

Only One Woman Visited Ice Island Says Barrow Evacuee Nusunginya

A smiling evacuee came through Fairbanks last week after braving, among other hazards, an 8-day, 50-knot per hour wind average storm east of Greenland.

Percy Nusunginya, of the important support personnel of the Arlis II, was on his way to Barrow, his home, after being evacuated from the famous ice island, the mobile scientific base of the Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow.

Back in 1963, Percy was a shop foreman at ARL. One day he kidded his boss, John Beck, about wanting to be on the Arlis II that was meandering around the Arctic Ocean. The island was first manned in May of 1961 under the direction of Max Brewer, Director of ARL.

A short time later, arrangements had been made for Percy to go to the island. He worked on it off and on for two years.

"The first few weeks were difficult to get used to but the hardest part of it was when you were about to go on leave when they kept cancelling plane flights on account of the weather," Percy said.

Percy, along with about 22 people, was evacuated from the Arlis II recently. He came by way of Iceland, New York, and Seattle where he had a two-day visit with his sister, Mrs. Edna Rice.

"Food was very good on Arlis. We had crab legs, lobster, and steaks that thick," said Percy, measuring a two-inch space with his thumb and forefinger.

"And, you know, there was only one woman who came on the island

all the time I was there and she was an Icelandic reporter," concluded the 23-year-old young man.