

Billy Neakok, Danny Truesdell in Disney Film



FAA EMPLOYEES GET PROMINENT ROLES IN FILM

ROLES IN DISNEY FILM—Daniel R. (Danny) Truesdell, left, and William E. (Billy) Neakok, both air traffic control specialist Trainees for the FAA at Barrow, Alaska, are shown with one of

the cub polar bears brought from Holland for use in the movie "Snowbear." Both Danny and Billy assisted the Walt Disney Studios of Hollywood in the filming of this movie.

By W.P. DANIELS

(Air Traffic Control Specialist at Fairbanks)

To the Arctic Eskimo, polar bear is "NANOOK." To movie makers it is "SNOWBEAR." But two northernmost ATCS Trainees such words recall the toil of off-duty hours through months of Arctic winter, spring and summer spent before the Disney movie cameras on ice flows, tundra, and on a movie set at Point Barrow, Alaska.

Despite the action and drama of North Slope oil, scientific and industrial expeditions and research projects at Point Barrow, the Walt Disney Studios of Hollywood have managed in the past year to capture on film a fascinating nature story of The Great Land, with a sharp focus on the Arctic regions.

The blending of a menagerie of polar bears from European zoos, the casting of local native talent at Barrow and the tender handling of the theme combine to make "SNOWBEAR" a story that foreshadows the end of an era, a story that struggles to keep alive an Eskimo culture that once was, but which has been over-

whelmed by another age of man.

A bizarre but understandable notewas struck in the filming of "SNOWBEAR" with the importing of captivity-bred polar bears into an area of natural habitat. While not really "tame" these sophisticated, city-bred type bears never before had seen ocean or ice, or felt the sting of Arctic wintry blast.

Thus they were more subject to control by their German speaking handlers, more adapted to humans than are the fearless carnivores that prowl the Arctic ice around Barrow.

In search for disappearing native skills and customs to bolster the film's authenticity, movie director Gunther Von Fritsch tagged as "naturals" two FAA ATCS Trainees of the Barrow FSS, William E. Neakok and Daniel R. Truesdell.

"Billy" Neakok is a native of Barrow, Alaska. Besides studying and working to become an FSS ATCS, Billy is active in civic and native affairs. A skilled Arctic hunter, trapper, and whaler, he is knowledgeable in Eskimo culture, past and present.

He was used by the studio as a technical advisor, interpreter, and coordinator. Many of the props used in the film, and the skills displayed were engineered and directed by Billy.

Born in Barrow, with later education in the "Lower 48," Billy served a tour in the army then worked for several years in San Francisco as a helicopter mechanic. But the lure of the Arctic was too great.

He returned to Barrow with his wife Alice, a Navajo Indian from Arizona who shares his enthusiasm for the Arctic and often joins him in his hunting expeditions.

"Danny" Truesdell, the other Barrow ATCS Trainee won a major role in the film as a great white hunter, fur trader and bush pilot, the only non-native role in the story.

Though Danny is not a native, he is a resident of Barrow, married to "Luky" Killbear, a local Eskimo girl, and is no stranger to the Arctic. After high school in Colorado and a hitch in the navy, he heeded the urge to go north, to Alaska, to sample the "spell of the Yukon."

This he did in every possible way, by working on the Dewline, hunting, trapping, trading, and even mushing dog teams. Another urge, to fly and to work in aviation brought him, along with Billy to Barrow FSS on opening day in March, 1968. Danny is currently on detail to the FAA Academy at Oklahoma City to round out his ATCS training.

On the day of his departure for OKC, he walked off the movie set after his last "take," deliriously shaved off a 10 month old itchy beard, sheared his shaggy locks, and boarded the plane.

Said Danny, "This is too much! No more "takes," Oklahoma City, and a clean face! The beard and hair was the worst of the experience. It was really getting to me!"

The Disney crew was lavish in their praise of the outstanding performances of the two FAA-ers. Said Production Director William Redlin, "These two boys were beautiful. A real asset to us, as they are to this place. (both are active in civil affairs). They helped us over some very rough spots. FAA can be proud of them." Hank Schloss, Director of Photography said of Danny, "This guy is cool. He comes on

like he never knew a camera was on him."

Now that the novel experience of moviemaking on a familiar subject has ended, Billy and Danny are eagerly pushing to-

ward their immediate goals of ATCS training and journeyman status in the FSS they have grown with, the one which now has a big role in the reshaping of Arctic aviation.

Alaska Business Directory

AL RENK & SONS, INC.

Statewide Trucking Services
2922 Commercial Drive
Anchorage — Phone 8447
Steese Highway in Fairbanks
Phone 452-2082



Baby chicks, Ducklings, Goslings,
Guinea Keets, Turkey Poults,
Guaranteed live Bush Deliveries.
KARELLA HUTCH & HATCHERY
Box 1615, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone 452-3987

IN THIS SPACE
YOU PAY ONLY
\$1.80 First Insertion
\$1.50 Thereafter

House of Fabrics

Fabrics for all your
sewing needs

406 Barnette, Fairbanks, Alaska

Sachs

MEN'S SHOP

108 Cushman...456-4017



You can fly
anywhere in
Alaska, the
"Lower 48,"
or the world
and find the TUNDRA TIMES
—ADVERTISE—



Mido,
Bulova Accutron
Watches
Watch Repairing
NORTHWARD
TIME SHOP
Heinz Borchard,
Jeweler

CO-OP

Drug & Photo

"ALASKA'S LARGEST"
Prompt Mail Order
SERVICE & PHOTOFINISHING
*Prescriptions
*Photo Supplies
*Cosmetics
*Sundry Items
P.O. Box 1390 Fairbanks

DONALSON COMPANY

PO Box 845

Anchorage,
Alaska

Phone 279-3025

Fairbanks Lumber Supply

"Where One Call
Supplies It All"

Box 629 — 272 Illinois St.
Garden Isle, Fairbanks
452-2183

FAIRBANKS

Office Supply

General Office, School,
Engineering and Paper
Supplies

PROMPT MAIL ORDER SERVICE

551 Third Ave., P.O. Box 2552
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

FAIRBANKS BARBER SHOP

Glenn Cupp - Owner
Alberta Grant - Assistant
543 2nd Ave. 452-9811

Yukon Office Supply, Inc.

Sales - Service - Rentals
511 Gaffney Rd., Fairbanks
Phone - 452-1148

If you enjoy good country
music, stop at the

Comet Club

208 Gaffney, Fairbanks

DEAN'S BEAUTY LOUNGE

Room 107
Co-op Balcony
452-2060



CARR'S

404 Cushman

MAIL ORDERS WELCOMED

LEWIS LODGE

Bethel, Alaska

Hotel - Restaurant - Taxi

A-1 RECORD SHOP

Foodland Shopping Mall

MAIL ORDERS OUR SPECIALTY

P.O. Box 1313
Telephone 452-3335

Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks

Complete Banking Service

Branches at University
Nenana - Airport Road
Eielson - Delta - Tok
Main Office—Northward Bldg.

Jean's

Fabric Shop

1st & Cushman
Fairbanks, Alaska

Fairbanks Hearing Center

MAICO - ZENITH

FRANCHISED DEALER
Sales - Service - Batteries
NORTHWARD DRUG
Northward Bldg.—Ph. 452-2103



- Clean
- Economical
- an Alaskan Industry

DID YOU KNOW

You can burn coal for
half the cost of any other fuel?

USIBELLI COAL MINE, INC.

Office
270 Illinois St.

Dial 456-5005

Alaska
Railroad Area