

Selawik Holds Its First High School Prom

By DARLENE SKIN
Selawik, Alaska

SELAWIK — Brenda Jones and Gary Ramoth were the king and queen of Selawik High School's first prom on March 23. The theme was "Shamrock Fantasy," as the prom had been scheduled for the week before but was postponed because of carnival in a neighboring community.

The prom was a big success and everyone had a good time wearing fine clothes and dancing in the beautifully decorated school. I am sending a picture of our king and queen and would like to give credit to the Anchorage Women's Club for helping us get formal clothes.

There has been so much going on in Selawik lately that it has been hard to find time to stop and write about it. March 27



KING AND QUEEN — Selawik High School had its first prom and it impressed everyone. Gary Ramoth and Brenda Jones were picked as King and Queen of the occasion.

was the beginning of the Friend's Church Midyear Conference here and 544 visitors were in town for that.

Extra excitement was provided on Saturday, March 30, when the school warehouse burned to the ground. The fire started about 3:30 in the afternoon when a furnace apparently blew up.

There was no chance to contain the fire even though the blaze was fought by over 100 men. Selawik would like to thank all the visitors who helped, especially the expert cat driver from Barrow who helped push snow onto the blaze.

In the fire Selawik lost all the food supplies for the school, paper supplies, janitorial supplies, tools and many other valuable items. One of the teachers tried to rescue the water pump but was unable to do so.

We were soon out of water to fight the fire until the Kotzebue Fire Department flew over a water pump and hose. The fire did not stop burning completely for two days and popping cans of food and who knows what added excitement at intervals.

The state fire marshal has been here and apparently the warehouse will be replaced. Many things were lost, which

cannot be replaced such as dogsleds almost completed, built by seventh and eighth grade boys.

Also the Northern Lights Restaurant lost a brand new soft ice cream machine they had just leased to replace the 25 year old machine they bought last year. The total loss was about \$100,000.

March 9, the business teacher, Chuck Johnston went to Anchorage and made some arrangements for the students' business trip. Student's left for Anchorage on April 1. Gary Ramoth, 9th grader, is working at Pepsi Cola to learn to repair Soda Fountains.

Also in Anchorage on a work experience program are Flora Lee and Brenda Jones, 9th graders, Gene Foster, 11th Eleanor Loon, Thelma Jones & Ethel Ticket, 10th graders, are working at McDonalds and J. B. Gottsteins. Ben Foxglove Jr., 11th grader, Chuckie Riley, 10, are both working at the First National Bank.

We know these students will have a valuable work experience in Anchorage. This program is funded by Johnson O'Malley. This week the health aides from all over Northwest Alaska are having a Mental Health Conference in Selawik. We are glad to have them here.

Next time I'll write and tell you about Selawik's Spring Carnival on April 13 and my trip to Anchorage to attend the Future Homemakers of America Conference.

Ayek and Silver Hand Perform

ANCHORAGE — Protecting consumers and helping to preserve Native culture are the twin benefits that Sylvester Ayek, a Native artisan, sees in the Silver Hand identification program.

Silver Hand stickers and tags are attached to Alaskan Native crafts so that buyers can distinguish Native-made products from imitations.

Ayek, 33, who now lives in Anchorage, was born and raised on King Island off the coast of Western Alaska where he began carving ivory into beautiful shapes and forms.

"I've been carving ever since I can remember," he says. "As a boy, my father taught me how to work with ivory. In the summer months, we would go to Nome to carve and sell our work."

Today Ayek creates elegant pieces not only of ivory, but

also of soapstone, wood, alabaster and other materials at the Visual Arts Center across from the Anchorage International Airport.

The craftsman is disturbed by the influence of non-Native, non-Alaskan products sold on the market.

"Often tourists, and Alaskans themselves for that matter, are fooled by items they believe are made in Alaska by Natives," he says. "These things come from other parts of the U.S., Canada and Japan. In many cases, they're not even hand-made. They're mass produced!"

Since the inception of the Silver Hand identification program in 1971, Ayek feels that Native craftsmen have been better able to compete with non-Native products. More importantly, he believes the program

has helped to sustain and promote the continued growth and development of Alaskan Native art.

Ayek's work, which includes kayaks, bears, Native children and hundreds of other forms, is a blend of the traditional and the modern. Says Ayek, "I want to retain the best elements of the traditional forms and go on from there. It is only appropriate that I should get ideas from the old culture. And it's just as appropriate and healthy to experiment and absorb new ideas."

But whether the work produced is in traditional styles or more modern and abstract ones, says Ayek, it is important that the Silver Hand be used to protect both customers and artists. He highly recommends its use to fellow craftsmen, customers and shop owners.

Getting Set For Whaling

By GUY OKAKOK

Barrow Correspondent

BARROW — Mr. Vincent Nageak, 71 years of age, resident of Barrow said early this morning, that the whaler owners of canoe, are putting a new cover for Umiak. Seven good sizes for Oogrook skins are always enough for 26-footer canoe frame. Mr. Nageak said, he wanted to bring his wife Rhoda, but she doesn't want to. Mr. Nageak will leave Fairbanks to Barter Island first thing tomorrow morning. He's the man who always outrun the polar bear. I myself have seen it done couple of times. Once I saw Vincent, as I was going home dragging a polar bear skin, meats inside. Vincent never notice me, as he was busy throwing chunks of ice to this

This polar bear never did want to move anymore. I went over to him, then when I came to the place where he was, I called him by his name. He turned around and saw me.

What are you doing here cousin. Cousin when I saw you throwing ice at this bear, I thought you were out of ammunition. No he answered and said, to me I have lots of ammunition, I only wants to get him closer to the safe place, but instead this bear won't want to move anymore.

I asked him if this bear wounded or something. No. Alright Guy, Vincent said, lets kill him here. He shot at him. I shot. Then we both butchered him.

We both came home late that day. We know each other in our younger days, especially when we hunt polar bears.

NICE TO SEE THEM

Its very nice to see the old friends from North once again. People who we haven't been with. Names as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Wier Negovana, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Allen Ahveogana, Mr. and Mrs. James Kagak, Mr. and Mrs. Davic O. Kagak, Mrs. Mattie A. Bodfish and Lizzie Ahgavak. All from Wainwright. Came down for placing an Eskimo dancing program. All came over to my place for lunch right after morning service.

BLM

Land Issues

By JOETTE STORM

Q: How many different kinds of land grants did the State of Alaska receive and how much land is it entitled to?

A: Prior to Statehood, Alaska was to receive two sections per township for the purposes of education. Under this old law, two sections in every township would be reserved for the State at the time the township was surveyed. At Statehood, Congress made three grants which wiped out the education grant. The first of these allows the State to select 400,000 acres of National Forest lands for community purposes. Another allows the State to select 400,000 acres of public domain for community purposes. In addition, a general grant of 102,550,000 acres was made. The State has 25 years in which to select these lands.

Under the Mental Health Act of 1956, the State was entitled to select 1 million acres within a 10 year period. To date more than 990,000 acres of mental health lands have been tentatively approved—for patent or patented. The State also received a university grant of 100,000 acres.

The State's total entitlement is 104,450,000.

GAS LINE . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

going from Prudhoe Bay into Canada?"

"With all this at stake," he said, "our Republican contingency in Washington would have us adopt a wait-and-see approach . . . I say I know which line is best for Alaska. The trans-Alaska line."

Hensley urged Central District Democrats not to let the state become "uncontrollable." "Let's prevent the Los Angeles-ization of Alaska," he pleaded. "Let's determine our own unique Alaska lifestyle!"

**AUTHENTIC
NATIVE
HANDICRAFT
FROM ALASKA**



**LOOK
FOR
THIS
EMBLEM**

...IT MEANS YOU'RE BUYING THE REAL THING!

The Silver Hand emblem is your guarantee that the article you purchase is a genuine, made-in-Alaska craft item. Using traditional methods and materials, Alaskan Native craftsmen and artists painstakingly hand-craft and finish the many different types of articles which bear this symbol. By looking for the Silver Hand, you'll be certain about the craft objects you buy—certain that they are authentic...Alaskan.

Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Identification Program,
State of Alaska, Department of Economic Development.

Presented in the public interest by this publication.