



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.