



Photo by JOHN F.C. JOHNSON

George Flemming fills a water barrel behind the home where he lived until December in Thumb Bay of Prince William Sound's Knight Island.

Chenega helps member

Early last December a fire at the Prince William Sound Inn at the southern end of Knight Island in Prince William Sound left George Flemming virtually homeless. He and inn owner Marla Adkins and her grandson Joely barely escaped with the clothes on their backs.

Now, George, one of Chugach Native Association's eldest stockholders is heading back and has asked the corporation if he can lease some land to build himself a cabin.

He was the last caretaker of the Port Oceanic herring reduction plant and saltery and when Adkins bought the property a few years ago to turn it into an inn, George went along and has been keeping the power plant and other machinery working

for the inn.

The fire destroyed the main inn building plus a bunkhouse and the home where the three of them lived.

Born in 1902, Flemming had been a commercial fisherman and held several other jobs, rarely venturing even as far as Cordova. He made his first trip to Anchorage just two years ago. He was born on Flemming Island in the southwestern part of the sound.

Although Chugach hasn't received patent to its land yet, Chenega Village Corp. voted unanimously to allow Flemming to lease some land on the western side of the island named for his family. Because of his special circumstances, the lease terms were \$1 per year.