

Brave Handicapped Girl Supports Herself

An elementary school youngster whose severely damaged ears pulled a curtain of silence between her and the teacher is today a poised, personable young woman supporting herself as a typist.

Ear problems began plaguing Carol Capsul when she was a toddler in the Yukon Village of Holy Cross. As they grew more severe, her hearing grew correspondingly dimmer.

Meanwhile, because of another illness she underwent surgery for spinal fusion.

Following the death of her father when she was a preschooler, and of her mother when she was 12, Carol came to Anchorage to live with an aunt, Alberta Fisher, an employee of Alaska Native Medical Center.

Carol enrolled at Central Junior High School and it was then that her hearing problem became so acute that she was unable to follow the eighth grade instructional program.

Separate operations on each ear arrested the spreading infection, but left her completely deaf, and special schooling had to be arranged.

Four years at Utah School for the Deaf in Ogden provided Carol with a high school diploma and an excellent ability to read lips. During summer school vacations in Anchorage she worked as a library aid.

A business course equipped her with the office skills she was seeking to qualify as a full time office worker, and now she is employed as a typist in the stenographic pool at the Alaska District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Carol is an unusually mature, self-reliant girl," her supervisors

have said, noting that her next ambition is to qualify for a driver's license so she can drive herself to work every day, another evidence of her sturdy independence.