

NATIVE WELCOME CENTER OPENS DOORS

Facility Operating Here At 520 4th Avenue



SIZING UP JOB—Miss Ruby Tansy, left, director of the Fairbanks Native Welcome Center, along with Eleanor Outz, center, and Bob Aloysius,

are scrutinizing the floor of the center that had not been cleaned since the flood in 1967.

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

What has been sadly lacking for some period of time is an effective way in which Alaskan Natives can demonstrate social concern for their own people, and organize constructive action to make that concern felt.

One significant step in that direction was taken by the Fairbanks Native Association August 1 when they hired Ruby Tansy to manage the Fairbanks Native Community Center.

The first challenge the young Athabascan woman confronted was in finding a suitable location for the Center. After several unsuccessful attempts, the Center was settled at the former location of the Fairbanks Medical and Surgical Clinic.

The Welcome Center, as it is commonly called, was open for services on September 8 at the 520 Fourth Avenue site. The staff now consists of Miss Tansy, and Cora Sakgaeagak, Secretary-Receptionist.

The Center is now recruiting for an employment specialist. Miss Tansy discussed the need to fill this position.

"One of the things we have discovered," she said, "was that a person will go to the State manpower Center, and he is required to leave a phone number and must wait to be called."

"Quite a few people don't have phones. Our employment specialist will have staff travel funds. He can go out and actually recruit.

"In general, he should know all phases of the employment field. He should also be able to develop a rapport with employers so that they will be able to start calling him," she added.

One of the important features of the Center, as Miss Tansy outlined, would be the emphasis on

BULLETIN

Fairbanks Native Community Center Director Ruby Tansy underwent major surgery at Fairbanks Community Hospital Thursday. Miss Tansy informed the Fairbanks Native Association Board of Directors of her resignation as Director of the Center this week.

The FNA is currently recruiting for a Center Director. Miss Tansy has agreed that, after she has recuperated from her operation, she will continue as Director until that position can be filled.

recreation for young natives, including those who have come into town for the boarding school program.

The Center has acquired a pool table, a ping-pong table, a piano, and a good amount of space. "This would also be their place," she said.

Miss Tansy said she was not pleased with the policy the Anchorage Welcome Center has established in excluding drunks.

"I totally disagree with the Anchorage Welcome Center," she stated.

"I don't think I would want a drunk to be causing a commotion here. But he should feel free to come to me for help.

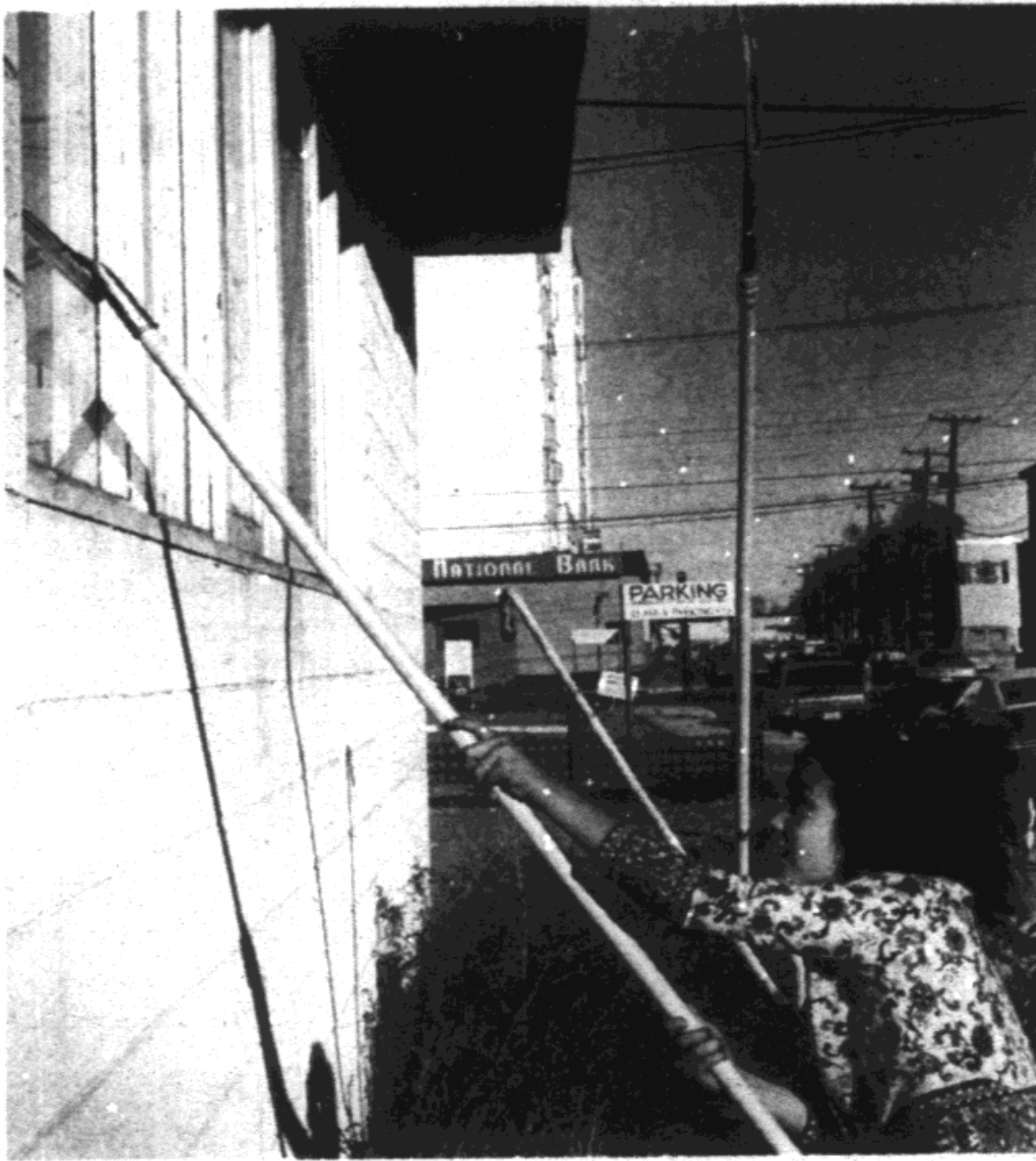
"I don't think it would be right for me to throw my own people out, if I can help them," she said.

An indication of the support she has received in her work was seen recently at a work party at the Center. The building had not been cleaned since the flood in 1967.

The work party members, mostly Fairbanks Native Association volunteers, rolled up their sleeves to vacuum, mop floors, wash walls, clean windows, and engage in other jobs that generally resulted in aching muscles.



WASHING WALLS—Mrs. Mary Jane Fate is enjoying washing the walls of the newly opened Native Welcome Center while Marcello Quinto watches.



LITTLE MISS HELPER—Jennifer Fate, daughter of Mary Jane and Dr. Hugh Fate, is happily lending a hand washing windows of the Center.

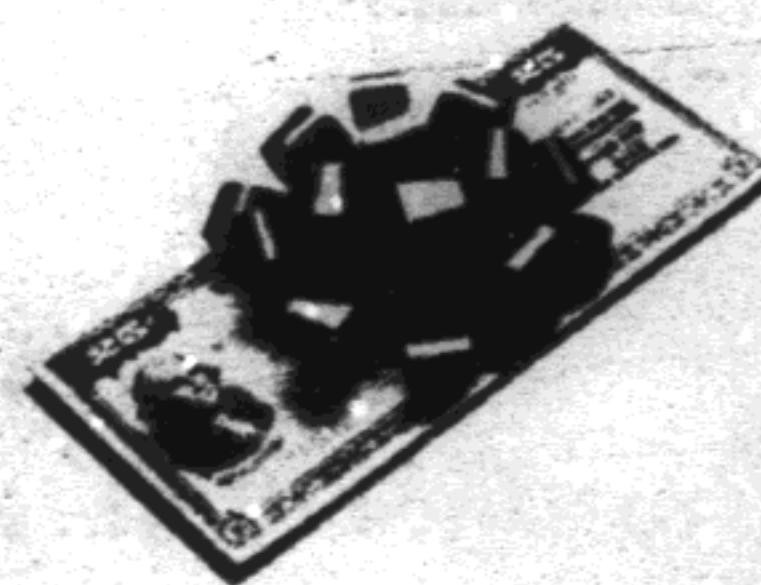


NATIVE WELCOME CENTER—Under the directorship of Miss Ruby Tansy, the Fairbanks Native Welcome Center opened this week at the old Fairbanks Medical and Surgical Clinic. The Center

was actually opened September 5 at another location but the personnel moved to the new location. The address is 520 4th Avenue.

—All Photos by THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

**Give the
present with
a future.**



**Buy U.S. Savings Bonds
& Freedom Shares**