

# *Exploration to begin at Eagle*

FAIRBANKS—With permission of the people of Eagle, Alaska, a crew of anthropologists from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF), have been excavating the area around the community's courthouse. The digging, which was carried out in late May and early June, revealed not only early remains of the structures surrounding the courthouse, but prehistoric materials as well.

Dr. Anne Shinkwin, principal investigator on the project, said the prehistoric materials found at the site were "probably a campsite," but little remained to make positive identification.

"Only a portion of the original prehistoric horizon remained undisturbed with the rest of the site probably having been destroyed at the time of the courthouse construction in 1901," she said.

UAF graduate student Russell Sackett was field supervisor for the effort. The archaeological crew consisted of Linda Cass, Howard Orberon, Dave Barnett, Glenn Rasmusson, Dave Evans and Jim Ketz. The work was sponsored by the city of Eagle and material will be returned to the town's museum after analysis.

The archaeology was performed in connection with the historic restoration of the courthouse. The purpose of the effort was to locate the former foundation of the building, establish the original grade, locate any former outbuildings and features, retrieve cultural material around the area to be disturbed by restoration work, and if time permitted, to locate the former jail that at one time existed alongside the courthouse.