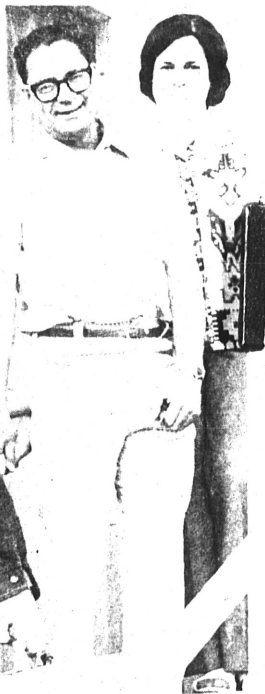




JUST ARRIVED — Students from Kaltag arrived in Fairbanks Saturday, in the midst of the long Labor Day weekend, to move to their boarding homes.



OFF TO NEW HOME — Lawrence Dayton of Koyukuk leaves the offices of the Tanana Chiefs Conference with boarding home parents Gertrude and Manuel Lopez of Fairbanks. Another student, Salena DeWilde of Husha, is also staying with the Lopez family this year.

— Photos by MARGIE BAUMAN

Cottages Replace Dorms

By MARGIE BAUMAN

In cottages at Kodiak, an apartment project at Nome, and boarding homes at Anchorage and Fairbanks, the majority of Alaska's 1,500 uprooted Native high school students settled down this week for school.

Last minute lack of funding and new management of boarding home projects in several areas have resulted in some confusion, but the problems appeared to be ironing themselves out.

"The coordinators finally got one day off apiece this weekend," said Sara Hanuska, one of four coordinators for the boarding home program operating out of Anchorage under Cook Inlet Native Association, for nearly 400 stu-

dents.

"We got started the first week of August and we can't be too efficient this year," she said, but at the same time CINA has found more than enough

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boarding home parents and are matching late arriving students with them. "We're still interviewing and still placing," said Hanuske, who has been meeting arriving students at Anchorage International Airport since August 22.

At Kodiak, the cottage style boarding home program is being initiated for the first time, with ten students assigned to each apartment, and two dorm parents for every 20 students.

The dormitory program just didn't work well at Kodiak, said Jack Wick, president of Koniag Inc. regional Native corporation for the Kodiak area. There wasn't enough funding to staff it properly and there were a number of problems with staff and students drinking, he said. Students who got disgusted or kicked out of school would just go home to their villages on the island, but the new cottage program for 70 to 80 students is expected to provide much needed improvements, he said.

In Fairbanks, the boarding home program under operation of the Tanana Chiefs Conference was "going fine, with plenty of boarding home parents available," said coordinator Virginia Dowes. Some students like James Akelerea of Scammon Bay and Romona Demientieff of

Holy Cross, are staying with relatives. Akelerea, a senior at Monroe High School, is living with his cousin, Myron Nanning, a student at the University of Alaska. Demientieff, a freshman in high school, will live for the school year with her brother, Claude Demientieff and his wife, Terry. In all, the boarding home program at Fairbanks has housed nearly 300 students from three dozen villages.

At Bethel, the new boarding home program is under the direction of Yupiktak Bista of the Calista Corp. Some 200 participating students will attend Bethel Regional High School. At Nome, Kawerak Inc., a non-profit corporation under the Bering Straits Native Association, initiated its boarding home program for about 120 students on August 20, but coordinator Susan King says she and co-worker Saddle Redaway have found enough homes for Nome's first real boarding home program. When Nome-Beltz High School closed down, students who might have gone there applied outside the Nome area.

"It's pretty heart breaking, but we've had to tell them now to try and work it out at the school that was their first choice," King said. "But we are saving some homes for really homesick kids," she said.

Homes for 65 students have been found with Nome families and parents are being brought in from surrounding villages to live in 11 units of the Kawerak apartment project. Plans are to house four students and one adult couple in each apartment. In Nome too, a lot of students are staying with family friends or relatives, all to get an education -sometimes hundreds of miles from home.