

Major Lowell of Bassett Army Hospital Treats Natives



CHECK OUT — Dr. (MAJ) George G. Lowell, ophthalmologist from Bassett Army Hospital checks out a patient's sight with a slit lamp. The doctor saw about 30 people in Arctic Village when he visited there recently.

"We all work for the same Government, whether it be as doctors in the Army, Air Force or the Public Health Service. It is a matter of who needs help and who is available to offer help."

Dr. (Major) George G. Lowell, Bassett Army Hospital's ophthalmologist, leaned forward on his chair and took another sip of black coffee.

"I believe that we should make the fullest use of our hospital facilities," he said. "I think that if doctors or dentists can offer a professional helping hand, they should."

Dr. Lowell, like many other doctors and dentists on post, has offered his services to the Public Health Service. It is one of his contributions to "Serving the Nation."

Recently, Dr. Lowell took a two-and-one-half-hour trip in an Army OV-1 (Otter) to Arctic Village at the invitation of the Public Health Service. He treated 30 patients before returning to Fort Wainwright.

The doctor said that such trips for him are fairly routine, and although he enjoys the bush, he rarely has time to appreciate it.

"Frequently, I have to turn patients away," he said, "because I must get back to the hospital. On the average I treat 30 to 40 patients. Most of this is fairly routine, though."

"My trips are restricted to just flying and working. There is zero recreation. It is something extra, but I feel I fit in the Public Health System, as I see it.



MEASURING UP — Private First Class Jim Briggs, Dr. Lowell's assistant, measures a young villager for a pair of glasses. The two men from Fort Wainwright flew to Arctic Village at the invitation of the Public Health Service.