

Plans Needed Now—

Homemakers Short Course

Women interested in attending homemaking courses in Fairbanks sponsored by the Alaska Homemakers Council in June should begin making plans now.

Last year nearly 120 women from all parts of Alaska attended the annual session, known as the Homemakers Short Course, on the campus of the University of Alaska.

Some twenty Eskimo and Indian women were sent by their own Homemakers Clubs or were funded by available scholarships.

To inquire further about such scholarships or about the 1970 Short Course program, contact the District Extension Office for your area or Miss Agnes Sunnell, State Home Economics Leader, c/o Extension Service, University of Alaska, College, Alaska.

The courses offered concentrate on subjects of interest to women—both native and non-native—such as making the most of a small living area, catalogue buying, and nutrition.

The courses are offered usually the second or third week in June and are open to any interested woman. One does not have to be a member of a Homemaker's Club, nor even a resident of the state.

Housing and meals are available on the campus. Cost for room and board is about \$50 for the week. Other expenses to be considered are transportation costs and a registration fee of \$2.50.

Encouraging women from outlying areas to attend the sessions is one aspect of the Sister Club Program sponsored by the Alaska Homemakers Clubs.

Under this program, as explained by Mrs. Betty Ruth George, a city-based club works with a village club and assists them when possible.

She is a member of the Steele Creek Hoppers Club of Fairbanks which has a sister club in Buckland, many miles away on the Seward Peninsula in western Alaska.

The Fairbanks-based club, Mrs. George said, corresponds with the Buckland club assisting them with marketing craft items and sometimes shopping.

They make items such as sewing kits, and buttons from antlers, and the Fairbanks club sells the items for them, she explained.

Also, if the families need certain merchandise and do not want to order it through a cata-

logue, the Fairbanks club will make the purchase and mail the item to the village.

The biggest problem in trying to assist them, she added, is one of communications.

"We write them about once every two months but have trouble getting someone to reply and to answer our questions.

"Possibly they don't understand what the club is trying to do and perhaps we don't understand their reasons for not communicating more freely and frequently. We need someone who can act as a go-between," she added, "someone who knows both cultures."

"We would like to expand our program and services to them if we could find a way to."

Probably some of these same

problems are encountered by other clubs, Mrs. George said, as she stressed that the Homemakers Club would like to expand the current efforts now underway and to acquire new Sister Club members.