



Shown here with his wife, Thelda, Dennis J. Tiepelman is the new executive director for Kotzebue Area Health Corporation delegate agency of AFN, Inc. Health Affairs Division. He was hired November 1973.

Tiepelman Executive Director at KAHC

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., Health Affairs Division, hired Dennis J. Tiepelman as Executive Director for its delegate agency, the Kotzebue Area Health Corporation.

Tiepelman was hired on Nov. 6, 1973.

Dennis grew up in Alaska in the northwest country around the Kotzebue-Deering area. He lived in this area for 21 years before accepting employment with the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Wingate, N.M.

His grandparents were of Eskimo heritage and so was his mother. His father was a Kiowa Indian from Oklahoma but he was brought up in the Eskimo tradition.

He attended all his elementary education at Deering and graduated in May, 1962. He said he completed his eight-year elementary schooling in six years. He then entered Friends High School at Kotzebue.

The following year he transferred to Sitka, Alaska and entered the BIA boarding high school, the Mt. Edgecumbe High School.

"I learned quite a bit and

participated in extra-curriculum activities," Dennis Tiepelman said.

He went out for track and field events but considered himself as "mediocre" in those events but considered his schooling in civic affairs as more successful. He became editor of the school newspaper. In his senior year, he was elected class president.

When he finished high school he was among 135 graduating students and finished tenth among the considered bright students.

"As it turned out, I was the tenth highest graduate of my class, and it was an achievement when I consider the amount of goof off I did," reflected Dennis.

He also received a scholarship to go to college during his high school senior year.

In 1966, Dennis entered Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. He attended the full four years there and graduated in December of 1971. He studied in the field of education with a double major of English and psychology and graduated with an overall grade point average of 3.00 and "was eligible to teach in secondary education."

Soon after graduation, he began working for the government. He also went back to graduate school at the University of New Mexico for an entire summer and completed nine semester hours in educational administration.

On Feb. 4, 1971, Dennis began working as a supervisory guidance counselor for the BIA at Fort Wingate High School, Fort Wingate, N.M. He was successful as a supervisor and educator in guidance.

The following year, he applied for more training and was

one of 12 applicants out of a possible 80 to receive training under the BIA Indian Administration Program.

The course involves work experience and on-the-job experience. He said he was still in this training originally set up for a five-year period.

The phases of administration and the training has been set up as follows: recruitment placement, six months; employee relations, six months; training and development, six months; labor relations and FFO, six months; and classification, three years.

"The training," explains Dennis Tiepelman, "was designed to acquaint me with all phases of personnel actions and specialize in classification which is a complex part of management that deals in setting up jobs, pay schedules and other related items."

"I have considered myself," continued Tiepelman, "successful as a person and a worker. The past three years, I have been in a position to supervise people and I have learned a great deal in the process."

"I consider myself an educator and one who has had success as a supervisor of employees. Such background is necessary in these times and I feel I can contribute to a variety of jobs."

"I am by no means trying to be all things but if I can apply certain situations and tasks to the background I have, I know that I can be a success. Any job will consider a variety of factors and I consider the human element as the prime consideration of doing any job."

"It takes people to run things, to get things done and in the final analysis, make a person and the job successful."

Dennis Tiepelman is married to former Thelda Haley of Twin Lakes, N.M. Thelda is full-blooded Navajo. They were married in April of 1972.