

Alaska Poverty Program

The first Alaskan has enrolled for the job corps, a three-member team has surveyed possible job corps center sites in the state, and a state organization for a work experience program has been set up.

These are just three recent developments of the expanding anti-poverty program in Alaska.

In Fairbanks, Simon Matthew, of Stevens Village, was sworn in as the first member of the job corps from the state.

A three-member team headed by Tex Hoffman, formerly head of the Rural Development Agency for Alaska, now a regional supervisor for

the job corps in Kansas City, surveyed possible sites for a job corps center at:

1. Montana Creek, just outside Juneau near the Mendenhall Glacier. This site is being pushed by the Forest Service.

2. Wrangell Institute, Wrangell, Alaska. This site is being advanced by the B.I.A. Additional spaces for elementary students have been offered the BIA at Chemawa in Oregon and various places in this state.

3. A site near Palmer, Alaska.
4. Olson Mountain near Homer, Alaska.

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FIRST ALASKA JOB CORPS ENROLEE SWORN IN — Simon Matthew, Stevens Village, second from left, has become the first resident of Central Alaska to be enrolled in the Job Corps. Young Matthew was sworn in at the Fairbanks Office of the Alaska State Employment Service by Betty Morrow, local office secretary and notary public, while Samuel S. West, local office counselor, left, and Stuart H. Bowdoin Jr., local office manager, right, look on. Matthew has been assigned to the Lewiston, California, Job Corps Center for training. Young men between the ages of 16 and 21 who are interested in Job Corps training should visit the local office of the Alaska State Employment Service, Room 131, State Court and Office Building, 6th and Barnette Street, to determine their eligibility. —Photo by Jim Couch

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5. A former military site at Bethel, Alaska. This site is being advanced by the BIA.

6. A site on the campus of the University of Alaska, near Fairbanks.

Members of the Fairbanks Community Action Group earlier had been told space for a job corps center was available at Ft. Wainwright near Fairbanks. But when the survey team visited, the military took an about face and said they had no excess space.

Although final word on space at the military base is to come from the Pentagon, it is believed that the recent build-up of American forces in Viet Nam may have something to do with the switch.

University of Alaska President William R. Wood made an oral presentation to the team. He offered a choice site and pointed out the University had facilities for educating enrollees. He strongly suggested a pilot agricultural program in which enrollees would clear sections of land, fertilize and plant the land, and then harvest the products. In his plan, a processing plant would be constructed where the products would be put up.

He pointed out such a set-up would involve all kinds of skills from heavy equipment operation and maintenance to food processing and marketing.

On the state level, Dan Friedman, has been employed to establish a work-experience program under Title V of the Economic Opportunity Act.

The program will be open to all Alaskans receiving welfare assistance. The program, funded 100 per cent by the federal government, is aimed at proving heads of household with assistance in making them employable.

Those in the work-experience program will not have their welfare checks cut off when they begin to earn \$1.75 per hour. The additional money they earn is to be an incentive or motivation for them to continue to equip themselves for a full-fledged job and thus eventually work off the welfare rolls.