

Hiratsuka Gets His Masters Degree

MONMOUTH — There is no doubt about the future in the mind of Mark Joseph Hiratsuka, native Alaskan, who received his

master's degree in education at Oregon College of Education June 8.

He will return to his native state and this fall will take up his duties as resource teacher for children in special education in the Anchorage Public Schools. During the past year he has concentrated his studies on educational methods for children with extreme learning problems.

Hiratsuka, of three-quarter Aleutian Indian descent, says later he may come back to the "lower 48" for a doctorate when he feels ready for more advanced study and additional specialization.



HIRATSUKA

A 1971 graduate of OCE in education, he spent the next year teaching sixth grade in the state school of Bethel, in southwest Alaska, before returning for his master's degree.

Born in Dillingham, Hiratsuka attended school at Clark's Point Elementary, came to Oregon for high school at Chemawa Indian School near Salem and enrolled at George Fox College at Newberg for three years before moving to OCE.

His student teaching, required of all teacher candidates at OCE, was done at Hooper Bay on the Bering Sea.

There is a great need for more teachers specializing in special education in Alaska, as in the lower 48, Hiratsuka said. Alaska schools are as advanced as others in this regard, he believes, but he sees the need for more changes in education in Alaska as the state is now undergoing a major cultural change.

In his new position, Hiratsuka will have rooms and equipment especially designed to assist in teaching children who need special methods of education to overcome mental, physical or emotional handicaps.