



**GNOME FROM NOME**—The Gnome from Nome is greeting children in Seattle, Wash. The character from a children's book is in the process of raising money for the children of Nome Receiving Home as well as Seattle's Children's Orthopedic Hospital. The Gnome from Nome will be in Nome on Christmas Eve bringing funds for Nome Receiving Home.

## The Gnome from Nome— He's Raising Money for Nome Receiving Home

A new children's book which is creating national attention for Alaska will be the subject of a special Christmas event sponsored by Alaska Airlines.

The holiday event will raise money for the Nome Receiving Home and "add fresh warmth to the Christmas season." It is built around an imaginative new children's book called "The Gnome from Nome."

Jointly sponsored by Alaska Airlines, The Bon Marche Department Store of Seattle, and Serendipity Press, the fund-raising project will also benefit Children's Orthopedic Hospital in Seattle. The goal of the program is \$10,000 to be divided between the two charities.

The book, written by prominent Northwest children's author, Stephen Cosgrove of Serendipity Press, depicts a small bearded gnome character who is seeking warmth in Alaska's cold northern region.

The gnome will be the focal point in a month-long holiday program which starts with his tour of children's hospital wards in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks, Nov. 20 through 22.

In Seattle, the gnome will oversee Toytropolis at The Bon Marche and the Gnome from Nome "Time Machine" ride at the store.

The ride, jointly sponsored by The Bon and Alaska Airlines, will raise the money for the goodwill project. On Christmas Eve, the gnome will return to Nome with the proceeds from the ride for the Nome Receiving Home.

The Nome Receiving Home, which normally cares for an average of 7 children each month, has recently been forced to close as a result of insufficient funds and personnel. The Home's children have been separated and are living with area families, pending the reopening of the foster care facility.

Jim Johnson, Alaska Airlines vice president for public affairs, explained that the airline is sponsoring the gnome event in the hopes of keeping the Home in operation, at least until state or federal agency funds can be

made available.

"Children are what Christmas is all about," he went on. "We must do all we can to help these kids, especially in the holiday season when other children are secure in their own homes with their families."

The Home cares for orphans, children in trouble and with serious family problems. The need for such a facility is particularly great in Nome, because it is the nucleus of many outlying villages.

The children's story, which will be the focal point of Alaska Airlines' fund-raising project, depicts the adventures of a gnome and little sea otter, who live at the frigid North Pole. They set out to discover how humans keep warm from the inside out.

Arriving in Alaska during the gold rush days, the gnome and his friend learn from prospectors that inner warmth blooms through love, friendship and understanding.

Cosgrove writes and publishes books both for inquisitive children and for adults who might be peeking over their children's shoulders. The characters come to life through the fanciful drawings of 21-year-old artist Robin James.

The book, published by Serendipity Press, was introduced in major markets last month and has been selling briskly. It fictitiously suggests that the city of Nome may have been named in honor of the gnome by the prospectors, whose affection for the bearded character was stronger than their spelling ability.

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## Totem Carved at Urbana, Illinois

By BETZI WOODMAN  
URBANA, ILLINOIS—A totem pole was carved—and its completion celebrated—under unique circumstances in this midwestern city.

Carved by many members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana, the making of the pole was a true "tribal" effort, according to Mrs. John D. Anderson who has a knowledge of totem poles and who supervised the job. Those involved in making the pole included children of the upper grades and junior high classes and many adult church members and friends.

The completed pole was celebrated this summer when it was placed in the nearby Lake of the Woods Park. "There's nothing like celebrating a totem pole to bring people together—especially if the people created the

pole," says Mrs. Anderson. The pole was carved for the Champaign Country Forest Preserve District.

It all began in the winter of 1972 when a church member found a used power pole being given to the park and persuaded the park manager to let the church carve it.

The project was undertaken to explore a crucial aspect of the North American heritage that too often has been neglected. In totem carving, Mrs. Anderson says, there is traditionally a close relation between the subject matter of the pole and the place in which it stands.

The figures on this pole, therefore, are related to Lake of the Woods Park, Champaign County, the State of Illinois, the Northern Midwest and Great Lakes region and to the Universe. The carvings largely represent

animals and crops of the Champaign area.

These figures show the deep concern of the Unitarian Universalists for the precious wildlife and natural resources of their region.

"But it is the lowest figure on the poles which seems especially important," Mrs. Anderson reports. "Traditionally, the lowest figure symbolizes the owners and creators of the pole. We chose a simple human figure for the 'Low Man' symbol—one that would not stand for one kind of person."

"The Low Man on this pole stands for 'We, the People,' it expresses the unpretentious, down-to-earth character of a community of people who feel interrelated with each other and in harmony with their natural environment."

Totem pole figures, from the top down, are the Great Spirit in the form of a thunderbird, a box of lights as a symbol of creation, an owl, a raccoon, a strongman restraining a skunk, the Illinois state flower (violet) and state bird (cardinal), a squirrel with a black walnut, a catfish, a fox, a duck, corn and Low Man, "We the People."



**UNALAKLEET BIA Junior High School Student Council** were elected in a school-wide election on Sept. 13 and are making plans for various activities. The Unalakleet Student Council is presently discussing ways to make school a safer place. Around the Council table beginning from the left: Al Wells, Student Council sponsor; Agnes Ryan, 7th Grade representative; Josie Stiles, 8th Grade representative; Loretta Katongan, secretary; Stephanie Ryan, president; Kevin Grubbs, treasurer; Don Stiles, vice-president and Vernon Auliye, 6th Grade representative.

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