

*Grand Opening Held Friday—*

# New Top of the World Hotel

By JEFF RICHARDSON

BARROW — America's highest hotel, the Top of the World Hotel in Barrow, Alaska held its grand opening celebration last weekend.

The hotel, completed in October, is jointly owned by the Native people of the Ufqeagvik Inupiat Corporation, the village corporation for Barrow, and Tundra Tours, Inc., a subsidiary of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

About fifty people attended the dedication banquet. Howard

Rock, editor of the Tundra Times and guest of honor for the opening, said the hotel "should be an inspiration to all our people in the future." He lauded the efforts of many Native leaders who helped make such a project possible.

A simple, elegant building the Top of the World boasts two stories, forty rooms, and a restaurant managed under contract by Sheffield Enterprises.

Construction was completed in a race against inflation and material shortages over a six-

month period, according to Nelson Ahvakana, president of Tundra Tours. He said the cost of building the hotel was approximately \$1.3 million.

The hotel was put together in Barrow by Pre Built Structures, Inc. after travelling thousands of miles in pre-fabricated pieces and modules from PBS headquarters in Spokane, Washington.

After coming most of the way by train and ship, the pieces finally arrived in Barrow aboard Hercules aircraft from Fairbanks.