

TWO LIVES LOST ON NENANA RAFT RACE

NENANA—The just-for-fun Tanana Raft Race ended in tragedy Saturday with the loss of two crewmen. Missing are Matthew Ritter, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Ritter of North

Pole, and Brian Kendall, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dirks of Fairbanks.

Ritter, traveling with his father, was thrown into the water when their raft hit a log jam and

overturned near Whisky Island about half way down the 60 mile race course.

Kendall, a second year University of Alaska student, was about five miles from the

Nenana finish line when his raft overturned. State Police are still searching for the bodies.

Over 375 rafts entered the race despite unusually high water. About 100 crewmen were

reported stranded on river banks during the event.

Despite elaborate radio and television coverage, the mishaps were not reported at the time of (Continued on page 6)

Tundra Times

25c

Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktaug The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

Vol. 8, No. 33

Wednesday, May 26, 1971

Fairbanks, Alaska

DEVASTATING GALENA FLOOD

Record Flood Driven Ice Blocks Flatten Buildings

By LAEL MORGAN
Staff Writer

GALENA—Galena went under Saturday, the victim of a record flood carrying ice blocks that flattened entire buildings. Just a few feet away a U. S. Air Force installation sat low but dry, protected by a 136 foot dike that excludes the village.

Natives were given warning of impending high water and about 125 were evacuated by a remarkably efficient military airlift to Campion Air Force Facility nine miles west.

Most of the men of the village and a few women elected to stay with their homes, however, and fought to move possessions beyond high water.

Roof tops were not high enough in some cases. The crest was 134.7 feet which beats anything within memory. It buried the town in about 13 feet of water, tossing ice blocks as big as houses.

"Boy, it's a devastating mess!" Sidney Huntington reported. "The Public Health building moved down the street and I can't even find the Post Office. I

don't know if it's still there or not."

Uncertain of the holding power of their dike, the Air Force evacuated 266 service men from Galena and left a skeleton crew to tend the base and 6,665 foot air strip. The FAA kept its crew of seven working round the clock when flood waters cut connections to navigational beacons.

About 50 villagers made camp on the dike outside the base, bringing with them motor vehicles and possessions wrapped in plastic. They shared

(Continued on page 6)



GALENA POST OFFICE DISAPPEARS — The Yukon subsided in Galena Monday leaving icebergs and a few gaps where houses used to stand. The post office is missing and a large commercial warehouse flattened like a toothpaste tube. Many houses were taken completely off their foundations and some overturned ruining

possessions that were stored on their roofs. Attempts to bomb the ice jam were futile and water went 13 feet deep in the village. Hero of the hour was Bill Doloski who managed to sell his house to a man from Ruby just before the flood. The building was totaled as were several others.

—Photo by LAEL MORGAN

Sitka ANB Camp Asks Firing of Warren Tiffany

SITKA—The Alaska Native Brotherhood, Camp No. 1, is demanding that Bureau of Indian Affairs fire Warren Tiffany, assistant area director of education.

Their petition charges, "Warren Tiffany has repeatedly undercut or killed efforts by Native people themselves to develop and exercise an independent, meaningfully effective voice in how these BIA schools are run."

A long list of complaints against bureau's secondary school program is also given.

"BIA elementary schools in rural Alaska are often run in a slipshod manner by teachers who have no training about the cultural backgrounds and needs of rural Native children; and these schools generally provide their students with woefully inadequate education, with the result that a substantial proportion of such students are already many grade levels behind when they start secondary schooling."

"Likewise woefully inadequate is the education provided by Mt. Edgecumbe High School, the only Alaska secondary school

(Continued on page 6)

Mt. Edgecumbe Statewide Board

Next year Mt. Edgecumbe, Bureau of Indian Affairs school in Sitka, will have a statewide school board. According to Morris Thompson, head of BIA for the state, the board will be elected by parents of attending high school students and will meet at least four times a year.

The BIA is also organizing a school board training program at the University of Alaska. Through it a team of specialists will travel to interested communities to demonstrate how they can be effective in planning for the education of their children.

"We're asking a representative of the Kotzebue School Board to come down to the University of Alaska to help plan the program," Thompson reported.

Why Kotzebue? Because that school is an excellent example of how effective village people can be, he answered.

Thompson had just met with the group and been wowed by the entertainment they provided. It was the first public performance of their Eskimo dance class, which is part of the \$80,000 Eskimo cultural program they're backing.

"Those kids should go to the Eskimo Olympics!" Thompson told the Tundra Times. "I was

immediately excited about it. And not just the dancing. The parents are actually involved in the school. That has always

been a criticism of the federal programs ... that the community didn't get involved. Yet here

(Continued on page 6)

Ft. Yukon Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginkhye

Yukon Flats people formalized their traditional regional group at a meeting of nine village representatives in Ft. Yukon May 11 and 12. They are to be called Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginkhye, "Yukon Flats People Speak", and they plan to participate in self-determination policies.

"We have been quiet long enough!" announced Jonathan Solomon of Ft. Yukon, newly elected president. "We are not being represented by the Fairbanks Agency Native Board or by the Tundra Chiefs Conference boards."

Some years back, Yukon villages banded together to push for native land claims and express reaction to the then controversial Rampart Dam project. In intervening years they have tended to work separately for social and economic development.

A recent upsurge in land (Continued on page 6)

Minto Potlatch Postponed

The Minto Potlatch, which was to be held the first weekend in June, has been postponed because of washed out roads.

It has been tentatively rescheduled for the second weekend in June, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at New Minto Village.



GWITCHA GWITCHIN GINKHYE—"Yukon Flats People Speak." Shown are the officers of the reactivated upper Yukon native organization. Kneeling, left to right: Allen John, Stanley Jonas, Winston James, and Joe Druck. Standing: Jonathan Solomon, Rev. Titus Peter, Winthrop Silvers, Clifford Adams, and Paul Williams. Absent: Richard Martin and Robert Frank.