

Barrow Keeps Abreast Of Changing Times

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BARROW, (Special)—Barrow, Alaska is a large, progressive Native village located on the northernmost shores of the Arctic Ocean, and whose citizens are very much aware of the changing times affecting all Alaskan Natives, and who are active in their efforts to keep their community abreast of the inevitable changes taking place in the traditional way of life.

It is the people of the community themselves who, by active participation in the various civic activities, are giving notice to the world that they are capable of meeting the challenges of these modern times by their positive actions.

KNOW PROBLEMS BEST

The people of Barrow, more than any agency or government bureau, are aware of the local problems, the difficulties, and the innumerable conflicts inherent in the rapid transition that is taking place.

Yet, in realistically facing these problems, and working toward practical solutions, they are, without losing sight of the fundamental—good points of their own age-old social structure—moving surely forward as equal, independent citizens of our great Republic.

EVIDENT IN PROJECTS

How Barrow residents are working to help themselves, their community, and all Natives in general, can best be shown by enumerating the projects now undertaken by various local

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organizations.

At the present time Barrow, with an estimated population of more than 1,900 people exclusive of government installations, has six active public groups with one in process of organization.

These organizations, their aims and current projects are as follows:

BARROW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—An organization vitally interested in all phases of civic improvement and which sponsors the annual Children's Christmas Party.

Current projects being undertaken by the group are a fund raising campaign to purchase and erect a community hall which will house a museum of Native artifacts, a public library, the youth center, and public auditorium.

The Chamber is also sponsoring this year, Miss Brenda Itta, attractive young Barrow resident now working in Washington, D.C., as a contestant in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival beauty pageant.

Another current project is the purchase, erection, and donation to the village of nine sodium vapor street lights much needed in the dark of long, Arctic winter nights.

MOTHERS CLUB—This is a non-dues paying organization open to all mothers of Barrow and surrounding area.

The women maintain a disaster relief fund by cake sales, bingo games, and other similar fund raising ideas, to provide clothing, bedding, and other immediately needed items to people who are victims of fire or other mishaps.

The club also sponsors the annual Red Cross fund drive by soliciting contributions.

A most interesting variety show is currently being rehearsed for presentation to the public in their support of the Youth Center fund raising campaign. It will feature skits on the old-fashioned Eskimo customs and ways of life.

Other projects include purchase and resale at cost of children's vitamins; purchase of flouride for treatment of all school children's teeth to prevent tooth decay. Also, mothers take turns in assisting the local policeman to enforce the curfew for school children effective at 9:30 p.m.

(NEXT: Barrow Improvement Board, Arctic Slope Native Association, Youth Club Organization and Veterans.)