

# Metlaktla long house destroyed

The Associated Press

Children playing with fireworks may have caused the fire that destroyed a community long house in Metlakatla, Police Chief Doug Askren said last week.

He said the fire that broke out at 6 p.m. June 17 destroyed the new building plus medical instruction materials, craft supplies and an estimated \$50,000 worth of office equipment. Total damage was estimated at \$420,000.

Askren said no one was injur-

ed in the smoky blaze.

He said witnesses reported seeing children playing with fireworks and running through an open door in the long house before the fire started. Askren said the fireworks could have ignited trash remaining from a bingo game.

The investigation into the cause of the blaze is continuing, he added.

Metlakatla is the only Indian reservation in Alaska and is on Annette Island, 20 miles south of Ketchikan.