

Helen Atwater Is Salutarian

At Edgecumbe Grad Exercises

Helen Alice Atwater, a 17-year old senior of Athabascan ancestry, will be salutarian of the graduating class of 1966 at Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Helen was valedictorian of her eighth grade class at Wrangell Institute and throughout her high school years has maintained close to an A-minus average.

She is a product of eight different schools: Takotna, McGrath, Fairbanks, Wrangell Institute, Talkeetna, Montana Creek, Anchorage and Mt. Edgecumbe. Of all these schools she rates Talkeetna best because it was so small everyone worked closely together. Only her senior year and the 1965 summer school have been spent at Mt. Edgecumbe.

This summer Helen plans to attend the College Orientation Summer Project at the University of Alaska which is especially designed to give Native students a good introduction to college life, while at the same time earn college credit. This COPAN project (Cooperative Orientation Plan for Alaska Natives) has been very helpful to Mt. Edgecumbe students and they have recommended it to others.

Her tentative plans are to major in psychology, which she has been studying at Mt. Edgecumbe, or in sociology. She would like to study at the University of Alaska for two years and at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado for another two years.

At Mt. Edgecumbe Helen served as news editor of Channel Light, the school paper, on the editorial board of the literary magazine, Volcanic Vibrations, and as assistant editor of Taheta, the school annual. She has taken an active part in Hi-E Honor Society, and in debate and

speech.

Although Helen has studied home economics for only one year, she has done extremely well, especially in sewing, and has made an assortment of blouses and skirts, a jumper, her graduation suit, and other items.



Helen Atwater

Her hobbies are reading, gathering bits of knowledge, geology—which she finds very challenging—sewing, crocheting and travel. She is looking forward to a trip to the lower 48 in the not too distant future.

At home she enjoys being with her four younger sisters and three younger brothers and she can hardly wait to see them after being away 11 months. She calls Takotna her home town but her folks are now in Anchorage.

When asked what her advice would be to lower classmen who expect to get ahead, she said, "Consider the hard courses and seemingly worthless lessons that you are now studying as an investment in your future happiness."

Indian motion explaining the facts of life to her daughter:
"Stork not bring papoose—it come by beau and error."

from "Signature"