

# Richmond Named New Area Director

A 14-year career educator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska, Charles Richmond, was appointed Area Director for the BIA system in the state last week.

Richmond was appointed by Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert Bennett. Richmond is replacing Owen Morken who is retiring after serving as the Area Director for two years in Alaska.

Richmond first came to Alaska in 1954 and was assigned by the BIA to teach at Unalakleet.

Through the years thereafter, he taught at White

Mountain, Sleetmute and Northway where he was made principal. He was also the principal teacher during his assignments in Nome, Barrow and Kotzebue.

Before his appointment to head the BIA in Alaska, Richmond had been district superintendent with headquarters at Bethel.

Breaking something of a tradition of the area directorship in the state, Charles Richmond was the first man to be appointed to the position as an Alaskan who has served for an extended period in the field.

# Larry Brayton Alarmed Over Senate Bill 376

Senate Bill 376 is currently in the Senate State Affairs Committee headed by Senator Elton Engstrom, Chairman.

The bill would permit the Governor of Alaska to take over control of the Alaska State Community Action Program (ASCAP) that administers such programs as the Head Start, Operation Mainstream, Community Centers, Adult Education and other programs.

The programs are funded through the Office of Economic Opportunity.

"This bill will also exclude all Alaskan native villages from participating

by village councils in these programs unless they are incorporated by state law," said Larry Brayton, executive director of ASCAP.

At the present time, many villages have been incorporated under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act and not by state law.

"It is imperative that the people of Alaska make their views on Senate Bill 376 known by contacting the State Affairs Committee chairman, Senator Elton Engstrom," stated Larry Brayton.



**SENATORS TESTIFY**—Testifying at Indian Affairs Subcommittee, Senator Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska) testifies on the plight of the Alaska Native while Senator Robert Kennedy (D-N. Y.), foreground, awaits his turn. Members of the Subcommittee prepared

to question the witnesses are, second from left, Senator Clinton Anderson (D-N. Mex.) and, far right, Senator Quentin Burdick (D-N. Dak.). The hearings were called last week by Subcommittee Chairman Senator George McGovern (D-S. Dak.).

# ATKA IN DANGER OF LOSING COMMUNICATIONS..

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an open letter asking for help to ward off the impending difficulties of the village.

Nevezoroff said that the people of Atka were faced with the problem they cannot solve by themselves. For the past years, he said, the U.S. Navy has been providing monthly tug transportation to Atka.

"We have been told that this service is to be discontinued," Nevezoroff wrote.

He said if this happens, the village will have no way of getting mail at all; that the airstrip was not in good enough shape at the present time and that the village dock was not likely to last much longer.

"We need your help," said Nevezoroff. "We either need to get the airfield fixed or we need to get new docking facilities and some arrangement for the continuation of surface transport."

"The village has only 100 people including children so our ability to pay very much is limited. We have heard that it might be possible to obtain a floating dock from the Navy to put in here but we do not know how to go about getting it."

"We have also heard that rural development funds might be available but again we do not know how to get them."

## "The Navy informs us that **Minnie Ahgook...**

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died two months ago. Mekiana was the postmaster for the village.

"That little girl, I think, saved her three little cousins when she took them out when the fire started," said Raymond Paneak.

The parents of the children had been at the air strip attending to the outgoing mail when the fire started, probably caused by a faulty oil stove.

"We were just getting ready to leave on the plane when someone said that a fire had started," said Paneak. "That family lost everything. The only thing we saved were some blackened silver coins."

the tug service is to be discontinued this summer so we need help quickly.

"Please give us any information and help that you are able to."

Not knowing exactly to whom the letter should be addressed, Chief Nevezoroff allowed some of his people to send copies of the letter

Nadesta Golley, an agent of the State Department of Health and Welfare on the Island of Atka, sent a copy to Mrs. Margaret Hafemeister, district representative of the department in Seward, who forwarded the information to Tundra Times.

In a footnote to Chief Nevezoroff's letter, Nadesta Golley wrote:

"I guess you can imagine the alarm we feel. To top it off, Atka does not have wire connection with ACS. A native cannot send a personal message through Adak."

Although the Navy tug service is welcomed by the people of Atka, it apparently has its shortcomings.

"Since the only means of communication with the

Island is by mail which goes by barge from Adak once a month, it therefore takes two months from the time you write a letter until you get a reply because the barge just does a tum around, not waiting for people to read their mail and reply," said Mrs. Hafemeister.

Mrs. Hafemeister further said that the people of Atka have no justice nearer than Cold Bay some 500 miles away and that only itinerant law enforcement through the State Troopers was available.

The Island has no Public Health Nurse service only occasional medical service only occasional medical service through travelling teams out of Alaska Native Medical Center.

"Likewise due to limited staff and funds we are not able to give the service we would like to," said Mrs. Hafemeister.

"I hope that you will be able to do something to assist in securing continuing mail service and communications for these poor folks at Atka."

# Gruening Lauds...

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equipped with the skills to live in equality and dignity.

—Full participation in the life of modern America, with a full share of economic opportunity and social justice."

The three senators and representatives from numerous Indian groups testified before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on Indian Affairs on legislation designed to reexamine, and where necessary change, policies of Congress and Administrative procedures adversely affecting American aboriginal groups.

Commenting on President Johnson's message, Senator Gruening said:

"This is a splendid message. It is particularly applicable to Alaska where Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts

are approximately 1/6 of our population and have suffered great disadvantages which call for immediate and far-reaching remedies.

"We're engaged now in trying to correct by legislation one aspect of the problem, land claims by Alaska Natives. Hearings on the proposed legislation were recently held in Anchorage and final hearings will be conducted in Washington, D. D. to permit everyone who wishes to be heard to testify.

"I am pleased to see that President Johnson has taken special notice of this extremely important issue."

Senator Gruening continued, "It now remains the duty of respective committees of Congress to implement these recommendations and to try and secure action at the earliest possible time."



MISS NANCY JAMES of Fort Yukon, Alaska has enlisted in the WAVES program of the U. S. Navy and is now at the U. S. Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland where she is undergoing training in the field of her choice.



JOHN PHILLIPS of Perryville, Alaska has enlisted in the U. S. Navy and is now at the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, California where he is undergoing training in the field of his choice.