

SPECIAL REPORT

Study shows BIA schools less costly to rebuild

(Continued from Page Thirteen) ating four separate elementary school buildings. Consequently new construction is recommended.

Tununak: Enrollment of 63 in K-8 and 97 in 9-12. An addition to the high school would cost only 7.8 percent more than upgrading the elementary school building so the former is the preferred alternative.

In order for students to begin the 1982-83 school year in the former BIA buildings, some immediate life-safety code upgrading had to be accomplished, Peterson said. Fire alarms and exit lights were installed in all classroom buildings. This was accomplished with \$300,000 in fiscal 1982 federal funds with an additional \$120,000 in school district funds expended, he noted.

Some \$843,000 in additional costs are anticipated for next fall's classes, he continued. These expenditures will be necessary, unless fire marshall regulations could be waived, to meet what is labelled "life-safety priority number two." This would involve sheetrocking of school furnace rooms, covering exposed electrical wiring, and installing sprinkler systems in classrooms, said Peterson.

So far, Senator Sackett,

who is co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, hasn't heard about any similar preliminary work in the three other affected REAA school districts, his staffer said. Bering Straits is operating former BIA elementary schools in four villages. Lower Yukon has inher-

ited BIA schools in two villages and Chatham REAA has had to take over one former BIA school.

In the next two years, the remaining 20 elementary education school programs operated by the BIA in Alaska will be transferred to the state.

Ten more of these are within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Lower Kuskokwim School District.

State sentiments were echoed by Education Commissioner Lind at a recent hearing of the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

on school foundation funding. "We do not feel the federal government should walk away and leave facilities that are less than adequate," he said. "The state will pick up the operating costs. The federal government has a responsibility to bring facilities up to code."

AFN honors Sohio president in Juneau

At an Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) reception in Juneau recently, Sohio Alaska Petroleum Company President, George N. Nelson, received a special award in appreciation of his continued support of the Alaska Native community.

Presenting the award on behalf of the AFN Board of Directors was Willie Hensley, President of NANA Development Corporation. It was the first award ever given by the AFN to a member of Alaska's petroleum industry.

"I was extremely surprised and grateful for the award," Nelson commented. "We have made a concerted effort to develop good working relationships with our Native neighbors. As oil development continues into the future, I'm certain we will strengthen

those relationships."

Made of polished jade, the award itself was from the NANA region — the Jade Mountain mine on the Kobuk River, in northwestern Alaska. The jade was crafted by Pete Schaeffer, manager of Jade Mountain Products, in Kotzebue. He is brother of John Schaeffer, President of NANA Regional Corporation.

Among 250 attending the AFN reception were Juneau Mayor, Bill Overstreet, Governor Bill Sheffield, members of the legislature and administration, key members of the Native community, Juneau civic leaders and citizens.

Since Prudhoe oilfield development began on the North Slope in the 1970s, Sohio has actively encouraged Native-owned businesses to provide

operational support to the oil industry in areas such as camp catering, security, drilling and

general oilfield services, sewage and waste disposal, and general labor.



George N. Nelson, right, receives a special AFN award from Willie Hensley.

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