

Ludwig Seeks Native Children's Cultural Enrichment

Last December, Abraham "Pin" John, Jr., a 10 year old Athabascan Indian from Arctic Village accompanied KUAC's then Program Director Jim Ludwig and Barbara Ester, a UA student to Rochester, New York.

That trip which was Pin's first away from his remote native village, brought him into direct contact with the non-native culture.

For the first time Pin rode in cars, saw and even appeared on television, used telephones, saw high buildings, rode escalators and elevators, flew on airplanes, used flush toilets and purchased items with money.

As a result of Pin's trip his teacher in Arctic Village said that he is more self-confident and has become more vocal in his use of English.

This is especially significant because Pin, although 10 years old, was still in the second grade because he lacked essential skills in English.

Because of the inherent value in such a trip, and after conferring with Pin's mother, teacher, educational specialists, and many native people, Ludwig and Ester drafted THE PIN PROJECT: A PROPOSED CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM INVOLVING YOUNGSTERS LIVING IN ALASKA'S REMOTE VILLAGES.

Because this is a U of A student supported project, the Associated Students of the University of Alaska last year allocated \$500 for the project.

Other funds hope to be raised through civic and service organizations so a maximum number of youngsters can participate in the program.

"With Christmas just around the corner," said Jim Ludwig, "Plans are now being made to implement the project this year. The organizers of THE PIN PROJECT would like to hear from villages where there are children interested in and who would benefit from participating in such a program."

"Village Councils and teachers



"PIN"—Abraham "Pin" John of Arctic Village last year was a very fortunate youngster on a trial run of a cultural enrichment program initiated by the then KUAC's program director Jim Ludwig and a University of Alaska student Barbara Ester who took Pin on a Christmas vacation from his tiny village to Rochester, New York. Pin's trip was funded by the Associated Student's of the University of Alaska last year. Similar program is being planned for this year and funds for the project will again be sought from the ASUA and civic and service organizations. Villages are invited to take part in the cultural enrichment program. —Photo by JOHN METZGER

are especially encouraged to assist us."

If selected the child will spend Christmas vacation outside of Alaska accompanied by a mature and responsible University of Alaska student who will serve as a companion and host to the child during the trip.

All interested parties should send a note describing the prospective child, child's age, and why you think he or she would

benefit from the trip.

Please send all information to: The Pin Project; c/o Jim Ludwig, KUAC-FM, University of Alaska, College, Alaska 99701.

Last Spring, Ludwig received a letter from Mrs. Dorothy John, Pin's mother. She said:

"I am in very much agreement that this program should be continued and I will be glad to help in any way that I can. I say this because I have seen in my son

(Pin) a lot of good changes in lots of ways.

"Not only have I noticed it but the people here and also the teacher have noticed it. I also know that Arctic Village is not

the only place where kids like Pin need to experience such a trip 'outside.' I know that there are other places where there are kids that need it also That's why I am very much interested.

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California Indian Health 'Worse'

A study by the California State Department of Public Health found that Indians are its fastest growing minority group and that their health is "measurably worse" than that of other residents.

The state's findings were that Indian children can look forward to short and unhealthy lives. Among the findings contained in a report:

—Their mothers had inadequate prenatal care. About 29 per cent of Indian mothers had either no prenatal care or care only in the final three months of

pregnancy.

—There is a much greater likelihood of accidental death among Indians. Accidents account for 23 per cent of Indian deaths compared with 7 per cent for the whole population.

—The average age of all Californians at death is 62 years. For Indians, it is 42 years.

—A survey of 100 Indians on three reservations found that sources of vitamin C were "virtually nonexistent in their diets."



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