

# Importance of Education Seen In National Guard Training

By **ALFRED GRANT**  
Tanana Correspondent

**TANANA** — Present temperature 42 plus, March 23, 1965. I don't know about this unusually warm spell we're having. Imagine having to set your rain barrel out to catch water—actually, we're not supposed to get rain till the end of April, or early part of May.

We're expecting to wake up one of these days to find that the cold has set in again. If my mind serves me correctly, the normal temperature should be around 10 or 15 above this time of year.

About all that I'm thankful for is that it sho is easy on the woodpile. To be truthful, I don't like work and work don't like me. Some of you older folks know how that old song goes, don't you know?

## **Back from Encampment**

Yours truly just returned from encampment at Fort Richardson. All I can think of to say is that you all should support your local Guard 100 per cent as you cannot do without it.

So you villages that do not have National Guardsmen formed, you should write to Major Steele, c/o National Guard, Nome Alaska for more info on this important matter. And I'm sure that he will be more than happy to get you rolling towards forming your own local unit. You had better believe this. You owe it to your country if you believe in Freedom.

## **Dog Tired**

They sure must have had quite a reception for our out of town folks up there in Fairbanks during the recent North American Championship dog races as I see most of the folks that were up there from here sure looked dog-awfully-tired. They said everyone really went to the dogs. Sounds as though Keith did as he wound up being the champ.

## **Rampart Conversation**

While passing through Ft. Yukon last Saturday, March 20, one of the residents spoke to me about the Rampart Dam and the way that I understood our conversation, this person stated that no matter what they do to try to fight against the dam, it will come.

It was sort of hard for them to take, I know, but we must give up our old ways of living, particularly in that area. And still there is a lot of country where they can be relocated to and still maintain their old ways of living if they so prefer.

I know I often like to go out in the country and live like my forefathers did in the past. It is so hard to give up this way of life especially when you don't have the education to make a living any other way. This is why we must fight for education with all our power.

Speaking about education again: While down at the National Guard encampment, I noted this handicap of not having enough education showed up quite frequently. There were some Native instructors who were non-commissioned officers who tried—oh how they tried to teach us. But some of us, it seemed, didn't go beyond the second grade.

In fact, some of us didn't even go to school and some didn't know the English language too well.

## **Make Me a Proud Indian**

While there, I noticed three Eskimo commissioned officers in the Guard, but I didn't see one Indian commissioned officer. And, of course, I wondered why there weren't any of our tribe there with enough foresight to be an officer of the National Guard.

So why don't some of you boys with high school education go out to the Officer's Candidate school and make me a proud Indian? It's a challenge. Man, how I wish I had a high school diploma like some of you lucky guys.