

**RARE PLAY YARD**—Three little Point Hope children are playing on the whaling celebration grounds of the Oungasakisikaq, the south faction of the whaling rivalries at the village. Qaqmaqtuuq is the north faction. The children are climbing around the bowhead whale jawbones, evidences of the past whale catches of the Oungasakisikaq fraternity. Similar piles of jawbones can be seen at the Qaqmaqtuuq grounds. The rival fraternities date back generations and generations. They are friendly rivals but the rivalry at times gets extremely keen especially when the two factions engage in difficult Eskimo games.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

## Aircraft Trophy Hunts Could End Game Guiding

Alaska's guiding profession is threatened with extinction due to abuses of aircraft-using trophy hunters, according to State Senator Jay Hammond of Naknek, a registered big game guide.

In his article, "Tarnished Trophies" in the Alaska Sportsman's special July hunting issue, Hammond describes aircraft trophy hunting as "often less venturesome by far than lady's night at little league."

Noting that guiding qualifications have been upgraded and some airplane controls have been established, Hammond commented, "Much remains to be done."

He estimated that in the spring of 1968 "perhaps only ten per cent of the bear taken on the Peninsula were taken legally. Game agents suggested that a more realistic figure would probably be not more than ten bear."

Aircraft hunting has depleted game stocks near some villages to the point where native hunters have difficulty in finding meat for subsistence.

"Until this past season on the Alaska Peninsula perhaps as much as seventy-five per cent of the game meat was left in the field. Reportedly two years ago one agent located some 82 moose carcasses from which the antlers alone had been taken. Legislators are determined to do something about it."

Without effective restrictions on aircraft trophy hunting, claims Hammond, "declining game stocks—or even simply public outrage toward guides, already most evident—will serve to shorten seasons and reduce bag limits to the point where the guiding profession will become a thing of the past."

### PERSONAL

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Nastasia K. Williams, please contact Barry Jackson, P.O. Box 348, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

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## First Step: Gravel—

# Beginning of Communications

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) said this week the proposed sale of the Alaska Communications System (ACS) to Radio Corporation of America (RCA) is only a first step in solving Alaska's critical communications problem.

"The sale of ACS will not in itself solve the pressing overall needs of communications in Alaska," Gravel said.

"Even under the best of circumstances, and even with the rather generous program offered by RCA," Gravel said, "most communities in Alaska will not receive direct television or adequate communications."

"And there is no provision for bringing educational television or other public television to many Alaska communities," Gravel said.

"The technical capability is available to provide complete communications to every community in Alaska," Gravel said. "I do not intend to rest until that is accomplished."

Gravel reemphasized the point he made last February when he opposed the sale of the Department of Defense owned communications system. He said the Air Force, which administers ACS, is selling a franchise for an antiquated, inadequate communications system, at a cost higher than necessary.

"Alaska has never benefited from a total communications plan

while the government has administered the system," Gravel said. "Private industry is welcome," he said, "I am certain RCA will find 'a cooperative atmosphere in its first efforts in civilian telephone system management.'"

Gravel promised his full cooperation with RCA management, and said he would seek a meeting with its leaders at which he would urge that they work with Alaska "not only to resolve the immediate communications crisis but to provide Alaska the very best communications system technology can make available."

"I am confident it can be done within the framework of present day costs," Gravel said.

Gravel said he intends to introduce legislation soon which would pave the way for reductions in the existing "punitive telephone rates" and pave the way for educational

television and commercial live television to "be made available to every city, town and village in Alaska."


## Forest Fire Danger Halts Army Exercise


Continued dry weather and high forest fire danger has forced the cancellation of an Alaskan Command exercise, Punch Card VI, which had been scheduled to start June 21.

Air Guardsmen, from the Virginia 192nd Tactical Fighter Group, had been scheduled to fly simulated close air support and live-firing training missions in coordination with U.S. Army Alaska forces at Fort Wainwright.

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