



Good grades must be earned

Juniors Leah Thompson of Bettlesfield and Teddy Hamilton from Emmonak (below), watch from a position of honor as their upper-classmates receive their diplomas. The juniors are now faced with the question of where they will graduate. Hamilton says he wants to graduate at Edgecumbe, which he believes offers a better variety of courses and activities, and a stronger academic atmosphere, than anywhere else he might attend. James Savok, Jr., has attended school in several places in Alaska and the Lower 48, and claims Edgecumbe is the best place he has seen. "They grade very hard here," says Savok, "that makes you work hard to get a good grade . . . I like it here, and I'll do anything in order to stay here." The announcement that Edgecumbe will be closed next year for upgrade and repair work means that "anything" will not be enough.



Some of Alaska's most powerful political leaders have graduated from Edgecumbe. Eleanor Weedman, of New Stuyahok, plans to major in political science in college, and has already learned a great deal about lobbying. Weedman led the student effort to save Edgecumbe, heading a drive which netted over 1,000 letters sent to the influential people of Alaska. She personally visited with many legislators in Juneau, and delivered a number of speeches. After graduating she increases her influence a bit more by visiting with commencement speaker Steve McAlpine, Lt. Governor of Alaska.



Pride radiates all over from Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Kapotak of Koliganek as they flank their newly graduated daughter, Anna Marie. Mrs. Kapotak remembers the loneliness she felt when her daughter first left home for Edgecumbe, but feels it was all worth it. "I'm really proud of my daughter, that she would graduate from high school," she says. "I only go to the fourth grade." "I want to see them keep this school open again," added her husband, a commercial fisherman. "It seems like to me they get more education here . . . I've been pushing my children, telling them to work hard." Anna Marie plans to attend college at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Wilson Sam and his wife Eleanor also traveled far to witness the graduation of their son, Jefferson. "I wish I had had an opportunity like this," said Sam of Huslia, who did not attend school. "I hope they don't close it," added his wife. "I've got three more kids that need to finish!"