

Bilingual Program-

Atka Program Is Deemed Successful

During a recent trip to Atka, Dimitri Philemonof, Regional Director of the Aleutian Planning Commission, said that he had an opportunity to talk with Moses Dirks who is presently teaching the Aleut language in their grade school.

Moses Dirks, an Aleut, was born at Atka in 1952. He attended grade school there, continued high school at Mt. Edgecumbe for three years and completed his education at Anchorage Community College, studying structural and pipe welding.

The present Commissioner of Alaska Human Rights Commission, Bill Vaudrin, who was then working for Alaska State-Operated Schools, was responsible for

setting up the bi-lingual program.

He arranged for Mr. Dirks to spend some time at the University of Alaska to study Aleut Introduction under Dr. Krauss, and for a trip to Norway, where he spent about three weeks training with Professor Burgsland.

The professor, who spent time in Atka in 1950, 1952 and again in 1971, reads, writes and speaks the language fluently, is self-taught through the help of local people.

The program began in January, 1973 and appears to be quite successful. Mr. Dirks teaches grades 4-8, and another Aleut, Nedesta Golley, teaches grades 1-3.