

# Jerry Ivey Assumes Duties As PHS Native Affairs Officer

Gerald Ivey assumed his new duties as Native Affairs Officer at the Alaska Area Native Health Service, Anchorage, on July 1, 1969.

Ivey is of Athabascan descent and was born in McGrath, Alaska. He was educated at the Mt. Edgecumbe BIA School, later attended Washington State University, and Western Washington College of Education, Bellingham, Washington.

He received his Master's Degree at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Prior to this appointment as Native Affairs Officer, he resided in Fairbanks where he served as principal of the elementary and junior high school at the Ft. Wainwright military reservation.

Ivey is well known throughout the State of Alaska and has been very instrumental in furthering the interests of the Native people. When he served as President of the Fairbanks Native Association, he was particularly interested in furthering the educational opportunities of the native youth of Alaska and worked extensively on the development of the regional high school concept.

He has served as a board member of the Alaska Federation of



**JERRY IVEY**  
—PHS Photograph

Natives, Tundra Times, Alaska Education Association and past president, Ft. Wainwright Education Association.

His position provides a field liaison program to coordinate the health programs of the Area with the Native people and to involve Native leaders as advisors in formation of new health programs and planned program changes.

He also relates to the Alaska

Area Native Health Service the desires of Native leaders. He serves as the focal contact for the Area with BIA and state government agencies.

The Director, Alaska Area Native Health Service, is responsible for the administration of the U. S. Public Health Service health program for approximately 50,000 Indian, Eskimo and Aleut beneficiaries in addition to a smaller group of PHS beneficiaries including Coast Guardsmen, American and foreign seamen.

The Area includes 9 hospitals varying in size from 7 beds (St. Paul and St. George Islands in the Pribilofs) to 279 beds at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

Hospitals at Barrow, Bethel, Kanakanak, Kotzebue, Mt. Edgecumbe and Tanana are general medical and surgical facilities while the Alaska Native Medical Center at Anchorage provides general medical and surgical care and serves as a referral hospital for field locations.

When asked what he sees in the future as regards his position and plans, Ivey stated:

"There were many factors which helped me decide to apply for this position. The main one being the opportunity to work directly with the Native people on the broad spectrum of health care and the sincere attitude and effort I sense on the part of the Indian Health Service to directly involve and seek active participation of the Native people on matters that effect them.

"Specifically, I am referring to the establishment of the Alaska Native Community Health Aide Training (ANCHAT) program, and I am hopeful within the next several months to help form Boards of Health composed of Natives from the various areas who will advise the Area and Service Units as to what they see as their needs and enlist their support, counsel and action on program planning, implementation and future priorities.

"As I see it, my job and the mission of the Public Health Service will change as the health, educational and economic status of the Native people is elevated. I feel particularly fortunate to know personally many of the Native people with whom I will be working."

Ivey is accompanied by his wife, Rosalie and their three children, Gerald, Clifford and Lou. He is truly an outdoors man who loves to hunt, and holds a private pilot's license.