

Northwest Arctic Teacher Conference successful

By HAROLD SCHETZLE

A three-day conference sponsored by the Northwest Arctic Teacher Center and Bilingual Programs was held at the Anchorage Westward Hilton February 26, 27 and 28.

The purpose of the conference was to provide teachers, aides and administrators with intensive training in needed areas of improvement in classroom instruction.

The Northwest Arctic Teacher Center operates under a grant to reduce the isolation and increase the professional association of 125 teachers and 96 instructional aides in the 11 schools of the Northwest Arctic School District (NWASD). This district is comprised of schools from the following areas: Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik and Shungnak.

The conference was well attended and included education people from all over the state who were in town for the State Teachers meetings.

Numerous workshops were scheduled throughout the three day conference and included such topics as: Integrated Planning and Budgeting for Small Schools, First Aid Instructor Training, Refresher Course in Basic Inupiaq, Oral Language

Development and English as a Second Language, Teaching in the Bilingual Classroom and Arctic Survival.

The instructor for the Arctic Survival workshop was Keith Lawton and he discussed many tips for survival.

"Sometimes the top level of water in a lead may be fresh

water," he said. "Another possibility is to punch a hole through a thin area in sea ice and break off ice crystals underneath, which may be fresh water ice."

"You can also obtain some fresh water from licking the frozen condensation of your breath off your moustache," he

added.

Mr. Lawton covered other topics such as frostbite treatment, reading the weather, clothing for arctic survival (you can't beat Native apparel for cold weather), shelters and hypothermia.

Tom Troxell was the instructor for the workshop, Teach-

ing in the Bilingual Classroom, and he discussed topics such as the qualities of a good teacher, the nature and psychology of the student, what is learning and working with a class.

These workshops were not only valuable to NWASD teachers and aides but were successful in attracting educators throughout Alaska.