

## Blind Eskimo Woman on Bahai Faith Mission

Mrs. Melba Call King of Seattle visited Nome, Kotzebue and Anchorage last week on a mission for the Bahai faith.

Mrs. King, originally from the abandoned village of Sovanoska in the Kuskokwim area, is an Eskimo adopted by Mrs. Corinne Call of Washington state. Though completely blind since childhood, Mrs. King worked her way through college, becoming the first blind graduate of Central Washington College, Ellensburg.

She belongs to the Seattle Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai and has worked as a secretary for the last 17 years. She also is corresponding secretary to the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Camp 36 in Seattle.

## Dr. Gunther on Ethnobotanical Expedition

Dr. Erna Gunther, University of Alaska anthropologist, left Tuesday for a two week "ethnobotanical" expedition up the Yukon River to Old Crow.

Translated, "ethnobotany" means the study of how people use plants, Dr. Gunther explained.

Native people use plants to help cure many illnesses, she said. Women are particularly concerned with plant medicines.

"While the medicine man jumped around with his rattles, making a lot of noise, the humble little woman was stirring up some plant remedy that might really do some good," Dr. Gunther said. She plans to interview as many women as she can find.

## Rev. Parker Receives Award



*The Rev. Elmer E. Parker*

The Rev. Mr. Elmer E. Parker of Haines, an 80-year old Alaskan missionary, received the Christian Citizenship Award given annually by Sheldon Jackson College for outstanding service to Alaska.

The award was presented during the school's commencement exercises May 25, by the advisory committee of the school. This committee, Rev. Ralph Weeks, Spenard, chairman, is made up of prominent members of the church from throughout the state.

Mr. Parker, son of northern Colorado pioneer parents, first came to Alaska in 1944. He spent six years on St. Lawrence Island as a missionary for the United Presbyterian Church.

In 1950 he moved to southeastern Alaska where, he served at Hydaburg, Fairbanks, Petersburg, Klukwan, and Anchorage. He retired in 1962 and settled near Haines.

Before coming to Alaska, Mr. Parker served in Colorado and northern New Mexico. He was ordained at Pittsburgh Bible Institute in 1928. After graduation he spent five years in Africa.

Rev. Parker was married to the former Clara Watson, also a missionary serving in India. Mrs. Parker died during their Hydaburg mission, and he later married Mayreld Ramquist Swanson.

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## Serious Drinking Problem Noted At William E. Beltz High School

The drinking problem is serious among students at William E. Beltz Regional High School, Nome, James M. Harper said last week.

## Kiana Girls Have Lovely Church Ceremony

(From KIANA NEWS)

By NELLIE ATORUK

Last night we had a presentation at the Baptise Church. We stood up and say Scriptures.

We maidens wore white clothes and the Ladies in Waiting wore yellow clothes.

Marlene and Sharon lighted the candles. Alice Reed read a Scripture. We held candles with lights on it.

Alice wore kind of dress. Marlene and Sharon wore green skirt and white blouse.

After we quit, Valeria take a picture of Marlene and Sharon light the candles and Alice reading the Scripture.

Valeria took a picture two times of them and three times of Carolyn, Irene, Verna, Jeanie, Sophie, and me.

"We realize we have had problems at the Beltz School, but we are working on them and we hope to have them solved as quickly as possible," Harper, assistant director of state operated schools, said.

Speaking before the Northwest Alaska Chamber of Commerce at Nome, Harper announced that George White, acting superintendent at Beltz, would be administrator for the high school next term.

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