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GUIDE TO THE WILLIAM A. EGAN PAPERS 1940–84. Tabbert, Barbara M. 1987. Elmer E. Rasmuson Library Occasional Papers 13. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Fairbanks. 17 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-937592-10-2. US\$12.00 inc postage and handling.

William A. Egan (1914–84) was elected to the council of

his hometown Valdez, Alaska in 1937, and rose through stages of territorial representative and senator to become three times Governor of Alaska, in 1958, 1962 and 1970. His collected papers, which include official correspondence, speeches, posters, bulletins and other literature cover the period in which Alaska achieved statehood. This guide is available direct from the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks AK 99775-1005, USA.

## In brief

**DISTEMPER IN NORTHERN CANADA.** An outbreak of distemper is affecting sledge dogs at many communities in northern Canada. In Pond Inlet alone at least 65 out of 80 of the town's working dogs have died. All stray dogs have been shot; the only survivors are those fortunate enough to have been vaccinated against the disease. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police routinely vaccinate dogs against rabies. Distemper vaccine was formerly included in the rabies shots, but this has been discontinued.

Losses will have serious consequences for Inuit hunters. Many use their teams to hunt seals for family consumption, and generate additional income by acting as guides in licensed sport hunts for polar bears, which are required by law to use dog teams. In a cash-poor local economy, already severely hit by the sealskin and fur boycotts promoted by animal rights groups, such hunting is an important source of revenue. During the period of two years or more needed to replace the dogs, hunters who guide sport hunts could lose \$10,000 to \$20,000 each. The epidemic is believed to be spread by foxes, whose numbers were up this year; it has spread as far as Greenland. (Source: Heather Myers, Pond Inlet, NWT, Canada.)

**SOVIET AND CANADIAN SKIERS AT THE NORTH POLE.** A party of nine Soviet and four Canadian skiers, led by Dmitri Shparo, left Arctic Cape, the northernmost point of Severnaya Zemlya, on 3 March to trek to Canada across the ice of the Arctic Ocean. Members were reported to be carrying 40 kg back-packs, and to receive additional supplies from air-drops. They reached the North Pole in late April. All were in good health after their 53-day journey, in which they covered almost 1000 km. The party arrived to find a reception of 200 awaiting them, including Canadian and Soviet ministers, officials and journalists, tourists, and a group of scientists from a nearby ice station, with supplies of champagne and fresh fruit. On the following day they set off for Ellesmere Island, 700 km away, which they hoped to reach in early June. (Sources: *Soviet Weekly*, 12 March 1988; *Daily Telegraph*, 29 May 1988.)

**ANTARCTIC MINERALS RESOURCES DISCUSSIONS.** Delegates from 27 countries attended the eleventh and probably penultimate session of the Antarctic Minerals Regime discussions, held in Wellington, New Zealand. The Chairmanship, Chris Beeby, Deputy Secretary in the New Zealand Department of Foreign Affairs, reported that it was still not certain whether mineral resources would ever be exploited. The purpose of the talks was to ensure that, should exploitation take place, it would be regulated in an acceptable manner, so as not to threaten either the peace and stability that the Antarctic Treaty had maintained, or to present unacceptable risks to the Antarctic environment. All countries that share these concerns are welcome to become parties to the convention and participate in activities in the region. The session had proceeded in a smooth and constructive fashion, with all delegations showing a willingness to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. The talks began in 1982: the final negotiating meeting is scheduled for May 1988. (Source: *ANARE News*, March 1988.)

**NORTHERN STUDIES GRANTS TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES.** The Canadian Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has recently announced an allocation of Can\$748,000 to 26 universities in 1988–89, for studies under the Northern Scientific Training Program (NSTP). Starting in 1961, the programme has provided financial assistance totalling \$9.5 million to Canadian universities that offer training to students engaged in specialized northern studies; in 1987–88 it funded 308 students with payments averaging \$2426 per project. The highest grants for 1988 studies have been awarded to the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, University of Alberta (\$63,000) and the Centre for Northern Studies and Research, McGill University (\$53,000). The Donner Canadian Foundation, a private philanthropic organization, has awarded Can\$92,000 to the Consortium for Devolution Research, based at the University of Alberta, to study the devolution of power from the Government of Canada to the governments of the