

Native Couple Sets Example—

Tom and Carol Drakes' Achievements, Public Service

By BON V. DAVIS

Tom and Carole Drake, man and wife, both part Eskimo, deserve recognition by all Alaskans for their achievements and dedicated public service. They, like many others of their heritage, are excellent examples of what persons of Native parentage can become.

Drake, now Superintendent of Northern Correctional Institution, Fairbanks, Alaska, a position he has held for almost two years, began his career in correctional work as an officer in the Nome State Jail in June, 1963.

Since that time he has held the positions of Supervisor of Records and Audits in the office of the Chief of Correctional Institutions, State of Alaska; Assistant Superintendent Juneau State Jail and Assistant Superintendent of Adult Conservation Camp, Palmer, Alaska.

In addition to his present position Tom is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tundra Times, Vice President of Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Printing Company, Inc., President of Fairbanks Native Association; a member of the Executive Board, Tanana Chiefs Conference and a member of the

local Selective Service Draft Board.

Tom Drake is resigning his present post, effective in August, to become Deputy Director of the Bering Strait Native Corporation with an office in Nome.

Carole, presently Family Counselor at Fairbanks Native Center, spent five years with the United States Post Office Department at Anchorage and Palmer, Alaska, before she became a counselor in the Alcohol Treatment Program.

She is a charter member of the Fairbanks Council on Alcoholism Committee of the Fair-

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Tom and Carol Drake

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banks Native Association.

Carole has not yet decided which of several positions open to her she will accept when she, Tom, and their two sons move to Nome.

Both Tom and Carole have the unique ability to appreciate the inner feelings and thinking of the Alaska Native and at the same time the viewpoint of other Alaskans. They have a broad, objective, unbiased outlook on the relationships between the two groups.

Both agree that alcohol is the greatest enemy of the Natives. (The same could be said of millions of others.) They believe that job training and job placement of an alcoholic will be of small benefit to him unless his alcohol problem is solved.

Mr. Average Citizen upon seeing a Native stagger out a bar may draw the erroneous con-

clusion that all Natives are useless drunks.

He may take little notice of the many who are not, who are industrious and hold responsible jobs. And, too, he rarely sees or hears of those who, like Tom and Carole, are devoting their efforts to make possible a better life for all Alaskans.

It would take a book to list the names and occupations of persons of Native blood who have forged ahead, holding responsible positions in government, industry and social service as well as those of common pursuits.

Today, more than ever they are coming into their own, contributing efforts and ideas for their own uplift and the betterment of society as a whole.

Tom and Carole are but two of them, two of the leaders who are rendering service plus.