

Gruening Gets PHS Nurses Pay Hike

Efforts by Senator Ernest Gruening to have Public Health Service nurses in Alaska included in two pay raises made earlier this year to all other PHS nurses were crowned with success this week.

John Macy, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, informed Senator Gruening that Alaska nurses will get the increases previously denied them.

When Public Health Service nurses everywhere else received pay increases Alaska nurses were excluded on the theory that the cost-of-living allowance received in Alaska made it unnecessary to step up the pay of nurses in the 49th state.

The result, as Senator Gruening learned from visits to Public Health Service hospitals in Anchorage, Kotzebue and Bethel, was that nurse positions were not being filled.

At Bethel only one-fourth as many nurses as were required were actually on the job because qualified nurses found employment more attractive under the new pay schedules in other parts of the country.

Senator Gruening protested the decision of the Civil Service Commission excluding Alaska nurses, and Chairman Macy informed him that if the Senator could provide documentation indicating that Alaska PHS hospitals were understaffed because of the decision he would try to have the situation corrected.

Today's order extending the two pay increases to all PHS nurses in Alaska was the result of Senator Gruening's efforts. The Alaska cost-of-living allowance of 25 per cent will be added to the new higher pay scales for nurses.



TAKING ADVANTAGE of various opportunities for new experiences and schooling, several Covenant High School students are spending part of their summer vacation in training. The above students, surveying a school emblem being painted by Mary Jane Lockwood prior to their departure from Unalakleet, represent three such summer programs. Mary Jane is attending Upward Bound at the University of Alaska. Linda Ryan attended the Anchorage Music Festival as a Sears Scholar after which she went to Upward Bound for the second summer. Sam Towarak, 1968 graduate, was chosen as one of

Alaska's two representatives to the National Youth Science Camp in West Virginia where he met with key young people from the fifty states. Other Covenant High School Young People attending summer programs are: Jean Nelson, Sears Scholar at Anchorage Music Festival; Rhoda Sockpealuk, Joseph Katchatag and Norman Evan, Upward Bound students at Alaska Methodist University; Rachel Komokhuk, Jean Nelson, Gary Haugen, Brian Andrus and Leland Oyoumick, Upward Bound students at the University of Alaska.

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North Star Home Children Say They Have Smart 'Grandma'

By RUTH CHARLES

Dot Lake, Alaska

All my children here at the North Star Home think they have a real smart Grandma.

They went out camping along the lake, and early in the morning Grandma got up and went outside. She sat down by the lake and was looking around, when a big black bear walked up and stood beside her. She decided it was time to forget everything and act. She got up slowly and turned around and walked back to the tent. Just as she was inside the tent, she grabbed the gun but she was afraid to shoot because the bear just stood and looked at the tent flap.

So Grandma picked up a dish and rattled it against the tent frame. The bear then turned sideways and Grandma shot him.

The bear ran and jumped in the lake, turned around, ran out of the lake, climbed up the bank beside one of the dogs and died. The dog just stood and looked at the bear as if to say, "How did you get here?"

While Tom Waskey, one of our boys from Aniak, and Simeon Ahmakok from Point Barrow, were skinning it out, Tom said, "Boy, we're sure lucky we have a smart Grandma."

The lady who is Grandma to all the children here at the

North Star Home is Mrs. Doris Charles, mother of Carl Charles who has the children's home here at Dot Lake.

Grandma loves all the children and they love her just as much. We all agree she is a pretty smart Grandma especially since she is 67 years old.

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