

# Special Technique Grows Alaska Tall Corn

COLLEGE—Vegetables—corn, cucumbers, squash, and others—which have been impossible to grow under Alaskan conditions can now be raised to maturity through a special technique developed by the University of Alaska's Agricultural Experiment Station.

"Cover the rows of planted seeds, right on top of the soil, with polyethylene," explains Dr. Harold Dinkel, resident plant physiologist at the Experimental Farm. "When the seedlings appear, cut a hole in the plastic for them to grow through."

If this year's crop, now visible from the Nenana Highway near the Experimental Farm, is at all typical, Dr. Dinkel's method works spectacularly. Mature ears of sweet corn, huge ripe squash and heavily-laden cucumber vines are now ready for harvest before frost sets in.

The plastic-covered ground retains both heat and moisture, allowing long-season plants which previously could be grown only in greenhouses in Alaska, to be raised outdoors to ripeness. Soil temperature under the plastic ranges from an average of 15 degrees up to 40 degrees warmer than the surrounding soil.

The plastic retains moisture as well, an added plus in the dry Alaskan climate.

With the new development, Alaskan farmers can now commercially raise vegetables which were hitherto unsuccessful. Cucumbers, for instance, will produce thirteen tons per acre with the aid of plastic, by Dr. Dinkel's estimate.

The difference in size and maturity of corn growth with and without the plastic covering is striking. Sweet corn usually

does not reach an edible stage in Alaskan weather; but with plastic ground-cover, mature ears are ready for picking in less than three months.

Corn grown this way produces healthier, larger ears than corn grown without plastic, which barely forms ears before frost.

The plastic covering also helps in pea and sweet-pea germination; because the seeds germinate slowly, only a small proportion of seedlings usually survive the cold springtime soil.

Because plastic-covered soil retains heat, seedlings appear earlier and rate of germination is increased. The polyethylene can be removed immediately after germination if desired.

Squash, too, fares well under polyethylene; winter squash-hubbards and zucchini types do especially well, though none of these produce fruit without the aid of plastic.

Though weeds thrive under the plastic covering, this needn't concern home and commercial growers, for it is apparently unnecessary to remove the polyethylene for weeding.

There is great potential for agriculture in Alaska, according to Dr. Dinkel. "For instance, Alaska could have a flourishing greenhouse industry," Dr. Dinkel prophesies.

"Flowers are shipped by air today from wherever they are grown and major companies are now moving in search of clean

air. Alaska could offer them that, plus inexpensive heating, if we plan correctly."

The nineteenth century Hatch Act, which established state supported land-grant colleges, provides some of the funds for the experimentation carried on at the University Experimental Farm.

Vegetables raised there are donated to the Alaska Pioneer Home, the Hospitality House, the Salvation Army, and other humanitarian organizations.

Results of the experiments carried out there are published for the use of commercial and home gardeners all over Alaska.

## HEADQUARTERS

Warren Call, co-ordinator for the Miller for Governor Campaign for the Northern Region arrived last week to aid campaign plans.

Call said citizens who wish more information about the Miller for Governor campaign may contact him at Miller Headquarters at Fifth and Cushman. Miller Headquarters phone numbers are 452-1071 or 452-1022.

# Arctic Chamber Orchestra Rural Hit

By LIBET JOHNSON

The Arctic Chamber Orchestra has just completed its first concert tour of Alaska. Conducted by Mr. Gordon Wright, of the University of Alaska Music Department, the 19 piece orchestra returned home after it's highly successful tour of Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, and Anchorage.

The tour was to have included stops in Juneau and Sitka as well but unfavorable weather conditions made this impossible. The short stop planned for Kodiak Island was also prevented when the Navy refused to issue landing permission.

Otherwise, the tour went according to plan, with three evening concerts and two childrens' concerts in the afternoons.

The concerts were a typical Alaskan mixture of the casual and the classic. With the exception of Anchorage, each performance was comfortably informal, with the audience relaxed and Gordon Wright elegantly leading his orchestra in

his outstanding pair of brown work boots.

The tour is the result of over six months of planning and was financed for the most part by a grant from the Alaska Arts Council and an anonymous eastern foundation.

The intentions of the tour were to offer the experience of formal string music to many who had perhaps never heard it before. It was also to introduce Alaska's resident string orchestra, whose members are from the larger University-Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, and to hopefully stimulate interest in enlarging the string program in Alaskan schools, which at present is rather undernourished.

The music was received with great enthusiasm at every stop. Although complicated, it was not difficult to listen to. With only three previous rehearsals under their belts, the musicians presented a powerful and impressive performance, equaled only by the delighted expressions on the childrens' faces when they

were allowed to handle and try out some of the instruments after the performances.

Aside from the spirited and extremely graceful conducting of Mr. Gordon Wright, the piece de resistance was the superb and passionate violin duet by Paul and Linda Rosenthal. It would be difficult to resist the magnetic attraction of the two bows, in their magical dance, courting each other in perfect rhythm, well-accompanied by the remaining orchestra.

By the last concert in Anchorage, the music had attained a rich and polished quality. With the success of this first tour of Alaska's own Arctic Chamber Orchestra comes a promise and a challenge for the future.

Let us hope that the new Arctic Chamber Orchestra will not now ride into the sunset on the wake of it's recent successes, but will continue to fill a significant gap in Alaska's cultural bankroll.

## NCIO Meet . . .

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tend.

According to Robert Robertson, executive director of the NCIO, the meetings were set up so that Indians could state their views and take part in the policies affecting their lives.

He said that after the Indian leaders have discussed the first group of meetings with their people, a second round of meetings is to begin in November to incorporate, as much as possible, the Indians' comments and suggestions into the legislation.

For further information contact Mrs. Bergt in Fairbanks at 479-2862.

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## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

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STATE OF ALASKA  
Sealed bids in single copy for furnishing all labor, equipment, and materials, and performing all work on Project S-0131 (16), Nome-Teller Road, Bluestone to Teller, described herein, will be received until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, October 22, 1970, in the Commissioner's Office, Department of Highways, Island Center Building, Douglas, Alaska.

This project will consist of reconditioning the existing roadway and placing subbase material for 13.4 miles. The project is located approximately 60 miles northerly of Nome, Alaska.

Principal items of work consist of the following: 5,100 cubic yards of Borrow; 707 stations of Reconditioning; 68,200 tons of Subbase, Grading A; 4,200 linear feet of Snow Fence; and miscellaneous items of work.

All work shall be completed by October 1, 1971.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by all who have a bona fide need for them for bidding purposes from the Chief Design Engineer, P.O. Box 1467, Juneau, Alaska 99801. Plans may be examined at Department of Highways District Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Valdez, and Nome.

Robert L. Beardsley  
Commissioner of Highways

Publish Sept.23, Oct. 2, 1970.

## TUNDRA TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS

Charge: 35¢ per line for first time, 25¢ per line for each additional time ad appears. (Approximately 5 words to line.) Minimum—2 lines.

The Alaska State Commission for Human Rights will be interviewing applicants for the position of Clerk-Typist III. Applicants must be able to perform clerical duties in connection with the management of the immediate office and proceed with independence in duties covered by established procedures. Must acquire sufficient knowledge of the organization to establish files and records, and to accomplish other clerical tasks.

Applicants must have two years of clerical office experience including one year at Clerk II level or the equivalent and including skill in typing. High school graduation or the equivalent. Salary is \$577 per month. The position is partially exempt. Interested applicants may pick up a State employment application form at any State Manpower Center, or stop by the Human Rights Commission office located at 520 MacKay Bldg., 338 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska. Completed form may be mailed in or brought to the above address. Deadline for accepting applications will be 4:30 p.m., October 2, 1970.

AFN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

WOLF PUPS WANTED for my team. Good Price. Jerry Austin, St. Michael, Alaska 99649. Call, 443-2928. Publish: Sept. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 1970.

"From time to time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has vacancies for clerk-typists, elementary teachers, engineers, light plant mechanics and maintenance men." For qualification requirements, immediate vacancies and how to apply, write Personnel Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 3-8000, Juneau, Alaska.

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Applications for position of Deputy Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives now being accepted. Experience administration of Federal funding, contracts, proposals. Contact AFN, 1675 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska.

### WANTED

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