

# UA scientists study Harding Lake

FAIRBANKS—University of Alaska scientists engaged in intensive research of Harding Lake near Fairbanks are calling on the public for assistance—for any knowledge or photos relative to the historic development of the lake.

In 1973 the university's Institute of Water Resources began the project, titled "The Nutrient Chemistry of a Large, Deep Lake in Subarctic Alaska," with financial support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Scientists hope the information developed will be useful in predicting the lake's future and the future of other similar Alaskan lakes. The multi-faceted study includes an evaluation of chemical, biological, and physical data from the relatively unpolluted lake.

Principal investigators in the project are Dr. Timoth Tilsworth, Jacqueline LaPerriere, and Lawrence Casper.

One particular facet of the study has been the gathering of information on the history of the lake. This study is being directed by graduate assistant Lucy McCarthy, who has not only researched the history of the lake but has delved into its development as a recreational resource.

"Historical source material has been very limited because the Harding Lake area was not within the immediate gold rush development or settlement area," she says. "Rather, the Harding Lake area, and its use as a recreational resource has been a slow but steady development from the 1920s to the present."

Persons who can be of assistance in this research are urged to write her, care of the Institute of Water Resources, Box 95103, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.