

## Tundra Times

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Vol. 11, No. 20

Wednesday, May 15, 1974

Fairbanks, Alaska

## WRANGELL MAY GET 1 YEAR

Low Attendance,  
Rising Costs  
Force Decision

By MARGIE BAUMAN

Clarence Antioquia, Alaska area director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, said Tuesday that Wrangell Institute would probably remain open for another year.

The BIA leader was still weighing, however, the economic realities of rising expenses and a declining student population against opposition to closure from within the Institute itself.

"This isn't any easy decision," Antioquia said. "We are not taking this lightly."

In more than 40 years of operation, Wrangell Institute has earned very high respect and developed as a tradition and many Alaska Native leaders have received at least part of their education at Wrangell, he said.

Yet, as the student population at Wrangell dwindled to 109 for the current academic year and costs per student jumped from \$7,709 to \$10,353, the BIA was forced to take a sharp look at the possibilities of closure, Antioquia said.

In addition, the operating facilities at Wrangell would need a major overhaul that would cost over \$1.5 million in order to continue operating on a long-term basis, Antioquia said.

In Washington, D.C. meanwhile, U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, has urged continued operation of Wrangell for the 1974-75 school year, "with close study of operation for additional years. 'The Alaska Democrat said that Wrangell' has performed a valuable service to education in Alaska.

"Any future closure of the Institute should not result in negative economic impact upon the local community," Gravel said.

As word of Wrangell's impending closure reached Wrangell itself several weeks ago the reaction from the facility and staff was one of protest. In a letter to the Tundra Times, the group said in part that they challenged the area BIA office argument that Wrangell should close because the new high schools were being built much closer to home.

"This is by far a better proposal than transporting them so far from home, the letter said. 'But our question is, after taking into consideration the type of students enrolled here; those not academically ready to enter high school and have already experienced failure of one sort or another, is the state or the bu-

reau going to provide the individualized education and attention that they are receiving here? NO!"

"Plans are that villages will be building schools and would provide needed special education in their home villages, but we firmly believe that until this becomes a reality Wrangell Institute should remain open to meet the needs of the Alaskan Native children," the letter said.

The faculty and staff of Wrangell added that "major reasons that have been given for closure seem to be money for updating the plant. New gym, covered play area, water lines boilers, staff housing repairs, etc.

"In the past eight years or more the requests for most of these have been pushed to the bottom of the lists, but now reach the critical number one (Continued on page 6)

## Finalaska?

By MARILYN RICHARDS

How, what and where to develop in Alaska is now a major problem but there are several interesting concepts which proved internationally successful comments an associate professor in geography at the University of Alaska.

Dr. Donald Lynch, who obtained his doctorate from Yale University, is also an expert on the cultural, economic and geographic developments of cold lands - including Russia, Scandinavia and Alaska.

If Russia still owned Alaska, we might now be known as the Soviet Socialist Republic of Alaska.

The S.S.R.A. would certainly have been structured differently socially, strategically and economically. Tanana would obviously be a capital choice says Lynch because it is a central location and "Fairbanks would be open to attack by Canada."

Alaska would have been more industrially developed. Rampart Dam would be providing hydroelectric power but also reducing the silt into the Yukon River (Continued on page 6)



CUTTING LOGS — From left, Pat Schuerch, Lorry's oldest son; Wilber Atoruk; Lorenz Schuerch Jr.; Vincent Schuerch, Lorry's brother; Tommy Reed and John Morris. These men are all helping with construction, being careful to cut logs so they don't mess up the symmetry of the forest.

— Photo by Lael Morgan

## Goingest Town—

## Kiana Is Modern

By LAEL MORGAN

KIANA — Ernie Norton, Eskimo Mayor of Kotzebue, was discussing his town's growing pains.

"The population is about 2,000. Only one third of Kotzebue has sewer and water yet. I can't get it. It doesn't matter who you are," he chuckled. "If I want running water, I have to visit my wife's family in Kiana."

Kiana, population 278, is the goingest town on the Kobuk. Not only has it had a functioning sewer and water system for two years but a host of other goodies.

In 1970 a state bond passed for a \$2 million high school for the village, complete with a gymnasium to hold 300 people, and the building is expected to be in operation next fall.

In 1971 ASHA put 16 new homes into Kiana and as many more have been built privately since that time.

Kiana was the first village to be electrified by AVAC.

A new \$24,000 clinic will open there soon.

It has 2.5 miles of gravel highway built by the city through a \$30,000 contract with the State Highway Department.

It has a lighted airstrip, large enough to land a 727.

And now there's the Kiana Hilton!

Well, it's not really a Hilton Hotel but a first class, \$60,000 hunting and fishing lodge. It's under construction now, about a three-quarter hour run by snow machine up the Kobuk River from the village.

The building is being undertaken by Lorenz "Lorry" Schuerch Jr., formerly with the

Alaska State Troopers and the Kotzebue Police Department.

"I like police work," Schuerch says. "But it's great to be home and out working on the land again."

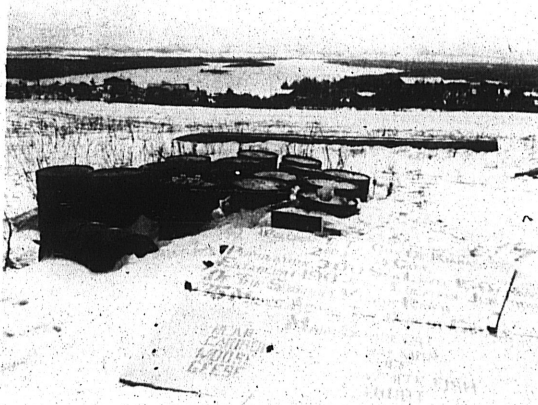
Schuerch has applied for a loan from the State Department of Economic Development, parlaying his 160-acre Native land allotment as collateral.

The lodge, a four-bedroom 20 x 30 fabricated building, is being manufactured in Washington State and Schuerch hopes to have it flown in this spring.

In the meantime he's clearing ground and building a log utility unit and sewer system.

The spot he picked for the lodge is on a beautiful bend of the Kobuk called "Naluk" which means in Eskimo, "Place where the animals cross." And sure enough, they do. Caribou moose across the river right in line with Schuerch's planned picture windows.

Fishing will be good, too, he promises. Shee fish, Arctic Char, grayling and pike. June 25 to Sept. 1.



Modern Town of Kiana . . .

## Young Predicts Worsening Racial Climate in Wake of Claims

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(AIPA) — U.S. Rep. Don Young, Republican congressman at large for Alaska, predicts a worsening of the racial climate in that state and a heightening sense of politi-

cal awareness among Alaska Natives in the wake of the 1971 settlement of the Alaska Native claims.

Young, a freshman in the House and a member of the House Indian Affairs Subcom-

mittee, told AIPA in an interview here April 23 that awards of land and money to Natives in the claims settlement has fanned resentment on the part of a large segment of the state's 312,000 population.

"The racial climate has been worsened because of jealousy," said Young. "All of a sudden Natives are the strongest single economic unit in Alaska, and there is resentment in this."

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