

Burned out corporations

By **LINDA LORD-JENKINS**

Tundra Times

Employees of Kawarek and the Bering Straits Native Corp. were still sifting through the rubble of their joint burned-out building late last week to find bits and pieces of the papers and equipment lost in a Nov. 7 blaze that destroyed their joint office building in Nome.

Although the building was a total loss, much of the many of the valuable records held in Bering Straits offices were not destroyed, reported the shareholder relations officer.

Things were not so lucky on the Kawarek side of the building where all records except the Eskimo Teachers Project were lost, said Caleb

Pungowiyi, vice-president of the corporation.

Kawarek's Nome-based records of the Eskimo Heritage Project were destroyed in the fire, reported Pungowiyi but he said copies of all the tapes of Elders' memories plus pictures are available in the villages from which they came.

Kawarek is now spread in several offices throughout the city of Nome, said Pungowiyi, which is causing some small problems but no major ones, he said.

He reported business as usual for the non-profit service providing corporation.

Losses in the fire included all office equipment from typewriters down to tape dispenser.

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Fire losses

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sers — the type of things "you never really think about til you miss them, desks, and other machinery," said Pungowiyi.

Papers for Kawarek were almost a total loss, and even those in fire safes were singed in the intense heat of the blaze, he said.

Bering Straits Native Corp. didn't suffer as much record loss, he said, because the fire was not as intense on that side of the building.

The fire started in a furnace on the Kawarek side of the building and built up there before spreading to the Bering Straits side.

Pungowiyi estimated the Kawarek losses at more than \$300,000, much of which will be covered by insurance.

He said that both corporations plan on building another joint office building but construction won't begin until late June.

Kawarek offices now are in the following sites:

Pungowiyi, Headstart building; Mathew Iya, administrator, at the BIA Building, 443-2284; Reindeer Herders Association; Vernon Kugzuk, 443-2150; Adult Vocational Training, Jani Reader, 443-2352;

Eskimo Technical Education Program, Debbie Swisher, 443-2503; Fisheries Technician Program, NWCC, 443-3201; Homemakers Program, Terry Harding, at Dept. of Social Services, 443-5247; CETA, Josie Stiles, 443-2503; Village Public Safety Officer, Bessie Piscova, 2923.