

DISTRICT ENGINEER ORPHAN FUND

9 June 1959

The District Engineer Orphan Fund was established in 1948 to aid the Valley Christian Home for Children near Palmer, Alaska. The Home is supervised by Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Richards, who started their work with the natives in Cordova in 1937, the work being mainly of a missionary type. The Richards are not affiliated with any one church or religion but work along a good Christian way of teaching and living. They have been in their present location now for approximately twelve years.

The children are mostly native or part native. They are not all parentless orphans, but in many cases the parents are unable to care for them because of illness, and probably will never be well enough to do so, and in other cases the parents are of such character that the child is better off in the Home.

The Home has no set source of support. The only definite amount to be depended on is the monthly payment the State of Alaska makes for each child it places in the Home. Other financial aid is contributed by various churches and Christian organizations in Alaska, the other States, and Canada.

During the years the Alaska District Engineer employees have been giving their support to the Valley Christian Home, their contributions not only provided holiday gifts and food at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, but also such practical needs as washing machines, dryer, bunk beds, drilling of a new well, and many other items. The accumulated total of collections and donations at present is approximately \$29,000.

The main source of the District's funds is from the employees' donations of 25¢ each pay day. Each employee is invited to contribute and the collectors reach all interested personnel. In addition, each year, just before Christmas, the Committee conducts a "B Day" Drive for additional funds. For each dollar or more donation, the contributor is presented a Lucky Glacier Bug as receipt for giving. This collection replaces the regular collection the first pay day in December.

There are no costs in administering the fund, and all proceeds go to finance the purchase of the gifts and needed items for the Home.

If any employee is asked to serve on the Committee, it is hoped he will do so as it is a service with many rewards.

An open invitation has been extended by Mr. and Mrs. Richards to any of the District Employees to visit the Home and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.