

## Machines Hum Rolling Out Bush Readers And Bilingual Books

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW  
Staff Writer

Equipment is still arriving, the press is working a night and day shift, book pages are stacked on sorting carts, book spines are glued while other books are punched and bound with spiral plastic holders.

The Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Printing Company is off and rolling.

Signed into being only this spring, the new company had a lot of ground to cover to fill its first orders for the Alaska Reading and Language Series for rural schools scattered throughout the entire state.

Keith Neilson, production manager, sorted the orders. They read like the complete map of Alaska, St. Marys, Shishmaref, Alakanuk, Shungnak, Tatitlek, every corner of the state.

Congressman Don Young announced last week that the new company has been awarded a \$15,000 contract from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to print materials for the readers.

Those who believe that the future of Alaska should be controlled by Alaskans would be heartened by the activity at the new plant, temporarily housed at Hope Industries in Fairbanks.

"I'm very pleased that the Bureau has awarded this contract to an Alaskan firm to help other Alaskans," said Young.

The firm presently has about 70 to 75 per cent native hire. Stating a goal of training native people in the new industry, the company was somewhat surprised to find two key people already well trained and ready to go to work.

Jimmy Kaganak, an Eskimo from Scammon Bay, runs the night press. Kaganak a serviceman has worked in Washington, D. C. as a printer and is now stationed at Ft. Wainwright.

When he is released from the service, Kaganak plans to work full-time for the new company, learning every phase of the operations.

Diane Albert, an Athabascan Indian girl from Nenana, went

to California to enter beauty school. When the class was to enroll in was overcrowded, Diane looked around for another course of study. With the help of BIA and a bit of chance, the new printing company had another trained press operator.

In addition to printing the Alaska Readers, the new company is branching out into other fields. It has printed news letters for the native corporations, letterheads and business cards for business firms, and advertising posters for Alaskan greenhouses built at Hope Industries.

But perhaps the most exciting material coming off the press are the books for the Eskimo Language Workshop's bi-lingual program.

There is a strong feeling of history being made holding in one's hand a book in a native language, written by a native author, illustrated by a native artist, printed by a native company, and placed at last in the hands of a native child in a remote village school.

There will be other books in all the languages of Alaska's native peoples. A people who once had no written word and no books are now creating their own educational materials. Self-determination is no longer something one dreams about in the future.

Every emerging political structure, social system, or group of idealists eventually comes to know the power of the word.

Tundra Times' columnist Grace Shwooko once wrote about this power: "Writing is a treasure . . . the markings that curve so beautifully and tell, really tell are so wonderful . . . letters and words . . . they are so little and can tell lots! My, see how important writing is."

The Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut Printing Company will now begin to print the letters and words of native people. The people, coming fully of age, truly have a voice. They will be read.



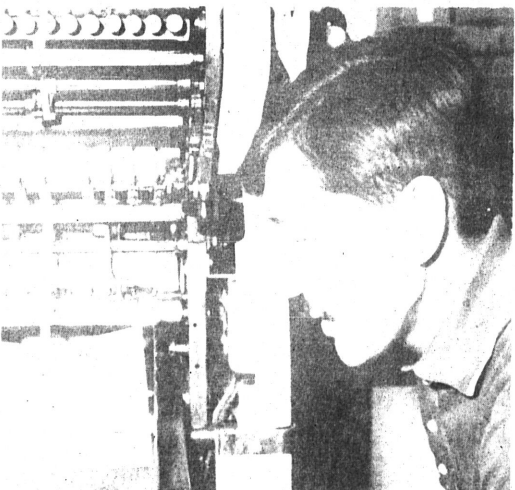
BIA TRAINING PAYS OFF — Diane Albert of Nenana finds employment close to home after

training outside as a press operator.  
Photo by KEITH NEILSON



SCHOOLBOOKS FOR THE BUSH — stack up for shipment. Production manager Keith Neilson

goes over orders with President Howard Rock.  
Photo by J. GLASGOW



A REAL PRO — Jimmy Kaganak learned printing trade in the service. Kaganak hopes to stay on and grow with the new Native company. Jimmy is from Scammon Bay.

— Photo by KEITH NEILSON



PRESS GOES AROUND THE CLOCK — Diane Albert demonstrates for Eskimo executive the

production potential of the multilith press.  
— Photo by J. GLASGOW