

# Manual targets 1-room schools

by Holly F. Reiser

Tundra Times writer

Lance C. Blackwood is a rural Alaska one-classroom school teacher of 10 years who has recently completed a booklet titled, *More Like a School Family, Than Just a Teacher and His/Her Students.*

The booklet is composed of Blackwood's and other teachers' experiences in a one-teacher school. It is aimed for perspective teachers outside of Alaska who would like to learn about one-classroom

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teaching and living in rural Alaska.

Unlike most school settings where there is more than one teacher and many other classrooms, Blackwood gives descriptions of how to teach a group of students that are of different learning levels and ages.

"I've seen over 100 teachers and administrators come and go," he said. "My goal was to teach in rural Alaska for 10 years. Last year was my 10th year, and I'm going back this year," Blackwood said.

"It's just you and the students, all day long, all year long and probably for many years," Blackwood said. "You get real close to your students."

The intimacy between teacher and students is unique. "They are interested in my family background, and I share as much with them as possible," Blackwood explained.

In rural Alaska only five to seven students are needed to open a K-12 school.

In the booklet Blackwood explains how to prepare for the upcoming school year. He discusses what materials are needed for each learning level and how to choose the best textbooks and workbooks.

Blackwood also provides information on what to ask during an interview for a rural teaching position, such as whether there is a village grocery store or a barge that delivers ordered goods.

Blackwood is offering a free copy of his booklet to local school advisory committees and rural school district superintendents by writing to Egagik School, Egagik 99579; or calling after 6 p.m. at 233-2210. Those who want to order the booklet may send a \$12 check or money order to L.C.'s MANNER, 2440 E. Tudor Road, Suite 950, Anchorage 99507.