

Alaska Skill Center Well Observed

JUNEAU— Approximately 110 Alaskans are presently enrolled at the Alaska Skill Center in Seward, Robert K. Booher, Skill Center director, reported.

He said that within the past

month 27 representatives of business, labor unions and government have visited the center to observe the various training programs.

"It is encouraging to the staff and trainees to have people view our operation as we believe they can be of assistance in job placement and development of the entire curriculum," he stated.

The Skill Center director said two additional shop buildings have been erected. They will be

used for training in basic shop, small engine repair and building maintenance.

Booher added the center will have a new kitchen and dining hall complex capable of feeding 200 people by July 15. The new complex will mean all Skill Center facilities will be located at one site with exception of the large mechanical shop on the waterfront," he said.

Booher stated that occupants of the women's dormitory, which was destroyed by fire on May 13, are presently being housed in a Seward hotel until the dormitory is replaced.

He also noted that only a few of the trainees have requested to leave for the fishing season.

"The trainees' interest in their work has made it possible for us to maintain a stabilized number of people in training during this period of seasonal employment," he noted.

The Alaska Skill Center offi-

cially opened in January to provide unemployed, underemployed or disadvantaged Alaskans with training opportunities in food service, building maintenance, mechanical maintenance, repair and operation and clerical work.

It is jointly sponsored by the Department of Labor, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division of Vocational and Adult Education in the Department of Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.