



POINTING to their hometowns on a map of Alaska are a class of Alaskan Natives training in surveying for Alaskan pipeline work. (left to right) Jim Whittaker, Nome; Inoch Oktollik (hidden) Pt. Hope; Russ Nelson and Kenny Wilson, Dillingham; Al Kincheloe, Anchorage; Mike Sacaloff, Kenai; Ramona Justin, Twin Lake; and Lief Jensen, Klawock. The entire class passed the Technical Engineers Union exam January 29.



INOCH OKTOLLIK, 24, an Eskimo from Pt. Hope, sites through a transit during a field course in surveying designed to train Alaskan Natives for pipeline related skills.

Inoch Oktollik Trains to Survey

(SPECIAL TO THE TUNDRA TIMES)

Inoch Oktollik, 24, of Point Hope is one of a group of Alaskan Natives who are training as surveyors and chainmen in anticipation of being hired for Trans-Alaska Pipeline work.

The course, offered by the engineering firm of Hewitt V. Lounsbury and Associates of Anchorage in conjunction with the State Department of Labor, is the forerunner of a program to be offered by a new company that will specialize in training Alaskan Natives for Arctic and sub-arctic construction.

The company, International Technology Limited or I TECH for short, is a minority corporation with the stock held entirely by DOYON LIMITED and Hewitt V. Lounsbury & Associates.

Inoch, whose first love is whaling alongside his father, John Oktollik, has taken quickly to the skills of surveying and has just taken and passed the Technical Engineer's exam for rear chainman.

He considers surveying to be "fun" as it allows him to work out-of-doors and the technical aspects come easy. He's also looking forward to pipeline scale wages. His first goal is a new snow machine.

Inoch and his classmates, who come from nearly every Native

region in the state, spent eight hours a day for some thirty-five days surveying the Anchorage Park Strip and several suburbs as they learned the surveying skills.

With transits, levels, range poles and rods, the students hiked through and worked in snow that often was waist deep.

The only problem Inoch recalls is when their survey line came too close to a moose calf bedded down in the swamp spruce. "Mother Moose" was less than friendly and sent the fledgling surveyors scattering in all directions.

Loren Lounsbury, partner in Hewitt V. Lounsbury & Associates and president of I TECH, envisions the scope of the company to go far beyond the pipeline and the state itself.

"The Arctic demands special skills and training," he says, "and we can see Alaskans involved in Arctic and sub-Arctic development and conservation projects in other nations as well as our own."