

Phone Call at Inuvik—

Prof. Jimmy Bedford Surprises Friend

By LOIS KEATING
SEPTEMBER 9 — One day this summer my phone rang, and a familiar voice sounded on the other end — "Hi, Lois, it's Jimmy Bedford!" When I got over the initial surprise, it turned out that he had been on a flight from Fairbanks to an ice island north of Resolute Bay when they discovered mechanical troubles and stopped at Inuvik.

He said they would be at the airport for at least an hour, so I jumped into my car and drove right out. It turned out that the plane was going to be grounded indefinitely, and they would have to spend the night at Inuvik, so I brought Jimmy and some of the others back to town and gave them a bit of a tour.

After that I had dinner with Jimmy and got caught up on news about his always interesting life, and about my Alaskan friends.

Judge Thomas R. Berger, the Commissioner of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, has been making informal visits into all the communities which would be affected by the pipeline.

He wants to get to know the people and how they live, and to be able to sit and talk with them in their own homes. People are beginning to look at him as someone who really cares what the people think.

Wally Firth, the Member of Parliament for the N. W. T., was also in the Delta several times this summer, partly on business and partly for a holiday, since this is his home country, as he was born and brought up in Fort McPherson. On most of his jaunts, he flew his tiny plane, appropriately named "The Flea".

The beluga whaling season was quite successful this year, despite all the fears that barge activity in the Beaufort sea area,

in connection with the new man-made islands, would frighten the animals away.

Whitefish Station (the main whaling camp) was a busy place for about six weeks, and besides whaling, quite a bit of fishing was done, and a quantity of dry-fish prepared for winter use.

Ice conditions in the Beaufort Sea have so far prevented the barge getting through to Sachs Harbour with the annual supplies. At this writing it is questionable whether conditions will improve enough for them to get in before freeze-up.

This of course is causing severe problems, as people have been waiting for their supplies for a long time — the barge is usually there by the middle of July.

The weather this summer has been quite unusual, with more than the average amount of wind, and rain, plus snow during the latter part of August. Some of the oldtimers say that early snow means at least a month of good warm weather before winter sets in.

But others say that when the ice stays close in, as it has this year, it means an early freeze-up.

So whatever happens — Indian summer or early winter — we'll have a reason as to what has caused it.

In August four of us chartered a plane to go down to Husky Lakes to go fishing over a weekend. It was fun, and we even caught a few fish, mainly grayling, which I haven't had since my river trips down the Yukon.

In the recent changeover of the Cabinet, following the federal election, Jean Chretien, who has been Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for six years, was promoted to president of the Treasury Board, and the new Minister is Judd Buchanan.

Shortly after Mr. Buchanan's appointment, he made a brief trip into the Delta communities, and met with the people and also with representatives of each of the Native organizations in the area.

This past weekend James Wah-Shee was re-elected president of the Indian Brotherhood of the N. W. T. This coming week, the annual meeting of the Inuit Tapirisat will be held at Cambridge Bay.

Tagak Curley, who has been

president since the ITC began, is not running again, as he wants to be able to spend more time with the young people of the North. Therefore a new president will have to be selected, and at this point, everyone is wondering who it will be.

Also, a major decision will have to be made regarding whether ITC headquarters will remain in Ottawa, or be moved to a location in the North.

We went out picking rosehips this weekend, and I made a big batch of rosehip syrup—yummy. There would have been lots of berries this year, but the early frosts and heavy rains ruined most of them.

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Alaska Legal Services Gets Full Funding

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Following his talk yesterday with Senator Gravel (Democrat-Alaska), OEO Director-designate Bert Gallegos agreed to restore full funding for the public legal services program in Alaska.

Senator Gravel contacted the OEO chief when he learned of plans to end the "accelerated funding level" in the State.

In effect, the OEO decision would have meant a reduction in funding levels in Alaska from the existing \$61,000 a month to about \$40,000 a month — a one-third reduction.

"That kind of a reduction would have been irresponsible, callous, and uncalled for," said the Alaska legislator today. "Mr. Gallegos and I discussed the matter yesterday, and he has promised me that he'll restore the so-called Alaska accelerator over the next six months," after which legal services becomes an independent entity, as legislated by Congress last July.

Senator Gravel said that "we cannot afford any reduction whatsoever in Alaska legal services," citing recent increases in Native applications stemming from the Land Claims Settlement Act and rising numbers of cases in Bethel, Sitka, Nome and other areas.

The number of cases in Nome and Sitka have more than doubled during the first six months of this year over the same period in 1973, he said.

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