



BARROW SCHOOL, 'FIRE TRAP'

BIA Built Facility Lacks Sheetrock, Gas Leaks Under Building

BY JEFF RICHARDSON

BARROW — "There are very real questions as to safety, life safety in that building."

This was the way Bob Tilley, associate superintendent for instruction for the North Slope Borough School District described conditions at the Barrow Day School Complex.

On May 9, the school district received word that their proposal to have the Bureau of Indian Affairs bring the building up to life safety standards had been rejected by the area office of the BIA in Juneau.

Although the North Slope Borough has had jurisdiction over public schools since July, 1974, negotiations have been held off and on to work out details of transferring the buildings to the borough.

With rejection of the borough proposal, those negotiations have apparently snagged.

The condition of the school building is summarized in 17 pages of violations compiled by the state's fire marshal's office earlier this year.

The violations include gas leaks around and under the building, unlit exit signs, plywood or particle board walls and corridors with no sheetrock behind it, and an attic that runs the length of the

building without any fire-breaking partitions.

The school district contends it cannot accept the building in its present condition. Their position is that BIA should first bring the building up to minimum life safety standards before next fall.

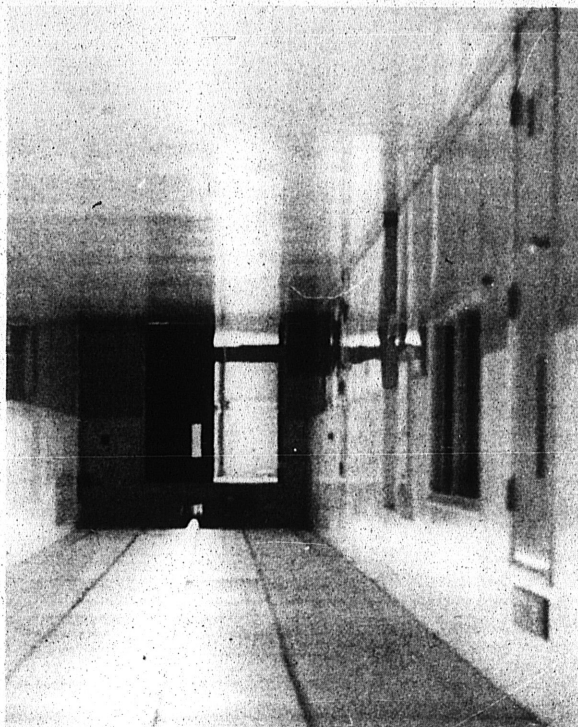
According to Tilley, the school district has received "verbal indications" from the Commissioner of Education and the Department of Public Safety that the school would be closed down if it were transferred to the borough in its present condition.

Because it is a federal agency, the BIA has not had to comply with state fire and safety standards.

The borough has also requested that BIA, over the next ten years, further improve and repair the building, at an estimated cost of \$10 million.

In a letter to Annie Brower, president of the North Slope Borough School Board, Clarence Antioquia, area director of the BIA, stated "if the North Slope Borough School District desires our facilities, we will upgrade

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LOOKS INNOCENT FROM OUTSIDE — Thousands of feet of hallways and corridors are made of plywood or particle board with no fire resistant backing. Some fire exits lead out into leaky gas lines.

Gov. Announces Construction of Village Schools

Governor Jay Hammond recently announced more than six million dollars in contracts have been left for construction of four schools in rural parts of Alaska by the Department of Public Works.

The Kivalina School, for \$1,869,500, was awarded to Nana Construction, Inc., of Anchorage. The school, to be completed by September of 1975, will house 88 students in grades 1-12.

The major spaces in the school will be classrooms, gym/multipurpose, arts and crafts, shop, commons and kitchen.

A contract for \$2,225,000 has been awarded for a school at Shungnak. The school is for 88 students in grades one through 12. The major spaces are a gym/multipurpose room, arts and crafts, shop, classrooms, commons and kitchen.

The school, scheduled to be finished by September, 1976, will serve Shungnak and the Upper Kobuk Valley. The contract was

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Rights Comm. Announces Director For This Area

Mr. Willie Katcliff, chairman of the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights announced recently that the commission met recently in Anchorage to appoint a director for the Northern Region.

Mr. Jesse Arrington III, age 31, was selected from a field of 44 candidates for that position. Mr.

Arrington brings with him a wealth of experience in the field of minority affairs.

Prior to Mr. Arrington's selection, he served as Equal Opportunity officer, Fort Wainwright. Among other experience he served as special assistant for minority affairs, Department of Education, in

Juneau, staff consultant to the University of Alaska's educational program for Intercultural Communication and as director of the Kodiak-Aleutian Regional Dormitory program.

Mr. Arrington holds a master's degree in education and has taught school for four years.

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Sealaska Corp.

Buys Office Bldg.

Site in Juneau

(JUNEAU, ALASKA - May 6, 1975) — The purchase by Sealaska Corporation of an office building site downtown in Juneau was announced today by John Borbridge, Jr., President and Chairman of the Board of the Native-owned regional corporation.

The decision by the Sealaska Board of Directors to acquire the 34,707 square foot property followed extensive surveying of potential locations in the central Juneau area suitable for accommodating a major office building.

"Our study very definitely indicates that Juneau needs good, Class A office space in the downtown area, regardless of the anticipated move of the State Capitol to another location," Borbridge said.

The proposed \$3.5 million multi-story office building, now in the design process, is expected to be ready for occupancy in late 1977. In addition to covered parking provided for the building's tenants, Sealaska management is seriously considering providing space for a first class restaurant and retail shops.

The new office building also will

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Native Graduating Seniors to Be Capped at UA Commencement



NATIVE GRADUATING SENIORS — Front row left to right: Ralph Beans, Agnes Pete Griffith. Second row left to right: Annabelle Towarak, Vicki Burgess, Eileen Paniqueo MacLean. Back row left to right: Raymon Solomon, Tony See, and Denise Major.

— Photo by LAIRD JONES

FAIRBANKS — This month, 19 Alaska Native students will graduate from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks with two-year associate degrees or four-year baccalaureate degrees. Figures compiled by the UA's Student Orientation Services show a large increase in the number of students receiving bachelor of arts degrees over previous years. The figures also show a drop in the number of students receiving four-year degrees in education.

More Native students have earned associate degrees at UA, Fairbanks this year than any previous years. Associate degrees are generally offered in vocational fields.

UA, Fairbanks students receiving associate degrees are Alvin Aspelund, Naknek, Ralph Beans, Pilot Station, Joe Curtis, Ninilchik, Linda Major, Glenallen, Jimmy Malemute, Galena, Tony See, Sitka, and Ray Solomon, Ft. Yukon.

Native students receiving bachelor of arts degrees are Vicki Burgess, Hydaburg, Agnes Pete Griffith, Bethel, Toni Wilder, Fairbanks, Jim Gustafson,

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