

Aleut speakers relate internment stories at museum

Voices of Internment, a series of four free lectures which explore the impact of the World War II military campaign on the Aleut people in Alaska, begins Wednesday evening, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art with a presentation by Dean Kohlhoff, associate professor of history at Valparaiso University and the author of "When the Wind Was a River", the first historical account of the evacuation of the Aleutian Islands during World War II. Kohlhoff's account begins with the onset of World War II and continues to the efforts for restitution.

The second and third lectures will be presented by Aleuts who will talk about their personal experiences and viewpoints of these extraordinary events. Lecturers

for Wednesday, October 18, are Alice Petrivelli, who was evacuated from Atka at age 12, and her daughter Patricia Petrivelli, who became involved in the restitution efforts. On November 1 Anatoly Lekanof will talk about his experiences when he was evacuated from St. George as a young boy. The Pribilof Island villagers of St. George and St. Paul were taken to Funter Bay in southeast Alaska, where their camps were administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These personal accounts of the Aleut people are intended to show that Pribilof Aleuts and Aleutian Islands Aleuts had to deal with a different set of circumstances and that each of the ten communities faced unique challenges.

The final lecture on November

15 will cover the efforts of the U.S. government to acknowledge these World War II events and the resulting 1988 legislation providing for restitution in the form a monetary settlement, repair of the churches, and the establishment of

a trust fund to benefit the Aleut evacuees and their descendants.

The voices of Internment Lecture Series is sponsored by the Alaska Native Heritage Center. The Series complements *Forced To Leave: The Detention Of Alas-*

kan Japanese Americans And Aleuts During WWII, an exhibition documenting the civilian impact of the WWII military campaign in Alaska, on view at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks through May 1996.