Office Souaht

Anchorage Passport

Vigorous Cry of his Infant Son Gives Akiachak Father Smiles

When the cry of his infant son comes through loud and now, Eddie Joseph Lomac of Akiachak is glad of it. In fact, the more Eddie Junior kicks up a fuss, the more Eddie Senior smiles.

It's not that the young Eskimo father has a hole in his head, but that the hole in his son's heart has been mended. Now the muchtravelled father and son are at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage for followup during the annual heart clinic there.

Although apparently normal at birth last January in the PHS Native Hospital in Bethel, Eddie Jr. worried his parents because of his lack of interest in feeding. Even though this was their first child, the young couple knew the baby should not tire so easily and should grow more.

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doctors noted the general problem. When Eddie was two months old he was admitted to ANMC for more exacting tests.

congenital ventricular septal defect was the diagnosis. Worded in nonmedical terms, the diagnosis was, just as awesome: Eddie Jr. had a hole between the two chambers of his heart. Without surgery, the little one had no future.

ANMC physicians treated the infant medically for two weeks to improve the heart function and to make the child strong enough for the trip to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

There, after more heart stusies and medical treatment, the youngster had open heart surgery to remedy nature's omission.

Such grave surgery in a six-month-old child is not

usual. But the circumstances in Eddie's life-so ill and so far from regular medicalcare-persuaded the doctors that this was the best way.

Eddie Sr., whose main source of livelihood is hunting and fishing in the Kuskokwim River area, not only took his son on the momentous journey to the strange and distant city. He also took the unfamiliar job as baker's helper in order to stay in Rochester. He says he missed only three days in seeing his t wice daily at the hospital.

Eddie says he was "kind a nervous" about the operation. Now, however, the 25-year -old father says he can see the difference in his son and feels "very happy and glad" about the new liveliness. His joy is shared by his wife Molly, formerly of Nunapitchuk.

Village of Chevak Proud of Six New Baby Arrivals

By JIM AND BETTY HOLTON VISTA Volunteers, Chevak, Alaska

This fall, there are six new babies in Chevak, four boys and two girls.

Born to Cecelia Atchak a daughter, Mabel Mae; to Lucy Tuluk, a son, John Michael; to Agnes Boyscout, daughter, Phyllis; to Margaret Smart, a son, Kevin; to Helen Friday, a son, Emanuel John; to Mary Atcherian, a son, Theodore.

Everyone in Chevak is very proud of these fine new children.

Also new to Chevak is a Head Start program for 32 pre-school children. The teacher is Mary Moses and bookkeeper Joanne Ulroan. Julia Peter and Cecelia Akitalinok teaching aides.

They recently received a visit from Miss Sally Miner, the Head Start coordinator from Bethel.

They will hold their classes in the village hall which is being equipped with a new cooking stove and a generator.

Five sixth-graders from Chevak will leave on the plane October 4 to fly to Wrangell school where they will attend class. They are: Dorothy Atcherian, Gabriel Andrews, Nancy Martins, Betty Peter and Sophie Slats.

Also leaving on October 4 is Tom Toranto who has been one of Chevak's VISTA Volunteers for the last year. The other Volunteer, John Shefelbine, left in September to attend college in California.

Replacing Tom and John are Jim and Betty Holton.

Senator Gruening this week requested that the director of the passport office in the Department of State, Miss Francis Knight, investigate the feasibility of establish-

ing a passport office in Anchorage.

As it is now, the nearest passport office is in Seattle, thus subjecting persons living in Anchorage who desire a passport to the inconvenience and delay of obtaining one from Seattle.

In his letter to Miss Knight, the senator wrote that most of the airlines cross over Anchorage between Europe and Asia and the traffic is increasing.

"It is true," he said, "that an investigation was made two years ago and it was found that there was not sufficient traffic to justify an office in Anchorage, but traffic is steadily increas-

Gruening also Senator related to Miss Knight an unfortunate occurrence that happened in Anchorage last week. A woman who resides there heard that her mother was dying in Germany and

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she wanted to go immediately before she passed away.

She found that she could not get the necessary passport immediately as no facilities - were available except in Seattle. Through the efforts of Senator Gruening, the woman was able to get a passport, but he is concerned that there are no provisions for such emergency situations in the future.

Miss Knight has assured Senator Gruening that she will restudy (the matter of locating a passport office in Anchorage and give him an answer in a few weeks.



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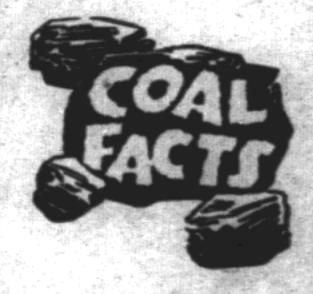
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