

Kotzebue woman assists police

Both the Alaska State Troopers and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have sent letters of appreciation to Miss Daphne Walton, records coordinator for the Kotzebue Police Department for her assistance in the arrest of a man wanted for two recent bank robberies in Alaska and Minnesota.

She was instrumental in the arrest of Carl Frederick Arndt, 41, in Noatak on August 8. He was wanted in connection with a July 18 robbery of the First State Bank in New Brighton, Minn., and the July 31 robbery of the Gavora Mall Branch of the First National Bank of

In a personal letter, Lt. Col. James D. Vaden, deputy director of the Alaska State Troopers expressed his personal appreciation and the appreciation of the State Troopers for her assistance.

A "Flash" or bulletin prepared by the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the Alaska State Troopers was distributed statewide on Aug. 7 describing Arndt as a suspect in the Fairbanks bank robbery and advising that he was wanted on a federal warrant for the Minnesota robbery.

On Aug. 7, as records coordinator for the Kotzebue Police Department, Miss Walton opened the departmental mail and recognized the picture as a man she believed she had seen the previous weekend in Noatak, a village about 50 miles north of Kotzebue. Other information contained in the "Flash" confirmed that he was the man she had seen.

She advised Police Chief Don Buehler and then contacted Trooper Walter Patterson. At the trooper's request, she then

telephoned a relative in Noatak and speaking in Eskimo confirmed that Arndt was still in the village.

The next day, to help identify the suspect, she accompanied Trooper Patterson, Constable Kim Nay and Officer Carlos Salazar of the Kotzebue Police Department when they flew to Noatak to arrest Arndt.

Miss Walton had been an employee of the Kotzebue Police Department for two but this was the first time she was involved in an actual arrest. She said afterwards she was very "excited and scared, particularly when I was in same plane with him coming back."

Both Buehler and Patterson had high praise for her in immediately recognizing the suspect and then in helping confirm his location.