



QIVIUT KNITTER—Emily Baker of Mekoryuk, Alaska, strokes the shaggy hair of a musk ox on the experimental farm operated by Kellogg Foundation near the University of Alaska, College. Musk ox is a source of fleece, one of the finest in the world. Miss Baker learned how to knit qiviut, fine wool of the musk ox, after instructions by Mrs. Ann Schell, shown at right with her new daughter. Mrs. Schell traveled to Mekoryuk last winter to instruct Mekoryuk women to knit the fine wool. Adult musk ox sheds

about six pounds of qiviut each year. The wool has been estimated to cost \$50 per pound. Musk ox, once thought to be unruly and dangerous, is surprisingly easy to domesticate. It is an intelligent animal, fun loving and will answer to its name when called and come lumbering. The musk ox farm near UA is under the direction of John Teal. Emily Baker is at UA taking a course of Head Start training.

—LARSERAQ SKIFTE Photograph

Stevens' Amendment to Make Blind Under 21 Work Vending Machines

If you have ever wondered and marveled at the blind person operating the vending facility in one of the Federal buildings or a private building throughout America you might find it interesting to know he is there because an

Act passed by Congress 33 years ago, called the Randolph-Sheppard Act, makes it possible.

Under the terms of the Randolph-Sheppard Act a program was established granting preference to blind people in the oper-

ation of vending facilities in Federal Buildings and has been adopted by many private establishments.

Ted Stevens, Alaska's Senior Senator, has announced his co-sponsorship of an amendment to the 1936 Act. In making the announcement Senator Stevens said, "the passage of time brings change and laws creating programs must periodically be revised to fulfill new needs."

Under existing law no person under 21 years of age can operate a vending facility. The new amendment will license responsible and capable blind men and women who are under 21.

Stevens said the amendment he has co-sponsored will broaden the range of concessions presently in use and will also include arbitration procedures between State licensing agencies and agencies controlling Federal property.

The Alaska Senator commented that last year 3,300 blind persons operated vending facilities under this program and had an average annual income of \$5,580.

AR to Haul Fair Exhibits Free

Free transportation via Alaska Railroad for exhibits entered in the Tanana Valley Fair in Fairbanks was announced today by Janet Baird, Manager.

The free transportation offer is a continuation of past policies and was contained in a letter from John Manley, General Manager, Alaska Railroad, in response to a request from the Fair.

"This generous offer by the Alaska Railroad will make it possible for many more Alaskans to send exhibits to the Tanana Valley Fair, and to compete for the \$5,000.00 in cash and ribbon awards given at the fair," said Mrs. Baird.

Entry in the Fair is open to anyone in Alaska, and there is no entry fee. Copies of the 1969 premium book are available on request. Inquiries and exhibits should be addressed to Manager, Box 188, Fairbanks.

State Utilizes Mt. Edgecumbe To Graduate Work Trainees

SPECIAL TO THE TUNDRA TIMES

JUNEAU, ALASKA—August 15 will be graduation day for 54 trainees enrolled in the "Multi-Occupation Course for Youth" at Mt. Edgecumbe, Commissioner of Labor Thomas J. Moore announced today.

According to Moore, the course marked the first time the State has utilized the Bureau of Indian Affairs school for one of its training programs. Arrangements for its use were made by Senator Ted Stevens.

The Commissioner said the MDTA course was designed as an employment orientation program for high school drop-outs between the ages of 17 and 21. He added all of the trainees are rural Alaskans who were recruited from every section of the State.

The seven-week course includes basic training in wood-working, mechanics, clerk-typist duties, food service and an opportunity to complete high school equivalency examination (GED test).

Highlights of the course are student discussions with selected

employers and representatives of organized labor about job requirements and opportunities in various industries.

"These discussions were planned to help the trainees select a career by talking to people directly involved in different occupations," Moore said. "We expect these talks to lead to some immediate job offers in addition to creating a desire among the students to continue their education in order to qualify for the more highly skilled occupations."

The commissioner of labor added the course was "an excellent example" of federal-state cooperation and the interest of industry and labor in helping rural Alaskans to obtain gainful employment.

The Alaska Department of Labor recruited the trainees, contacted the labor and business leaders, and will assist in the placement of graduates. The State Department of Education provided the teachers, set up the curriculum and conducted the training.

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