

At Mt. Edgecumbe—

Multi-Occupation Course For Youth Graduating 54

JUNEAU, ALASKA—Graduation day for the 54 trainees enrolled in the "Multi-Occupation Course for Youth" is scheduled for August 15, Commissioner of Labor Thomas J. Moore reported yesterday.

Classes are being held at Mt. Edgecumbe, and according to Moore, this marks the first time the State has utilized the Bureau of Indian Affairs school for one of its programs.

The Commissioner said the MDTA course was designed to give high school drop-outs between the ages of 17 and 21 an orientation program in employment. He added all of the trainees are rural Alaskans who were recruited in every section of the State.

Included in the seven-weeks course is basic training in wood-working, mechanics, clerk-typist duties, food service and class-work to complete high school requirements through a high school equivalency examination (GED test).

Highlight of the course is student discussions with selected employers and representatives of organized labor on job requirements and opportunities in various industries.

"These discussions were planned to help the trainees select an occupation by talking to people directly involved in different kinds of work," Moore stated. "We expect the talks to lead to some immediate job offers, and to encourage the creation of a desire among the students to continue their education in order to qualify for the more highly skilled occupations."

The commissioner cited the course as an "excellent example" of federal-state cooperation, and an "encouraging show of interest" by industry and labor in the employment problems of rural Alaskans.

The Alaska Department of Labor recruited the trainees, contacted the labor and business leaders, and will assist in the placement of the graduates.

The State Department of Education, Division of Vocational Education, provided the teachers, set up the curriculum, and conducted the training.