

# ***Eskimo Village Finally Gets Its Needed Water***

By MARILYN RICHARDS

"The water of life."

That was a reaction of Mrs. Edith Tegoseak after water and sewer facilities were finally completed in her home and five others of Eskimo Village in Fairbanks.

"Who will I give thanks for? Only thing I've been praying for. Asked God for help as long as I've been standing," Edith added.

Mrs. Tegoseak, her husband and children came to Fairbanks in 1949 when he came to work on the railroad. They were assigned to live in what was railroad housing, now at 26th and Lathrop Streets, what is commonly known as Eskimo Village. The land was given to them through Native land allotments.

Since 1961 the Tegoseaks and the other families have been trying to obtain water and sewer facilities. Assistance from federal, state and local government agencies was hard to come by. Even after struggles, with all the red tape and bills for non-existent water, the villagers and their friends did not give up.

The happiness reflected today by the residents seems to put all those troubles to be forgotten in the past.

"My husband worked for it and wanted us to live good. He died in 1966," said Edith perhaps remembering one person as not to leave him out of the occasion.

"It's a real good deal. There's no more honey bucket brigade," said John Heffle, Association of Interior Eskimos' president. John, though recently having undergone an operation, tirelessly worked installing fixtures and such with Joe Tegoseak and others.

"The old folks do not have to pack any more snow," Heffle added. What used to be a hard chore necessity for the villagers is now a much appreciated luxury.