

Stevens village man missing since Sept. 6

Stevens Village's only school teacher is missing and presumed dead after his capsized canoe motor were found south of the village on Monday, Sept. 6. Peter Tierney, 32, was to start his third year of teaching at the village on Tuesday.

Will Rigger, superintendent of the Yukon Flats School District, reports that the search is still going on but has tapered off since troopers and friends of Tierney's have conducted air and ground searches and are convinced he could not have survived long in the river and no trace of him was found along the banks.

Tierney was also a diabetic and set off without his medication wearing only jeans, a light shirt and slippers, as evidenced by an inventory of his clothing, according to Rigger. He

apparently took a shotgun with him and Rigger speculates that it may been that he heard the sound of geese honking and quickly set out to bag some lunch.

Survived by his father and mother, Tierney, unmarried, was from New Jersey. He had been the principal in Ft. Yukon from 1973 to 1975 before transferring to Stevens Village. A replacement is being sought from among those who knew Tierney and are acquainted with the district and the village school which serves about 12 students. Meanwhile, the first day of school has been deferred.

Rigger also said that special commendation should be given to teacher William Pfisterer, a friend of Tierney's, who coordinated most of the search and notified Tierney's family.