

# Heavy Equipment For Villages Lands

The ship Linden Wood Victory arrived in Seward last Thursday noon with 21 pieces of heavy equipment for Alaska's villages.

The Military Sea Transport Service vessel sailed from Japan with the equipment about 15 days ago. The long-awaited heavy equipment was obtained for the villages by Rural Alaska Community Action Program under a military surplus acquisition project originally sponsored by RurALCAP and the Office of former Sen. Ernest Gruening.

Announcement of the scheduled arrival of the ship was made this week by Larry Brayton, director of RurALCAP, and Tim Smith, director of the surplus acquisition program for RurALCAP.

The heavy equipment includes 10 D-4 caterpillars, eight D-7 caterpillars, one grader, one dumptruck and one reefer van, or self-contained freezer unit on wheels.

All the caterpillars and the reefer van are slated to go to various villages. The dumptruck and grader will be retained by the agency and loaned out to villages for specific projects.

Most villages slated to receive the equipment have indicated they will use them primarily for work on airport runways and roads not funded by the Department of Highways and for moving buildings and logging operations, Smith said.

Approximately 60 persons from villages expected to receive the equipment and from villages already possessing such equipment.

They will attend another 10-week session Oct. 6-Dec. 12 in Seward for a more detailed mechanic's course.

The training session is being funded by a \$204,000 grant from the U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. RurALCAP arranged for the training in connection with its acquisition project.

The equipment will stay in Seward for the initial training period. It is scheduled to be shipped to the villages May 24 via the Air Force Operation Cool Barge, a logistic supply barge for DEW line and White Alice stations. The transportation is being provided free.

Work on the surplus acquisition program began last summer and the equipment was originally expected to arrive in Alaska in October of 1968.

But complication and red-tape in getting written authorizations from the many federal agencies involved held up the program for more than six

months.

The program was funded by a \$46,000 congressional grant to the Office of Economic Opportunity and in turn to RurALCAP. The grant paid transportation costs for getting the equipment to Alaska.

Top-level agencies involved in the program, however, included the U.S. Office of Education, the U.S. Labor Department, OEO and the Agency for International Development, who had possession of the surplus equipment.

Earlier this year, RurALCAP also obtained equipment under this program from military sites on the western coast of the United States. Included in that acquisition were five refrigeration units, some armored cable, two jeeps and 26 generators which have been given to the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative for electrifying villages.

Five 65-foot Army T-boats, now on their way to Alaska, were also obtained from the west coast under this same program. The boats were acquired and outfitted by the Community Enterprise Development Corp., a delegate agency of RurALCAP, for use as tenders in fishery cooperative operations.

All military surplus equipment attained through the program is considered on loan to the villages.

Villages slated to receive caterpillars are:

Alakanuk, Elim, Unalakleet, Copper Center, Kwethluk, Tuluksak, Kotlik, Hooper Bay, Kake, Kasigluk, Quinhagak, Kipnuk, Larson Bay, Kivalina, Buckland, Kwigillingok, Tununak, and Kalskag.

The village slated to receive the reefer van is Kivalina.

## Art Work Awards

The Heard Museum Guild of Indian Arts and Crafts Exhibit, held recently in Phoenix, Arizona, had seven winners from Alaska. The exhibit, sponsored annually by the Heard Museum, features American Indian arts and crafts.

An Eskimo woman, Anna Alexie, won first place and a \$75.00 prize in the Indian Culture Items category. Julie Simons, an Eskimo from Nightmute, also won a first place award and \$75.00 in basketry.

Lawrence Ahvakana, an Eskimo attending the Indian Arts & Crafts School in Santa Fe, N.M., won second place and a \$50.00 prize in the carvings category. Nickefer Chris, an Eskimo from Nunapitchuk, won second place and a \$50.00 prize under carvings and sculpture.

Another Eskimo woman from Nightmute, Elsie Chimelgaria, won third place and a \$25.00 award for Indian Culture items.

Honorable Mention in Indian Culture items was given to Margaret Temple and Mary Willie. Mary is from Napaskiak.

## Archie Demmert

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Periodically returning to school, Demmert earned a master's degree from the University of Alaska at the age of 55.

The selection committee's field researcher, in a report on the Sitka teacher, described Demmert's classes as orderly, but informal. Occasionally, the Tlingit teacher will enthrall his students with tales from Indian legends.

It is said that everyone works hard, not excepting Mr. Demmert.

In his recommendations, the researcher concluded that Archie Demmert is making a "lasting mark on his time."



**DISCUSSING CLAIMS**—Sen. Ted Stevens, center, is discussing native land claims in his Washington office with Emil Notti, right, and Jay Greenfield, member of the attorney team of the Arthur Goldberg law firm in New York. Emil Notti is the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives who, along with State Rep. William Hensley, John Borbridge, State Rep. John Sackett, Mrs. Laura Bergt, Flore Lakanof and others was in Washington to testify at the land claims hearings

conducted by Sen. Henry M. Jackson, chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, who introduced the land bill S.1830 based on the recommendations of the Federal Field Committee. The hearing was reported to have gone well. Jay Greenfield is assisting his boss, Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, who had consented to be the chief counsel for the AFN during the land claims legislation in Congress.

## PROGRESS IN RETAINING ARTHUR GOLDBERG...

(continued from page 1)

Mike Gravel, Sen. Ted Stevens, and Congressman Howard Pollock on a panel on the Alaska native land rights titled, "Alaska: America's Last Chance," at the annual meeting of the Association on American Indian Affairs.

The meeting was held at the Hotel Commodore in New York City, moderated by Roger Ernst, president of the Association and former Assistant Secretary of the Interior and resulted in keen interest of the efforts by Alaska natives to achieve an equitable settlement.

John Borbridge then returned to Washington, D.C., in his capacity as President of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska where he met with Economic Development Administration officials before returning to Anchorage.

Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee has scheduled hearings on the Alaska native

land rights May 27-28 at which time is contemplated that government witnesses will testify in greater detail of S.1830.

"Congressman Aspinall is to be commended on the decision to schedule the hearings," said Borbridge. "We hope that the House committee will come to Alaska this summer."

**Claims Bill...**  
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"Now, however, since the North Slope will most likely begin producing before the Kennicott had an active operation is reactivated," Miller stated, "the North Slope link must be the first priority, but the Kobuk link in our plans."

The Governor also reaffirmed his intent to succeed himself as governor by running for the office in the 1970 election. "I said in my very first press conference that I would seek re-election," Miller said.

**Classrooms in 1969...**  
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ember.

At the conference it was decided that the money would be better spent to construct classrooms at Kotzebue and Barrow, and student dormitories at Sitka, Fairbanks, and Bethel.

Final approval of the refunding was made by the House and Senate appropriations Committees only last week.

Senator Gravel contacted BIA officials and offered to find transportation for the structures if the agency was willing to ship them by alternate routes and to locate them in time for the school year opening in September.

It was agreed they would. In thoroughly checking the alternatives the BIA learned that the vessel "North Star" would be departing Seattle two weeks later than originally scheduled for its annual voyage to the Arctic communities.

The Bureau agreed that the extra two weeks would give them sufficient time to meet the deadline, and a procurement official would be dispatched to Seattle to expedite the entire bid procedure.

## Classrooms in 1969...

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The classrooms not unlike large mobile homes joined together to form large rooms will accommodate 80 students in Kotzebue and 120 youngsters in Barrow.

Sen. Gravel, who initiated the regional high school concept when he was Speaker of the State House of Representatives in 1965-66, expressed unrestrained delight at the prospect of opening the classrooms to students this year.

"I couldn't be happier," he said, "unless of course, the entire regional high school system were to be opened this year. This will be the first tangible manifestation of a long overdue project."

Noting that many Alaskan children are currently being sent thousands of miles away to BIA schools in the south 48, the Senator said, "This enforced separation of children from their families is just not fair. It's an unjust hardship that I hope to see ended in the very near future."

"The opening of these classrooms," he concluded, "marks the beginning of the end to this glaring injustice."

## Water...

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ilies in the villages. It was not uncommon to visit large families in which there were signs of sickness due to polluted water supplies.

In Bethel's Louse Town, Sen. Kennedy saw families obtaining water from the Kuskokwim River in front of the town.

Noting this, Kennedy asked, "Why can't wells be drilled to provide water for these people?"

He learned that drilling for water, through the permafrost which is found in the Arctic and subarctic areas of Alaska, can cost up to \$7,000 for a well. This cost is prohibitive among the impoverished native people.

Keith Kermit told the Tundra Times that the Kennedy-Stevens safe water bill might be introduced this week. He thought that this might be done on Thursday (yesterday) or Friday, today.