## North Pole lures 3 on photo-taking expedition

By Loraine McClish staff writer

An Observer & Eccentric columnist, a children's dentist and an electron microscoptist are in the last throes of preparation for a picture-abouting expedition in the Arctic Circle.

The trio will hike through the Pangnirtung Pass from the town of Auyulitung, which means "the land that never melts."

mells."
National Geographic magazine has described the pass as "the most uninhabitable place in the world."
The goal of Monte Nagler, Dr. C.J. Elfont and his wite. Dedna Elfont, to bring back a body of photographic work that to their knowledge has never been attempted before.

served as a photographic adviser. His photos have been published and shown nationwide.

nationwide.

Elfont's credits also extend nationwide. The dentist is also a photographic contest judge, teaches in Photo Art Center in Livonia and is a contributing or assignment, photographer for numerous publications.

Edna Elfont is the writer of the photographer-and-author husband and wite team whose most recent joint elfort will be published in the July issue of Michigan Natural Resources. Technical writing is also a part of her job at Sinai Hospital.

THE THREE have spent the past year in research and planning for the trip to the North Pole that is hoped to yield artistic work of a little-explored



The tree-lined background will be changed to one of glacier morraines for Monte Nagler (at left), Dr. C.J. Elfont and Dr. Edna Elfont this

for Monte Nagler (at lett), Dr. C.J.
mood of the place, such as Ansel
Adams did of Yosemite or Death Valley, we can't find it, "Nagler said.
"We've found a few postcards. But
even an old article in National Geographic had more words than pictures
and those weren't much." Elfont said.
"What we're after is making a photographic statement of a place that has
kept hamans from inhabiling it."
Reading of the life of the Inuit, the
native Indian-Rakimo of the village of
Auyittue, plus the history and the geolory of the polir regious, Mrs. Elfont
said the best word she could find the
scribe it would be "otherwordity."
Her reading, she said, "confured up
thoughts of the supernatural, with aimost cerie, sometimes awesome feelings."

information as possible before begin-ning their journey.

"And that is what we want to capture on film," Elfont said.

on film," Elfont said.

FOOD, ALONG with some equipment, has already arrived in the Canadian National Park in readiness for the July 30 to Aug. 18 hike through Pangnirtung Pass.

This had to be done during the winter, when the ice could carry the filled motorized sleed, driven by the Inuits. But the hikers will each be carrying,50-yound backpacks after they enter the pass from a fjord by canoe.

"We're all in pretty good physical shape," Elfont said.

Even so, Nager can be seen now jogging around his West Bloomfield neighborhood with 50 pounds of lead shot on his back in traning.

"There's no nice trail waiting for us," Mrs. Elfont said. "It will be as

summer. The photographers and journalist leave July 30 to take pictures of an un-peopled portion of the North Pole.

tures of an un-peopled portion of the North Pole.

much scaling and climbing for us as waiking. Only a very few people have even been there since Eric the Red landed on the North American continent in 982."

Climate for the hikers will range from 30-55 degrees and they will have sun 24 hours a day traversing rugged icy terrain and glacial streams with their ski poles.

They will be hauling their own gas for heat because the land yields no trees; flares, and "back-up gear for almost everything, especially the camera equipment," Nagler said. "That will be our most precious cargo."

We're both pretty well known in photographic circles," Nagler said. "The TRIO ernects to treat about 5.

THE TRIO expects to trek about 8-10 miles a day while photographing mountains that were all named after the Norse Gods, glacier lakes and mor-

when the try is an experiment of the control of the

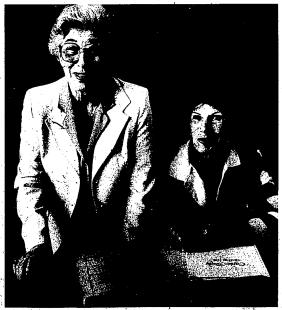
## **Reaching for roots**

## The Caplans bring about international reunion



Talk about extended families; there's one in Oak-land County that's at the center of an upcoming international happening. If your name were Caplan, you'd know all about it. It's about 106 descendants of Samuel and Han-

nah Caplan getting together, and it's a first.
Two years in the planning, the first international reunion of the Caplan Family will take place June 19-21 at the Michigan inn in Southfield. Relatives from all over the states as well as England and Canada will attend.



Reka Goldstein and Ettle Handelman (above), both Caplans through their mothers, have been working on the family reunion for two years. Last May, 14 families merged efforts in a garage sale to raise tunds for researching and printing family histories and family trees. Shown at the garage sale (seated at the table) is Kitty Wellsce, 84-year-old surviving daughter of the Caplan couple who came out of Russia a century ago.