

N.W.T. Eskimos—

977 Enrollment Forms Delivered

By LOIS KEATING
Inuvik Correspondent

INUVIK, N.W.T. — We've been having warmer weather at long last. When the temperature dropped to 48 below on March 16, I was about to give up hope that spring would ever be in sight.

However, the snow is now beginning to melt during the day — but it freezes again at night. With the disappearance of the snow, the town is beginning to look incredibly dirty all kinds of things, long buried under the white stuff, are now making an appearance.

It is also quite evident that considerable damage has been done to the wooden sidewalks, presumably by graders clearing the streets. Huge puddles are appearing everywhere, and I constantly have to make hurried retreats to avoid being covered with mud by passing vehicles.

It's not really dark now at 11:00 p.m. Although I have spent quite a few years above the 60th parallel, this is the first spring for me above the Arctic Circle — and it seems strange to have it light so late, and yet to still be wearing a parka. Planes and helicopters are able to fly for long hours now, and soon they will be busy around the clock.

On March 28th, Nellie Cournoyea and Neta Raddi from C.O.P.E. (Committee for Original People's Entitlement) flew over to Anchorage to personally deliver the Alaska land claims enrollment forms from the Northwest Territories. A few applications had previously been sent in individually, but this last batch consisted of 977 names which were turned over to the enrollment office.

Canadian natives are also working hard for a land claims settlement. C.O.P.E., as the regional organization, together with the I.T.C. (Inuit Tapirisat of Canada), have been gathering data to support their claims. Much criteria is being developed to avoid many problems presently being encountered in Alaska, such as land selection and definition of water.

April 7-8 was a big weekend in Inuvik — besides the N.W.T. Badminton Tournament which was held here, the Anne Murray Show came to town. They were sponsored by CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company) and put on two performances — one in the afternoon for children and another in the evening for adults.

The auditorium of S.A.M.S. School was packed — and after the evening show, the fellows in the band volunteered to play for a dance. The hall was quickly cleared, and we were treated to what was probably the best music ever to come to Inuvik.

Northern Games officials have been busy planning this year's games, to be held the weekend of August 3, 4, and 5. This is the first time that Northern Games will take place after the Eskimo Olympics. The local people hope that a number of participants from Alaska will attend.

Billy Day and the Mackenzie Delta Drum Dancers left last weekend for Montreal where they are putting on a number of performances. They are joining other native dance groups from all over Canada who have gone to Montreal to help support the Indian and Eskimo people of James Bay in northern Quebec, who are fighting to save their land from destruction by the proposed James Bay Hydro Project.

The Drum Dancers from Inuvik are well known in Fairbanks, as they have often attended the Eskimo Olympics, and in 1971 won the Eskimo dance competition. I visited with them the night before they left — it was so good to see them again, as I had worked with them last year in Whitehorse when they came down for the 1972 Arctic Winter Games. This group of older people have done so much to help preserve the dances of this area.

Timber Concession in Indonesia—

President Suharto Praises Georgia-Pacific's Project

EAST KALIMANTAN, Indonesia — In line with Indonesia's priority objective — economic stability and labor education — President Suharto has just inspected the Georgia-Pacific Corp. timber management operation here and lauded its quick success.

The company headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a pioneer in the Indonesian economic development program. It is credited with being the foreign operator with the largest percentage of Indonesians on its local payrolls and a high level of training in skilled jobs.

And after three years of intensive development starting from a dense jungle, G-P officials now forecast that "the project should operate in the black for the first time this year, close to our original schedule."

The Republic of Indonesia president, accompanied by Mrs. Suharto with national and provincial dignitaries, expressed pleasure with the company's employment and work training programs — after seeing local people, who had never handled an automobile, skillfully operating complex, heavy equipment such as mobile cranes and road-building equipment.

G-P now employs 250 Indonesians at its operation.

President Suharto took the occasion to urge publicly that other foreign operators hire and train more Indonesians rather than relying heavily on Philippine and Malayan labor as many labor as many do.

Working at G-P's timber facility is the first employment some of the natives have ever



SUHARTO PRAISES — Indonesian President Suharto (left) and wife visit with G. Gray Evans (center), Georgia-Pacific international vice president, Portland, Ore., at company timber concession in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, during official inspection tour. Suharto praised company for success of operation in helping build Indonesian economy.

had, and their standard of living is up accordingly, it was pointed out.

BIG RAY'S SURPLUS

Send for Our Free Catalog

Top Value at Low Prices

452-3458
507 2nd Avenue

AL WRIGHT'S AIR SERVICE

—registered guide service
—charter service
—Alaska & Canada
—single & multi-engine
—Floats—Wheels—Skis—

WRITE OR CALL

AL WRIGHT Box 3189
5 Mi. Airport Way—456-5502
Residence—Fairbanks—479-6935

Jump on the Bond Wagon.



Take stock in America.
With higher paying U.S. Savings Bonds.

DID YOU KNOW ? MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

is called

"The great crippler
of young adults"



MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
and related diseases
afflict an estimated
500,000 AMERICANS



THE NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

FIGHTS MS

through research and patient services



Look at our name.
It's as new as our emblem.
A bold bringing together
of know-how and new
direction.

Our know-how we got
for ourself.

And we're confident of it.
We're confident, too,
of our direction.

It's a confidence in the
growth of Alaska (and that's
to say, your growth too.)

As a beginning step you'll
find us open Monday thru
Friday 'til 6 PM

...and we've only
just begun.

Alaska
Statebank

