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 EN-PORGRAM IN-RICHMENT VOLVING YOUNGSTERS LIV-ING 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 PRO-JECT 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

A study by the California

State Department of Public

Health found that Indians are its

fastest growing minority group

and that their health is "measur-

ably worse" than that of other

to short and unhealthy lives.

Among the findings contained in

quate prenatal care. About 29

per cent of Indian mothers had

either no prenatal care or care

only in the final three months of

A good

habit to get

The state's findings were that

Indian children can look forward

-Their mothers had inade-

residents.

a report:



"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

-There is a much greater like-

lihood of accidental death among

Indians. Accidents account for

23 per cent of Indian deaths

compared with 7 per cent for

the whole population.

California Indian Health 'Worse'

pregnancy.

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

-The average age of all Cali-

-A survey of 100 Indians on

fornians at death is 62 years. For

three reservations found that

sources of vitamin C were "vir-

tually nonexistent in their diets."

• Economical

• an Alaskan

Industry

Indians, it is 42 years.

• Clean

(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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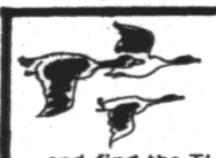
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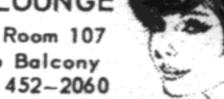
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