

# R. Frank in Gambell, Savoonga For Talks on AVEC Electricity

Richard Frank, Membership Service Director for the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC), went to Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence this week to consult with people there on means of installing electric power.

Some 30 villages throughout Alaska are in line for AVEC power installations. Three villages, Old Harbor, Nulato, and Hooper Bay, have already been electrified.

"Those villages that have power are well satisfied," said Richard Frank. "They all have 24-hour service—all three of them. All the villages that will get power in the future will all have 24-hour power."

Frank said that it takes a lot of coordination with local people's participation, shipping preparations of materials to the designated villages.

He said the villages will first have to be established as legal entities such as becoming 4th class cities. As legal bodies, they have to be recognized by another legal body, which AVEC is, so an agreement between the two legal bodies can be signed so electrification can progress.

"Lot of the villages are a little afraid to become 4th class cities because they don't fully understand it," Richard Frank said. "I personally think they should become legal bodies be-

cause in the future they will, sooner or later, have to become legal entities anyway."

He said most of the villages are under the Indian Reorganization Act status and that legality under the act is not unlimited because the state and federal agencies don't always recognize

(Continued on page 6)

# Richard Frank

(Continued from page 1)

the IRA status.

Frank said the board of directors of the AVEC has the final say in the implementation of power installations in villages. When the decision of the board is made, the board talks to the manager of the AVEC, Willard Rhodes, who then directs the installations.

State Rep. Willie Hensley is the president of the board. Members are Morris Thompson, Jimmie Hoffman, Dave Peterson, Diane Carpenter.

Richard Frank said that AVEC will go full bore when the weather warms to put power in the villages.

"Lot of people thought it could never be done, but it is actually working now," said he.