

## *Editorial Comment—*

# Capt. Cecil W. "Moe" Cole

North Star, the Bureau of Indian Affairs supply vessel for government installations, schools and native stores, has a special meaning for the native folks throughout Alaska. And Captain Cecil W. "Moe" Cole of the ship is a special person to all the native children on the coastal villages clear up to the Top o' the World village of Barrow.

North Star I, the North Star II, and the current North Star III, with the initial service of the small M. S. Boxer in 1926, have been servicing hospitals, BIA schools, village stores for 46 years. In that span of time, the villagers have come to depend on the ship always knowing that she will deliver the goods. The North Star's arrival is a major event in all the villages she services.

Where the ship's arrival means another year's supply and goods, Captain "Moe's" landing ashore means quite another thing — happiness for native children which many times bubbles over to ecstatic joy. When Captain Moe's candy-giving event is over for this year, the children will begin to anticipate the next one, one whole year away. The waiting will become agonizing because one year to a child is an incredibly long time. In the meantime, Captain Moe will begin to assemble tons of candy for next year's voyage to the Arctic.

This charming yearly episode began many years ago when Moe gave candy to parents of today's children. Who knows, there might be a scattering of grandparents to whom Moe has given candy when he began the tradition years ago.

Captain Moe's delightful venture does not go unscathed from Eskimo pranksters. An elderly Eskimo, obviously 20 years older than the captain, will approach and tell Moe, "When I was a little boy many years ago you used to give me candy." To which Moe retorts something to the effect, "Aw come on. Get lost!"

Captain Moe must have half of the Alaska Native population as personal friends. We are not surprised. And he's making more each time he goes ashore in remote Alaska villages.