

Muschenheims Enjoy Travels Throughout Northern Alaska

Dr. Carl Muschenheim, his wife Ronda and their young son, Dwight, made a swing throughout Alaska the last two weeks. The Doctor visited Public Health Service hospitals in Anchorage, Kotzebue and Mt. Edgecumbe. They also visited Nome, Sitka, Juneau, Pt. Hope and Barrow.

"I was very much impressed with the way the Public Health Service has been conducting the health program in Alaska," Dr. Muschenheim said. "I am also much impressed with the health and training program."

The PHS is in the process of bringing in a number of health aids from villages for 15 weeks of training.

The Muschenheim family was also very much amazed with the method the doctors at Kotzebue used to give medical advice over radio to the outlying villages.

"It is an effective way to provide some emergency medical advice where they can't get a doctor or nurse very quickly," said Muschenheim.

He said he was briefed extensively by the doctors at the PHS hospital in Anchorage on the tuberculosis situation.

"Although prevalence of this disease is still 15 or 20 times more than that of the rest of the country, mortality has been reduced to a very low figure," he said.

He said that childhood diseases were very common especially otitis, or ear infection. He found that there was no trachoma in Alaska. Trachoma is a blinding eye disease.

"This fortunate situation in Alaska might be partly due to the climate although I would not say positively," Muschenheim said.

Ronda Muschenheim was no less elated over the family's first trip to Alaska. She had the opportunity to contact several sources for Eskimo arts and crafts for the American Indian Arts Center of the Association on American In-

dian Affairs, Inc., which she directs.

"The people at Point Hope were just grand to us," she said. "Andrew Tooyak is going to do ivory carving for the Center. He is a very good carver."

She said ivory carved items were very popular in New York and sold very well. She also got arts and crafts sources in Sitka, Anchorage, and Point Hope. The Center has been selling Nunivak Island masks and these were very popular also in New York.

Baleen baskets from Point Hope are also excellent items but they were rather hard to get.

Mrs. Muschenheim is planning to put on a special Alaska exhibit in New York of arts and crafts, perhaps in the fall.

When asked how he enjoyed the Alaska trip, young Dwight Muschenheim said, "It gave me a chance to see how the Eskimos live in Alaska. I was very impressed with Pt. Hope and the people there."
