets, page A-8

Chilly ordeal ends

175 airlifted from ice floe

rived at 6:45 p.m. All riders have to take a 6-hour layover at Skwentna. At that pace, the winner could set a new course record, arriving back at Knik Lake between 10 a.m. and noon today.

of frozen Knik Lake Saturday, a few hundred yards from the pool tables and dim environs of the Knik Bar, 16 miles west of Wasilla.

A fog that cloaked Knik Arm and Anchorage on the full moon disappeared into a wall of frosted willows that rose from the far bank of the lake. A huddle of other contenders moved slowly, some walking, some riding across the snow-covered ice, like a band of refugees.

Cowles, an Iditabike veteran who handcrafted a bike frame and outfitted it with double tires front and back. The double tires were for extra flotation on soft snow, which riders faced the first two years.

to stay out there 'til then," said the official.

Richey left the bar for the parking lot, where cyclists were stretching their legs on their bikes in the dusk. "I won't see most of these people again."

that would include expectations that boat owners take some anti-drug measures.

The regulations are not expected to be announced for at least several more weeks.

Soviets: 'Power of this is it's people reaching out to people'

Continued from page A-1

tries worked for two years to re-establish ties, then-President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev validated the efforts, calling for increased contact between residents of the far North regions.

"We view this as a human rights issue more than as a bilateral relations issue," said Wayne Neill, a State Department Soviet affairs officer in Washington, D.C. "The concept that families should be allowed to visit each other is deeply rooted in the human soul."

In an apparent willingness to reopen the border, the Soviet Union last fall suggested reviving the visits and setting up a joint commission to deal with unauthorized border crossings.

A State Department official will meet late in the week with a top Russian Republic foreign affairs officer and a Eskimo delegation from Nome and Gambell to discuss border issues, Neill said.

The Soviets will need time to study the U.S. position and aren't likely to sign any agreement next week in Anchorage, he said, or April 1 at the international dateline, where some had hoped for a signing ceremony along the route of a U.S.-Soviet ski team's trans-Bering expedition.

A second important element of the visit is the possibility of establishing broader commercial contacts. While the two regions share a resource-based economy, economists and trade experts said each could benefit from mutual cooperation.

During a June visit to the territory of Magadan in the Soviet Far East, Gov. Steve Cowper and V.I. Kobetz, governor of the territory, agreed to explore mutual trade. These agreements were strengthened during a reciprocal visit to Anchorage and at a trade mission of Alaskans to Magadan in November.

Cowper will host several high government officials Tuesday in Juneau, where they will participate in a joint meeting of the Alaska Legislature's foreign trade committees.

The Soviets could trade fish for U.S. fishing techniques and technology in joint ventures and could use U.S. sausage-making equipment and know-how in their vast reindeer meat industry, said Ron Miller, fisheries expert in the Alaska Office of International Trade. And U.S. mining properties could use Soviet ice-breaking cargo ships and smelters to develop remote mineral deposits.

Chances for trade are enhanced by Gorbachev's efforts to restructure the Soviet economy. New laws give managers more responsibilities, more profit incentives and more leeway to deal with the West to get hard currency.

With both Soviet and U.S. business still feeling their way in the era of glasnost, or openness, the Alaska Chamber of Commerce will host seminars in which U.S. businessmen and their Soviet counterparts will tell each other about the economic and legal frameworks for commerce.

Organizers also expect many private discussions between Alaskans and Soviet officials in agriculture, mining, construction, aviation, sport and culture.

"It takes a lot of meetings before you sign a business deal," said Gunnar Knapp, economics professor and Soviet expert at the University of Alaska Anchorage. "So it's significant that they keep coming back, and they bring more people."

The chance to get free-spending Western tourists into the rugged beauty of the Soviet Far East should tempt Soviet officials into talking with U.S. tour industry representatives.

Alaska Airlines, which flew a jet full of Eskimos, politicians and reporters to Provideniya last June, is still awaiting permission to begin commercial service to the Chukotka Peninsula port town, possibly in conjunction with a cruise ship line.

Though perhaps less dramatic than international business or cultural accords, the grass-roots atmosphere of the week could help make friends of people who, if not enemies, were surely strangers.

"What did anyone know about Magadan before we met these people?" asked Knapp. "It was almost like the dark side of the moon . . . There's something to knowing your neighbors even if you never trade with them."

Events scheduled for the week will offer great opportunities for the international neighbors to get to know each other:

- All but 11 of the Soviet visitors will board in the homes of Anchorage volunteers, giving both hosts and guests a chance to further personal understanding.
- Volunteers will drive guests from the William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center to various functions around town.
- Soviets will visit about 50 local public schools Tuesday for talks, assemblies, parties and get-to-know-you sessions.
- A reception Monday at the at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts will allow the entire city to meet with the Soviets.
- Journalists from both countries will discuss the loosening of restrictions on Soviet press at a panel discussion and reception at UAA.
- Three Soldotna schoolchildren and three teachers will trade places with students and school officials in the city of Magadan for a week.

The week's events will be thoroughly documented and carried to the rest of the world. The Soviet delegation includes reporters for the major Soviet newspapers, plus regional papers from Magadan. A television crew will film the visit, and send footage back via satellite.

Reporters are also expected from Sweden, Japan, Finland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Canada.

"The rest of the world cares because this is one of many, many areas the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are talking," said Knapp. "And this is of great symbolic significance, because it's right where we are neighbors."

Here's the schedule of events

Monday

Approximately 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Aeroflot jet arrives at Anchorage International Airport carrying Soviet delegation. Arrival ceremony at airport with Gov. Steve Cowper. Three Soldotna schoolchildren and three teachers board jet for a week-long exchange in Magadan schools.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Public reception for all Soviets at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts lobby. Fee for the evening, which includes music, dance and Russian-American food, is $15 for adults, $5 for students and free for children under 12 years old.

Tuesday

8 a.m. — Adopt-a-Soviet program takes visitors to 50 local public schools for get-to-know-you sessions.

Afternoon— Dogsled rides for Soviets at Connor's Bog near International Airport and Jewel lake roads.

2 p.m. — Shopping tour of Northway Mall, via doubledecker bus.

8 p.m. — Delegation of Soviet government officials and film crew departs Anchorage for Juneau. The group will spend Wednesday at joint meetings of legislative foreign trade committees, at reception and lunch at governor's mansion, a public reception at Centennial Hall and exploring the city.

Wednesday

9:15 a.m.— Soviet delegation returns to Anchorage from Juneau.

9 a.m. — President George Bush arrives on Air Force One at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Bush will give a public address at Hangar One upon arrival, and Camai Eskimo dancers will perform. Tickets are available through the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

11:30 a.m. — Business luncheon and mini Magadan-Alaska trade show to take place at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center.

6 p.m. — Alaska Press Club reception for foreign press, followed by panel discussion on changes in Soviet journalism, at UAA Performing Arts Center.

Thursday

8 a.m. — Magadan Gov. V.I. Kobets accompanies press and film crew to visit Soldotna schools, the Old Believers' Russian Orthodox community of Nikolaevsk, and a reception by the Kenai and Soldotna Chambers of Commerce.

11 a.m. — V.C. Lozovoi, head of the Soviet Association for Economic Cooperation in the Asia Pacific region, will address a luncheon meeting hosted by the International Association for Energy Economics and Anchorage Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Captain Cook. Open to the public for $20 fee.

2 p.m. — Shopping tour of Dimond Mall via doubledecker bus.

7 p.m.— VIP reception at home of former Gov. Wally Hickel.

8 p.m.— Command performance of Community Theatre's "Chekov in Yalta," at Alaska Center for Performing Arts, followed by reception in lobby for Soviets, host families, and volunteers.

Friday

10 a.m. — Optional bus trip for Soviets to Alyeska resort and Portage Glacier.

8 p.m. — "Glasnost Folkfest" in the Atwood Theatre of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, featuring Pokrovsky Singers, White Sail Dancers, Martin Luther King Anchorage Community Choir and Anchorage Children's Choir. Tickets are $10 at the arts center box office.

Saturday

5 p.m. — Legal Pizza restaurant, 1034 W. 4th Ave., hosts 16 Soviet visitors for Russian music performed by Alaska artists. Open to public, no cover.

8 p.m. — "Superpower Rock 'n Roll" concert at the Sullivan Arena, featuring U.S.S.R.'s Stas Namin Group and Rondo, plus Eddie Money. Tickets are $22, available at the Sullivan box office and Carrs Quality Centers.

Midnight — Private party for musicians at Sourdough Mining Company.

Sunday

10 a.m. — Optional bus trip for Soviets to Alyeska resort and Portage Glacier.

Afternoon — Dogsled rides for Soviets at Connor's Bog near International Airport and Jewel Lake roads.

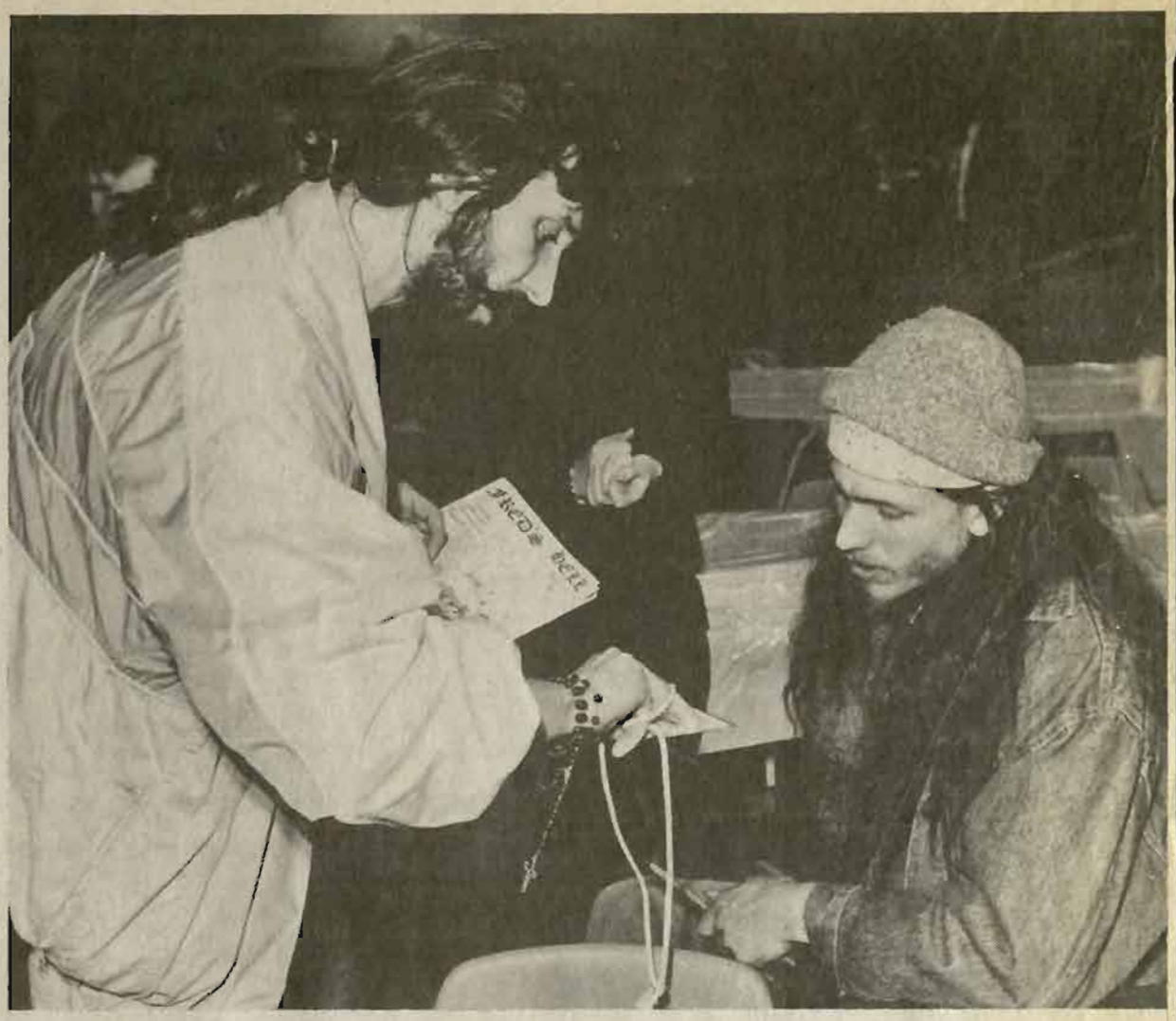
7 p.m. — Farewell potluck dinners at All Saints Episcopal Church and Holy Family Cathedral for church members, volunteers, and host families.

Monday, Feb. 27

8 a.m. — Continental breakfast at the William A. Egan Civic & Convention Center.

Approx. 11 a.m. — Soviet Aeroflot jet arrives Anchorage International Airport, returning Soldotna students and teachers.

Approx. Noon — Soviet delegation departs Anchorage on Aeroflot jet.



MUSICAL TOUR—Vladislov Petrovsky, a member of Stas Namin Group, shows his stage pass to Scott Wright Monday night. Wright was one of approximately 150 Fairbanksans who waited at Alaskaland Civic Center to welcome Stas Namin Group and Rondo to town.

Brian Schneider photo

SOVIETS

(Continued from page 1)

word came that the rockers had arrived at their hotel and would be at Alaskaland within 20 minutes.

Humanitarian Anthony Whitworth stepped up to the microphone, asking for financial contributions for pizza "since we ate all the food." Within a couple of minutes, Whitworth had a fistful of $1 and $5 bills and a couple of Pizza Hut gift coupons totaling $91.

"I think it says a lot for the crowd here," Whitworth said. "I thought I was going to get up there and make a fool of myself."

Whitworth returned with eight pizzas just before the Grayline bus rolled into the Alaskaland parking lot. After 10 hours on the road, the musicians were weary, but smiled as the crowd cheered. There were a few moments of awkwardness as the hungry travelers moved hesitantly toward the buffet table, but soon they were loading their plates with pizza. The Fairbanksans who had waited so long to meet the international stars pulled up chairs to the table and began plying their guests with questions.

Following a brief presentation of Alaska books, art and other gifts to the groups, there were more private exchanges. A Fairbanks man gave one of the Soviets his long-treasured "Grateful Dead" button.

The musicians said their trip north was long, but a good trip nonetheless, and nothing out of the ordinary for them.

"It is part of our job," said Sasha Losev, lead singer for Stas Namin Group.

The musicians' entourage was surprisingly small. The two groups traveled with Lucy Bratash, their manager, Victor Zernikov, their director and Valerie Eckberg, their translator. Eckberg is a substitute teacher in Anchorage who has studied Russian extensively. She worked with the groups in Anchorage and agreed to accompany them to Fairbanks and to their next destination, Kenai. She said they are friendly and dedicated to their art.

Both groups received enthusiastic newspaper reviews after their concert in Anchorage Saturday.

"I've been translating that for all of them on the bus," Eckberg said. "They love it."

Tickets to tonight's concerts are available at the University of Alaska Wood Center, Hoitt's Music, Alaskalanes and Petro Star Fuel in North Pole for $15. Tickets are $17 at the door.

12/5/87

Alaskans Can't Wait to Visit Siberia

United Press International

Nome, Alaska

Excitement in western Alaska over a possible opening of the U.S.-Soviet border has set off an unprecedented run on the passport office here, officials said yesterday.

The Bering Sea border between Alaska and Siberia, often called the "ice curtain," has been closed for since the onset of the Cold War four decades ago. Before that, Eskimos used to freely cross it.

An Alaskan proposal to reopen the border is on the agenda of next week's summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said Senator Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

There has been a growing movement in Nome to seek ties with Siberia and establish travel to Provideniya, a Siberian port city 220 miles west of Nome. When word came Thursday that the Alaska-Siberia border proposal made it onto the summit agenda, excitement began to build in Nome.

The Nome passport office ran out of applications and had to order more, said Jane Tobuk, a state clerk of court who said she has never seen such a clamor in her 17 years in the office.

"There's been quite a bit of interest in going over there," Tobuk said. She reviews the returned applications before sending them to the regional passport office in Seattle for processing, and all list Siberia as the destination.

Express-News
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
Lively

Eskimos try to thaw East-West relations

By ED CONROY
Special to the Express-News

While it may no longer be fashionable to call the Soviet Union's Western border "The Iron Curtain," a group of Alaskans has set out to melt what they call "The Ice Curtain."

That curtain is better known as the Bering Straits, which up until 1948 had been regularly crossed by Yup'ik Eskimos. The onset of the Cold War put a political freeze on the straits, separating family members in the process.

There appears to be a thaw underway, though, because of the efforts by the Alaskan Performing Artists for Peace (APAP), a Juneau-based group of 67 singers and dancers who toured the Soviet Union in 1986.

Having been to Moscow and back, two of the group's leaders passed through San Antonio Wednesday as part of a new, national effort to raise funds for a joint Soviet-American troupe that would tour both countries, bearing a message of world peace.

Dixie Belcher, executive director of Cama-I — which means "hello" in the Yup'ik Eskimo language — and Chuna McIntyre, eskimo artist, dancer and storyteller, are asking for continued support of their project.

Through the help of their San Antonio volunteer representative, Patricia Sprowls Van Hoecke, Belcher and McIntyre spoke Wednesday at a luncheon for prominent local women at the Oaks Club, before a class of fifth grade students at the Shenandoah Elementary School and later that evening at Incarnate Word College.

"We're hoping to raise $100,000," said Belcher. "We're making a film and plan to continue dramatizing the situation of the Yup'ik Eskimos in both Siberia and Alaska."

Photo By DENIS DUNLEAVY

Eskimo artist, dancer and storyteller Chuna McIntyre is touring the United States in order to get support in melting the 'Ice Curtain.'

Belcher credits a friend involved in the Beyond War organization with giving her the inspiration to take singers on a goodwill mission to the U.S.S.R.

"I had been a choir director with an 'Up With People" type group, working under the auspices of the state of Alaska," said Belcher. "Before I knew it my mind was saying, 'You have to take singers and dancers over there.' "

After obtaining permission from the Soviet Union for such a trip, Belcher went to great lengths to raise the funds required for the initial trip.

"She even mortgaged her house at the last minute," said McIntyre.

Belcher put together a group of 67 performers, all of whom went at their own expense. In addition to the Yup'ik Eskimos, the group included a black gospel choir and cloggers.

"In the Soviet Union, they tend to think Americans are very racially prejudiced," said McIntyre. "So it was good for them to see all of us on stage."

Their extremely enthusiastic reception in the Soviet Union was a factor, Belcher said, in opening the possibility of allowing visits between Yup'ik Eskimo people on both sides of the Bering Straits.

"There is a good chance it will be a topic on the agenda for the upcoming summit," Belcher said.

U2 records Woody Guthrie tune in studio where rock was born

Scripps Howard Service

stretcher because I don't want to leave," said Bono, who was born Paul

it. Like it was the spirit of rock and roll, the spirit of Jerry Lee Lewis or

NEWS CLIPPINGS IN
The Anchorage Times
Date: 6-14-1988

Provideniya: Making memories

Yupiks seek a reunion in Siberia

By David Foster
Associated Press

PROVIDENIYA, U.S.S.R. — For Alaska Eskimo John Waghiyi, the 40-year wait for the Siberia border to open was a few years too long.

Waghiyi, a Yupik Eskimo from St. Lawrence Island, was among 82 Alaskans on a "Friendship Flight" Monday to this remote Siberian city.

Alaska Eskimos once freely crossed the icy Bering Sea in motorboats and walrus skin umiaks to trade and visit with relatives on

See Reunion, page A-8

Reunion:

Continued from page A-1

the Siberian coast. But Cold War tensions closed the border in 1948, and Soviet moved many villagers inland from their coastal settlements.

The border remained closed to the Eskimos until Monday, when an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 made a 45-minute flight across the international dateline and into Soviet territory.

Waghiyi, 64, had his heart set on finding a distant cousin he knew only as Amquairqun from visits before the border closed.

But Amquairqun, like many Siberian relatives the Alaskans had hoped to see, was not among the crowd that turned out to greet the visitors.

"They said he passed away," Waghiyi said.

Other Alaska Eskimos found long-lost relatives, however, and even Waghiyi soon was absorbed in conversation with Siberian Eskimos.

The daylong reunion started after the Alaska delegation of Eskimos, politicians, business leaders and peace activists touched down on Provideniya's gravel runway, following a 225-mile flight from the western Alaska town of Nome.

School children waved Soviet and American flags, while local officials and Alaskans shouted greetings in Russian, English and Yupik over the roar of the jets' engines.

Leaders of the Alaska delegation were handed carnations beneath a sign proclaiming, "Peace and Friendship between Alaska and Chukotka!"

Chukotka is the district in which Provideniya is located.

Formal greetings soon gave way to a frenzy of hugs, handshakes and trading of pins, flags, bubble gum and postcards.

"We are very glad to see you," said Galina Tegret, secretary of the local Communist Party committee.

Provideniya officials escorted the visitors on a tour of the city of 5,000, then presided over a banquet at a downtown dining hall.

Provideniya residents packed an auditorium at the "Palace of Culture" for four hours of speeches, gift-giving and native dancing.

Soviet and Alaska officials struggled with the language barrier all day, but the Eskimos chatted easily in their common Yupik dialect.

Drinking tea from samovars and munching on sweet rolls, they tried to catch up on 40 years of gossip.

Timothy Gologergen, 68, of Nome, shared a traditional song with a Siberian Eskimo who identified himself as Kaygigun, 41, from the village of New Chaplino, several miles from Provideniya.

Gologergen later translated his talk with Kaygigun. "They got three walruses last night," Gologergen said. "They were hauling them back and forth by dog team and he heard that we were coming. He dropped everything and came over."

Gologergen said the Siberian Eskimos would love to visit Alaska, governments willing.

"He said this way is really good — just to speak our own dialect and not listen to the war stories or think about war . . . just be doing our thing, speaking our Yupik language and hunting and being relaxed," Gologergen said.

Alaska and Soviet officials promised to continue exchanges between the regions, and Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper invited residents of Provideniya to visit Alaska.

The Soviets admitted making a mistake years ago when they forced natives from their villages. "At the time we thought it was expedient," said Vyacheslav Kobets, president of the region's Communist Party executive committee.

"It is our fortune that this situation was not carried on too long," Kobets said. "We consider it was a mistake. Every village now with native people will be developed in accordance with the needs of the native people."

The "Friendship Flight" two years in the planning by Alaskans, was approved this month by the Soviets.

NEWS CLIPPINGS IN
The Anchorage Times

Date: 6-14-1988

Alaska Airlines sponsored the flight and is hoping the one-time charter paves the way for twice-weekly tourist flights from Nome.

Provideniya may seem an unlikely tourist destination. It is a city of concrete block apartment buildings, peeling paint and muddy streets pocked with potholes. Remnants of the winter's packed ice remain in the harbor, and snow lingers on the gravel-domed mountains that cast long shadows on the city.

"The Soviets are a bit puzzled why we want to go to a place like Provideniya," said Bob Clarke, a State Department official on the flight.

But airline officials say curiosity about Siberia runs high. They are hoping tourists to Nome will pay to fly the extra miles to Provideniya.

Cruise ship lines also have applied for permission to dock at Provideniya.

District 16 GOPs set meeting to mull Menard challenger

By Bill Kelder
Times Valley Bureau

WASILLA — District 16 Republicans will meet tonight to decide on a write-in candidate for House Seat A, according to Tom Mechler, the district's GOP chairman.

The Republicans were left without a candidate for the House seat last week when incumbent Republican Curt Menard suddenly announced he had switched to the Democratic Party.

The announcement caught both Valley Republicans and local Democrat Chuck Vancura by surprise. Vancura had filed as a Democrat for the seat and had planned a strong six-month campaign. But Menard's switch threw Vancura's campaign timetable into disarray and, last Wednesday, he announced his withdrawal from the race at a local Rotary Club meeting.

But Vancura said Monday afternoon he had not yet officially notified the state Division of Elections of his decision. "There's still plenty of time for that," he said.

With Vancura's withdrawal it looked as though Menard might run unopposed this year, but the Republicans quickly announced they would seek a write-in candidate to oppose him in the November general election.

Mechler said Monday afternoon District 16's GOP Committee will name the write-in candidate at this evening's meeting. He declined to say who that would be. "That's up to the committee," he said.

Local Republicans mentioned as possible candidates include for legislator Barbara Lacher and local school board president Max Gleason, but both have said they are not interested in running they are not interested in running this year. Another name mentioned is Harold Newcombe, who ran an unsuccessful bid for another term as Wasilla's mayor last fall.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the Iditarod Elementary School.

4

Alaskans fly to a celebration in Siberia

Provideniya pours out a joyful welcome to passengers aboard ice-breaking flight

Yes, even cynics warm to the trip

By DAVID POSTMAN
Daily News reporter

PROVIDENIYA, U.S.S.R. — There's something powerful about being in the Soviet Union. As soon as we got here I gave one guy all my money and another my passport. All I have to do is land on communist ground and I immediately respect all authority.

I really wanted to be cynical, really. But this place is amazing. When the Alaska Airlines 737-200 landed here this morning, the Alaska passengers were greeted by hundreds of school children, workers, government officials and guys in some of the dozen or so military

See Back Page, **ACROSS THE STRAIT**

By HAL BERNTON
Daily News reporter

PROVIDENIYA, U.S.S.R. — An Alaska Airlines jet circled low over the coastal mountains of Siberia and made a bumpy landing on a gravel runway to kick off an unusual day of celebration in this Soviet gateway to the Arctic.

The "friendship flight" of 80 Alaska Natives, politicians, businessmen and journalists stepped off the plane to a smiling crowd of flag-waving children and Soviet officials bearing flowers.

The children and hundreds of older townspeople rushed past airport guards to encircle the Americans as U.S. and Soviet journalists struggled to capture the moment with cameras and notebooks.

"Today, so many people came and I see only smiles," said Oleg Ivanovich Kulinkin, chairman of the executive committee of the region of Provideniya.

"It's like a dream," said Ora Gologergen, a Yupik elder from St. Lawrence Island in

See Back Page, **FRIENDSHIP**

Photo by Dave Bean

Pilot Terry Smith looks out from the cockpit in Nome. Russian script says "City of Provideniya."

Anchorage Daily News/Dee Boyles

Photo by Dave Bean

Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle and Ian Stimpfle, 2, walk past an honor guard in Nome to board the flight to Provideniya.

FRIENDSHIP FLIGHT: Provideniya provides a warm welcome to Alaskans

Continued from Page A-1

Alaska. Before the Cold War, Gologergen had had crossed to the Siberian mainland by boat. At the airport, she discovered Uugsina, a long-lost Yupik friend from her childhood.

The Alaska Eskimos who made the flight had hoped to helicopter from Provideniya to the Siberian Yupik village of New Chaplino, but windy weather prompted Soviet officials to cancel the trip. Instead, the Alaska Eskimos met with their Soviet relations in the town's cultural center.

Caleb Pungowiyi, originally from St. Lawrence Island and now living in Nome, met 60-year-old Ludmilla Avanova-Ah, a cousin he didn't know he had.

"She came in and said her name and what her father's (last) name was and it was the same as my father's name," he said. "It's incredible. In a sense, it's like coming home. Even though we never met, it was like family right away. No hesitation."

Avanova-Ah told Pungowiyi that Siberian Eskimos are fighting the same battles as their Alaska relatives.

The friendship flight, led by Gov. Steve Cowper and Republican Sen. Frank Murkowski, arrived in Provideniya after a 40-minute flight from Nome across the Bering Strait. An Aeroflot navigator from Moscow helped Alaska Airlines pilots guide the jet across the international date line and into once-forbidden Soviet air space.

On the ground, Soviet officials divided the Americans into five groups and loaded them on buses for a six-mile trip around an ice-clogged fiord to the town center. The gravel and concrete roads wound past a heavily-industrialized port dominated by huge loading cranes from East Germany. The port hosts 450 cargo ships a year — more than the volume that annually passes through Anchorage — and employs nearly a fifth of the town's population of 5,000.

The port is a refueling stop for convoys that follow ice-breakers through the Arctic Ocean to resupply Siberia's vast interior. Many of the port workers — and those who labor in a nearby cement-brick plant — come from elsewhere in the Soviet Union to fulfill three-year employment contracts.

They take up residence in a town built largely of concrete and cement — buildings, main roads and docks. In this treeless tundra, wood is a scarce. The few touches of outside color are the soft pastel shades of the hospital's stucco walls and the faint green of hillside grasses.

Despite its drab appearance, the town offers some surprising amenities. A heated-saltwater swimming pool helps workers relax and gives school children a chance for daily exercise. The pool is in a sanitarium staffed by two doctors and several nurses. It features acupuncture and other exotic forms of therapy, including an electronic shower that bathes a patient in a flow of electronic current.

"It feels like bugs in my hair," said Carrie Dolan, a reporter for the Wall Street Journal who sampled the shower.

As the convoy of buses wound through town, people on the streets stopped to wave. From the windows of grimy apartment buildings, women and children smiled out at the tourists.

Speaking to a crowd from the front steps of the Provideniya town hall, Gov. Cowper said, "We are today re-establishing a bridge from our nation to yours, which has existed for thousands of years."

Some of the Americans toured the Little Ship Nursery School and kindergarten. About a dozen girls and boys in black exercise suits performed calisthenics to the rhythm of their teacher's clapping, and marched around the room, waving small hoops in unison.

In an elegant room next door, with child-size formal furniture and tapestry rugs, eight children painted at easels beneath a huge portrait of Lenin. The younger children, ages 2 and 3, were at lunch, learning proper posture and etiquette.

In summer, children go to nursery school and kindergarten from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Soviet officials in charge of the day's events tried to keep the Americans to a tightly scheduled itinerary, moving them through the port, factory and school tours with a glance at their watches and a nudge toward the buses.

At midday, the Americans were taken to a banquet hall to dine on cold cuts, caviar, hamburger (very well done), french fries and cake, washed down with local beer and mineral water.

With $10,000 in rubles they hit the street and cleaned out the town's stores and outdoor kiosks. They bought everything from Sputnik toothpaste to T-shirts commemorating the Bolshevik revolution.

Throughout the day, young Soviet children dogged the steps of any American visitor, offering to swap pins for any of the variety of mementoes — from baseball caps to bubble gum — brought from the United States.

Back at the banquet hall for dinner, politicians of both great and small office — from both sides of the Bering Strait — gave a series of long-winded speeches pledging friendship and future contacts.

Before a full house at the Provideniya Hall of Culture, a Native dance group from a town north of Provideniya danced and sang to the beat of drums. They were quickly joined on stage by some of the Alaska Eskimos in the audience.

□ Daily News reporter David Postman contributed to this report.

ACROSS THE STRAIT: It's not every day you get through the ice curtain

Continued from Page A-1

uniforms that are seen in town.

The children thrust trinkets into visitors' hands and pinned Lenin pins on everyone.

The kids went wild for the pins, chocolate bars and chewing gum we brought from the other side of the Bering Straits.

□

I felt really special, with kids wanting to shake my hand, just say hello or tell me their name. They obviously had worked hard to learn to say in English, "Hello, my name is Stefan." It wasn't until later that I realized they thought I was Billy Joel.

□

Calling cards were the hot item. The kids wanted them real bad. And then they wanted autographs. Even mine. They said something about always admiring my work.

□

Bruce Kennedy, the 13-year-old who runs Alaska Airlines — at least he looks 13 — gave reporters several warnings about not trashing Provideniya. He said bad press could kill any future flights. "You guys need to write about what a celebration it is, not what a terrible place Provideniya is."

So allow me to be circumspect. Provideniya is, well, special. Gov. Steve Cowper put it this way: "It's, uh, functional."

The buildings are tall, dreary and abandoned-looking. A party official proudly pointed out his home each of the four times we drove by. It, too, was tall, dreary and abandoned-looking, although it was not so tall and appeared to have been painted pink at one time.

Provideniya is sort of like Whittier.

□

At the health club at the Port of Provideniya was a little room where our guide told us tired workers could get "electrostatic showers to treat nervous disorder."

Sure.

□

Nearly everyone on the flight brought gifts for the Soviets. An Anchorage television reporter brought toilet paper but was too embarrassed to hand it out. Michael Cowper brought Girl Scout cookies. Baseball cards, Alascom and Alaska Airline hats, Frisbees and all sorts of Alaska paraphernalia were handed out.

But the best gift was given to Oleg Ivanovich Kulinkin, chairman of the executive committee of the region of Provideniya. Oleg got a Xerox machine and a portable generator for power.

It seems that's what Oleg wanted most from America. The machine was donated by Xerox and the generator bought by the Alaska Chamber of Commerce. Oleg was thrilled.

□

Before saying anything for the record, Soviet officials here say, "This is my personal opinion only," or something like that. This is very important.

But once they start talking they really go.

In fact, only Sen. Frank Murkowski seemed able to out-talk and out-proclamation the Soviets.

□

Cowper had the best line of the day when he talked about the purchase of Alaska from the czar: "In Alaska we understand that is why he was overthrown."

That got a big round of applause. Even bigger than when he presented a proclamation but said he wouldn't read it because it was too long.

□

Being in the Soviet Union was extraordinary. And watching long-lost friends and relatives find each other was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. This place is so close to Alaska but the people feel very far away. Flights like Friendship One can only help.

□

Since we're on the other side of the international date line, today is Wednesday. And since yesterday was Tuesday, I can tell you it will be cloudy today with sunny intervals.

Flight: Opens gateway to Soviet Union for future

Continued from page A-1

beria and kept in touch with relatives there until "the Iron Curtain came down."

The first clue that Gologergen's relatives still lived near the coast came a year ago, when a Soviet writer traveled to Nome. The writer, hoping to trace names in Nome back to Siberian family trees, stopped at the Gologergen household.

"I didn't trust him," said Gologergen. "I said, 'Why don't you write down names of your people and we'll take them?' So he did."

As he scanned the list, Gologergen spotted a familiar name. Family tradition lets grandparents name newborns, and it appeared that elders on each side of the Bering Strait had the same idea.

"I was surprised to find one of my daughters — Yatyawaghwun," Gologergen said. "My grandfather named her from our relatives who died over there. And the grandparents over there — I guess they used that same name when they had their kids."

Monday's flight is part of the dream of James Stimpfle, a real estate agent in Nome. When Alaska's oil recession began two years ago, Stimpfle brainstormed ways to improve the economy of his remote western Alaska town, pop. 3,700.

He figured that if the Alaska-Siberia border were opened, then Nome could become an economic and cultural center for both sides of the Bering Strait. In addition to freer travel by local residents, Stimpfle envisioned increased trade, joint business ventures, and tourist excursions by airplane and cruise ship between Nome and Siberia.

The barriers to such activity were — and still are — substantial. Though Siberia and Alaska lie only three miles apart at their closest points, the regions are a world apart politically and economically. Even a simple telephone call from Nome must be routed the opposite direction around the globe to reach Provideniya.

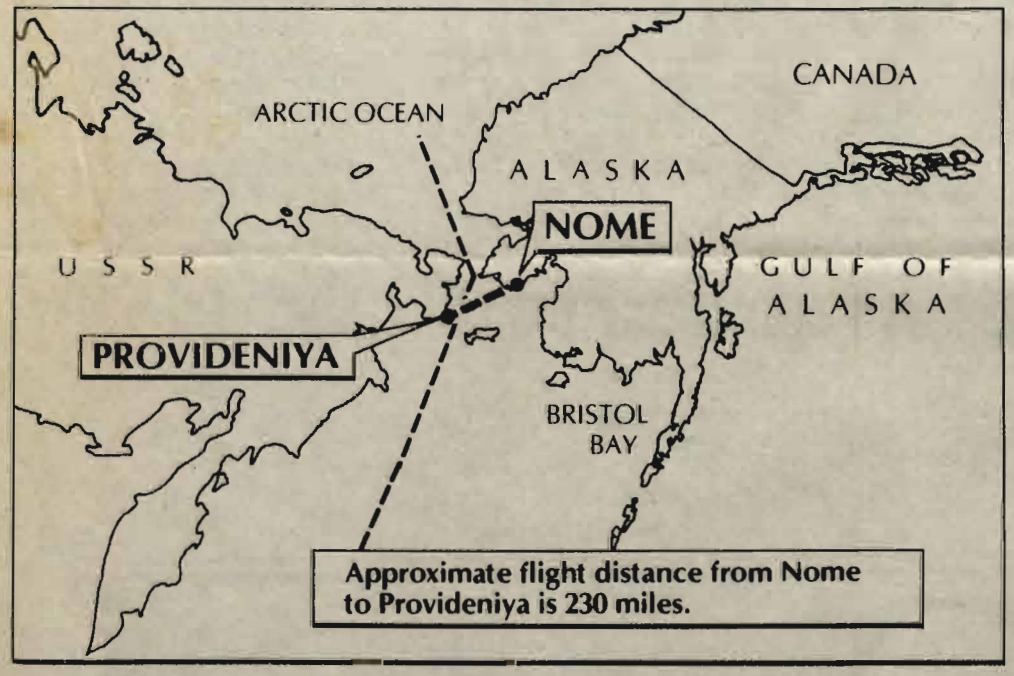
Officials in Washington, four time zones to the east, and Moscow, 12 time zones to the west, seemed content with the status quo.

So Stimpfle tried some attention-grabbing stunts. He launched balloons from Nome across the Bering Strait and pointed a huge Peace sign, in Russian, toward Siberia.

He also wrote hundreds of letters to Soviet and U.S. officials, urging the opening of the border. Slowly, people began to listen — especially after Alaska Airlines, the largest air carrier serving Alaska, hopped on the "friendship flight" bandwagon.

The airline is seeking permission to follow the one-time charter with twice-weekly tourist excursions between Nome and Provideniya.

The "friendship flight" has become part of a broader initiative that business leaders, educators, and state officials launched to improve Alaska relations with the Soviet Union. Those efforts, combined with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of openness, have started to chip away at the barrier between Alaska and Siberia.



Soviets enter U.S. airspace in joint search for hunters

By Susan Gallagher
Associated Press

The United States exercised a new agreement with the Soviet Union for the first time on Sunday as efforts to find seven Gambell walrus hunters continued, the Coast Guard said.

A Coast Guard C-130 entered Soviet air space to look for the hunters missing since June 2.

Under a search-and-rescue agreement signed during the May summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, only brief communication with a Soviet official was necessary for the plane to cross into Soviet air space, the Coast Guard said. Soviet vessels have participated in the search.

Sunday's search, which included a flight by Gov. Steve Cowper aboard an Alaska National Guard plane, turned up no evidence of the hunters. All are from a Gambell family and are believed to have pulled their two aluminum boats onto an ice floe off St. Lawrence Island.

Footprints observed on a floe were believed to be those of villagers involved in the search, Coast Guard spokesman Chris Haley said.

Aerial searchers found patches of good visibility on Sunday, he said.

"It was not ideal search weather, but far more acceptable than previously," Haley said.

"As long as the weather holds, the search will continue."

The Anchorage Times

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 13, 1988 25¢

They're off to Siberia for Eskimo clan reunion

Travel ban eased with U.S.S.R.

By David Foster
Associated Press

A "friendship flight" today between Alaska and Siberia will crack open a border closed for 40 years and briefly reunite Alaska Eskimos with long-lost relatives across the Bering Sea, organizers say.

The 225-mile hop from the western Alaska town of Nome to the eastern Siberia port of Provideniya will take only 45 minutes. But the short flight represents a big step for Alaskans who have worked for two years to ease a travel ban imposed in 1948.

The border was closed first by the United States and soon afterward by the Soviet Union as Cold War tensions mounted, separating Eskimos who once freely crossed the icy Bering Strait in motorboats and walrus-skin umiaks to trade and visit with relatives.

Soviet approval for a one-time charter flight to Provideniya came this month, clearing the way for 80 government officials, Eskimos and journalists booked aboard the Alaska Airlines Boeing 737. Provideniya officials are planning a full day for the visitors, including tours, a banquet, and a trip to an outlying native village.

"From a symbolic perspective, the trip represents the reopening of an old gateway between Alaska and the Soviet Union," said Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper, delegation leader. "I'm confident it will lead to better relations between our two countries for years."

Timothy Gologergen, 68, a Siberian Yupik Eskimo from Nome, said the flight is long overdue.

"This is the first chance to create peace towards our people and their people," he said. "This way we'll have a chance to find out if the relatives are still alive there someplace and open up a little trade."

Gologergen said his great grandfather migrated from Si-

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Times photo by Alice Puster

Betsy Hollis, an Alaska Airlines customer service agent, checks in passengers bound for the Siberian city of Provideniya today.

Warming relations led to first flight

By David Foster
Associated Press

Today's "friendship flight" between Alaska and Siberia is one of many recent events to focus attention on the Bering Sea, the only common border of the United States and Soviet Union.

Not all U.S.-Soviet interactions in this remote, frozen region have been so friendly. Here are some of the Alaska-Siberia events that have made headlines in recent years:

September 1984: A supply ship with five Alaska crewmen strayed off course in the Bering Strait and was seized near the Soviet island of Big Diomede. The crew and ship were taken to Siberia, then released after a week of questioning.

April 1986: John Weymouth, a drifter who had ambled around Alaska for months, decided to wander over to Soviet territory. He walked three miles across the pack ice from the U.S. island of Little Diomede to Big Diomede, where Soviets soldiers captured him. He was released two weeks later.

Friendship Flight

January 1987: Lazaro Castro of Santa Monica, Calif., became the Wanderer II by dashing across the ice to Big Diomede. He also was arrested by Soviet soldiers and released two weeks later.

August 1987: American endurance swimmer Lynne Cox got a warmer reception on Big Diomede. The Soviets granted her permission to swim the icy waters from Little Diomede to Big Diomede, where she and her entourage were treated to a picnic.

September 1987: A U.S. research ship was allowed to stop in Provideniya. On the way back, U.S. Customs agents confiscated souvenirs that crew members bought in the Siberian city, saying the Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits import of items made from seal or walrus.

November 1987: A delegation of Siberian medical researchers toured Alaska and signed a joint research agreement with University of Alaska officials, agreeing to study health and science problems shared by the two northern regions.

December 1987: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan discussed Alaska and Siberia at their Washington summit. Later, the U.S. State Department urged consideration of more open relations be-

See Flight, page A-8

Feb. 2, 1985 Conceived idea of opening the Bering Straits by raising consciousness throughout the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. through a performing tour across the Soviet Union dramatizing the separation of Soviet and American Eskimos, their tradition of peace, and on the fact that the 2 countries are separated by only 2½ miles of water.

March 15, 1985 (approx) Had proposals had carried to Moscow that described an Alaskan performing tour focused on opening the Bering Straits. Proposals received warmly by U.S./U.S.S.R. Friendship Society and Peace Committee.

February - Summer, 1985 Worked to raise money and consciousness throughout Alaska and Washington D.C. regarding the tour and the possibility of opening the Straits. Was told by everyone that the issue of opening the Straits was hopeless. Met with legislators, State leaders and business people. Appeared on radio, television and in numerous newspapers in Alaska and a fewEuropean countries. Traveled with Bella Hammond, wife of former Governor Hammond to remote Alaskan villages and met with Eskimos who had relatives in the Soviet Union, gaining their support for the project and finding performing artists to travel with us to Siberia.

Fall, 1985 Began rehearsals in Juneau, culminating with two large performances in December to raise consciousness regarding this effort. In November, APAP vice chairman Martin Behr traveled to Moscow to make arrangements with Soviets for January preliminary trip. Arranged for a New Year's Eve spacebridge between Juneau and Moscow.

December 31, 1985 Spacebridge terminated by Soviets 36 hours before air time. Since Eskimo performers had flown 2000 miles to Juneau to appear on spacebridge and other arrangements had been made, the t.v. station proceeded with the half hour program and it was aired on Alaska and U.S. stations, and eventually on Gosteleradio across the Soviet Union. The emphasis was on opening the Straits, the proximity of our countries and on the reunification of the Eskimo people.

January, 1986 Three week preliminary trip to Soviet Union. Made arrangements in Moscow and across Siberia for tour. Explored possibilities of tour members returning via Bering Straits. Alaska Eskimos performed on Soviet television, in museums and schools, for the Peace Committee and Friendship Society, and all 6 Alaskans were interviewed by Soviet press and radio. Invited Gennady Gerasimov, then editor of Moscow News to Alaska to familiarize himself with Bering Straits issue and separation of Eskimo peoples.

February - summer, 1986 Focused on Statewide fundraisers, received $63,000 from State legislature. Traveled to Soviet Union to make final arrangements for fall tour.

April, 1986 Gennady Gerasimov and myself traveled 2 weeks throughout Alaska and met with Eskimos, business people and State leaders regarding Bering Straits. Flew to Washington D.C. with Gerasimov to meet with Soviet officials and Alaska senators and representative.

September, 1986 Lost a promised $65,000 from a multi-national over the Danilof situation, when President Reagan threatened to halt cultural exchange.

October, 1986 5 days before departure flew performers into Anchorage to rehearse, at my expense. Still lacked $65,000. I and another performer mortgaged our homes so tour could take place.

October 9 - November 2, 1985 Wildly successful and highly publicized performing tour across Soviet Union. 18 performances. Thousands broke down doors to gain entrance, 4 and 5 standing ovations throughout each performance. World press conference in Moscow and one hour t.v. special at Gosteleradio.

November - winter, 1987...fund raisers to pay debts incurred by tour. Brought Yuri Rytkheu, famed Soviet author, Eskimo and Alaska Performing Artists for Peace co-chair to Alaska from Leningrad to travel with me around Alaska to Eskimo villages to discuss political situation and bring hope of opening the Bering Straits within 2 years. Yuri appeared in newspapers, television and radio shows all over State, and spoke to numerous audiences around Alaska.

Summer - 1987 Encouraged public officials and prominent Alaskans to write letters to Alaska delegation in Washington and prominent Soviets regarding opening of Bering Straits. Requested Alaska Federation of Natives to send a resolution on the opening to Senator Murkowski, and ex-governor Jay Hammond agreed to write a letter to Vice President Bush supporting the project. Continued to give interviews to radio, t.v. and newspapers regarding possibility of opening Straits.

September, 1987 toured with Chuna McIntyre, prominent Eskimo spokesman, throughout Alaska presenting a program entitled "An Eskimo's Vision of Hope: Melting the Ice Curtain", which consisted of slides and videotapes of the 1986 tour, a short history of the Yup'ik Eskimo tradition of peace, and the hope of opening the Straits and the re-unification of the Eskimo people.

October, November, December, 1987 toured United States making the above presentation to community groups, schools, universities and churches. Received press coverage in many communities, and the mayor of Austin declared a week of peace in honor of the Eskimos' hope of opening the Straits.

Winter, 1987 arranged for Gerasimov tour across U.S. Continued to write letters to Soviet and American officials and began plans for a 130 member Soviet/American performing troupe that focuses on the Eskimo/ tradition of peace and the proximity of the two countries.

April, 1988 accompanied Gerasimov on 3 week tour around the U.S. Appeared at press conferences and spoke to audiences regarding Bering Straits issue. Brought Gerasimov to Alaska and arranged for reception at Governor's Mansion in Juneau and for him to speak at the newly formed "Siberian Alaska Gateway Project" seminar on opening the Straits. With great difficulty persuaded Gerasimov to travel to Little Diomede to see for himself the proximity of our countries and the separation of our peoples. We were accompanied by ABC as a result of a meeting with Peter Jennings in New York.

May, 1988 Gerasimov returned to Moscow and took on opening the Bering Straits as his personal mission. Spoke to many Soviet officials but couldn't find anyone interested in this remote area. Showed footage of his tript to Alaska on his very popular t.v. show (estimated 200 million viewers) and announced on the air that there were thousands of Alaskans interested in opening the Straits to reunify the Eskimos and initiate commerce with Siberia but he couldn't find one Soviet that was interested.

May, 1988 I traveled to Moscow to confer with Gerasimov before the Summit in one last effort to open the Straits and obtain permission for Alaska Airlines' Friendship Flight. Gerasimov felt that the opening was unlikely because of the extreme reticence of Soviet officials. Within 48 hours he announced that permission for the flight had been granted and that the Straits were essentially opened.