

# Ayek Named Manager Of Alaskaland Village

FAIRBANKS, Special—King Island Eskimo Sylvester Ayek, 27, has been named manager of Alaskaland's Native Village, where unique and extinct forms of native Alaska architecture and artifacts have been preserved and reborn on the 40-acre visitor center in Fairbanks.

Ayek expects to add features as the season progresses, but by the time Alaskaland opens June 15 he will have Eskimo dances, games, demonstrations and classes, basket-weaving, skin-sewing, carving and a blanket-toss in motion as daily features of the permanent Alaskaland Exposition.

Ayek said his objective at Native Village will be to develop and present a show of native Alaska arts and crafts in action that will be historically and culturally authentic.

"And we want to create a valuable practical dimension in the sale of the work produced—either in the form of instruction in native dances and games or products developed like muk-luks, baskets and carved ivory.

"Much of what has been preserved in Native Village is there thanks to the white man's interest and the Alaska Centennial. The designs and the technique in building of traditional native structures had all but faded from the scene when Native Village was assembled, and the display of buildings and other structures is invaluable to all of Alaska today," Ayek said.

The Native Village was carefully researched and developed over a period of

years preceding the 1967 Alaska Purchase Centennial, for which most of what now constitutes the Alaskaland Exposition was developed.

The City of Fairbanks purchased the site and facility from the State of Alaska and plans to operate it permanently as a visitor destination and information and activity center year-round.

Ayek said he will employ 20 young men and women through the Neighborhood Youth Corps and assemble a cadre of native paid and volunteer specialists to give authentic continuity to the Native Village program on a break-even basis.

"And we want to dignify the idea of working with the hands. Alaska natives until the last century were completely self-sufficient on the basis of things they did with their hands in getting food and building shelter and there is a great deal of fascinating ingenuity to be found in Alaska crafts," Ayek said.

A director of the Anchorage Welcome Center, Ayek has been native activities coordinator of the Igloo-puk in Anchorage.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Muktoiyuk of Nome, and his wife, Edna, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ahmasuk, Sr. of Nome.

No human being is constituted to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and even the best of men must be content with fragments, with partial glimpses, never the full fruition.

WILLIAM OSLER