

## Bruce Meets Editors...

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up for rotation.

A fairly automatic policy, Bruce implied, might avoid these situations. The Commissioner confirmed reports that Morris Thompson, presently in Washington, special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, will be proposed for the job of Alaskan area director. He anticipated no problems in having the appointment approved by civil service.

The Commissioner seemed optimistic about the appointment of Roger Morton as new Secretary of the Interior. Morton, he told the group, came to his office last week to talk about the Bureau, meet staff members and get some background.

## Dentists Disagree...

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According to Dr. Morrow, government program dentists in rural areas discourage private practitioners from moving to rural areas—thus concentrating them in the Anchorage area.

"I believe that ALL Alaskans would be better served if government funds were used to provide contracts to dentists to care for Alaskan Native beneficiaries.

"Then if care in addition to that rendered (free of charge) as per the contract were desired, it could be provided on a fee basis to any patient, Native or non-Native, regardless of age or heritage, and at less cost to the tax payer than the current government system.

"The PHS can then relocate manpower deeper and deeper into the remote areas."

The problem with contract care, according to Dr. John H. Reiber, DDS, head of the PHS dental clinic in Fairbanks, is money.

"It costs more for contract care," says Dr. Reiber. Dr. Reiber and Dr. Paul Eleazer, who works with him in the Fairbanks clinic, figure that dentists from their clinic spent over 185 days in the field last year—visiting rural villages across the Interior of Alaska. Other PHS dentists "cover" other areas of Alaska.

Dr. Reiber has been with the Public Health Service for 10 years, most of them in Montana, Washington and South Dakota with the Indian Health Service. He has been in Fairbanks since last July.

The PHS dental program, explains Dr. Reiber, leans heavily toward preventive dentistry—treating children's problems to prevent major problems in the next generation of adults.

"Our care is limited for adults," admits Dr. Reiber. "PHS is primarily a children's program. It is based on an incremental type of program developed in Washington to solve the problem of how to do the most good with limited manpower."

The incremental program was designed to solve the problem of how to catch up on the immense amount of backlog of dental problems in Alaska's rural areas.

PHS dentists concentrate on the younger age groups—who don't need dentures or other extensive, time consuming restorative work. Care for adults is limited to emergency work for the most part—filling cavities and pulling teeth.

"At this point," says Dr. Reiber, "I'd say the children in the villages get good care—except for having no orthodontics. We'll go into a village and apply fluoride and clean teeth, examine children starting with the youngest and working our way up through the school

"It was the first time a Secretary or prospective Secretary came over to the BIA offices," said Commissioner Bruce. "He's not in office but I am very hopeful soon he will."

Some problems which remain according to the Commissioner include civil service requirements which often prevent him from putting Indians in high policy positions due to lack of salary requirements.

State programs, he said, pay about half as much as some federal ones. Civil service classifications are judged by salary.

"I am looking to place Indians in the upper grade of the 'Sixty per cent of the BIA staff are Indians,'" he said.

Members of the Indian press

children." The dentist is hampered in the field by lack of X-ray and other complicated equipment, which may make him "miss" some problems.

The program in Fairbanks, as versus the field program, treats only children and adults who come for appointments.

"Our problem here," says Dr. Reiber, "is too often patients don't show up for appointments."

Many children never come to the dentist. Probably, the same children get good dental care—the ones who go to the clinic.

The dental clinic is presently trying to negotiate with the Fairbanks Native Association for transport to bring children from the schools to the clinic in small groups.

One advantage of the dental clinic in Fairbanks is their access to a social worker, whom they "share" with the Alaska Native Health Service.

The social worker, Joel Bostrom, can often arrange for welfare and other agencies to pay for prosthetic devices—dentures, false teeth, etc.—which the PHS will not pay for.

Dental patients must pay their own lab fees—costs which can range to several hundred dollars for complicated work.

Recently, the social worker managed to arrange funds to pay for dentures for a high school girl from Tanana who was missing several front teeth. The funds also paid for two trips to Fairbanks for dental work to be done—work the girl's family would never have been able to pay to mend her disfigurement.

Dr. Reiber has serious doubts about the feasibility of contracting care of Natives in the cities and towns to private dentists and restricting PHS to more rural areas.

"We already have a problem in filling PHS slots," he says. "I doubt we could hire enough people to stay in the bush." PHS draws many of its professionals from the same sources as the U.S. army—young men who choose 2 years of PHS service to their stretch in the army. With a reduction in military strength, this incentive may not be as strong.

Dr. Reiber also doubted whether local dentists in Fairbanks would be able to fill the place of two PHS dentists. Comparatively busy, they would be strained at the extra patient load.

Hopefully, the preventive dentistry PHS is practicing will soon see results. Already, computer records show the application of fluorides to be leading to lower incidences of tooth decay.

With their "backlog" ended, PHS may be able to expand its focus of dental care.

COLLEGE—In years past, Natives in the bush areas of Alaska harvested skins from the bountiful seal packs and reindeer herds in the north and then lost most of the profit by having to send them out to commercial tanneries in Anchorage, Seattle, or Calif.

No more. Now the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Alaska has initiated a series of home tanning workshops under the guidance of marketing specialist William Scarborough, in which the villager

who attended the conference included representatives of various Indian newspapers throughout the country.

Among them was NCAI Director of Public Relations James Thomas, a Tlingit Indian from Yakutat, Alaska.

The conference was organized by BIA public information officer Rose Robinson, and Charles Trimble, director of the newly formed Indian Press Association.

## Barrow Store Shelves Full...

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most same to us. Yet, that didn't bother any of the racers because they know that the prizes are good.

Thomas Napageak took first place, \$200.00 good dollars for winner. Itta took second place, \$150.00, and P. Aiken took third place, \$100.00.

Some got lost, and young men here had to looked for them. All come home safely though.

### 45 YEARS OLD AND UP

A 45 year old person could run, jump like any of the young people. But when person gets over 50, then he turns to lose back for sure.

Yet Committee calls, and said that they wished to have older people from 45 years old and up to volunteer in this both feet kick.

I was watching the games there amongst with the other people. Multi Purpose room was full then.

As I was watching Arthur Neakok stepped down and kick it then came Bert Okakok, he also kicked it.

I saw lots of faces, facing me after my brother Bert Okakok kicked it. Then I went down and also kicked it. Tom Brower stepped down also kicked it.

They kept on raising it, until the first two Arthur and brother Bert could not kicked it. I stepped down and kick it, Tom Brower also.

They raise it up again, never pay no attention how far they raised it. I kicked it again. I know Thomas Brower could kicked it even if he tried but he said that he'll give it to me. So, Tom let me win, not trying to kick it.

Anyway its good game, we enjoy it. Winner gets \$50.00, second place, \$40.00. We never thought this would come to the older people, but it came.

### SAME WOMAN AGAIN?

In the big room like Multi Purpose, Committees brought in about 14 seals with skin and all. Placed them, 8 or ten ft. apart. Womens all, placed to each seal, by calling the numbers, carrying all sorts of what you called Ulu.

All started together, every audience was watching carefully who would raise their hands up first. "Well," what you know, Rhoda Nageak, the same woman raised her hands up in 1 minutes 4 seconds.

Harriet Kasak second, 1 minute 13 seconds, and third place is Elizabeth Campe.

Rhoda has skinned a small seal, but the other two Harriet

is taught a method of tanning adaptable to the kitchen.

According to Scarborough the method taught is a basic pickling process using a solution of salt and sulphuric acid. Besides this solution, all the tanner needs is a sharp knife with which to clean the skin; a plastic garbage can for the salt and sulphuric acid, and detergent with which to wash the skin.

The skin soaks in the salt nad sulphuric acid for 4 to 5 days after which it is put on a stretching frame to dry, then sanded to the desired thickness and softened by breaking it (a rubbing motion) against a sharp edge like plywood.

A more detailed description of this home tanning process will be available with the publication in the spring of a pamphlet now being written by Scarborough.

Using this method, a seal skin which previously cost about \$30 to send out to a commercial tannery now costs the Native less than \$1 in material costs

to tan.

The home tanning workshop was the idea of Gladys Musgrove, home economist at Nome for the Extension Service until her retirement in June. She felt that sending skins out for tanning was a dollar drain on the Seward Peninsula economy. Mrs. Musgrove recruited Boyd Shaffer of Moose Pass, artist and naturalist, to teach home tanning at Teller.

Scarborough entered the picture when he went to Teller to observe and evaluate the workshop. That workshop, as with all the others since, was pronounced a success.

This fall Scarborough has conducted similar workshops at Mekoryuk on Nunivak Island, Kotzebue, Napakiak below Bethel, Nome, Ft. Yukon and Hope Center in Fairbanks where the Fish and Game Department is giving residents confiscated skins to tan. Each workshop is five days.

and Elizabeth had a much bigger than Rhoda's. Were pretty sure, Harriett would have won if she has the same size seal as Rhoda's.

My that was a real contest. Must be over 200 who took pictures at them.

### STILL LOOKING

Men from Wainwright and Barrow are still looking for Nathaniel Olemaun. Its 4 days now since Nathaniel left Barrow village with a Ski Doo.

He tolded people here that

he'll come back as soon as possible, weather permitting. We have had fine weather all these days that Nathaniel never showed up.

Thats why the people start looking for him. Yet no word up today.

### GOING DOWN

Wiens dance group are getting ready today to go down to Juneau, we do not know when they will leave.

Good luck all you readers.

## Perceptual Qualities...

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Implication of Education" was published in the "occasional papers" series of the University's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, which has copies available at \$1 each.

Exploring the literature on the subject Dr. Kleinfeld notes that stories of Eskimos' mechanical talents "have become part of Alaskan folklore."

She cites instances where Eskimos repaired complicated pieces of machinery that white mechanics summoned for the task were unable to fix. And she states that oil companies recently have made comments like this on Eskimos' mechanical skills:

"We have found that the Eskimo has more innate ability to work around equipment than anyone else around the world."

Dr. Kleinfeld calls on other sources for these further observations:

"While Eskimos' mechanical aptitude may result in part from their higher level of manual dexterity, two additional skills are likely to be involved—ability in analyzing spatial relationships and ingenuity in using unconventional materials as substitutes for missing parts.

"Interestingly, among Caucasians as well, ability in perceptual analysis appears to go together with an ability to solve problems that require insight into unconventional methods."

Dr. Kleinfeld urges that research be done to "define precisely the nature of Eskimos' perceptual abilities and their relationship to aptitude for different types of occupations."

So far, she writes, Eskimos' perceptual skills have been evidenced in such pursuits as map-making, mechanics and drawing. But she suggests that these talents may lead to unusually high performance in other areas, especially technical and scientific fields.

"Child-rearing practices gen-

erally function to increase children's competence in the skills they will need as adults," Dr. Kleinfeld continues. "Adapted to the demands of hunting in the Arctic, Eskimo child-rearing methods seem likely to increase the ability to observe and recall experience accurately."

"Traditionally, Eskimo children learned primarily through watching adults rather than through verbal explanation. As a Savoonga villager points out in recommending that the schools use more appropriate teaching methods for Eskimo children:

"For instance, if a child is given (written) instructions of how to put the tape on the tape recorder here, the child would bog down trying to read the instructions. If a child is shown by the teacher doing the work, the child could do it right after the teacher removes his hands from the machine. That's the way all the Eskimos on St. Lawrence Island learn."

Dr. Kleinfeld suggests further that since hunting was essential to survival "natural selection may have led to a higher incidence of individuals with high levels of perceptual skills among Eskimos."

"Able hunters," she writes, "may have been more likely to possess highly developed perceptual skills. They may also have been more likely to survive and to produce many offspring who inherited similar abilities."

Dr. Kleinfeld reports that of 102 village teachers responding to an inquiry 69 per cent believed that their pupils demonstrated an unusual ability to recall visual detail. One teacher replied:

"They will remember minute details from a movie or their readers, which I never even noticed. They remember movies from two or three years ago and can mimic the action or draw it."