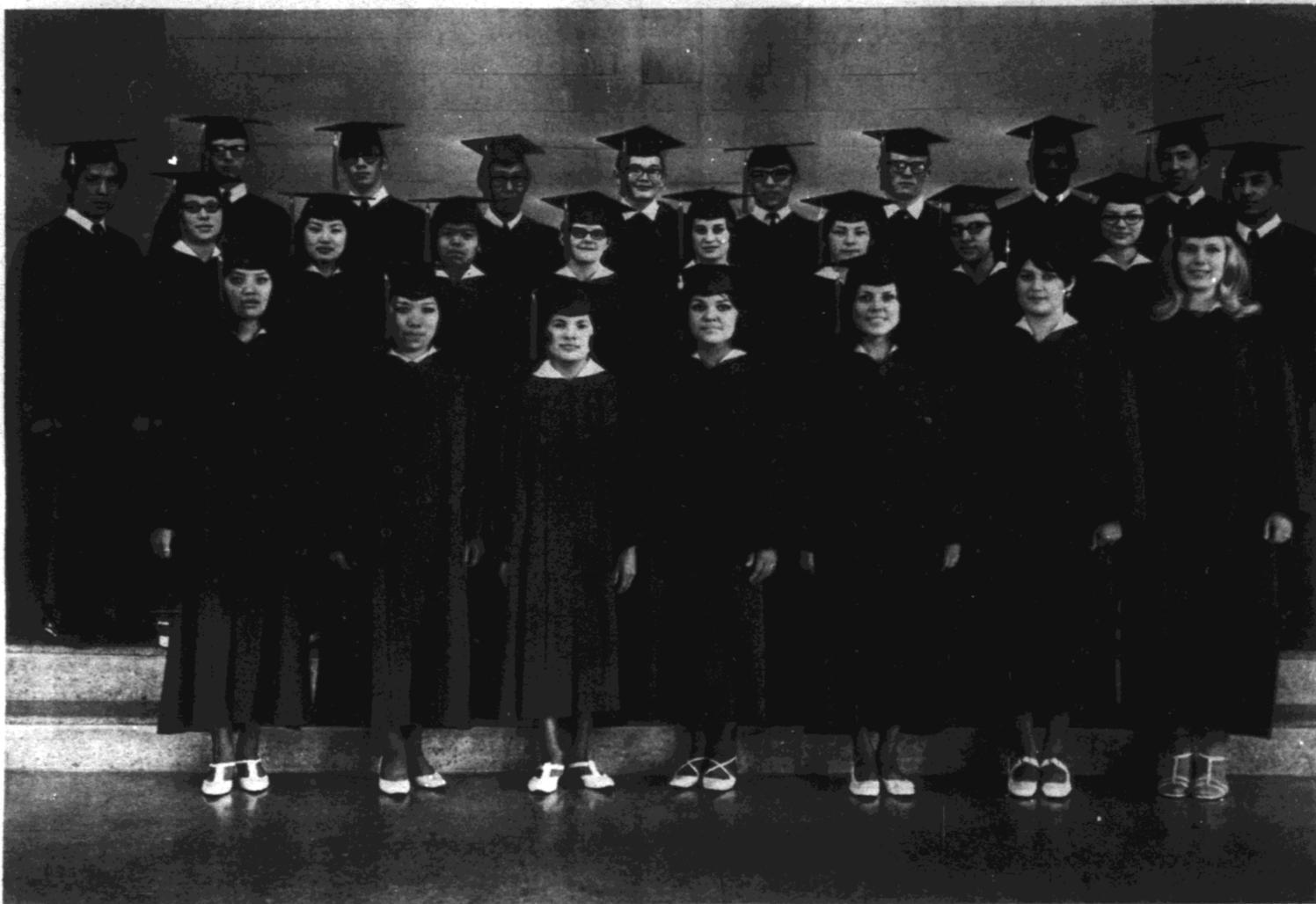


# Copper Valley High School Graduates Twenty-five



**COPPER VALLEY GRADUATES**—Pictured here is the 1969 Senior Class of Copper Valley High School. The class was graduated from the school, located at Glennallen, in ceremonies May 18. Left to right, front row, are Glenda Demoski, Senior Class President from Ruby; Rose Marie Teeluk, daughter of Mrs. Martha Teeluk, 724 6th Avenue, Fairbanks; Alice Paul, Galena; Valerie Jacobson, Anchorage; Sharon Olin, daughter of Mrs. Lillian Olin, Apt. 2-A Birch Park, Fairbanks; Cheryl Mayo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mayo, 1129 First Avenue, Fairbanks; and Christina Harding, of Twin Falls, Idaho. Second row, left to right, Bailey Paul,

Tanacross; Judy Sommer, Tanana; Sonya McKinney, Kotzebue; Beverly Eskilida, Glennallen; Susan Hardy, Seward; Melody Ann Lewis, Seward; Rosemary Kasgnoc, Nome; Lois Schaeffer, Kotzebue; Pamela Wilcox, Summit; and Ronald Lincoln, Kenny Lake. Third Row, left to right, Henry Irish, Valdez; James Gunderson, Cordova; Aloysius Mayac, Juneau; Howard Samuelson, Bethel; Claude Demientieff, Galena; Gary Frederick, Slana; William Allridge, son of Pearl Allridge, 1535 Mary Ann Street, Fairbanks, and Carl Peter, Senior Class Vice-President from Nulato.

—COPPER VALLEY SCHOOL Photograph

## Mary Ellen Esai Graduate from Nikolai

Mary Ellen Esai, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Esai of the village of Nikolai, graduated from McGrath High School, McGrath, Alaska on May 21, 1969.

Mary Ellen is unique among the more than 3,000 high school seniors who will graduate this month. She is the first person in the history of her village to complete her high school education.

Mary Ellen's home village of Nikolai is located on the south shore of the Kuskokwim River, about 65 miles west of McKinley Park. Nikolai is one of Alaska's most remote villages.

The only means of transportation in, out, and through the village are chartered air flights, boat, and, of course, in winter, dog teams.

Nikolai's major source of economy and recreation is hunting, fishing, and trapping. The nearest store is in Medfra which is 13 miles by dog team or 35 miles by boat. There is no post office in Nikolai. Supplies must be brought into Anchorage and then air-dropped to the village.

Nikolai does have, however, a state-operated two-room school house where 25 children attend grades 1-8. Robert Esai, Mary Ellen's father, is chairman of the three-member Nikolai School Board.

Upon completion of the 8th

grade, Mary Ellen had to leave her family and friends to finish her high school education. She enrolled in a boarding school.

Later Mary Ellen transferred to the Boarding Home Program administered by James Harper, Assistant Director, state-operated schools, State Department of Education.

The Alaska Boarding Home Program was initiated in 1966 to offer secondary educational opportunities to rural students who did not have a high school available to them.

With the initiation of the Boarding Home Program, for the first time in Alaska, all students desiring to continue their secondary education were given the chance to do so.

In addition to reports from the various boarding communities, the high school students themselves and their parents, the enrollment statistics confirm the success of the Boarding Home Program. In 1966, 160 students were enrolled; in 1967, 260 participated; and last September, over 360 students enrolled in the Boarding Home Program.

Mary Ellen was one of these 360. She requested to finish her last year in high school in McGrath. A boarding home was requested for Mary Ellen, she was accepted at the school, and she began her last lap of formal secondary education.

Next year, Mary Ellen will enroll in the Alaska Business College in Anchorage. To this first graduate of the village of Nikolai, the Alaska State Department of Education joins with Mary Ellen's classmates in McGrath and her family and friends at home in extending their most sincere congratulations.

## NOME TRAGEDY—

### Mr. and Mrs. Tony Willoya are Victims of Shooting at Nome

Two Nome residents, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Willoya, were the victims of shootings which occurred there last week. Mrs. Willoya was pronounced dead on arrival at the Nome Hospital May 22.

Willoya, foreman of a state highway crew, was struck in the head with a .22 caliber bullet and suffered extensive brain damage. He remains unconscious at the hospital.

Mrs. Willoya received fatal wounds in the head, chest, and back. She is the mother of six small children, ranging in age

from 12 to 3.

Details of the shooting have not yet been made available. Police are continuing investigation.

Nome District Judge Maurice Kelliher has announced an inquest will be held this week. It is expected that details of the incident will be revealed at that time.

Willoya, 34, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Willoya. Mrs. Loretta Willoya, 33, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson.

Both are old families in Nome.

## 'Psychedelic' Drugs are Often Defended by Notable People

"The more it changes," according to the Gallic proverb, "the more it remains the same." Those who still defend the use of "psychedelic" drugs tend to believe that they are tradition-breakers, pioneer fighters for human rights, and all that sort of thing.

History tells a different story, deftly summarized in a magazine article by Dr. Disney Cohen, an outstanding expert on "mind-affecting" drugs.

It's an old, repetitive story, Dr. Cohen reports. Drug fads have characterized many periods of history. And each time the practice has had its defenders—often notable ones—who eventually change their minds.

Thomas DeQuincey, the "Confessions" author, praised opium for providing "peace of mind" and "portable ecstasy." In his day nobody frowned on it. Not only DeQuincey but other eminent scribes including Poe, Col-

eridge and Swinburne partook liberally and lived to regret it.

Then there was cocaine, hailed by a young physician named Sigmund Freud for its "liberating" effects. For years this powerful narcotic was used indiscriminately in this country, until its nonmedical use was banned in 1904.

Nitrous Oxide ("laughing gas") was admired by its discoverer, Sir Humphrey Davy, as a path to profound insights. Once, while under its influence, he wrote some words which he thought were "the secret of life." Recovering, he found that he had written, "The stink of turpentine pervades all."

Each of these psychedelic boosters has been banned—yet today nobody shouts for the Constitutional right to clobber himself with opium, cocaine, or laughing gas. No crystal ball is needed to envision the long-range future of LSD.

On Sunday, May 18th, Commencement exercises were held at Copper Valley School in Glennallen. Twenty-five young men and women from all over the state made up this twelfth graduating class.

Main speaker at the event was Rev. Edmund W. Morton, S.J., academic vice president of Seattle University. Rev. Francis Murphy, pastor of St. Michael's parish in Palmer, represented Archbishop Ryan and presided at the ceremonies.

Rev. James Jacobson, S.J., principal of the school, passed out diplomas. Miss Sonya McKinney of Kotzebue received the highest academic honors and was the valedictorian of her class.

Salutatorian was Miss Alice Paul of Galena. Recipient of the Bishop Boileau Memorial Scholarship was Miss Rosemary Kasgnoc of Nome. The graduating class was proud to number in its ranks two members of the National Honor Society, Sonya McKinney and Claude Demientieff of Galena.

Many relatives and friends of the graduates were in attendance at the commencement.

## Volpe to Alaska

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel said that Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe tentatively plans to be in Alaska in late August.

Senator Gravel said that among the problems which Volpe will review firsthand will be the growing transportation difficulties on the Kenai Peninsula.

Recently the Alaska Railroad cancelled passenger train service to Seward. This followed a decision by Alaska Steamship Company to stop using Seward as a cargo port.

Senator Gravel has called for a transportation study for the entire Peninsula in light of new industrial and resource developments there.

Secretary Volpe is also expected to visit the North Slope and other Alaska locations during his trip to Alaska which is tentatively scheduled for the last 10 days of the month.

## Minto Moving . . .

(Continued from page 3)

children are doing cleanup work at the present site.

A priority was placed on cutting logs and completing an access road to the new site by the Minto villagers. They indicated that work should be started immediately as the status of state funds is yet uncertain.

Minto would like to use some of its funds in purchasing a boat and barge to transport logs to the new site.

The families will draw for lots in the new village. Each family will develop and build on their own lot, with the elderly people being assisted by the rest of the villagers.

The design chosen for the houses is one which has been used at Lower Kalskag for three bedroom units measuring approximately 20 by 28 feet.

Three of the three bedroom units will be built. The remaining houses will be constructed according to plans being drawn up by the BIA Plant Manager in Fairbanks.

The Minto villagers had been concerned about school facilities at the new site. It was reassured by the State Department of Education that there will be school facilities, of either a permanent or a temporary nature, at the new site when the village is ready to move.

Work will continue through this summer and the summer of 1970. The new structures and village site are expected to be ready for occupancy by the fall of 1970.

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