

Self-Determination Is Helping—**Alaska Natives in Medical Careers**

By NANCY BRELSFORD

Ten years ago, going to medical school was just a dream for some Alaska Natives. Today, it is a reality for a few. These people will make an impact on Alaska's health care delivery system. They will build on Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.'s ten year policy statement.

The goal of this document is to "promote the health and well-being of Native people by establishing within the next ten years Native ownership and management of the health care system serving them."

Congress passed PL-93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, which provides the way to gain Native control over Native programs in areas such as health, education and other human resource programs.

Self-determination on the part of Alaska Natives has brought a few Natives closer to this goal.

Bobby Andrews of Dillingham is a good example. Eight years ago, he was prepared to enter into a medical school but the Bureau of Indian Affairs would not fund his medical education. Through the efforts of AFN, Inc.'s Health Career Development Program, he is trying again.

He will be entering the University of Alaska this fall to complete pre-medical school requirements as is Henry Brown from Mountain Village.

Dr. M. Roy Schwartz, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Washington School of Medicine, Dr. Richard Lyons, then Director of WAMI program of the University of Alaska, and Dr. Robert Krause, then department head for Health Services, Alaska Methodist University have all encouraged him to apply for medical school.

AFN's Health Career Development Program, urged Bobby to apply to the Headlands Indian Health Career Enrichment Program, a six-week session sponsored by the American Indian Institute.

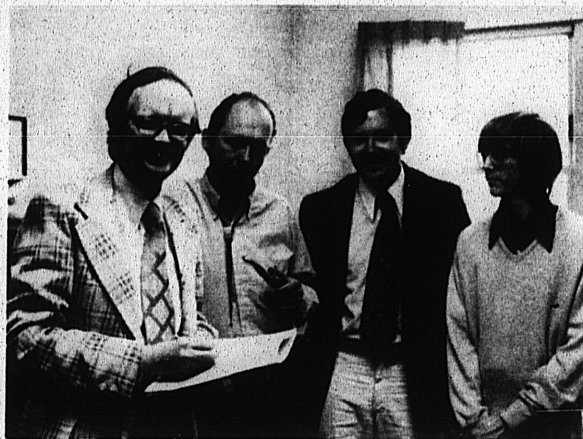
Moose Season In Delta Area Begins Sept. 1

Like most other areas in the Interior, moose season in the Delta area begins September 1. But, unlike these other areas, hunters there should first arm themselves with a moose hunting permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Delta before setting foot in the woods. According to Delta Area biologist Bob Larson, permits will be available on request at the Department's office in Delta beginning August 25. Larson said permits will not be issued by mail or issued for a person other than the hunter applying.

The Department is also requiring hunters to carry a portable radio while hunting, as closure of the season will be announced on radio station AFRN 980, at Fort Greely, and other news media. Larson explained that it would be necessary to close the season on short notice when the necessary number of bulls had been taken.

As in past years, there is an area closed to moose hunting in Game Management Unit 20-D. Maps of the closed area will be issued with the permits, but generally the closed area includes the Clearwater farming area and the Richardson Highway.

Larson said the permit hunt for moose is on a registration basis, and no permit drawing will be necessary.



ROBERT FORTUNE, M.D., Director of Anchorage Service Unit; Dr. John Muth, Head of Obstetrics-Gynecology; and externs, Ted Mala, Jeffrey Gonnason. Getting acquainted with Indian Health Service staff.



KAY WALLIS, no longer snickering about her application being rejected at Harvard Medical School.

Along with Bobby, Mary Huhndorf from Kenai, a pre-veterinarian student, was selected to attend this program, designed to help pre-health professional people strengthen their academic skills. The Headlands program ended August 9, 1975.

For Kay Wallis, Ft. Yukon, getting into the medical profession seemed like a dream that happened to someone else. It was all so accidental, or so it seemed. Once Kay placed a telephone call at the University of Washington Indian Education Program.

She copied a telephone number on the back of an application. Later, when she looked at it, it was an application to the Harvard Medical School. On a dare, she filled it out, and sent it. For weeks she snickered at the thought of what she'd done. She just knew she wouldn't be accepted.

Kay was stunned beyond words when her application was accepted. She attended one year of pre-medical studies at Harvard, did very well, but decided Harvard wasn't for her. She has applied at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Grand Forks, North Dakota for the fall of 1975.

Kay has been getting clinical experience with Dr. Bill James at the Alaska Native Health Service Clinic at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. During the afternoons she worked with Dr. David Cammack, a private general practitioner, across from the hospital. AFN health careers is sponsoring her work experience.

Other students are on various stages of medical school progression. One, Ronald Brockman of Kodiak, is now completing his final year of residency in Orthopedic Surgery in Tacoma, Washington. A residency is a period of advanced



DON BANTZ, Director of AFN, Inc.'s Health Career Development Program, a firm believer in, "It can be done."

specialized medical or surgical training in a hospital. Ron plans to return to Alaska in July 1977 to work in Kodiak.

AFN Health Careers has initiated and sponsored externships in various parts of Alaska for three other students. An extern is a medical student having some connection with, but not living in, as a non-resident doctor in a hospital or clinic.

One of the externs, Ted Mala, of Kotzebue, is from the farthest medical school, Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Mexico. He is an example of "It can be done." He wanted so badly to become a doctor that he was willing to learn a different language and customs.

He is proficient in English and Spanish and is required to take his examinations in both. He is in Fairbanks, working with the Alaska Native Health Clinic at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Ted is planning to return to Alaska after completing his medical education.

Another extern, Jeff Gonnason of Anchorage, specializing in optometry is performing his clinical experience at the Alaska

Native Medical Center under Dr. Bigelow, O.D. He has already gone to Kotzebue and Bethel to provide optometric services.

Optometry deals with examining the eyes and measuring errors in refraction and of prescribing glasses to correct these errors.

The last extern, Kenneth Cameron of Sitka, is a second year dental student. He is working under Dr. Sundall at Mt. Edgecumbe Dental Clinic. He is also working closely with the newly developed Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation in Mt. Edgecumbe.

Health Career Development has kept track of two other medical students. One, Donald Olson, of Golovin, has just been recently accepted at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, Duluth, Minnesota. Another, Barbara Riley of Dillingham, is a third year medical student at Colorado State.

These young people worked at making their dreams come true. They're building on the future of Alaska Native health care system. They can say they've never lost that dream and are determined to make it.

**St. Herman's Pilgrimage—
Pilgrims from Afar**

Pilgrims from as far away as Bethel and Sitka in Alaska and as far away as New York and Los Angeles in the "lower 48" gathered in Kodiak from August 7 to August 10 for the annual St. Herman's Pilgrimage.

Services were held in Kodiak's Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Church on August 7 and 8, where the relics of St. Herman repose; and on August 9, St. Herman's feast day and the fifth anniversary of his canonization in Kodiak, the pilgrims journeyed to Monk's Lagoon on Spruce Island for services in the chapel of SS: Sergius and Herman of Valaam, the site where the saintly monk lived in the early part of the last century.

Boatloads of pilgrims from Ouzinkie and Port Lyons joined the group coming from Kodiak at Monk's Lagoon, where a Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Grace, Gregory, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska, assisted by Archpriest Joseph P. Kreta, rector of the Kodiak Church, and by Father Paul Merculief, also of the Kodiak Church, Rev. Theodore Fryntzko, travelling missionary priest, and Rev. Nicholas Fedorchack of Monongahela, Pa.

Seven boats carried the pilgrims to and from Spruce Island over the calm seas that favored the

day: the Sharon-W (Bill Wolkoff), the Joanie-T (Alfred Thorenson), the Lady Lee (Roy Wolkoff), the Judy M (Muller), the Cape Puget (Herman Anderson), the Mary Ann (Nick Pestrikoff), the Bonnie (Innocent Boskoffsky) and KFC5 (Harvey Knagin).

Following the morning Divine Liturgy, pilgrims could visit the spring of holy water near the site of Father Herman's hermitage, his gravesite underneath the church, the small chapel and cottage used by Archimandrite Gerasim, who watched over the site from 1936 until his death in 1969, and the beach where St. Herman used to gather kelp to fertilize his garden.

A memorial service was sung for Archimandrite Gerasim, who served the Ouzinkie Church during the years he lived at Monk's Lagoon and who is now buried near his own cottage.

In the late afternoon a Vespers service was celebrated before the pilgrims returned to Kodiak for Sunday services at the Holy Resurrection Church. At the Kodiak Church pilgrims were able to venerate a new icon of St. Herman painted by Mrs. Sherry Bettendorf, an icon painter who lives in Portland, Oregon, and who made this icon especially to cover the reliquary.

Chum Salmon—**Good Fishing at OTZ**

(From KOTZEBUE NEWS)

At the close of the fishing period Saturday a total of 68,200 chum salmon were harvested commercially in the Kotzebue district.

Chums bring fishermen 28 cents per pound from Arctic Fish and Kotzebue Sound Area Fisheries. Both buyers are selling to Whitney-Fidalgo who ship: the fish out by air.

This is opposed to last year's sale of fish by the co-op to the Japanese and Arctic Fish to Whitney. Last year there was considerably more competition with prices ranging near 40 cents per pound for the fishermen.

The fishing season began a few weeks later than the usual first week in July. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game attributes the delay to lower water temperatures in the area slowing the travel of chums to the streams for spawning.

The number of escapements for spawning has been reported good following a stream count Saturday.

The average recent weight of the chums has been 8.4 pounds, a .2 lb. increase over last year. 65% of fish harvested this season are four year-olds, the majority of last years fish being three-year-olds.