Billy Neakok, Danny Truesdell in Disney Film

the cub polar bears brought from Holland for use

in the movie "Snowbear." Both Danny and Billy

assisted the Walt Disney Studios of Hollywood

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

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

his wife Alice, a Navajo Indian

from Arizona who shares his

enthusiasm for the Arctic and

often joins him in his hunting

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

he is a resident of Barrow, mar-

ried 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

way, by working on the Dewline,

hunting, trapping, trading, and

even mushing dog teams. Another

urge, to fly and to work in avia-

tion 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.

for OKC, he walked off the movie

set after his last "take," deleri-

ously shaved off a 10 month old

itchy beard, sheared his shaggy

much! No more "takes," Okla-

homa City, and a clean face! The

beard and hair was the worst of

the experience. It was really

their praise of the outstanding

performances of the two FAA-

liam Redlin, "These two boys

were beautiful. A real asset to us,

as they are to this place. (both

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

are active in civil affairs). They

The Disney crew was lavish in

Said Production Director Wil-

getting to me!"

Said Danny, "This is too

locks, and boarded the plane.

On the day of his departure

This he did in every possible

"spell of the Yukon."

Though Danny is not a native,

"Danny" Truesdell, the other

He returned to Barrow with

Born in Barrow, with later

and directed by Billy.

Arctic was too great.

expeditions.

the story.

in the filming of this movie.



AA EMPLOYEES GET PROMINENT ROLES IN FILM

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

By W.P. DANIELS (Air Traffice Control Specialist at Fairbanks)

To the Arctic Eskimo, polar ar is "NANOOK." To movie akers it is "SNOWBEAR." But vo northernmost ATCS Trainees ch words recall the toil of offuty hours through months of rctic winter, spring and summer pent before the Disney movie ameras on ice flows, tundra, and n a movie set at Point Barrow, laska.

Despite the action and drama North Slope oil, scientific and dustrial expeditions and rearch projects at Point Barrow, e Walt Disney Studios of Hollywood have managed in the past ear to capture on film a fascining nature story of The Great and, with a sharp focus on the rctic regions.

The blending of a menagere polar bears from European oos, the casting of local native lent at Barrow and the tender andling of the theme combine make "SNOWBEAR" a story hat foreshadows the end of an ra, a story that struggles to keep ive an Eskimo culture that once

whelmed by another age of man.

A bizzare 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 culas, but which has been over- ture, past and present.

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Alaska Railroad Area 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 toward their immediate goals ATCS training and journeyma status in the FSS they ha grown with, the one which no has a big role in the reshaping Arctic aviation.

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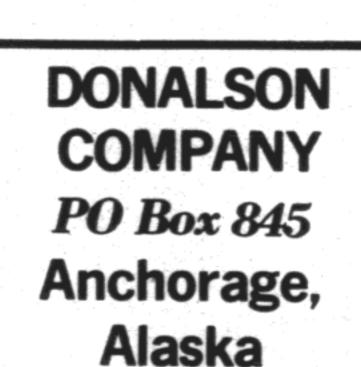
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