



**CLASS OF '48** — Shown here is the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Class of 1948, one of three classes planning a reunion in early 1980. Graduates are, left to right, front row: Nida Nekrossoff, Alice Lohr, Nancy Truitt, Dorothy Fredrickson, Sara Mercuriel, Lorraine Christomos, Fannie Burton, Fina Ivanoff, and Marilyn Lauth. Second row, left to right, are: Agnes Delphan, Lena Underwood, Geraldine Martin, Mary Loller, Gertrude Hope, and Richard Stitt. In the third row are Alec Hunter, Marian Valle, Dorothy Knapp, Elsie Kokrine, Ada Jakes, Ernestine Bean, Alberta Thomas, Mary Brown and Jim Austin. In the fourth row are Ben Miyasato, Cliff

Mills, George Miyasato, Dundee Atkinson, Tim Chernoff, Elsie Stnadifer, Roger Williams, Carl Swenson, Mardow Solomon, Dexter Honea and Cristine Dubke. In the back row are David Willard, Ray Booth, Bill Cummings, Corky Casey, Fred Williams, Archie Cavanaugh, Gill Truitt, Edward Shavings, Ted Moses, Harry Watson and Charles Dennis. Tim Chernoff, Kodiak; Ben Miyasato, Wrangell, Mardow Solomon, Ft. Yukon, and Harry Watson, Klawock are deceased. Class sponsor was Mrs. A. Teresa Ripley. Max W. Penrod was school superintendent. Alfred F. Lawrence was principal.

Photograph provided by Gil Truitt

## Mt. Edgecumbe classes plan reunions

By Gil Truitt

**SITKA- (Special)** - Three graduated classes of Mt. Edgecumbe High School will be holding class reunions in February 1980. The Classes of 1948, 1949 and 1950. Members of the three classes are spread throughout the state and the lower 48.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School, a boarding BIA operated school for Native youngsters from throughout the state, is located on Japonski Island, one quarter of a mile from historic Sitka. Converted from a World War II naval base, the school opened its doors for the first time on February 22, 1947, when Wrangell Institute and the Eklutna Vocational School were phased-out. Both were boarding schools operated by the BIA. Student bodies from the two phased-out schools were combined to make-up the first enrollment (600) on the Japonski Island campus. The school graduated its first class in May of 1948.

The classes of 1948 and 1949 were the original classes moving here from Wrangell. The class of 1948 held the only class re-union to date, in 1972, when better than 50 per-cent of the membership returned

to Sitka. The Class of 1948 is looking for a return better than 75 per-cent for the second re-union in February 1980. The Class of 1949 is predicting that more than 75 per-cent will return to Sitka. The Class of 1950 is hopeful of a 50 per-cent return.

The Re-union Committee consists of George Miyasato and Gil Truitt, 1948; Ted Borbridge and Augie Anderson, 1949; and Selina Marks Wrenn and Betty Martin Allen, 1950. Miyasato is chairman of the Committee and Truitt is in charge of invitations. Miyasato was the first student body president in 1948.

All members of the three classes, of whom addresses of many are unknown, are requested to contact:

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Contact is essential in order that invitations and necessary information can be forwarded to members of the three classes.

The re-union of the three classes will take place in the Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe area in February 1980.

A. Teresa Ripley, retired BIA teacher, was the class advisor of the Classes of 1948, 1949 and 1950 as well

as the many Mt. Edgecumbe graduating classes that followed. Fred Geeslin was the first General Superintendent; Max W. Penrod was Principal; Alfred F. Lawrence C. Porter was the Administrative Officer. Ripley, Geeslin and Porter all retired and presently reside in Sitka. Lawrence, also retired, resides in Scottsdale, Arizona. Penrod passed away a number of years ago.

Three members of the Class of 1948, Archie Cavanaugh, Dundee Atkinson and Richard Stitt were inducted into the school's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1972. A fourth member of the Class, Franklin Skhane Williams of Kake, just missed the select eleven-man group by two votes. The 1948 team sported a 33-1 loss record, the best in the 31 year history of the school.