

George Attla story—

## *'Catch the Wind' to premier in December*

William Ambrose, Jr., is a thirteen-year-old Yukon River resident with a special reason to look forward to Christmas this year.

In December, Raven Pictures will hold the Fairbanks debut of "Catch the Wind," a full-length feature film that dramatizes the life of veteran dog-musher George Attla. Ambrose is expecting his film debut, too—he was selected this February to act the part of Attla as a boy in the film.

He'll co-star with Chief Dan George, Slim Pickins, and Pius Savage, a Holy Cross man who won the part of Attla as a young

Ambrose's brother, Louis, age 8, plays Robert Attla, and many people from Fort Yukon, Rampart, Stevens Village and other

river villages have small parts. The film is being financed by Doyon, Ltd., and is directed and produced by Ralph Liddle and John Logue. In addition to shooting in towns from the Arctic Circle to Southeastern, the crew went on location in Ely, Minnesota for scenes of the race.

After several months of filming and traveling around the State, returning to Galena for school might seem like a let-down. Ambrose said he thought he might feel a little different when he went back home but he says he'll adjust to being a normal eight-grader after learning from tutors on the road.

Ambrose said that the chance to act in this film has led him to hope for a career as an actor.

He received coaching on the job, and took a class at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks taught by Lee Salisbury. Ambrose plans to look for a chance to continue his acting study after he finishes high school in Galena.

Fans of dog-mushing, friends and neighbors of George Attla Doyon shareholders, and anyone who likes a movie with an exciting plot, beautiful scenery and a fascinating personal triumph to relate, ought to be looking forward to Christmas almost as much as the youngest star of "Catch the Wind."

Ambrose has also become friends with Attla himself, who is advising the film crew and sharing the hospitality of his river camp with members of the

company. The part of Attla's father is played by the award-winning Canadian Indian actor, George Clutesi.

Ambrose will be the central figure in the first part of the movie, almost completed, depicting Attla's childhood in Huslia and the discovery that he was afflicted with tuberculosis of his right leg. After showing Ambrose transported to a sanitarium in Sitka for treatment, the movie flashes ahead to Attla's struggle, played by Savage, to overcome the paralyzing effects of the disease. The climax comes as Attla speeds to the finish of his first mushing championship in the 1958 Fur Rendezvous in Anchorage. Of course, he is still winning championships to this day.