



SPECIAL CITATION—Miss Louise Mackin, second from left, is receiving a special citation certificate from Robert H. Finch, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Dr. Emery A. Johnson, left, is the acting director of the PHS

Indian Health Service. Dr. John F. Lee, right, was seriously injured in a plane crash when Miss Mackin, although injured herself, helped to take care of him and another injured person.

—DUDLEY, HARDIN & YANG Photo

Secretary Finch Awards Louise Mackin Special Heroism Citation

Miss Louise Mackin, RN, was recently requested by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert H. Finch to travel from Fairbanks to Seattle, Wash. to receive the Secretary's Special Citation.

When she returned, Miss Mackin found that her job at a local clinic had been terminated.

Miss Mackin received the national award for "outstanding exemplary behavior, fortitude, courage and conduct in giving aid and assistance to her injured fellow travelers immediately fol-

lowing an airplane crash in which she was involved, even though injured, cold and in a state of shock herself."

The airplane crash occurred during takeoff from Pauloff Harbor on the Aleutian Chain December 15, 1968 when Miss Mackin, then a field clinical nurse with the PHS Alaska Native Health Service, Anchorage and two PHS physicians were conducting a series of medical clinics for villagers throughout the Chain.

Unable to gain sufficient speed

to become airborne in bad weather, the seaplane crashed on the beach, overturned and began to burn.

Dr. John F. Lee, Alaska Native Area Director, was thrown from the plane on impact and seriously injured. Miss Mackin and the pilot, Oren Siebert, were both trapped in the plane, but were freed by Dr. Francis Raley, Alaska Native Medical Center clinical staff, who had escaped uninjured.

Although injured herself and in severe emotional shock, Miss Mackin helped Dr. Raley remove the two injured men from the site, applied first aid and continued to give them care during their transport to the local village school and then to the PHS Anchorage Hospital.

The presentation ceremony was made in Seattle on July 28.

Miss Mackin left the public Health Service in February and came to Fairbanks and got a job in the local clinic.

She is a native of Plymouth, N.H. and received her RN degree at the Boston, Mass. City Hospital School of Nursing.

Her career includes clinical nursing positions at Boston City Hospital, St. Ann's Hospital, Juneau, Alaska, and the PHS Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.