

Apprenticiable Trades Itta and Ferguson...

Minority placement in apprenticeable trades is proceeding much faster than anticipated in an Operation Outreach program of the U. S. Labor Department in Alaska.

Roscoe H. Burt, Regional Director of the Department's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, said in Seattle 48 minority applicants have been placed in apprenticeships against a target of 50 opportunities which had been set for development in 1972.

Burt credited "whole hearted cooperation of organized labor management" for what he described as "a superb effort."

He said Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts are included as well as Negroes, and added that a number are Vietnam-era veterans.

A wide range of occupations are represented in the program, mostly in the building and construction trades.

rig worker at Deadhorse, as Itta sipped coffee there.

She doesn't sound like one either.

At Anaktuvuk Pass, she was roundly applauded by villagers appreciative of her short speech in Inupiat. English is the second language to most voters in District 19 and when Itta speaks in Inupiat, "we know she's one of us," said one young man.

"Not speaking Eskimo is somewhat of a hindrance," said Ferguson, who speaks only English. "You should speak the Eskimo language, but a lot of young people, like myself, were taught to speak English in order to compete."

Ferguson's "campaign travels have been eased somewhat by the services of his bush pilot brother, Ray Ferguson of Kotzebue and Vincent Schuerch of Kiana, his campaign manager. Schuerch managed the successful 1970 campaign of State Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue.

Itta's campaign has been bumpy from the start, delayed for several weeks while the state pondered technicalities of her filing. Shortly after Lt. Gov. H. A. "Red" Boucher approved her candidacy, one of Itta's sisters was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident at Barrow.

On Saturday, North Slope Borough chairman Eben Hopson threw his support to Ferguson. "I personally think it is a bad gamble to see new and inexperienced legislators every two years, because accomplishments grow with experience," Hopson said in a letter posted in Barrow.

"This is not a matter of Barrow vs. Kotzebue. It's a vote involving your own welfare and who will be able to do the best job for you in the next two years. This election will decide who your next representative is going to be and rather than voting for someone with unknown capabilities and no experience, I would urge you to vote for Frank Ferguson for your next representative," Hopson said.

FDA Acts to Make X-ray Safer

The Food and Drug Administration acted today to make x-ray examinations safer for millions of Americans by establishing new radiation protection standards for diagnostic x-ray machines and components.

The requirements are set forth in an FDA standard specifying improvements manufacturers must make to reduce patient and operator x-ray exposures from diagnostic x-ray equipment produced after August 15, 1973.

The standard, issued under the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act, was proposed for public comment last October 8. The final version appears in the FEDERAL REGISTER of August 15, 1972.

The FDA Bureau of Radiological Health estimates that 130 million Americans receive diagnostic x-rays yearly. This use of x-rays is the source of most man-made radiation exposure in the United States.

Charles C. Edwards, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs, said that "although the standard represents substantial progress in x-ray control, it cannot be emphasized too strongly that the benefits of x-ray diagnosis, as practiced with today's equipment, far outweigh the risks."

He added, however, that "all unnecessary x-ray exposure must be avoided because science knows of no x-ray dose so small as to lack public health significance."

The standard will reduce substantially the importance of excessively beam size as a cause of unnecessary x-ray exposure by requiring that all types of equipment be capable of restricting the beam to the size of the x-ray film or fluoroscope receptor.

Beam restriction in general purpose stationary x-ray machines would have to be effected either automatically or by devices to prevent the equipment from being operated until the beam is restricted manually.

The need for repeat x-ray examinations, also a major cause of unnecessary exposure, will be reduced by a requirement that equipment incorporate features that will make it possible for the operator to obtain, more consistently than now, a desired image quality at given machine settings for voltage, current, and time.

Film retakes — and patient reexposures — frequently occur because operators take several films at different equipment settings to be certain of producing a usable picture.

The limit established by the standard on the amount of leakage from x-ray tube assemblies reflects recommendations of national and international radiation protection authorities.

Under specified conditions, the standard states, the leakage shall not exceed 100 milliroentgens in one hour at a distance of one meter from the tube assembly.

X-ray equipment assemblers are regarded as manufacturers under the standard and will be required to certify that producers' instructions were followed and that certified components used in assembling equipment were of the type required by the standard.

Similar certifications must be made by radiologists, physicians and other x-ray equipment users if they install or replace components produced under the standard.

Copies of the standard may be obtained from the Bureau of Radiological Health Information Office, 1901 Chapman Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Anaktuvuk Airstrip and DEWline...

It would do the job well, she said. De Marco has worked with Itta and others on the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation to keep them informed of community problems.

Also concerned is Rep. Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, who is seeking re-election to the house in reapportioned district 19. He fought in the legislature this past spring to increase bonding for bush village airports from \$12 to \$24 million.

Airports in the Arctic are generally good in the winter, when runways are frozen, most are soft and sometimes flooded in spring and variable in summer. Barrow is a first class airport, but foul weather causes problems at Anaktuvuk Pass, Pt. Hope, and Wainwright.

Wainwright's air strip has night lights, but can accommodate only small bush aircraft. For emergency landings at night in Anaktuvuk Pass and Pt. Hope,

villagers lay small bonfires along the runway edges to guide planes in.

At Kaktovik, the Air Force slaps a \$100 fee on pilots for emergency landings. For non-emergencies, a two week notice is required, because of security, military officials argue.

On July 14, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation asked a British Petroleum plane in the area to pick up Kaktovik Mayor Gregg Tagrook and Archie Brower for a corporation meeting at Barrow. Tagrook is a member of the board of the regional corporation and Brower is the village land selection chief.

Barrow has only one air taxi service and it was unavailable that day, so ASRC made the request to BP. The oil firm agreed to help out, but military officials made the arbitrary decision to deny permission to land because the

pilot had not given two weeks notice.

The denial infuriated Kaktovik residents, who say they are often inconvenienced by the military. They have petitioned the Air Force to open the military field at Barter Island for use by commercial and private aircraft without prohibitive restrictions and prior approvals of the military.

The only authorized commercial carrier, Wien Airlines, "has apparent difficulty with outsized cargo and arranging for other charter aircraft is a hardship to the point that no practical competition exists and even in some cases no alternatives exist at all," said villagers in their petition.

Bush pilots who have not given what the Air Force considers proper notice often have to land on the dirt road leading into Kaktovik, while the excellent military airstrip 150 yards away is unused.

