

# SHIRLEY'S SURPRISE VISIT THRILLS NENANA



SHIRLEY—Mrs. Charles Black, better known as Shirley Temple, is being welcomed at the International Airport in Fairbanks when she landed from Anchorage along with her husband, Dr. Charles Black, last Friday. A

large throng of people quickly crowded around the famous former child star. Immediately behind Mrs. Black is Lloyd Burgess, Republican National Committeeman for Alaska. —Photo by TIMES EDITOR

## Nenana People See Shirley Temple Black's Warm, Friendly and Down-to-Earth Personality

By HOWARD ROCK  
Times Editor

Mrs. Shirley Temple Black completely captivated and charmed the people of the village of Nenana last Saturday when she and her husband Dr. Charles Black

visited the Tanana River community.

Although the visit lasted less than an hour, Nenana people who saw Shirley will never forget her. Her warmth and friendliness took charge the minute she stepped off the twin-motored Piper Cub.

She was met with same friendliness and in no time at all, the meeting of the visitor by the villagers sounded as if they had met a

childhood friend who had grown up and had been away for 30 years.

For that was what it was really because even though Shirley may not have had too much knowledge of the existence of Nenana deep in the Interior of Alaska, she had, nevertheless, endeared herself to the older citizens of the village who have seen her in films as a talented

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# SHIRLEY TEMPLE BLACK SURPRISES NENANA

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child actress starting back in late 1930's.

The knowing, beaming smiles of the Nenanas told the story as they saw the same smile on the older but the same Shirley.

## UNSCHEDULED TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. Black's trip to Nenana was something of an accident because it was not on the itinerary.

Following their trip from Anchorage, Shirley Temple Black held a rather brief news conference. During an impromptu conversation with the editor of Tundra Times, Howard Rock, after the conference, she said she had heard of a village near Fairbanks that had suffered terribly in last year's August flood.

Obviously not able to recall the exact name of it, she said, "I think it's something like Nan-nan-e..."

"Oh, you mean Nenana," said the editor.

"Yes, that's the one I mean," Shirley said.

She added, "I would like to go there. I would like to help, you know."

"We can get her there," a voice said close by. "We'll take you there. We'll charter a plane."

The voice belonged to Frank Albert, executive assistant to Congressman Howard W. Pollock from Alaska. Pollock had been instrumental in getting the Blacks to Alaska to raise funds and to speak on behalf of the Republicans.

During the news conference, Shirley had said, "I have been a Republican ever since I was ten years old but was able to vote for the first time for Eisenhower."

She attributed this that as a child actress, she had made a movie with a man who later became a Republican governor of Connecticut; had made movies with Republican U.S. Sen. George Murphy; and at one time married (in a movie, of course) the present California Gov. Ronald Reagan.

## TRIP ARRANGED

The flight to Nenana was firmly arranged during the pre-banquet cocktail hour when Lloyd Burgess, National Republican Committeeman from Alaska, made his personal twin-motored Piper Cub available for the trip along with a pilot.

Besides Shirley and Charlie Black, Mrs. Maryanne Pollock, Congressman Pollock's wife, Frank Albert, Howard Rock and the pilot made the trip.

Due to the scheduled flight from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, Y.T. and Juneau at 9:15 a.m., the flying jaunt to Nenana was made at 7:00 a.m. in 20 airborne minutes.

## DIFFERENT TONE

On the evening of the day before the Nenana visit, Shirley Temple Black, although with humor, spoke to a packed banquet audience of about 200 Republicans in profound manner.

"We Americans agree that we are the greatest nation in the world," she told the audience.

"...We're pulling back the veils," she continued. "We have the future by the ears. We have the IQ, the GNP and the GOP."

"We have taken a long walk in space and we are learning to walk under the ocean."

"Yet, we're not satisfied. Now we have the land of milk and honey, we're gagging on it."

"...We're living in an age with pants that stretch and dollars that shrink."

"...We're on the threshold of awakening. And, the national leadership for the next four years is critical..."

"...We're fed up with those who preempt peace as a personal philosophy. Those political cynics who call for peace at any price yearn more for votes than they yearn for peace..."

"...Negotiations at Paris are a cruel test of patience..."

"Ultra right and ultra left hold the stage too often."

"Gen. Carlos P. Romulo told me that in the negotiations, Americans will be playing poker, while the Asiatics will be playing chess. Americans must know the difference..."

"...We're living in a time of corrosive apathy."

"...Where there is no risk, there is no achievement."

"...The price we pay—it's apathy..."

## HUMANITY

Before the flight to Nenana at the Fairbanks International Airport, Shirley talked with Eskimos from Barrow who were waiting for a charter flight.

"You're good looking," she said to a baby as she chuckled its chin. "Is it a girl or a boy?"

"It's a boy," answered Gordon Killbear of Kaktovik on Barter Island.

Later in the coffee shop, Shirley walked in and said, "Isn't this sweet?"

She was holding a wobbly, wilted camelia in her hands.

"It has seen its better days," she said looking at the flower. "He gave it to me—the one I talked to. He said it was the only thing he could find. I think it's sweet."

Changing the subject for a moment, Shirley said, "That man over there, Rev. Simmonds, he said he takes care of 600 people in his church at Barrow."

(Rev. Samuel Simmonds, an Eskimo, is a Presbyterian minister.)

During the travel between Nenana and Fairbanks, the former child star said, "I would like to go to Barrow someday."

## NENANA

When the trip to Nenana was assured, Tundra Times editor called for Alfred Ketzler, the former chief of the village and who has now been replaced by his brother, Richard.

Al Ketzler was not available but the editor talked with Mrs. Ketzler, DeLois.

"Mrs. Black wants to visit Nenana," the editor said. "Shirley Temple—Shirley Temple Black."

Obviously stunned by a sudden realization, DeLois exclaimed, "Oh my gosh—no!"

When told what she had said, Shirley teased DeLois, "Uh—huh, you didn't want me to come here, huh?"

"No, I didn't mean it that way," DeLois hastily said. Then both women laughed.

## INDIANS

During the news conference in Fairbanks, Shirley had told the news media that she was a blood brother of the Blackfoot Indians. She added: "And my husband Charlie over there is a

quarter blood Cherokee."

Later in a private conversation, Shirley said that one of her sons was rather dark and looked very much like an Indian.

"We've raised our children to be proud of their heritage—and they are," she said.

Dr. Charles Black told the editor that his mother, Mrs. James Black, was half Cherokee and who is now living in San Francisco. He said he was the descendant of Oconostota, chief of the Cherokee Nation, headquartered in Tennessee and Oklahoma.

In Nenana, Shirley was quick to point out that her husband was a quarter blood Cherokee, much to the pleasure of the Nenanas.

The visiting group was given a tour of the village in a three-car caravan. Alfred Ketzler, DeLois, Mrs. Meta Lord, Mrs. Mary Demientieff and Mrs. Edna Ketzler gave Shirley a running commentary on the damage the great flood had inflicted on the little town last year.

Shirley was told that "that house had been abandoned." "The people who lived in those houses moved away." "That log cabin was our library and all the books in it were all ruined."

The group was then taken to the Nenana Drive-In Cafe owned by Al and DeLois Ketzler where hot coffee awaited them.

"That coffee was real good," Shirley later said. "It sure hit the spot."

The coffee session was a spirited one. Shirley talked and shook hands with portly Athabascan Indian ladies. Frequent laughter ensued. She met the Coghills of Nenana.

On the plane ride back from Nenana to Fairbanks, Shirley said, "Mrs. Coghill introduced me to that man and told me he was her son and a colonel from the Pentagon. I was really surprised to meet someone from the Pentagon in the village."

After having coffee, Shirley and her husband met people out on the street, posed for



DR. CHARLES BLACK—Dr. Black, Shirley Temple's husband, left, is chatting with Col. William Coghill, right who has been visiting his family from the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Shirley Black later said she was surprised to meet a man from the Pentagon in Nenana. The man with dark glasses, center, is not identified. Dr. Black is a quarter blood Cherokee. —Staff Photo

pictures and signed autographs.

"Where are all the children?" Shirley suddenly asked.

"Aw, they're all asleep yet," answered DeLois Ketzler.

"Oh, the lazy things. And here I started work when I was three years old," Shirley laughed.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Black thoroughly enjoyed their short visit to Nenana. It was a memorable one for the villagers. Most of all, they will never forget Shirley. "She's such a warm, friendly, down-to-earth person," said Mrs. Carol Phillips.

"It's wonderful to have her here. She's so nice," remarked Mrs. Mary Demientieff.

Mrs. Edna Ketzler pointed out, "I think it's just wonderful to have her visit us. We went through a bad flood you know, and I think her visit is going to put us back on the map."

Shirley will not forget her visit either and some of the

amusing things that happened during her Alaska trip. She recounted this incident during the flight from Nenana to Fairbanks:

"You know when we landed in Fairbanks, lots of people crowded around and during that time I kept stepping on something back of me and when I looked back, I found out I had been stepping on Gen. Jones' foot. I think I stepped on his foot about four times. I said, 'I'm so sorry general. I'm a colonel myself.' Why, he could have ordered me around like a buck private and say, 'Get off my foot!'"

Gen. George M. Jones is the commanding general of Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks.

A moment later, Shirley queried the Tundra Times editor, "Do those people in Nenana read books like Shakespeare and such?"

"Yes, they do, and books like any library has," answered the editor.

Shirley Temple Black gave a pleasant little chuckle.



LEAVING NENANA—After a brief visit to Nenana, Shirley Temple Black is putting on a scarf just before boarding the plane for Fairbanks. Partially hidden behind is her

husband, Dr. Charles Black. Scanning a newspaper at left is Mrs. DeLois Ketzler while at right looking is her husband, Alfred Ketzler. —Staff Photo