

'Flying Hospital' Proposed by Mike Gravel for Native Health

United States Senate candidate Mike Gravel today proposed that the Public Health Service convert an Air National Guard flying boxcar into a "Flying Hospital" to bring medical aid to native villages.

He also suggested that one or more medically-equipped helicopters such

as those being used in Vietnam be permanently assigned to strategic points in rural Alaska and be available to transport ill or injured natives to the nearest hospital.

"Although substantial progress has been made in treating sickness and injury among native Alaskans,"

Gravel said, "a quick glance at the facts is enough to convince anyone that much more remains to be done."

"The infant mortality rate in native villages is the highest in the United States, and the life expectancy is the lowest."

"The tuberculosis rate is the highest in the country, and TB and other infectious diseases are not under control."

"The accident rate is excessive, and the chances of a native surviving a serious accident in his village are much less than that of a city resident."

"It would not cost a great deal of money—an infinitesimal amount in comparison to what the government spends on many programs—to bring medical care directly to the villages."

The "Flying Hospital" envisioned by Gravel would be staffed with doctors and nurses, and equipped to dispense medicine and perform minor operations.

"I think this is the least we can do for our native people," Gravel said.

Smithsonian . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"They can also take the camera with them when they go on short visits to other villages. It will help us learn more about life in other villages."

The Smithsonian grant was made possible on application to that Institution's Wenner-Gren Small Grant Program by VISTA Volunteer at Kasigluk, Mr. Joli Morgan.

In his application, Morgan stressed that the film follow average everyday life in the village and "seek to show the influence or lack of influence upon the Eskimo culture by the 'imported' Russian-American culture."

He said the purpose of the film would be to "determine whether or not the present village culture is at such a point in its cross-cultural transition" and that the finished product would be of anthropological value.

Morgan pointed out that the village of Kasigluk was a new village and that very few of the villagers were born at the village. The village was established because the people wanted to send their children to school.

Formerly, the people lived by nomadic nature moving between fall, summer and winter camps.

Morgan said Kasigluk being located away from large waterways and away from the coast, its people has retained many of the customs of the near past and that the dress, language, cultural patterns, transportation and some tools were still used as they were in the past.

"But intermeshed with these old ways is America, 1968. On the hunting trail, dogteams are passed by

snow-go; family-made fur parkas are being replaced by store bought down parkas; mukluks by rubber boots; hand made items by factory items," said Morgan.

He expressed concern that many of the cultural values would be gone in not too distant future; that some of the villages in the area felt that "white" culture was best and that this was "not yet true of Kasigluk."

In the application to the Smithsonian Institution, Joli Morgan expressed personal urgency that the filming project be started as soon as possible because his tour of duty as a VISTA Volunteer would be up in July.

"I would like to devote as much as I can of my free time to the making of this film and the training of the film crew," he said.

Before the application was submitted, the Kasigluk village council endorsed the filming project. The village will furnish buildings, people, and ideas that will be used in the film.

In return, the people requested that they receive a copy of the completed film as a permanent possession of the village.

"I was happy to help the village obtain the grant," Joli Morgan said.

He is hoping that the project will be a step toward a bigger project.

"I hope that the completed film will be a major step toward obtaining money to make a 16 mm sound film about our tundra village," he said. "I believe that when you make a film, you learn to see all over again. It is an exciting venture for the village."



FILMING EQUIPMENT—Kasigluk village council members are happily posing for a picture with the 8 mm filming equipment they received as a grant from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. the villagers will use to film a cycle of a year's activity of the Kasigluk people. From left to right: seated, Irvin Brink, president; Nick Martin, secretary; standing, Nick Pavilla, policeman; John Nicholas, policeman; Yako Andrew, member; Alexie Pavilla, Jr., vice president. Yako Tinker, treasurer, was not present.

—Photo by LEVI HOOVER

University of Alaska Names Don Miller to Head News Service

Don Miller, head of the University of Alaska's news service and publications department, has been appointed director of university relations.

The appointment was announced by D. William R. Wood, president of the university, and is effective July 1.

A former New York State and California newsmen, Miller has been serving as acting director of university relations since January. He succeeded B. G. Olson who became executive vice president at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

Miller joined the university in July 1966 after being associated with the San Mateo (Calif.) Times for four and a half years as a reporter, sports writer, bureau chief and editor.

Previously, he had been a reporter for the Rochester (N.Y.) Times-Union, the Buffalo Courier-Express and the Niagara Falls Gazette.

A native of Buffalo, he graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a degree in business administration and later received a master's



Don Miller

—UA PHOTO

degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Since coming to Alaska, he helped reorganize the Farthest North Press Club in Fairbanks and served as club president in 1966-67.

Later, he was elected president of the statewide Alaska Press Club for the 1967-68 year.

Towarak . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The back window had been pushed out as if someone had tried to get out and the other windows were broken. It was thought, however, that ice action might have broken the windows.

The disappearance of the Towarak family had been an object of search for almost a year.

When Mr. and Mrs. Towarak and their young son vanished, they had been in the process of getting ready to go to Anchorage to get briefing on a new job at Nome.

The State Troopers are urging anyone who might have some data surrounding the strange death of the Towarak family to please contact them.

Correctional Conference Called

JUNEAU—A Correctional Management Conference is scheduled by the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare's Youth and Adult Authority division June 25 to 27 in the Capitol building in Juneau.

Participants will include management personnel from the state probation-parole offices and correctional institutions as well as youth and adult conservation camps, according to YAA Director R. W. May.

He said recent legislation and new trends in community corrections involvement

provide the key to the future correctional programming.

General theme of the Juneau conference is "Corrections — Community Based Program."

Topics on the agenda include parole and crime control, community and public relations, inmate educational and vocational programs, and new trends in corrections.

Governor Hickel has been invited to address the conference, Mr. May said, and Health and Welfare Commissioner J. Scott McDonald will comment on YAA's work and programs.

The sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. each of the three days.

BIA HIGH

(Continued from page 1)

would include Institute of Fine Arts similar to BIA facility in New Mexico.

Top officials stress none of these schools to be racially segregated; all to be under direction of the state. Federal government would provide construction funds and Johnson-O'Malley funds to defray school operating costs for natives.

Bartlett said the new approach "is perhaps dictated to a very considerable extent by the heavy recent criticism leveled against Mt. Edgecumbe in respect to the segregated school system there and to the alleged below-average educational facilities."

Judge Guinn . .

(Continued from page 1)

educators, leading businessmen, members of state legislative bodies, civic and political leaders, elected leaders of various political subdivisions.

The list also include farmers, ministers, officers of various trade organizations, leading sports figures, and many other individuals who, because of past achievements and service to their community, state, and/or nation, are recognized as community leaders of America.

Begich Hits Airport Situation . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"I was one of many who waited three hours at the airport Saturday who was then told the plane could not land at Barrow."

"Meanwhile, others were stranded at Barrow because no plane service was being given."

"The people of Barrow should communicate their displeasure to the governor and to the Corps of Engineers. The situation is deplorable."

Sen. Begich, who is campaigning for nomination in the primaries against fellow Democrats John Rader and Don Wright for the U.S. House of Representatives now occupied by Rep. Howard W. Pollock, has tried to get to Barrow during the last few days.

"I finally got a seat to go up there and after having to wait for three hours, the flight was called off," Begich complained.

Nick Begich diverted his campaign this week to the Seward Peninsula where he was honored with a no host dinner at Nome Monday.

He was slated to visit Umlakleet, Wales, Teller,

Shismaref, Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island.

Prior to his campaign swing in the Seward Peninsula, Begich campaigned in the Interior. He also opened his headquarters in Fairbanks last week.

"I found that my candidacy was well received by the native people of Alaska because they evidently know my record during the past six years in the State Senate in behalf of the native people," he said.

"I believe they recognize my efforts in behalf of the foodstamp program, native housing, hot lunch for school kids, my efforts to solve the land claims issue and my overall record in behalf of the people of the state."

He said it was obvious during the opening of his headquarters in Fairbanks that the native people that came commented about his efforts to improve education in rural Alaska.

"I'm proud of that record and pleased that the native people of Alaska recognize my achievements in their behalf," he said.