

## Mining Claims—

# Check Laws, Lands

While interest in locating claims on Federal lands is increasing with the rise in prices of gold and other minerals, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Director Curtis V. McVee asks potential prospectors to check laws and land status before staking a claim.

Claimants should be aware of requirements under both Federal and State laws for locating and working mining claims on Federal lands, McVee said. With increasing needs for most miner-

als, BLM looks forward to new discoveries on public lands.

McVee said that most of the lands withdrawn by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act are not open for the staking of mining claims. These include lands withdrawn for selection by Native corporations and for possible additions to the national park, forest, wildlife refuge, and wild and scenic rivers systems.

"Claims staked on lands withdrawn from mineral entry are not valid," said McVee, "and the claims are of no value to the prospector who staked them as he has gained no rights to explore or extract minerals."

In addition, McVee mentioned that a mining claim cannot be used as a recreation site, residence, or for any other non-mining use since this constitutes trespass.

"If anyone wants to stake a mining claim, or use Federal lands for other purposes, the first thing to do is check land status and legal requirements with a BLM Office," he said. "By checking first, a potential prospector can save himself time money, and loss of any investments or improvements he might make on lands closed to mineral entry."

Federal land ownership and land status can be checked in the Bureau of Land Management offices at 555 Cordova Street in Anchorage and at 1028 Aurora Drive in Fairbanks.

## Restaurant Closed

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enough lights to work with properly. The school is trying to operate with only half the lights even though it is dark most of the school day.

There has been over forty thousand dollars in damages to the school alone, more to the clinic and many dollars to individual citizens and still there is no action on the part of AVEC to provide adequate power to Selawik.

The present 100 kw generator is unable to provide service to over 500 people no matter how much the people try to conserve power. Meanwhile a new 250 kw generator has been sitting in Selawik for 18 months. This would supply power needed.

Perhaps Selawik will celebrate Christmas in the dark. Send your spare candles. Our supplies are running low.

## Try TT—you won't be disappointed



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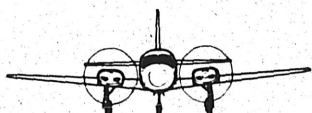
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# Romer Plans Graduation

By AGNES PETE

Richard Romer, 26 and an Eskimo from Bethel, is planning to graduate from the University this month with a major in political science.

After the drama of being a father to a newborn girl, Jennifer Renee, Richard and his wife Darlene will continue with school at a later date.

Both Richard and Darlene have been attending school at the University, he for his bachelors degree, and she to fulfill her prerequisites for later study in dental hygiene.

The added excitement of having a baby has made it just a little bit harder for both of them to concentrate on their studies.

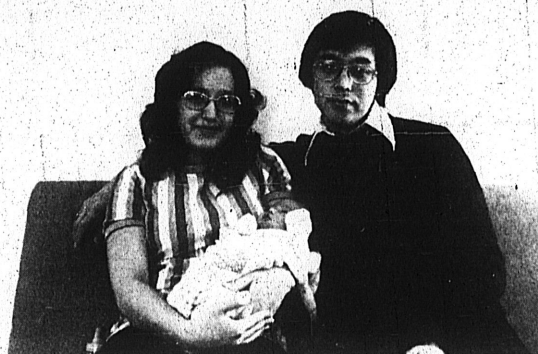
Having graduated from Bethel High School in 1966, Richard continued his education at the University, taking breaks occasionally to work.

At first he thought he wanted to teach, so he took many education courses. After counseling in Wildwood Boarding Home Program from 1972-73, Richard decided education was not for him. The fall of 1973, he re-enrolled at the University, this time pursuing a bachelors degree in political science.

His interest in law school has been growing due to recent Native political activities. He has applied to several law schools all over the country, hoping to gain entry next fall.

To prepare for law school, Richard has applied to the summer program of pre-law study at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Previous to his job at Wildwood, Richard worked for the Alaska Federation of Natives under contract with BIA, evaluating the BIA budget and plan-



YOUNG FAMILY — Darlene and Richard Romer with baby Jennifer. — Photo by ETTA AHKIVGAK

ning system. He made recommendations to the 12 regional corporations, making them aware of BIA activities.

Other jobs include working as a tutor the spring of 1974 at Ryan Junior High School, as a photographic and video tape assistant in the Audiovisual Dept. of the University, as a program coordinator for Bethel Broadcasting Corp. in Bethel, and as a teamster last summer.

Richard married Darlene in 1972, daughter of Don and Carol Wright. He says, "It was my beautiful wife who encouraged me to come back to school."

Richard's views on several matters are:

—education: "It is crucial for Natives to get a college education, because the opportunities are here, and they're great."

"Natives attending vocational programs are often capable of getting a college education, and they should be encouraged to do so."

—financial difficulty: "Those who are married and have financial problems should look into

the possibilities for financial aid, such as BIA, FOG, Work-Study, etc."

—marriage: "Marriage shouldn't be an obstacle to college. Advantages are that the student is often more stable, responsible, and mature. They'd probably realize the importance of an education."

—transition: "Never get discouraged during college, because it is a struggle. Be resolute Persevere."

Continuing, he says, "If I don't get accepted to law school, I'd like to go into a political or administrative career where I can get involved in Native affairs."

"I'd like to be a consultant to the Native people; we should utilize all our resources."

On the table I was writing on lay an exam with a red "A" on it; with such ability, Richard should be able to make it in anything.

With two such strong people, having a baby in the midst of their schooling, anybody ought to be able to endure a college education.

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