

Letters

(Continued from Page 2)

high school building, which was scheduled for final inspection on December 12 before the AVEC power went off on November 16.

Our senior class has been waiting for three years to attend school in that new building after double shifting and being crowded. The emergency power which AVEC finally provided after 18 days when you requested action is inadequate. They repaired a 100 kw generator which cannot begin to serve the community adequately. We have continual power failures and the plant is using five quarts of oil a day and obviously is not running properly and cannot handle the load. Soon we may well be in the dark again once more without school.

The present conditions of 200 students in a building with no water and toilet facilities would be unacceptable anywhere else in the country. Several cases of hepatitis have been reported in the Kotzebue hospital and we know of others in the area. There is a lot of sickness in Selawik now and the clinic has been extensively damaged by the power failure.

It will perhaps cost as much

as \$40,000 or more to replace school boilers and damaged equipment caused by AVEC's neglect. Public utilities have no apparent responsibility for damages to consumers. We realize that inadequate power and power problems now exist in Noorvik, Shungnak, Kivalina, Pt. Hope, and other AVEC villages. We are in sympathy with their problems but have suffered a greater loss than any of the other villages.

We have seen a priority list of which states Kiana and Noorvik's new generators (the generator in Noorvik was destined for Selawik but went to Noorvik when their plant burned) have priorities to be hooked up before Selawik. As a class of 12 seniors (114 high school students) we are asking why these schools of 50 and 15 have priority over us? There are more of us who have been waiting much longer to move into a new high school building here.

We are an independent school district and not BIA or SOS. We have an excellent high school program which many people have praised. Our business program, "The Northern Lights Restaurant", has received nationwide publicity. We are writing this letter in a class for college credit which is also taught at AMU. Not many larger schools have a better academic and vocational program to offer.

All of us hoped to finish our school year in the new high school building. Final inspection was supposed to be December 12. We had basketball games scheduled for January. Who knows if some of us will ever get to play ball in that school gym as students. The windows are boarded up, the doors are nailed shut, and the construction company cannot complete its job without adequate power.

If all these conditions existed in a community the size of Selawik anywhere else there would be a big uproar and immediate action. The severity of the conditions here should make us a number priority on AVEC's list. We understand they have many problems and not enough people to solve them. Maybe someone better find out why?

Governor Hammond, we are still a disaster area and all that has been done to alleviate our problems is the band aid approach. If something more isn't done soon there will be a further problem and we will be without school again. Our houses get cold at forty below without electricity to work the fans on stoves. Pumping oil is very difficult without power.

If AVEC is allowed to ignore our situation much longer for whatever reason, we remain a disaster area with huge problems unsolved and ignored by the


people of this state. We read in the paper that the state plans to sell oil leases in the Selawik basin. Meanwhile other people elsewhere are living comfortably and well from the pipeline promise, and we can't even get minimal living standards for our community. We know there are many villages like us in Alaska but few our size or a first class city and none who have had such a lengthy school closure or the immediate likelihood of more of the same.

Why can't something be done to give us adequate power to live and for the construction company to complete our high school? Are the wheels of justice really that slow and isn't there anyone who can force a utility to provide service to its consumers. We wish state officials and others concerned would visit Selawik and experience our problems and perhaps someone would care enough to do more than provide the substandard conditions we have now.

Governor Hammond, we seniors would like to go to classes in that new high school building. We should have been there before Christmas, and now it looks like an impossible dream. We need your help and that of anyone who can see that we need some kind of fair treatment. We respectfully request your immediate attention in solving our

Sincerely,
SHS Seniors

cc: Howard Rock
Marshall Lind
Fred McGinnis
Lloyd Hodson
Bonner & Hegdahl
Anchorage Daily Times



Is the first mate threatening you with walking the plank if she doesn't get a change from cabin duty?

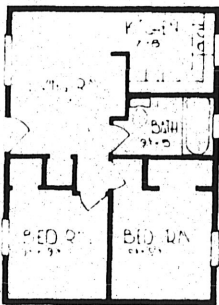
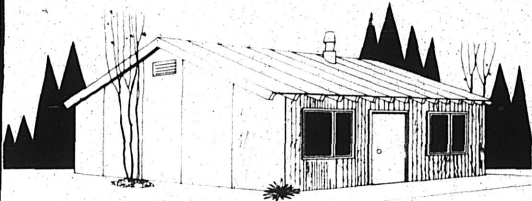
Spend the weekend at the Captain Cook!

For information on our special weekend package, see your travel agent or write:
Hotel Captain Cook Weekender
P.O. Box 2280
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

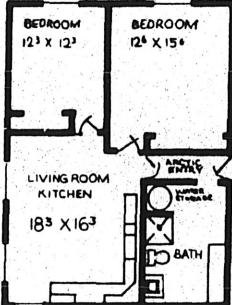
The hotel
Captain Cook

Independent Lumber Co., Inc.

is pre-cutting houses for Alaskans designed in Fairbanks for the north climate



THE OWL
20 x 28, \$5,320.00



THE RAVEN
24 x 32, \$7,249.00

Send for Your Free Catalog

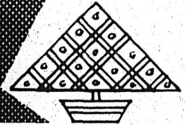
Home Planning Dept.
Independent Lumber Inc.
2030 Cushman
Fairbanks, Alaska

Please send me my free catalog

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

As books go,

BOOKS



You've never read, or seen, one like this one!

"LONGEST REINDEER HERDER" is the title of this, the most unusual book that was ever written. Its author is Chester Asakak Seveck, a full-blooded elderly Eskimo. Chester wrote the book in his own way of talking English. Broken English? Yes. Does it make sense? Definitely, yes.

This is the way Chester does it:

"HOW HAVE LONG LIFE"
"For long live and joy life, I believe these things — Keep busy and do good work. Have much exercise. Eat good food, no waste anything and every day enjoy what it gives and do not spoil this day with much worry of tomorrow.

"Be happy. I know this way how I be "Longest Reindeer Herder." Start 1908, finish 1954, altogether 46 years herd reindeer."



A PRIME ITEM FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING

LONGEST REINDEER HERDER

By CHESTER ASAKAK SEVECK

\$2⁶⁵

Available for Sale at
The Tundra Times
510 Second Avenue, Fairbanks
or write
Box 1287, Fairbanks, Ak. 99701

\$2⁶⁵

NATIVE ALASKANS KNOW PROGRESS DEPENDS ON TEAMWORK

Alaska International Industries knows this too — AIA and Weaver Bros. is our team.

Working for Alaskan progress.

ALASKA INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

P.O. Box 3029
Fairbanks,
Alaska 99701
Telex: 35454

