

## Gordon Gould and Simeon Oliver

This week, Alaska Childrens Services honors two Alaska Natives as outstanding "sons" of the Jesse Lee Home. Dr. Peter Gordon Gould, an Aleut, and Simeon Oliver, an Eskimo, are each being presented with a Distinguished Alumnus of the Jesse Lee Home Award.

Peter Gordon Gould was born on the island of Unga in the Aleutian Chain in 1900. He was brought to Unalaska to live at the Jesse Lee Home at the age of six, remaining there until he was thirteen. He then left Alaska to attend schools in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1927.

Dr. Gould then entered the Auburn Theological Seminary. He became the first Alaska Native to enter the ministry of the Methodist Church. Dr. Gould and his wife, Ethel, served pastorates in New York State. He was asked to join the staff of the Methodist's division of national missions in 1948. He then became superintendent of the Alaska Mission of the Church.

While administrator for the Alaska Mission, Gordon Gould began a project to create and develop a private, four-year University in Alaska, placing special emphasis on the need for improved higher education opportunities for Alaska Native youth. His efforts led to the founding of Alaska Methodist University, now known as Alaska Pacific University, in 1959.

Dr. Gould retired from the board of missions in 1965 to become Director of Development for AMU. He was awarded the degree, Doctor of Divinity, by the school he founded in the same year. He retired in 1968 and now lives in New York State. In 1978, the Trustees of Alaska Pacific University honored Gordon Gould by naming the APU campus as Wesley-Gould Campus.

Alert and energetic at the age of 80, Gordon Gould travels home to Alaska periodically to promote the development of APU and to provide encouragement to the Native community in facing contemporary challenges.

Simeon Oliver, an Eskimo, was born in the village of Chignik on the Alaska Peninsula in 1903. He arrived at the Jesse Lee Home in Unalaska at the age of two. He spent his boyhood years at the Jesse Lee Home, where he received education and guidance which served him well in his career development. It was at the Jesse Lee Home that he first learned to play the piano and operate a typewriter. He won a scholarship to music college in Chicago, and became an accomplished musician and composer as a young man. An early composition, *Aleut Lullaby*, achieved great fame.

Mr. Oliver then wrote two books, *Son of the Smoky Sea* and *Return to the Smoky Sea*. Both won wide critical acclaim upon their publication. Simeon Oliver has contributed to the knowledge of Native cultures through the science of anthropology. He served on anthropological expeditions for the Smithsonian Institution, including the 1938 Smithsonian Institution Anthropological Expedition to the Aleutian Chain led by Ales Hrdlicka. This work produced evidence that Natives of the Aleutians and western Alaska Eskimos engaged in trade with each other.

During World War II, he served as a G-2 intelligence officer at Fort Richardson and was assigned special responsibilities for the Aleutian Campaign. In 1950, he was appointed by Governor Greuning to oversee the 1950 Census in vast regions of western and northern Alaska. During his career, Mr. Oliver has been a professional studio musician, newspaper columnist and professional lecturer.

The careers of Peter Gordon Gould and Simeon Oliver reflect a great sense of vision and purpose. Their accomplishments give much credit to the talents and abilities of Alaska Native people. Peter Gordon Gould and Simeon Oliver are a great source of pride, inspiration and encouragement to the Alaska Native community. We congratulate both of them on the well-deserved honors.