

NATIVE ASSISTANCE CENTER AT ANCHORAGE

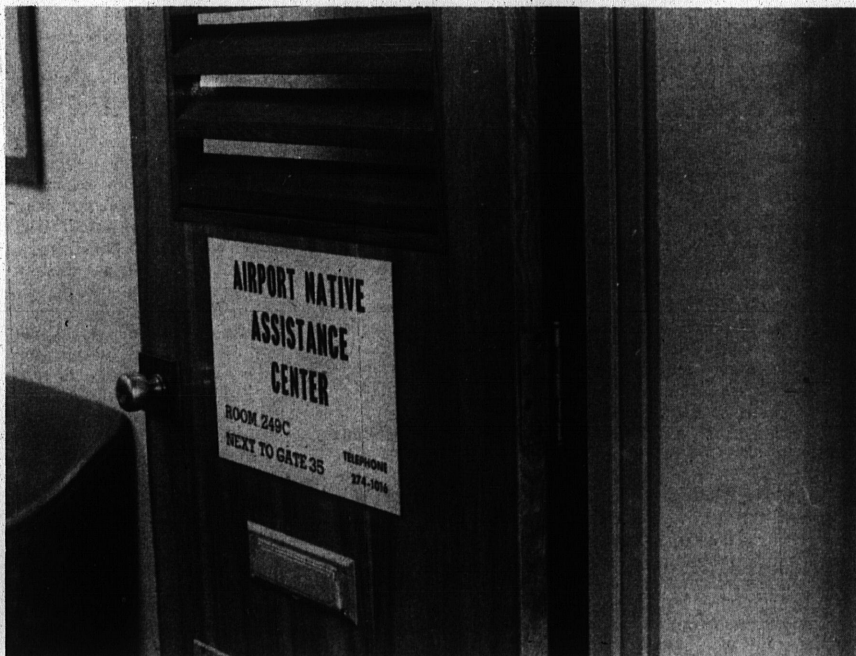


HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST—Mrs. Bertha Peavy of Wainwright provides native travelers with all types of assistance during their stay at Anchorage International Airport. Her office provides a friendly haven for weary travelers as well. Not all travelers are welcomed with open arms but when Kate Brower (left) of Barrow arrived to catch a plane home it was a grand occasion. Mrs. Brower was in Anchorage attending a conference on Alaska Crippled Children.



HOMESICK AND DESOLATE—Evan Kusma, Jr. came to Anchorage this week to go to the ANS hospital. He and his father found the native assistance office a good place to relax and wait for transportation.

—Photos by MADELYN SHULMAN



SIGN OF THE TIMES—These black and white signs dot the Anchorage terminal, directing native travelers who need assistance to this little office next to the Airport Manager's office.

Bertha Offers Large Doses of Hospitality

By following the directions on a small black and white sign in the Anchorage International Airport, TUNDRA TIMES stumbled upon an office which provide many helpful services for traveling natives.

This is the Native Assistance Center, located next to Wien Gate 34 in the new terminal. There, in a gaily decorated office and lounge, Mrs. Bertha Peavy provides services to natives passing through the Anchorage Air Terminal.

The Airport Center is funded by the Greater Anchorage Area Community Action Project.

From there, Mrs. Peavy, a pleasant middle aged Eskimo woman from Wainwright, meets planes coming into the airport—offering her services and those of her office to native people who may need assistance. These include many older native people who may be lost in the big city, or ill on the way to the

hospital.

Mrs. Peavy speaks several Eskimo dialects and translates when needed. She will call into town to locate officials, relatives or friends.

At the airport center, they are treated to large doses of hospitality, often supplemented by coffee, directions and help with phone calls and transportation. The center publishes a guide for the visitor to Anchorage giving numbers of temporary places to stay, native health services, and other local services in the Anchorage Area.

"We don't leave our people stranded out at the airport," commented Mrs. Peavy. Soon she hopes to have a coffee pot, 24 hour services, newly painted murals on the walls and a new sign:

INUPIAT—IKA YUK TAT identifying the office as a place where help is to be found.