

Native History, Culture Center Forming at Sitka

An organization is presently being formed on the Sheldon Jackson Junior College campus, Sitka, Alaska, designed to create a center for study of native history and culture of Southeastern Alaska.

While Sheldon Jackson administrative personnel has spear-headed the initial planning, representatives from interested groups and government agencies have joined in forming a non-profit corporation to carry on the work.

The corporate body, to be known as, "The Southeast Alaska Studies Association," will consist of representatives of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and affiliated Groups, the National Park

Service, and the Sitka Historical Society along with Sheldon Jackson Schools and private individuals.

The general nature and objectives of the Association, which will have its headquarters on the Sheldon Jackson campus, are to collect historical, anthropological, sociological, and linguistic data of the Southeast Alaska native culture and to encourage their interpretation and use.

The Association proposes to collect "oral history" through tape recordings and personal interviews; collect published and unpublished materials, artifacts and photographs.

Such materials will be housed, preserved, and cataloged in the Sheldon Jackson museum and library and made available to participating groups and research teams.

The association will pro-

mote and sponsor research work and publish material which relate to the Southwest Alaska Native Studies.

Dr. Orin R. Stratton, President of Sheldon Jackson Junior College, will, by virtue of his office, serve as chairman of the association's Board of Directors.

Charter members of the organization will consist of Sheldon Jackson staff members James Anderson, Neal Armstrong, Laurence Doig, Chester Latta, Lowell S. Patterson, Franklin Roth, Orin R. Stratton, Gladys Whitmore, and Emma Widmark; Sitka residents James Davis, Archie Demmert, Andrew Hope, Richard Miller, and Peter Nielson; Ellen Lang and Andrew Johnson of Mt. Edgecumbe; Roger Skinner of Sitka Historical Society and Raymond Geerdes of the National Park Service.