

## Study Engaged—

## Land Management

FAIRBANKS—A cooperative study of possible land management patterns for more than 23 million acres in the Copper River-Wrangell Mountains region is currently under way by several agencies and Native corporations.

The purpose of this study is to determine the various ways the land in the region could be managed to satisfy the social and economic needs and desires of the different publics that have an interest in the region.

The final report of this study will provide several different sets of regional land management alternatives. Each set will reflect a different approach to management of the region's lands. The final report will also detail the anticipated social and economic impacts of each management approach.

The land management study, which should be completed by September 1976, will not recommend any one land management approach. The public will decide which land management approach or combination of approaches will finally be applied to the land.

The Copper River-Wrangell Mountains study is a cooperative effort. Most of the federal and state land management agencies are involved, including the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

The Ahtna, Chugach and Doyon Native corporations are participating, and the University of Alaska will also be actively involved in the effort. The U.S. Forest Service is providing most of the funding for the study.

A brochure describing the study and asking for preliminary comments from the public will be released in December. Public meetings have been held within the region to find out what the residents of the region desire from the land. Meetings will be held in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez and Cordova in January 1976, to determine the concerns of those people who reside outside the region.

Once the desires and needs of the public are known, the study will determine the extent to which these needs and desires can be met by various management activities applied to the

lands of the region. Different needs and desires will require different management activities; therefore a range of different sets of management alternatives will be developed.

Before these alternatives are finalized, the public will be asked for comments. After these comments are taken into account, the different alternatives will be published.

Further information concerning the study can be obtained from the U.S. Forest Service in Anchorage, Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and the Joint Federal State Land Use Planning Commission in Anchorage.

## Conservation Tip to Save Energy, Money

The Alaska Energy Office, 338 Denali Street, Anchorage, passes on the following conservation tip to help save Alaska's energy and Alaskan's money.

Be kind to your friends and our energy resources this Christmas and keep your purchases of energy demanding gifts to a minimum. Select models of appliances that use the least amount of energy and you'll give your friends year-round benefits of savings on gas or electric bills all year long.

Electric blankets really use very little energy and if that energy user is coupled with the lowering of your thermostat, you'll come out ahead in the heat and cost savings, and savings of Alaska's fossil fuels.

A booklet called "Tips for Energy Savers" can be obtained from the Alaska Energy Office, 338 Denali, Anchorage, Alaska, with helpful tips to help conserve energy as well as money this winter.



American Indians believe ginseng roots are good for stomachaches.



PROTECTED from the nipping wind by fur parkas even the puppy goes for a walk. In the background is a portion of the Barrow Day School and Junior Senior High School. The arc to the far right is a support framework for the city's sewer pipes. Because of year-round permafrost conditions pipes cannot be buried so when they come to a crossroad they go over the top.  
—Photo by SUE GAMACHE



Need extra storage space? Why not convert an old TV cabinet into a storage unit?



Choose snacks with an eye on their food values (protein, vitamins and minerals), not just for calories.

## See Rise in Birth Defects If Vaccine Programs Dropped

by Louis Z. Cooper, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics,  
Columbia University and  
Director of March of Dimes-  
supported Rubella Project,  
Roosevelt Hospital

In the year of our Bicentennial celebration, one of the great American medical successes of recent times is in danger of being forgotten.

It is now clear that mass vaccination breaks the epidemic cycle of rubella (German measles). In 1964-65, the last epidemic year, more than 20,000 infants were born with a wide range of birth defects including blindness, deafness, damage to the heart and other organs, behavioral abnormalities, and mental retardation; many more pregnancies ended in miscarriage.

But present complacency about rubella vaccination may enable the virus to make a comeback in the next few years—a tragedy which can be prevented by timely action.

### The Missing Epidemic

Before 1969, when the rubella vaccine first became available, epidemics occurred every six to nine years. Another was due between 1970 and 1973. That it never materialized is strong evidence that the nationwide vaccination program begun in 1969 was effective.

Control of rubella has centered on immunization of children between the ages of one and 12, who would otherwise spread the infection among themselves and expose expectant mothers. More than 55 million doses of rubella vaccine have been given in the United States so far, and by 1974 reported cases dropped to one-fourth the average annual number in pre-vaccine years. Birth defects due to prenatal rubella infection were down even more.

But the vaccination program has lost momentum. By 1972, more than 60 per cent of children between the ages of one and four, and about 80 per cent of those aged five to

nine were immunized. The percentages have not increased since then.

It is disturbing that recent federal budget cuts have largely eliminated funds for distributing vaccine free to state health authorities. As the financial burden shifts to the states, immunization programs are likely to suffer.

Even from a purely financial standpoint, a cutback in the rubella vaccination program is a dubious economy at

Unless and until public commitment to vaccination programs is renewed, individuals and families must take the initiative to protect future offspring they might have.

### Simple Blood Test

Teen-age girls and all women of childbearing age should ask their physicians for the inexpensive blood test that determines whether they are immune, as many are from previous, often undiagnosed rubella infection. If suscepti-



SPEECH THERAPIST at March of Dimes-supported Rubella Project works with a youngster born deaf from congenital rubella. Other effects commonly include cataracts, heart defects, mental retardation, and problems in perception, learning, and behavior.

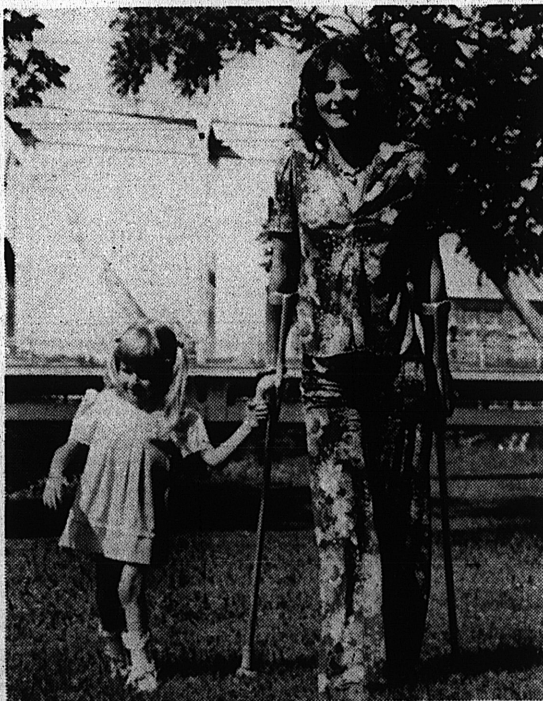
best. It would cost the government about \$10 million to vaccinate the 3 million children added to the population each year. By comparison, the projected total cost of caring for those children born with birth defects after the last epidemic is an estimated \$2 billion—in pre-inflation dollars, steadily shrinking.

### Action Needed

Institutional care and special education for a child disabled by rubella costs \$12,000 to \$25,000 per year. Added to this are the unmeasurable toll of suffering and loss of future earnings—the "social costs."

ble, they should be vaccinated, provided they are not pregnant and can avoid becoming so for three months. This precaution is necessary because the vaccine may carry some risk to an unborn child.

In the words of a spokesman for the March of Dimes, the voluntary health organization dedicated to preventing birth defects, "If we permit children to suffer birth defects which we now have the means to prevent, each victim is a living contradiction of the principle expressed in our Declaration of Independence that everyone has a right to a fair start in life."



TWENTY YEARS AGO, Mary Kosloski was March of Dimes National Poster Child. Today, she is a mother, teacher, and active volunteer. To 1976 Poster Child Tammy Patterson, she is a model and friend. Mary and Tammy are from Tennessee, The Volunteer State.