

Courageous Eskimo, Paul A. Issac, To Visit World's Fair and Denmark

(From the Anchorage Daily Times)

Paul Andrew Isaac, a slender young man with happy brown eyes, a contagious smile and a pair of braces and crutches, will spend three weeks touring Denmark this summer, from June 21 to July 14.

Paul, 21, is one of the 53 handicapped young people chosen by the Easter Seal Society to accept an invitation from Danish governmental and voluntary agencies. He has been crippled since early childhood with tuberculosis of the vertebrae and both of his legs are paralyzed.

"Paul was chosen to be the Alaska ambassador to Denmark because we felt he would profit so much by the trip and would really appreciate the experience," said Laura Joyce of the Alaska Crippled Children's Association. "He was highly recommended for the honor by his doctors and nurses."

An Eskimo, Paul was born at Nelson Island, Alaska. He has spent most of his life in and out of hospitals and clinics here and in Mt. Edgecumbe and Bethel. Both of his parents are dead.

Electronics has long been Paul's main interest. He now is employed by Audiocam, Inc., as a trainee under the Alaska Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

According to Leonard Caum, executive director of the ACCA, "Anyone who has had to spend so much time under medical care would become discouraged, except Paul. We have great respect for his cheerful outlook and courage."

Between operations and treatments, Paul has managed to obtain a ninth grade education. He wants to continue to study and hopes to have a high school diploma some day.

The young native will leave Anchorage June 20. He will be met in Seattle by the Washington Crippled Children's Association director and the Washington delegate to Denmark. They will travel to New York together and visit the World's Fair there.

Then comes the trip to Denmark where Isaac will be a guest of the Danish government.