

*For Needed Office Spaces—*

# Bldg. Renovated at OTZ

KOTZEBUE, ALASKA — A weatherbeaten apartment building constructed 15 years ago on the shores of Kotzebue Sound is being renovated to meet growing needs of Kotzebue for comfortable, modern office space.

"We think it's going to be the best looking office building in the state," said Tommy Sheldon, Sr., president of the Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation, which purchased the Eskimo Building Aug. 7 from Frank, Ray and Don Ferguson of Kotzebue.

"It's going to be comfortable and well-designed," he said.

Renovated facilities will boost some 33,000 square feet of office space — 11,000 square feet on each floor.

U.S. Post Office employees will

occupy 3,230 square feet on the main floor and the Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation, village corporation of Kotzebue Eskimos, has also reserved room.

The rest is available for leasing on short or long term basis. Sheldon said individuals, government or private agencies interested in leasing may contact him at his Kotzebue office, or by writing the corporation at Box 333, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752.

Outside renovation is already

complete and the modern brown-toned building with wide porch adds to the new look of Front Street, the main drag of Kotzebue.

A two minute walk from the Eskimo Building is the \$2.6 million Nul-Luk-Vik Hotel, a modern 55-room hotel completed earlier this year by NANA Regional Corporation.

The view from the porch of the Eskimo Building includes the

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Igichuk Hills, some 10 miles across Kotzebue Sound, and, depending on the season, a flurry of snowmobiles or motorboats passing by on the Sound.

Inside the Eskimo Building, construction workers are installing equipment for hot water heat, recessed fluorescent lights and new beams to reinforce the basic structure.

It will feature, when complete:

- \* a system of wood panels that can be moved to fit leasee needs
- \* a large conference room
- \* sheet rock walls, which can be painted to suit the leasee
- \* hot water heat throughout the building and 12 hot air furnaces to supply heat through ducts on all floors.

Sheldon said any six of the furnaces alone could, in fact, supply all necessary heat.

The building's sprinkler system, fed through water from Public Health Service lines, will have a back-up supply in a self-contained water system for emergency use.

It is, in short, a far cry from the apartment facilities built back in 1960 by the late Archie Ferguson, a famed Alaska bush pilot. After his death, ownership was passed on to his sons, through Arctic Amusements, Inc.

If the old Eskimo Building looks a bit different these days, so does the city of Kotzebue.

Its population, predominantly Eskimo, is estimated at 2,500 to 3,000 people. The city has added to its facilities over the past four

years not only its first completely modern hotel, but a large city hall and modern fire department, complete with tracked fire engine.

Traffic into Kotzebue Airport, half a mile from the Eskimo Building, moves at a relatively rapid pace, with the flow of persons in private industry and government work doing business with local firms and the city of Kotzebue.

And in place of the apartments once available at the Eskimo Building, there are newly renovated facilities at the Drift Inn, once the community's only hotel and now its first modern apartment building. It is owned by NANA Regional Corporation, Inc.