

Rufus Tingmeak, Inuvik, N.W.T.—

E-I Olympics Performer Slain

By LOIS KEATING

INUUVIK, N.W.T. — Nov 23 —

Sorry to be so late again with news, but things have been quite hectic around here.

The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) Annual Conference was held at Cambridge Bay in September. James Anvaluk, of Igloodlik, was elected as the new president. Tagak Curley, the former ITC president, is now the Director for the North west Territories Inuit Land Claims project.

In early October my jaw was broken in an accident, and I had to go out to Edmonton for 11 days for an operation. It was a mixed blessing, because besides all the discomfort, I had a chance to visit with some old friends I knew when I lived in Edmonton ten years ago, and I even managed to do a little shopping.

Freeze-up was about three weeks early this year, and a lot of the barges got caught in the ice at various settlements. This will mean a delay in the shipping season next year.

The COPE (Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement) office has moved into one of the new buildings here in Inuvik. They badly needed more space, and the new facilities are much appreciated.

The COPE annual meeting was held at Holman Island in early October. Holamn Island has now been added to the COPE district. COPE now has several Pipeline Information Fieldworkers — they are Frank Cockney, and Agnes Gruben White from Tuk, Annie C. Gordon from Aklavik, and Gail Noble from Inuvik.

They have been travelling into the communities and showing

films and visiting homes to talk with the people about the pipeline.

In late October Sam Raddi, president of COPE, and Jenifer Rigby, COPE secretary, attended the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks. They also had a chance to meet Tundra Times editor Howard Rock. Jenifer continued on to Anchorage for the AFN convention and was also present at the Tundra Times banquet.

On November 8th there was a tragic fire at Fort McPherson which took the lives of John and Gloria Ross, a young couple who had been married there in April. John was the son of Bella Ross of Fort McPherson and Gloria was the daughter of Alfred Bernard of Aklavik.

The following day Rufus Tingmeak, of Inuvik, as very well-known person throughout the Delta, was killed. The circumstances are not yet completely known, but George Adams, also of Inuvik, has been charged with murder. Rufus apparently died from an axe wound in his neck.

Rufus Tingmeak was the husband of Sarah, and the father of

acclamation, and therefore a council election will not have to be held in December, as originally planned. The mayor, this time for a second term, is Jim Robertson, and the counselors are Betha Allen, John Hill, John Rosca, Malcolm McConnell, Susie Husky, Alex Forman, Gwen Da-

vis and Jack Heath.

There have been a lot of caribou this year around Aklavik and Fort McPherson, and the men have been in and out of town, hunting and hauling meat. Some meat was also given to the older people who are unable to hunt for themselves anymore.

Pat, Abel, and Glen, who were well known to Eskimo Olympics fans. As you may remember, Glen was drowned in a boating accident in July.

Judge Berger, of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Commission, has finished making his informal preliminary visits to the Delta communities. Since July, he has visited 26 communities along the Mackenzie River and the coast, visiting the people in their homes. The dates for the beginnings of the formal hearings have not yet been set.

The election for Inuvik Town Council and Mayor was won by