

State Agencies Begin Refrigeration Mechanics Training Program

The State Department of Education, Division of Vocational Education, and the State Department of Labor, Employment Security Division began a training program for refrigeration mechanics on October 28. This training project is being conducted by the Kodiak Community College and will last for 32 weeks.

The objective of this training program is to prepare the unemployed and underemployed for openings in new cold storage plants, freezer ships, and other industrial facilities in Alaska using refrigeration systems.

Several cold storage or freezing plants have been planned throughout Alaska, including Bethel, St. Mary's, and Emmonak.

Mekoryuk has a freezing plant at this time, which will be used for the storage of reindeer.

Holy Cross and Dillingham are considering cold storage plants. Holding plants, with freezing facilities are planned for Napakiak, Nunapitchuk, and Tuntutuliak. Within the fishing industry, a number of freezer ships that buy fish from the fishermen utilize a considerable number of refrigeration mechanics each year.

Potential trainees for this program will be primarily unemployed males from 18 years and up who have attained the equivalent of an 8th grade education and who need a skill to enable them to secure full-time jobs.

The majority will be Eskimo, Aleut, and Indian.

After completing the course, the trainee will be able to understand the theory of refrigeration, to know the different kinds of refrigerants and how to use them, to be able to read, interpret, and care for temperature and pressure instruments and charts, to understand the function of motors and motor controls, and to know how to provide preventive maintenance and repair of all component parts of a refrigeration system.

During the past 12 months, the local Employment Security Office has been unable to fill any openings for refrigeration mechanics because all around refrigeration mechanic background has been required. There has not been a sufficient supply of qualified applicants in the area.



SEE-SAW—As anywhere, rural Alaska village youngsters like to play. Here three little boys are improvising a see-saw mounted on a driftwood and are having the time of their lives.