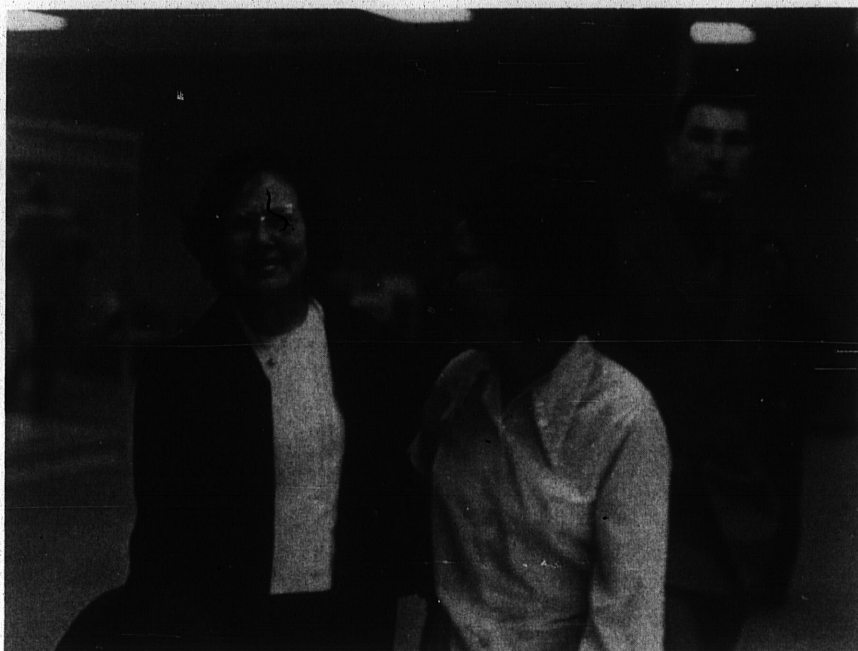


NATIVE ASSISTANCE CENTER AT ANCHORAGE

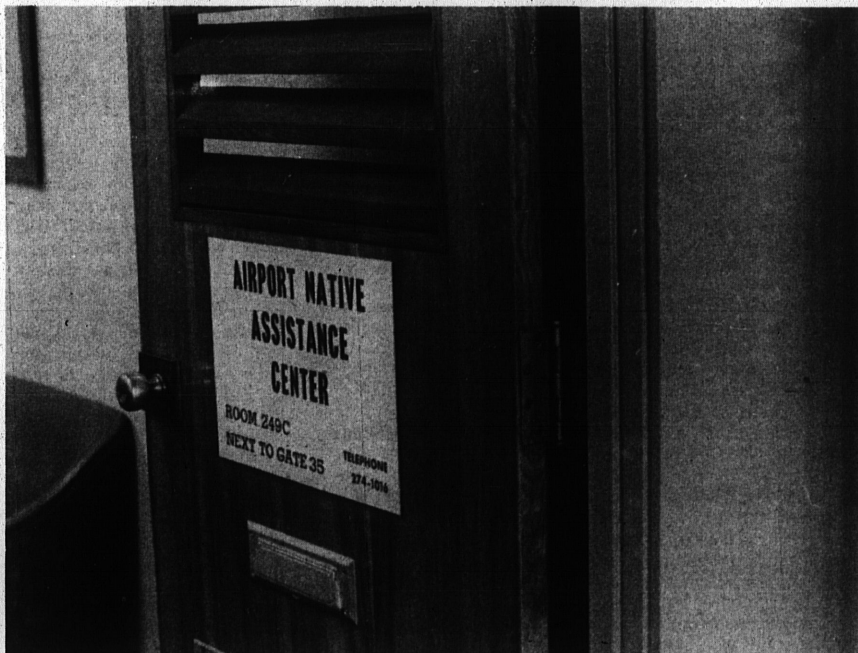


HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST—Mrs. Bertha Peavy of Wainwright provides native travelers with all types of assistance during their stay at Anchorage International Airport. Her office provides a friendly haven for weary travelers as well. Not all travelers are welcomed with open arms but when Kate Brower (left) of Barrow arrived to catch a plane home it was a grand occasion. Mrs. Brower was in Anchorage attending a conference on Alaska Crippled Children.



HOMESICK AND DESOLATE—Evan Kusma, Jr. came to Anchorage this week to go to the ANS hospital. He and his father found the native assistance office a good place to relax and wait for transportation.

—Photos by MADELYN SHULMAN



SIGN OF THE TIMES—These black and white signs dot the Anchorage terminal, directing native travelers who need assistance to this little office next to the Airport Manager's office.

Bertha Offers Large Doses of Hospitality

By following the directions on a small black and white sign in the Anchorage International Airport, TUNDRA TIMES stumbled upon an office which provide many helpful services for traveling natives.

This is the Native Assistance Center, located next to Wien Gate 34 in the new terminal. There, in a gaily decorated office and lounge, Mrs. Bertha Peavy provides services to natives passing through the Anchorage Air Terminal.

The Airport Center is funded by the Greater Anchorage Area Community Action Project.

From there, Mrs. Peavy, a pleasant middle aged Eskimo woman from Wainwright, meets planes coming into the airport—offering her services and those of her office to native people who may need assistance. These include many older native people who may be lost in the big city, or ill on the way to the

hospital.

Mrs. Peavy speaks several Eskimo dialects and translates when needed. She will call into town to locate officials, relatives or friends.

At the airport center, they are treated to large doses of hospitality, often supplemented by coffee, directions and help with phone calls and transportation. The center publishes a guide for the visitor to Anchorage giving numbers of temporary places to stay, native health services, and other local services in the Anchorage Area.

"We don't leave our people stranded out at the airport," commented Mrs. Peavy. Soon she hopes to have a coffee pot, 24 hour services, newly painted murals on the walls and a new sign:

INUPIAT—IKA YUK TAT identifying the office as a place where help is to be found.

Gambell Fears Waves...

(Continued from page 1)

refuge," commented one Gambell man taking a short break in his work on the inside of the village's brand new ANICA store. "They shouldn't explode the bomb."

Within a week, the new store will open—a veritable show place for the village. They have much to lose here if tidal wave should strike.

Inside the bright blue new native store will be a large wood-paneled store—well finished with bright fluorescent lighting and ceiling heating units. In the back will be a coffee shop, wood paneled offices for the village council, store offices, large storage facilities.

One corner of the new village store will become a center of village life. Here, near the front door, in a special partitioned-off alcove, benches will be set out for old people to sit and tell the old stories.

It will be a pleasant winter haven in this village of poorly insulated frame and tarpaper houses. There, the old tales will occupy the center of village life.

By next week, the new store will be open. The dedication was originally scheduled for October 1, but work is not yet finished.

ANICA director Don Dorsey was invited from Seattle for the dedication. He could not make it but sent a contribution of \$200 to pay for the refreshments at the dedication ceremony.

Near the lake in Gambell, the village expects to raise 50 new houses—complete with sewer and water facilities. Nearly everyone in Gambell has requested a new house from the AFN housing project and the village is high on the list for housing priority.

This week, almost every able bodied man in this heavily Alaska National Guard town is activated. Army units were flown in on Thursday for a week of training with the local National Guard Unit.

Landing in large Air Force Hercules planes in 60 mph. winds the 50 Fort Wainwright soldiers found themselves almost blown off the airfield as they piled out of the planes.

For hours, while children

from the village gathered behind the nearest house in the village to watch, the soldiers tried to put up tents in the gale force winds.

Finally, and by that time almost all the villages' 350 residents were glancing through the windows of their houses. The soldiers gave up and sought shelter in a large utility shed near the lake.

They had learned a great deal about weather on St. Lawrence Island. The Bering Sea winds are a powerful force.

This month, 36 children from the village, 2 teachers escorts Mrs. Bada Slwooka and Mrs. Estelle Ozevasuek will travel from Gambell for a 6 week stay in Monmouth, Oregon.

On October 19, the group will leave the village for Nome, Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, and then Oregon as part of a Title I project. Last year, children from Little Diomed made the trip outside—the year before, children from Northeast Cape took part.

For the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders involved the trip looms ahead like a journey into wonderland.

In Gambell, the BIA school uses the same books children use in the lower 48. They are standard textbooks with stories about children who live in cities and towns, who live on farms or in apartments, climb trees, ride in cars, milk cows.

No where is there any mention of Eskimo people who hunt the whale and the walrus, who live where the closest town is in Siberia, who may have never seen a tree, or a telephone, or a television set.

Hopefully, suggests BIA school principal Bob MacHenry, the trip should make the children better able to "relate" to their schoolwork.

Somehow, on this island of Eskimo speaking people, many of whose families came from the Siberian mainland. The standard stories seem very far away.

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