

'Pin Project' to Bring 3 Native Youngsters to Lower 48 Christmas

Visiting the University of Alaska campus recently was 11-year old Abraham "Pin" John, Jr. of Arctic Village.

This was the first time since January that he had seen Jim Ludwig, KUAC's Community Affairs Director, and Barbara Ester, University of Alaska senior, who had escorted him on a trip to Rochester, New York, last Christmas.

"Pin was as energetic as ever and much more vocal and self confident," Barbara commented.

As an outgrowth of Pin's first trip "outside," Jim and Barbara drafted a proposal so other youngsters could have a similar experience.

The program is known as The Pin Project: A proposed cultural enrichment program involving youngsters living in Alaska's remote villages.

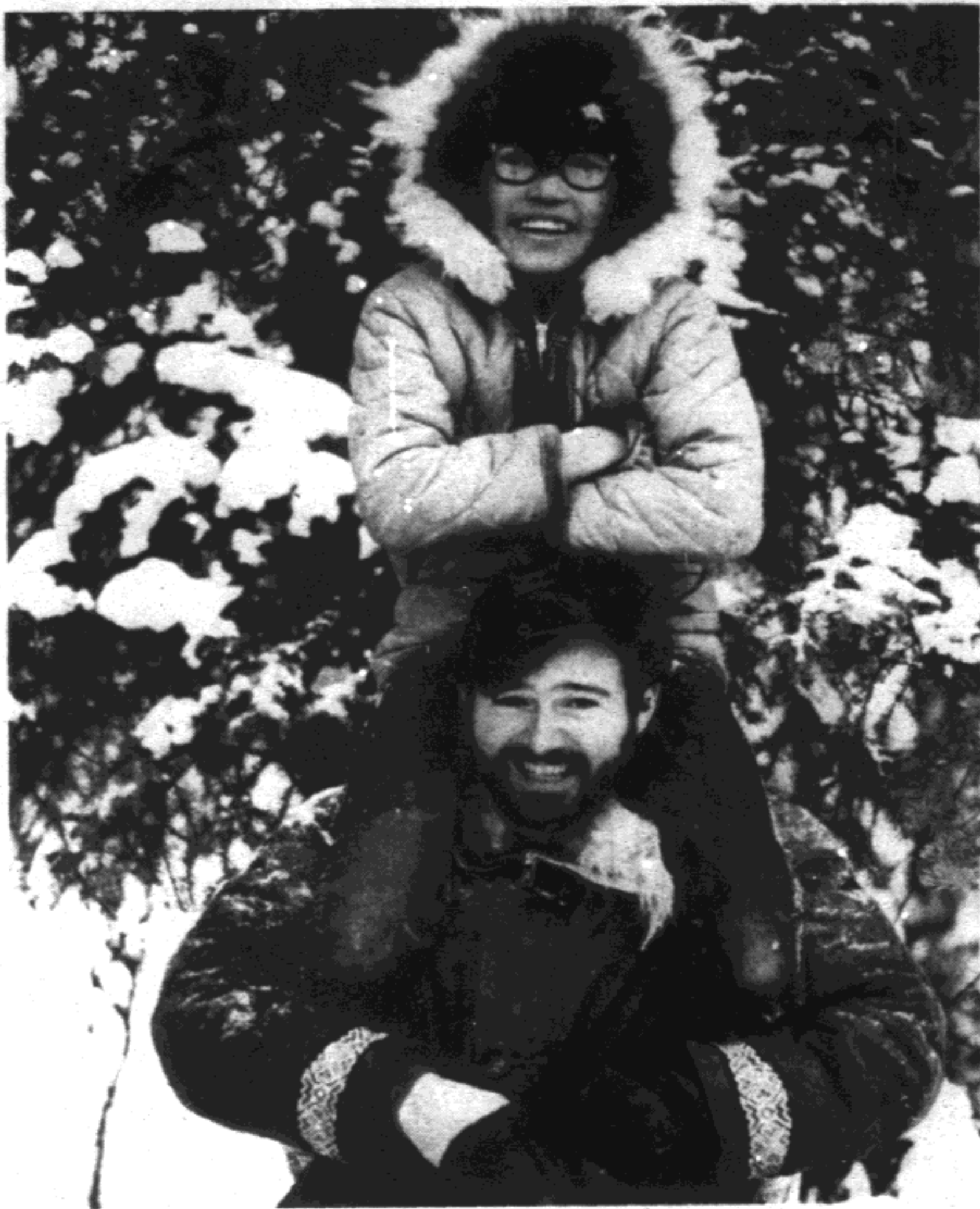
Pin's mother, teacher, educational specialists, and many native people were also involved in planning the project.

Following several organizational meetings by interested University of Alaska students, "The Pin Project has become a reality for this Christmas," according to Jim, who is Co-Chairman of the program.

"In spite of our late start, the response from native villages has been overwhelming. Some of the letters we received have been very moving," he added.

Members of The Pin Project Committee besides Jim and Barb include: Martha Aiken, Sophomore majoring in physical education and Merry Prochaska, Junior majoring in art education.

The Associated Students of the University of Alaska allocated \$500 for the project. So a maximum number of youngsters could participate in the program, funds were also raised through Fairbank's merchants, civic and service organizations.



A RECENT GUEST of Jim Ludwig, KUAC's Community Affairs Director at the University of Alaska, was 11-year old Abraham "Pin" John, Jr. of Arctic Village. This was Pin's first visit since last Christmas when Jim took him on a cultural enrichment trip to Rochester, New York. This Christmas, other native children will have a similar experience under a program which is known as The Pin Project. This spring, Jim will be traveling to various villages taping interviews for a special 13-week radio series on the Alaskan native.

—PHOTO BY JOHN METZGER

The Alaska Federation of Natives also contributed to the project along with the Fairbanks Native Association.

"Because of very limited funds we are only able to have three youngsters participate this Christmas," remarked Ludwig. "Miss Prochaska will escort 10-year old Walter John, Jr., from Venetie, to her home in San Francisco. Harvey Paul of Kongignak and Merl Herbert from Chalkyitsik, both 11, will be traveling to Rochester, New York, with Miss Ester and myself."

The Pin Project Committee hopes to further expand the cultural enrichment program next year so other children representing different villages and geographic areas can become in-

involved.

Village Councils and/or teachers desiring further information about this unique project should contact: Jim Ludwig, The Pin Project, c/o KUAC-FM, University of Alaska, College, Alaska 99701.