

Kotzebue teacher is Alaska Teacher of the Year

"An honest and caring person" was the way Cindy Hackworth, President of the Northwest Arctic Education Association, described Albert Peacock, who was named Alaska State Teacher of the Year. Peacock is a teacher at Kotzebue Elementary School.

The basic trend of these statements was Peacock's concern for others. Principal Walt Day put it this way, "He is a truly outstanding individual...with his constant positive attitude and relationships with other staff members and students, he has contributed significantly to the harmonious, open, and caring atmosphere in whatever activity he is involved in... Al is not, however, merely a student advocate, but is a people advocate, which has won him the respect of students, staff and parents."

Alice and Neldon Peacock are the parents of Al, the eldest of three sons. Peacock was born on August 22, 1942, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Peacock seems to have acquired traits from both his parents who operate a soft-water business in Marion, Ohio. Neldon Peacock is the outgoing, sociable soft hearted parent, while Alice seems to balance this with the day-to-day job of working, organizing and sacrificing her own pleasures for those of her family. Peacock is a combination of his parents personalities.

Ability to see the humorous side of life makes him enjoyable company to be around. His concern for others is probably the most often mentioned trait by his students and colleagues. This concern goes back to his childhood days, when at St. Mary's Elementary School Peacock was often the class leader for collecting food, clothing and money to send to the missions.

Peacock lived with both his grandparents at different times to provide care when they were incapacitated with a stroke and amputated leg.

Peacock enjoyed talking with the hobos along the railroad tracks. He could visualize their stories of travel and hoped to visit those places in the future.

After graduation from high school Peacock entered the seminary at Colombiere College in Clarkston, Mich. It was during this time that Peacock grew in the areas of self-discipline and self-awareness. He enjoyed caring for others as an aide at St. Joseph's Hospital.

After leaving the seminary he worked in the assembly line at a whirlpool factory. Peacock enjoyed his somewhat rough-edged co-workers. It was on the job that he truly came to see the value of each man to our society.

As a youngster, Boy Scouts was Peacock's first love. He became an Explorer Scout in high school and attended the National jamboree in 1956.

A nasty remark from a basketball coach led Peacock to be manager for basketball and football rather than a player. But then Peacock began developing his skill in individual sports-hiking, swimming, scuba diving and sailing. He loves sports connected with the out-of-doors.

While working at Whirlpool, Peacock started taking courses in the evenings at Ohio State Branch College.

During his fourth year of college, Peacock saw a notice on campus requesting people to tour Europe by camping. He borrowed money from his aunt on the condition he would graduate from college the following year. On that trip he met Patricia Johnson who was later to become Patricia Peacock.

Upon his return to college he contemplated his courses, his personality, his interests and

abilities and decided he was best suited to be a teacher.

Peacock has three sons, Lah-

ka, 8, Kavik, 2, Noyuk, 5 months, and a daughter, Kiana, 7.

(Article courtesy Northwest Arctic Education Association)