



STUDENTS MUST FLY AGAIN

Parents Are Sought As Boarding Program Has Shortage of Homes

By MARGIE BAUMAN

FAIRBANKS — From villages of the Arctic Slope, Northwest and the Interior of Alaska, they arrived this week with suitcases in hand — boarding home students in pursuit of an education far from home.

Alice, a slim girl in a fur-trimmed black velvetene parka, wondering what it's going to be like going to school so far from home.

Danny, armed with a basketball and looking forward to school in Fairbanks, as a sophomore.

Agnes, worried that she'll go to live at a home where she really doesn't want to go.

Alice, Danny, Agnes and 1500 other Indian, Aleut and Eskimo teen-agers made the mass exodus from their villages this week because state law requires that they attend school, but there are no high schools in their villages. The forced migration, which separates these students from their families nine months of

the year, has been bitterly attacked by spokesmen for Alaska's Native people, especially young men and women who have been through the boarding home program themselves and found the situation far from satisfactory.

Still the practice continues, with hundreds of Native teenagers being filtered through boarding home and boarding school programs via Fairbanks, Anchorage, Nome, Dillingham, Kodiak, Sitka, and as far as Chemawa, Oregon.

The Fairbanks boarding home program, under supervision for

(Continued on page 6)



INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C. B. MORTON, left, was at Kotzebue August 22, for an informal talk with NANA Regional Corp. officials, including (left to right) John W. Schaeffer, executive director; Tommy Sheldon

Sr., treasurer, and Willie Goodwin Jr., lands director. Topics of conversation ranged from Kotzebue village deficiency lands to the proposed East-West Highway, which NANA opposes.

— PHOTO BY MARGIE BAUMAN

NEW PLAN FOR BUSH SCHOOLS

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW BUTLER

A helicopter hovered over an Alaskan rural village and dangled a school building off the ground from steel cables. Up to that moment, no one was quite sure where the building would be placed. The villagers, indeed, may not have been sure the building was ever going to be a real building, and least of all, that they would have the right to say where they wanted it in their village.

The building IS real, the incident is real, the people are real, and the problem is real. Education in rural Alaska is very

much up in the air.

A joint meeting on education was held August 21 and 22 on the campus of the University of Alaska. The meeting combined participants from the Center for Northern Educational Research, Dr. Frank Darnell, director; and the Alaska Legislature's Interim Committee on Prehigher Education, Lowell Thomas, Jr., chairman.

Starting point for the discussion was Senate Bill 122 and House Bill 192 which failed to pass in the last session and which sought to decentralize the State Operated School System and create regional service areas

(Continued on page 6)

Morton Chats With NANA

By MARGIE BAUMAN

KOTZEBUE Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton flew north of the Arctic Circle August 22 for a brief, informal chat with NANA Regional Corp. officials, but it turned out to be much more than that.

Upset over the uncertain status of some 698,600 acres of Kotzebue Village deficiency lands, the leadership of the NANA Regional Corp. confronted Morton, over coffee at the Drift Inn, just off the shores of Kotzebue Sound.

Portions of the deficiency lands, being transferred for deficiency selection from D-2 status, have a D-2 override on them. Neither Morton, nor Alaska Bureau of Land Management director Curt McVee, who arrived the next day, were able to define what activities were presently allowed to occur on those lands under the D-2

override. (Under the D-2 override, those lands not selected will return to D-2 status).

So NANA executive director John W. Schaeffer put the questions to Morton, who in turn asked that Schaeffer direct the questions to Curt Berklund, director of the BLM in Washington D.C.

Morton's one hour stopover came amidst a visit to several areas of the state, in a week long trip designed to bring the Interior Secretary together with the Native leadership trying to

(Continued on page 5)

Canadian Claims The Subject Of Unusual Hearings

YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

The bizarre court case over Indian rights here is getting even more strange.

In the latest move, government attorneys have pulled out of the case, leaving the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories with a major test case in aboriginal land rights and only Indian legal representation.

The case involves a caveat filed by the Northwest Indian Brotherhood, protesting transfer of crown lands in the territories until the aboriginal question is settled. The government is protesting the validity of the caveat, which if allowed to stand would impose a long-term land freeze of Northwest Territories.

This could cause severe

(Continued on page 2)

Roger & Eunice Get Hitched

FAIRBANKS — Roger Kunayak, of Little Diomedea and Nome, and Eunice Hopson, of Fairbanks, got married in the First Presbyterian Church here last Sunday.

We would say more about what a nice wedding it was, if the pictures didn't speak for themselves.

BEFORE



AFTER



PRESENT SCHOOLS OF QUESTIONABLE VALUE — Dennis Demmert, of the Center for Northern Educational Research Advisory Board summarizes the immediate problems of the Alaskan rural school system. Listening are Bill Vaudrin, State Human Rights Commissioner, Dr. Frank Darnell, Director of CENR, and Byron Mallott, Commissioner of Community and Regional Affairs. — Photo by JACKIE GLASGOW BUTLER