



And a Happy New Year!

Tundra Times

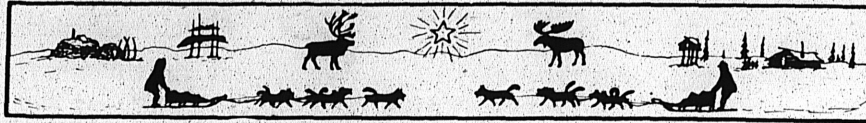
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Fairbanks, Alaska

Eskimo family lives in garage



FAMILY lives in garage—Despite having to live in a garage in Fairbanks, widow Anne Makalik and her three children appear quite happy. When they first moved down to the city from Barrow last summer, they lived in a canvas tent.
—Photo by LAEL MORGAN

They formerly lived In a canvas tent

By LAEL MORGAN
FAIRBANKS—This winter widow Annie Makalik and her four children are residing in a weather-beaten old garage with a Yukon stove made of a 55-gallon oil drum for heat. It's a step-up, really.

When they first moved here from Barrow last summer they were camping in a tent and for a while it looked like that's where they would have to stay.

What saved them was Pauline Koenig Puelent, a long-time city resident, who was raised at Point Hope in the traditional Eskimo way.

"I don't know Annie before. But she got no husband," Mrs. Puelent explains. "My father he told us, 'Poor people, no place to stay. You help them!' He story us that.

"I go to city. They say, OK. Up to you. You fix up. Nobody help um. My son, Solomon, buy insulation. Wood, too. Two-by-fours. They get food stamps. My light and water, too. My toilet."

Mrs. Puelent, herself, does not exactly live in luxury. Her old house was hit with fire a few seasons back and repairs are still

being made. The place is small, too. Yet visitors from the north always feel welcome. And Annie Makalik's case was extreme.

Mrs. Makalik has a history of heart trouble, and got the idea that a climate away from the coast might be better for her.

"But what really made her move was that even young kids in Barrow kept coming around drunk and she decided she didn't want her children to grow up in that environment," explains John Heffle, president of the Interior Indians Association, who has been trying to find the family another place to stay.

"The Reverend Bearfoot at the Rescue Mission was going to move a house on his lot for them. I thought they'd already moved there, but it is a long way from town and they'd have trouble getting in to school," Heffle said.

"I had trouble trying to get her into Birch Park. It's low income housing but they told me that Annie didn't make enough money to get in."

Mrs. Carol Drake, social worker for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has also been working

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Native women wed to non-Native win

Alaska Native women married to non-Native men will now have the right to be considered for general assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the proposed settlement of a federal district court suit filed in Anchorage.

Alaska Legal Services filed the suit on behalf of all Alaska Native women who, together with their dependent Native children, were considered ineligible for BIA general assistance solely because of their marriages to non-Native husbands. Prior to this proposed settlement these women were referred to the Department of Public Welfare, State of Alaska.

The BIA has agreed to change the policy, but before the court can approve the terms of settlement, all people whose rights might be affected must be notified that they may object to its terms.

Alaska Native women who live in Alaska, who are married to non-Native men legally obligated to provide for their support, and who otherwise would

be eligible for BIA general assistance, are among those who might be affected by the settlement.

The dependent Alaska Native children of such families also have an interest in the settlement.

All interested persons may read copies of the proposed settlement agreement on file with the United States District Court in Anchorage, Alaska, and copies which have been posted in all state and BIA welfare offices. The relevant provisions of the proposed "Consent Degree" can be summarized as follows:

1. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has agreed to abandon its policy of refusing general assistance to an otherwise eligible Alaska Native woman and her dependent Alaska Native children for the sole reason that the Alaska Native woman is married to a non-Alaska Native man who is legally responsible for the family's support. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has further agreed not to follow this policy in the future.

2. The proposed settlement does not provide for the pay-

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UA Native students welcome Elaine



WELCOMING NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF RURAL EDUCATION—Elaine Ramos, left, newly-appointed official of UA's Rural Education, is being welcomed by people at the University of Alaska. Left to right: Ramos, Mark John, Native Student Organization, president; and Toni Jones, SOS.

By SUE GAMACHE
"For the first time in Alaska's history we've seen the Native people unite for a common cause," Elaine Ramos, newly-appointed vice-president of Rural Education stated, "and I'm very grateful to all of those who supported me."

An informal welcome reception was held for her by Special Orientation Services (SOS) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks last week.

Mark John, president of the Native Student Organization (NSO) on campus welcomed Ms. Ramos saying that he was very happy that she had been appointed to the new position. "I realize that the job is very important."

John went on to say that there
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