

# Venetie, Arctic Village elect new councils

By Bill Hess

Tundra Times Staff

Election results from Venetie and Arctic Village are in. Eddie Frank has been chosen as First Chief in Venetie, with Dan Frank as Second Chief. Council members include Lawrence Roberts, Neil Henry, Clifton Frank, John Erick, Jr., and Elizabeth Peters.

Allen Tritt has been elected to serve as First Chief of Arctic Village. Ernie Peter is Second Chief, Arron Tritt, secretary; Albert Gilbert, treasurer; and Jim Christian, Sergeant at Arms. Council members include Gideon James, Isaac Ross, and Kias Peter, Jr.

The woman's club of Venetie also held its elections, placing Annie Frank in as Chief, Eunice Williams as Second Chief, and Myra Peters, Nena Roberts, and Joyce John as officers. Marlene Pritt was chosen as alternate.

"The village council doesn't really face any big issues right now," Venetie Chief Eddie Frank says. "We're just getting our papers together."

Frank says the council is responsible to see that the no-alcohol law in Venetie, and the curfew, are enforced. The no-alcohol law has been in effect in this community of 150 for many years, Frank says, and has resulted in a very pleasant town.

"It's been pretty nice," Frank boasts. "You don't have to worry about fights; it's just a wonderful place to live. You don't have to worry about locking your door, or about other families getting into trouble." There is virtually no crime rate, Frank claims. If a person does bring alcohol in to Venetie, he will be given a warning. After three such warnings, he will be given a ticket to leave.

Satellite television has recently come to Venetie, and is supplementing cards and other pastimes as one way to fill long, alcohol-less Arctic nights. "We really enjoy it," Frank says. "We get statewide news up here now. We get to see all that happens in Alaska."

Just as soon as the weather

rises above the 30 to 50 below temperatures which have gripped Venetie these past few weeks, hunters will go out in search of game, and a potlatch will be held to honor the new council.

## Mt. Edgecumbe

By IRVING UNGUDRUK

Mount Edgecumbe correspondent

When I brought home the January 6th edition of the Tundra Times, I told Mabel, "They made me their Mt. Edgecumbe correspondent." Then we shared again the segment of All in The Family, where Lionel Jefferson asked Archie, "Can I call you Uncle Archie?" Archie said, "Lionel, I think that is against the law." When Edith came in, she asked, "What did Lionel want?" Archie replied, "He made me his uncle."

Besides graduating to become the Native leaders in Alaska, and in the other states, the Mount Edgecumbe students have made many contributions to the city of Sitka and the surrounding towns and villages. One contribution is memorable to me because of my personal taste in music.

When we arrived on Japonski Island in the early fifties, Mount Edgecumbe High School had a live radio program over Sitka's KIFW. The program was called "The Harbor Mountain Boys," the stars being two students from the Yukon River villages, Herbie Joe and Gordon Olin. The music was good country and western. Herbie sang in the style of that great country singer Hank Williams, with maybe some Jimmie Rodgers, the railroad singer, thrown in. Gordon sang too, but his steel guitar was something else. Among the favorites in my tape collections are Herbie's "If Teardrops were Pennies, and Heartaches were Gold" and Gordon's flawless rendition of the "Steel Guitar Rag." During the life of the radio show, other Mount Edgecumbe artists joined Gordon and Herbie. The names of Carl McIntyre and Alexander "Buzz" Brown come to mind. Some of the other student

contributions have been: Authentic Alaska Native songs and dances in authentic Native dress. One year we were treated to a demonstration of the curious Siberian Yupik marriage ceremony by students from Saint Lawrence Island. The man and the woman are tied together by a rope, so when I read of some people "tying the nuptial knot," my thoughts go back to that demonstration. A student from Wainwright showed us how to carry a baby in her ateegi. A small blond baby was loaned to her by one of the teachers. Of course, the annual Alaska Native games of strength and skill are always well attended.

## South Central

Lillie McGarvey, a director of the Aleut Regional Corp. has been elected president of the South Central Health Planning and Development Inc.

McGarvey has served on numerous commissions and councils to improve the welfare of Alaska Natives, most recently on the Health Task Force for American Indian Policy Review Commission and the National Indian Health Board.

She also is assisting the Aleutian region schools in gathering science, language, history and art materials from Aleut people for inclusion in their school curriculum. McGarvey was born in Unalaska and now lives in Anchorage.

George Peratrovich, formerly from Klawock and now Bethel, was elected vice-presi-

dent. Peratrovich is the Project Officer at the Bethel Public Health Service Unit. He also has been a hospital administrator, finance management specialist, and commercial fisherman.

Bill Orfitelli, a self-employed finance and business consultant, was elected secretary/treasurer. He has

worked for the Anchorage Council on Alcoholism, the Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and has assisted small business through the accounting association.

Orfitelli holds a B.A. in economics and came to Alaska from New England in 1973.