



Al Grant

Ed Grant is an exceptional man

**"WHO DARES NOTHING--
NEED HOPE FOR NOTHING"**

—Schiller 1791

We don't know if Ed Grant has ever read that quotation, but we would be willing to bet that if he had it would typify his own thoughts.

Ed Grant has worked in Juneau as the head custodian for the Floyd Dryden Junior High School for many years. He is a man that takes his responsibilities seriously and has a burning desire to succeed.

Ed was supporting his wife and three children as well as providing child support for four additional children from his first marriage. He took on extra work to help meet the high cost of living, but he could not keep up. He found himself on an endless treadmill.

Last February (1975), Ed applied to Employment Assistance for Training which would lead to employment on the pipeline. After tooling over various possibilities, Ed decided on the Water-Wastewater Treatment course being offered at Kenai Community College.

The big problem was; how to make it on the funds that were allowed for a family this size. Southeast Agency contacted the State Employment Office in Juneau and explained Ed's financial predicament. The Employment Office was very receptive to any plan which would make it possible to jointly fund Ed for the twenty-two weeks course.

After looking at all possible options, it was decided that there was simply no way that Southeast Agency and the Employment Office could provide the necessary funds to get Ed through training and

make it possible for him to meet his financial responsibilities.

A lesser person would have accepted this as defeat and given up any further attempt, but Ed (ala Schiller), did not. He withdrew his entire savings and obtained a personal loan to cover his costs. Still not enough. What to do?

Ed's solution was to fix up his van so that he could live in it while he was at school. So, for twenty-two weeks, Ed cooked his meals and lived in his van.

During this time, he worked hard at his studies. Ed was the top Native student in the class and placed in the top three over all. He also studied for and received his G.E.D., no small accomplishment in itself for a person who has been out of school for many years.

Upon graduation, Southeast Agency contacted Mr. Mike Szymanski, Alyeska Project Training Coordinator. Mike helped Ed get to work at Galbraith Lake Camp as a Water/Waste-Water Technician in the fall of 1975. Since then, Ed has become the foreman and is responsible for a large crew.

Recently, Ed came to Juneau on his R & R and stopped by to let us know how he was doing. His department has been awarded a certificate for outstanding accomplishment by Alyeska for the most efficient Water/Wastewater Treatment Department on the pipeline.

Getting back to Schiller, he said that if you didn't dare to try something-you had no reason to hope. Ed has shown that if you want something bad enough and you are daring enough to try, it can be done.