

2,000 Native Students Move So. for School

More than 2,000 students from remote villages in Alaska are moving southward like migratory birds until Sept. 8. They are headed for high schools and colleges in Alaska and elsewhere. Nearly half of these are going through Anchorage and another 600 through Fairbanks on Wien Consolidated Airlines.

It takes some doing to schedule this movement of students to minor and major collection points and get them and their luggage headed in the right direction. Some attend high schools and boarding schools within Alaska in the larger towns, others go to Wrangell Institute and Mt. Edgecumbe. Still others go to Chemawa, Ore.; Haskell Institute, Kan.; Chilocco, Okla.; and Santa Fe, N. Mex.

Jean Paal of Western Airlines in Anchorage has been the unofficial coordinator for the airlines; Bob Huff in Anchorage and Tom Packer in Fairbanks handle the Wien Consolidated schedules. Robert Portlock in Anchorage and William Long in Fairbanks are the Bureau of Indian Affairs coordinators.

Central collection points are Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Kodiak, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau and Ketchikan.

Jean says that those going out for the first time are shy and afraid but that they return in the spring, poised and sophisticated. The stewardesses all comment on how well-behaved these children are.