## WAINWRIGHT SOLDIERS HELP UNALAKLEET



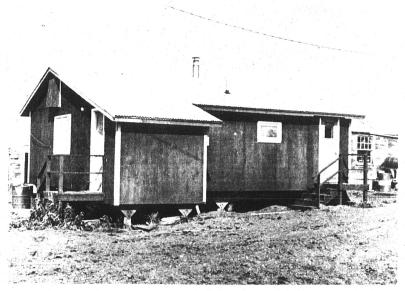
ALL IN THE FAMILY - Some of Unalakleet's children gather in front of E Company's supply

(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Ken Hamm)



Houses like this were the only shelters the Eskimos had at Unalakleet before the federal government provided materials for

(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Ken Hamm)



THE NEW - A finished home shows the improvement over the previous housing (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Ken Hamm)

## 'Everything I Ate Was Eskimo Style - I Never Had Anything Like That Before One Soldier Remarked

FT. WAINWRIGHT, AK. The Army was glad to pitch-in recently when the villagers of Unalakleet asked them for help in finishing their homes. The Eskimo men from the com-munity were off hunting and fishing during the three months of mild summer weather for winter sustenance.

Then women, for the most part, were left at home to complete other village activities. This year, they had to build newhomes.

"We were scheduled for Ace Band maneuvers in the area near Unalakleet," said Captain Allen L. Graut of I. Company, 4 97 "So several weeks ago we conso several weeks ago we contacted village officials to see it we could do anything for the town. They suggested that we help construct their homes."

Seventy-five men from I Company laid floor tiles, put m cellings, erected fire escapes, painted, and placed roofing on 19 homes in this community located on the shore of Norton Sound.

Sound.

Captain Donald Keller and his assistant. Private First Class Danny Bright, from the Ft. Wainweight Dental Clinic, treated 40 patients while the troops worked on the houses. The men were flown to Unalakleet in three C-130's September 7. They remained until September

The federal program under which these houses were built provided that construction of all homes be concluded before any of them were occupied. The government shipped in the build-

ing materials while the natives supplied the manpower.

"With the help we provided,"

CPI Grant said, "the villagers are much closer to completing their homes. Now, the only those that represents to be about thing that remains to be done

thing that remains to be done is the plumbing."

The soldiers were greeted with the customary Eskimo hospitality when they arrived at Unalakleet, and many were

invited to eat with the natives.

Sergeant Alfonso Tafoya, who was asked to eat supper

Sergeant Artonso Taroya, who was asked to eat supper by one family, described the food as "altogether different." "Everything I are was prepared Eskimo style." SGT Taroya said, "I never had any thing like that before, and all the food was tasty. Their salmon was delicious. I especially emoved their seal oil ice cream." On their time off, main soldiers went trishing on the Unalakleet River. With the aid of villagers, they were sinded to the best fishing spots. And none of the soldiers traveling up the solt taken user were wanting to a warm cup of coffee. "We were always being waved to the river bank. He I skimos brying upriver had heard what we were doing in Unalakleet and worded to how of the like the and their services."

were doing in Unalakleet and wanted to show us their grati-

wanted to show us their graft-tude," SGT Tatova said.

While the soldiers were camp-ed in the village, there was an interesting exchange of cultures after duty hours. Once several native children sat mesmerized m First Sergeant George Nishmura's tent.

The first sergeant was ad-routly eating C-rations with chop-

The first sergeant was adroftly eating C-rations with chopsticks. However, after several
lessons on how to male and
use chop-sticks, the kids were
digging into extra C-rations with
oriental dexterity.

At another time, Specialist
I Ismael De la Rosa and Private
First Class Jose Gand taught
IS I-skimo children "La Bamba"
and "Precosa". The kids, for
their part, sang native songs to
the two children.

"The whole atmosphere was
great." Specialist 4 William Aiston said. "Til like to see the
more Army drive programs like
this. I had a fantastic time
helping out. In fact, the kids
referred to me as the Black
Santa Claus. There was no
racial thing, no problems." Just
everyone giving each other a
hand and being real trendly." everyone giving each officer a hand and being real triendly



ANOTHER STEP ON THE LADDER Privates First Class George Spicer and Albert Bergeron finish setting ladder runs on a fire escape.