

# Researcher Says Critical Needs Are Water, Disposal, Housing

Good water, waste disposal, and improved housing, these are the three most critical needs of the villages, according to Dr. Sage Murphy, associate professor of environmental health at the University of Alaska.

"You can arrange the three in any order you want" he added.

"I don't care what the medical doctors can do, but as long as these needs are not dealt with, the people will keep coming back to the hospitals with the same diseases," Dr. Murphy stated.

Formerly with the Arctic Health Research Laboratory, Dr. Murphy is now heading a graduate program at the university to train Alaska engineers to deal with sanitation and water problems within the state.

Working under a \$50,000 grant, Dr. Murphy said he devotes half his time to the graduate training program and half to research into problems facing the small communities of Alaska.

"The idea is to get your engineers in Alaska trained to work in the sanitation field instead of having to bring people in from outside," he explained. Water and sanitation problems in Alaska

are unique and varied, and inevitably when someone is brought in from outside it takes them a considerable length of time just to get basic orientation in the nature of Alaska problems," he explained.

Keenly interested in the water and sanitation problems of small villages, and arriving at practical and economic solution to these problems, Dr. Murphy has devoted his research time to the rural sections of the state.

Murphy explained that we have the technology to deal with large urban water and sanitation problems, but technology for dealing with small village water treatment is lacking.

If present methods are not economically unfeasible, then they are technically unfeasible due to a lack of highly technical skills in remote areas, Murphy explained.

"Our research aims on water are to develop a unit which is simple to operate with as low an initial cost as is possible," he said.

We know we have difficult water problems. These problems are unique, being principally affected in Alaska by cold and permafrost, and can vary greatly in different

areas, he explained.

In the Interior the chief water problems are the iron and organics in the water, while on the coast salt water contamination becomes a problem above the cold and permafrost problems.

Dr. Murphy indicated that they are presently working on a small water treatment unit that may prove feasible in Interior areas of the State.

In addition under a contract from the Arctic Health Research Laboratory he has been studying the recent PHS water system installation at its related problems at Unalakleet in far western Alaska.

Typical of many Eskimo coastal villages, Unalakleet lies on a strip along Norton Sound, and was the location of a water system installation by the Public Health Service completed in October, 1965.

However, by Christmas of that year the wells were dry at Unalakleet and a short while later salt water began to contaminate the fresh water table.

"What happened at Unalakleet could happen at possibly 80 percent of the villages along the coast," Dr. Murphy said, "When the fresh water is pumped out of the small water table the salt water is naturally drawn in."

Most coastal villages are very low lying and the fresh water supply beneath the sand spits is usually small in area and below sea-level.

Murphy indicated that due to the lack of sanitary engineers in Alaska an outside firm had to be brought in to conduct the Unalakleet tests. They did most tests during the summer and none during the winter.

The native residents of the village, a few who had wells, were aware that the water table fell in the winter, but this may have not been adequately considered when determining the feasibility of the water source.

Dr. Murphy predicted that locally trained and experienced engineers would be familiar with the general sequence of problems surrounding cold-area water sources.

## New Briefing for Rescue

The Alaskan Air Command Rescue Coordination Center at Elmendorf Air Force Base has developed an illustrated briefing to explain the military's role and responsibility in search and rescue in Alaska.

A representative of the Rescue Coordination Center

is available to speak to civic, fraternal and social groups throughout the area.

Any such group interested in hearing this briefing should write to the Director of Information, Alaskan Air Command, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, to arrange details.

## Alaska Business Directory

### CO-OP DRUG

#### "Alaska's Largest"

PROMPT  
MAIL ORDER SERVICE  
ON ANY ITEM

Box 1308 - 535 2nd Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Fairbanks Hearing Center

### MAICO - ZENITH

FRANCHISED DEALER  
Sales - Service - Batteries  
NORTHWARD DRUG  
Northward Bldg. - Ph. 452-2103

### FAIRBANKS AIR SERVICE

Wheels - Skis - Floats  
Charter . . . New Cessna to any point in the Interior.  
2nd Hangar, Phillips Field  
Box 1027 - Ph. 479-2244  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Portable Gas Jack Hammers

Air Tools  
Equipment of All Kinds  
Alaska Rental Equipment  
1 Mile Steese Hwy. - Box 581  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Phone 452-2944

### Fairbanks Lumber Supply

"Where One Call Supplies It All"  
Box 629 - 272 Illinois St.  
Garden Isle, Fairbanks  
452-2183

### Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks

Complete Banking Service  
Branches at University  
Nenana - Airport Road  
Eielson - Delta - Tok  
Main Office - Northward Bldg.

### FAIRBANKS OFFICE SUPPLY

Office and School  
Supplies and Equipment  
Box 131, Fairbanks, Alaska

### DONALSON COMPANY

PO Box 845

Anchorage,  
Alaska

Phone 279-3025



You can fly  
anywhere in  
Alaska, the  
"Lower 48"  
or the world

and find the TUNDRA TIMES.  
- ADVERTISE -

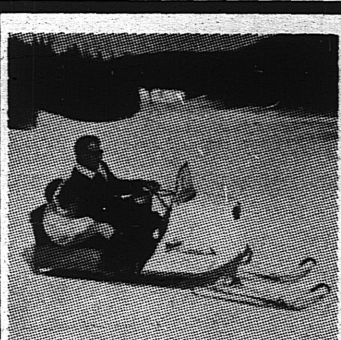
You can advertise in

THIS SPACE

for only

\$1.80

Phone 452-2244



### POLARIS Sno-Traveler

Mustang

&

Colt

INDEPENDENT  
LUMBER CO.

P. O. Box 1030,  
Fairbanks, Alaska

## Member Opposes . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

lems and office positive solutions. The formation of a statewide Native organization will provide a means by which persons in office can be evaluated and the ensuing information used to determine our preferences in the next election. Thus it will be necessary for elected officials to produce if they are to retain office. I know this sounds Utopian and the road we must walk can be compared to a tightrope for there are many possible pitfalls; misuse of the organization, backlash, etc. But if we sincerely care and want to solve our problems and see progress we will see to it that we act responsibly at all times with the good of our people uppermost in our minds.

Since the years of the real activity of the A.N.B. there has been a lapse in our efforts to seek the solutions to the many problems which face us throughout the state. With the growing awareness of their needs in the Northern and Western areas, the Native people of Alaska have again begun to actively seek the answers to our problems. So with the differences I have pointed out here and in concurrence with the rest of his statements, I close quoting Mr. Hope: "Let us make every effort to become good citizens, ever contributing to the welfare of our state. Let us not encourage racial separation. Let us advance together with other people of this great state."

Byron I. Mallott

327 Highland Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

