

# Village Fires

Now is the time to start training of manpower and equipping villages with fire-fighting gear.

Such a program might have prevented two recent village fires, one of which came within an eye-lash of destroying the Bureau of Indian Affairs school at Gambell and the one that completely destroyed the sewage treatment plant at Brevig Mission.

In both cases the Nome Volunteer Fire Department played an important role and will continue if equipment is purchased for the villages. These experts will volunteer time to help the people learn to use the equipment.

The need grows greater by the day, with what new housing and new schools and other facilities going up in the villages.

Alaska has the greatest loss by fire per capita of any state in the Union.

Doug Doyle of the Nome Volunteer Fire Department and others are in the process of putting together a grant request which can go far toward making all villages safer places in which to live. And the two village fires are what prompted the effort.

Doyle said that as soon as the needs are set forth and the program is ready to go he will call Rep. Jack Fuller in Juneau and get the ball rolling for necessary state grants, the money for which will be expended by the Department of Public Safety.

The Troopers paid for the plane to carry the Nome fire-fighters to Brevig. Doyle said the flames could be seen as the plane passed high over the Sinuk River and that only one wall of the treatment plant was standing as the plane was about to land.

The fire-fighters making the trip besides Doyle were Angelo Bufas, Jr., Colby Carter, Mike Purphy and Warren Little.

—A.B.G. in THE NOME NUGGET