

Indian Psychiatrist Visits Alaska

Dr. H.C. Townsley, from Norman, Okla., is currently visiting in the state. Townsley, a Chickasaw Indian, and one of the only five Indian psychiatrists in the United States is here on the invitation of Tommy Ongtooguk, deputy director of the Norton Sound Health Corporation.

Before departing for Nome, Dr. Townsley spent two days in Anchorage visiting the various Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers along with Ralph Amouak, projects director, Alaska Native Commission, Mini-Grants Program; Evelyn Myers, Alcoholism Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator for RurAL CAP; Patsy Hesler, office manager for the ANCADA/Mini-Grants Program; and Ongtooguk. Townsley is currently the director of the Oklahoma Drug Abuse and Aftercare Treatment Program for the State of Oklahoma. He also works extensively in the field of Alcoholism and Vocational Rehabilitation.

Dr. Townsley was invited to

Alaska for site-visitations and, if possible, to assist in evaluations and offer possible suggestions that may help in the areas of Drug Abuse, Mental Health and, specifically, Alcoholism.

In the Norton Sound area, Townsley is scheduled to visit several small villages including Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Teller and Little Diomedede Island.

Among his other accomplishments, Dr. Townsley was very instrumental in the formation of the Association of the American Indian Physicians. At the present time, they have a total of 48 members who identify themselves as Native American Indians and Physicians.

The primary purpose of the association is to encourage other Indian people to go into the medical or para-medical fields.

According to Amouak, "We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Townsley's expertise in Alaska and look forward to his next visit when he can spend more time in the other regions of the state.



Left to right: Tommy Ongtooguk, Dr. H.C. Townsley, Patsy Hesler, and Ralph Amouak pictured in front of the Social Development Center in Anchorage.