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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release

MISS ALASKA SAVINGS BONDS, 1964, VISITS INTERIOR OFFICIALS

Miss Pearl "Nugget" Johnson, 18-year-old Eskimo girl from Nome, Alaska, came to town on May 3 for a whirlwind schedule of events capped by a visit with Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and Commissioner of Indian Affairs Philleo Nash. In the friendly Eskimo tradition, she brought the Interior Department officials gifts of small gold pans reminiscent of Alaska's prospectors in the early gold-rush days.

Pearl is on her way to the New York World's Fair, where she will represent her State as Miss Alaska Savings Bonds, 1964. She was selected for the honor by the Savings Bonds Division of the U. S. Treasury on the basis of character, intelligence, personality, appearance, and ability to meet the public.

In addition to winning her title, Miss Johnson also acquired a new nickname. World's Fair official Jack Anderson and Mrs. Helen M. Fischer, Alaska Director of the Savings Bonds Division, have dubbed her "Nugget Machutnik," the latter an Eskimo word meaning 'little darling'. This petite and charming "machutnik" is a gold nugget as priceless as savings bonds are to the Nation and to the individuals who buy them, according to the Savings Bonds Division. Those who have met her are in complete agreement with this opinion.

"Nugget's" job for the duration of the Fair will be to sell savings bonds at the Alaska Exhibit. Her transportation and subsistence expenses from Anchorage to New York are being paid by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a part of the Bureau's vocational training and job placement program.

Miss Johnson recently completed a business course at the Anchorage Business College under the adult vocational training program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The program provides occupational training opportunities for Indians and Alaskan natives, primarily between the ages of 18 and 35.

Commissioner Nash expressed enthusiasm for "Nugget's" accomplishments under the program.

"I consider the Bureau's adult vocational training program one of the best activities we have under way to help young people," the Commissioner said. "Miss Johnson did fine work in her business courses. She has a good future ahead of her. We are extremely proud of this young lady."

Miss Johnson will be on salary as a teller in the Savings Bonds booth in the Alaska Exhibit at the World's Fair, and when the Fair closes for the winter she will return to Anchorage at her own expense to employment as a bank bonds teller.

Another highlight in the final day of "Nugget's" visit to Washington included luncheon with members of the Alaska Congressional delegation.