

Need 'Trainables'—

Workers Needed for Post-Pipeline Era

By MARILYN RICHARDS
Alaska's unemployment rate is twice the national average, but according to Douglas Colp, associate professor in mining engineering at the University of Alaska, there are "far more jobs than graduates" in mineral technology.

"Native Alaskans get preference treatment on hiring," says Colp.

By Native, he meant by Alaskan residence and not by race.

Dr. Chris Lambert, Jr., head of the mineral engineering department at the Fairbanks campus said, "The jobs available (on the pipeline) will evaporate but these latter continuing jobs training for maintenance, refineries and the service industries will be permanent."

Up to \$12 million would be made available by various groups for training in jobs ranging in everything from bookkeepers to bakers to truck drivers, but it would be difficult to continue that kind of employment after the pipeline flurry is over. The service industry needs "trainable people not truck drivers," Lambert said.

After the next three years, Lambert said that the need for temporary employment such as construction, shipping and drilling would be down but there will be a strong need for permanent maintenance in the refineries and research. Colp added that there will be many jobs in exploration in the hard rock mineral field.

"The mineral technology pro-

gram is valuable to the Native corporations but they aren't doing a thing suggesting there are people to be trained in this field," said Colp. The 3,500 Native hire figured in agreement with the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Alyeska Company are all only temporary construction jobs.

Both Lambert and Colp are pushing their two-year mineral technology training program. All their graduates, they said, have been successful in job placement.

"A person who graduated is not a technician or an engineer but the company that hires him can make a technician out of him," Colp said.

Lambert said that his department has contact with several oil companies who are interested in hiring "trainables." One oil company said some "roustabouts" hired don't absorb training and that most companies don't have time to train them.

"Trainables" are in demand because they are able to absorb on the job training.

"We're not training people to be technicians but so employers will have confidence in him to be trained and employed as a foreman or engineer," said Lambert. "There's room at the top, it's the bottom that's crowded."

Colp said it is hard for an 18-year-old to make an early decision on what he wants to do in life but it's important when he makes that first step, whether or not he may be wrong, because there is still time for change.

In Memoriam—

A Tribute to Frank Alexander

By LEE UPTON

TANANA. In the river town of Nenana there were many youngsters who called him "Grandpa" and they were not lineal descendants some of them were not even Athabascans.

But they all felt a fond affection for this dignified old man who never missed a basketball game. And the home town carried him to his last rest. They were his pallbearers at his funeral

Citing examples, he said Rex Okakok, a graduate in mineral technology, is now a preacher. Lorry Schuerch, Kotzebue's police chief and former state trooper, told Colp it wasn't for the mineral technology program and school, he wouldn't be where he is now. Schuerch worked at the Kennicott Mine after graduation.

The program first started out in 1965 as a one-year program and after completion of it a certificate was presented to the graduate. Colp and Lambert said that there might be possibilities for reviving the one-year program but many of the certificate holders are coming back to get their two-year diploma.

Plans for the program's expansion include summer employment after the first year is completed and on the job training. A prerequisite for the program is a high school diploma but that requirement could be waived in cases where older students are involved, Lambert said.



WITH FRIEND—The late and much revered Frank Alexander, left, is visiting with a friend before he passed away.

one year ago.

What was he really like, this man whom the whole town liked and respected?

He was born sometime during the 1880's in the village of Holikachuk near Anvik. Chief Charlie brought him to Nenana, then Chief Alexander of Tanana adopted him and he lived in Tanana until he was grown.

He took the Alexander name, became a substitute mail carrier and married Dora Grant. The couple had nine children and to support them Frank also worked on the steamers and fished and trapped in the natural Indian economy.

Dora died during the second flu epidemic in 1922 and Frank stayed on in Tanana while his family was growing up. He worked on the steamers and traveled to Stevens Village and Minto in 1934 and Manley in 1935.

He met and married Daisy Paul and they had three children.

During the period of 1942-43 he and Daisy returned to Nenana where he worked on the railroad. Each year the Alexander family traveled to the place where the "coming together of the people" was held.

The old name was "Hohadeklakd." Then it became known as Nuchalawoyya held in the village of Tanana where the two rivers, the Yukon and the Tanana meet.

June is the month in which we have our longest day and from the raising of the Nuchalawoyya flag on June 9 to the final day of games and farewell send-off on June 11 there is hardly a rest from the games, canoe races, power boat races, walking contests, archery competition, and the famous "500 outboard marathon."

A delicacy at the potlatches is moosehead soup. Frank prepared the head and he told of the Indian ways of preparing game, and the very old stories of the Indian way of hunting bear with just a spear and boundless courage. He was always popular and respected throughout the town. He honored the potlatch with his presence.

No matter how cold the weather Grandpa Alexander was always seen on his daily walks, puttering around his yard and shoveling snow.

During the long winter evenings he would tell some of the old tales; he remembered back to the time when the first white people came around 1890-1900, the trappers and prospectors and how the men of the village

would run and hide their wives and daughters.

His humor was infectious and the young people learned how to appreciate what had gone before.

Some would say that with his death came the passing of an era but his heritage is in the young people of Nenana in what he taught them of what a proud Athabaskan really was.

Wounded Knee

By RICHARD LA COURSE
ST. PAUL, Minn. (AIPA)

The first of the Wounded Knee trials, that of Russell C. Means and Dennis J. Banks, opened here with the interrogation of potential jurors which was expected to last until the end of January.

Ultimately the jury will consist of a panel of 12 jurors, together with six alternate jurors, who will weigh the federal government's case against Means and Banks over charges stemming from the 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee in early 1973.

The lengthy jury selection process resulted from the extraordinary list of questions prepared for the prospective jurors which had been submitted to presiding judge Fred J. Nichol by the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee (WKLDOC).

Each prospective juror is being asked about 200 questions, 157 of them prepared by the WKLDOC and 35 prepared by federal prosecuting attorneys.

The bulk of the special Indian-oriented questions were prepared by social scientist Jay Schulman for WKLDOC.

Schulman was formerly associated with Cornell University and City College of New York, and is currently assisting in the setting of jury selection patterns for the accused Attica prisoners in New York, now also awaiting trial.

To determine the ethnic origin, character, thought-patterns, lifestyle and associations of the potential jurors, each was first asked questions concerning his or her upbringing, marital status, church affiliations, educational background, profession, political beliefs, reading habits, memberships in groups of their own choosing, other professional associations and the like.

All questions were aimed at "determining the qualifications and possible bias in an important case, as well as sympathy or prejudice," according to presiding judge Nichol.

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