



FIRST RIDE—Abraham "Pin" John of Arctic Village chats with Jim Ludwig of KUAC-FM of the University of Alaska after Ludwig's first dog sled ride. Ludwig later took the boy on a Christmas trip to Rochester, N.Y. It was "Pin's" first

time in a large city and his adventures will be recounted on KUAC's Special-of-the-Week at 1 p.m. Sunday.

—Photo by SPENCER LINDERMAN

"Pin" John, 10, of Arctic Village Travels to Rochester, New York

The great adventure of a 10-year-old Arctic Village boy will be recounted in the KUAC-FM Special-of-the-Week on Sunday at 1 p.m.

The program on the University of Alaska radio station will be a discussion of the recent trip by Abraham "Pin" John to Rochester, N.Y., as told by his escorts, Jim Ludwig and Barbara Ester of the University.

It was his first trip away from his village 250 miles north of Fairbanks. It was also the first time that "Pin" had ever used a telephone, climbed a tree, seen television or bought a hamburger.

In many respects he underwent a cram course on today's society in the United States, according to Ludwig, who is program director for KUAC.

"When he stayed with us in Moore Hall he got his first ride on an elevator," Ludwig said.

"He also gave me my first ride on a dog sled in Arctic Village when we made a documentary there last fall."

"At first he was shy," Ludwig said. "Later he got used to meeting people and began shaking hands like a politician."

During the trip to Rochester, Ludwig's hometown, "Pin" was featured on a local television show. He also carried a small camera with and made several pictures recounting his trip across the nation covering 10,000 miles.

Enroute to New York the three stayed on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana and "Pin" became acquainted with several Indian boys there.

While the group stayed with the Rice Crawford family in Montana, "Pin" got his first ride on a horse and climbed his first tree, Ludwig said.

Ludwig said that when students and others in Fairbanks heard of his plans to take "Pin" on a trip to New York they volunteered to help. The students of Moore Hall dormitory donated money from a dance. The native student group THEATA held a bake sale to contribute.

Clothing for "Pin's" trip was added by J.C. Penney Co. and Co-Op Photo gave him a camera. The Kiwanis Clubs also assisted, Ludwig said.

The Associated Students of the University of Alaska joined the project and hope to expand it into a cultural enrichment program where several students could be brought to cities from the bush.

Ludwig said such trips would not be as extensive as "Pin's" but would give native youngsters a chance to see life in the cities.