



**CENTER DIRECTOR**—Mrs. Clara Carroll is the director of the Fairbanks Native Welcome Center at 520 4th Avenue in Fairbanks. The Center assists native people in getting employment and other needs.  
—ROBERT KOWELUK Photograph

# FNA Aids Center Financially To Assist Underemployed

In August, 1969, the Fairbanks Native Association decided to reassign some of their monies for the Fairbanks Native Community Center. One of the main concerns of the FNA group has always been the employment picture of the Interior and especially the Fairbanks area.

Realizing that part of the reason for the unemployed and the underemployed is education, the FNA gave \$2300 to the Fairbanks Opportunities Industrialization Center (FOIC).

FOIC is a broad based manpower training program designed for the unemployed and the underemployed in the Fairbanks community and the outlying areas.

The program is not an adult basic education program. There is no screening and anyone who is interested is welcomed into the program. Each person is allowed to work at his own pace in this program.

The training program has three phases. Phase one is the feeder. The feeder program is geared toward establishing proper attitudes and motivation toward employment.

During this part of training, the trainees will learn about

personal hygiene, communicational skills and the computational skills.

Phase two is the skill training program. This phase will be under close supervision of advisors who are mostly in the existing industries. It is hoped that the petroleum industries on the North Slope would be some of the main contributors.

Phase three is the job placement and the follow up that goes along with it. FOIC will place and help follow up on each trainee.

The Fairbanks Native Community Center has been most helpful by having the Employment Specialist, Mrs. Ellen Chamblin, take care of the recruiting and any inquiries. Her phone number is 452-4697 if anyone desires more information.

When asked about the program, Miss Emma Widmark, the corresponding secretary, thought that this is so far the best manpower training program she has heard of in the nation.

She says that she feels that the feeder program is the key to the OIC program. After all, if a person does not have an acceptable attitude toward working these certain hours and this many

hours and this many days. . .etc., why work to get him employed which will last for only a short time? To her, this is not what FNA wants to see continually.

Also too many times, she sees that a most wonderful person is not 'qualified' for certain training programs. Isn't there anyone who wants to train those who never have had the opportunity to attend any school? She thinks OIC is the answer for them.

When asked about the program, Mr. Eli Ramos, the chairman of the Board, felt that there is room for many others in the Fairbanks area to help this OIC group.

He thinks that many people who do not have the time to attend the meetings can be very helpful by writing letters of endorsement or maybe even suggestions to the FOIC, General Delivery, Fairbanks, 99701.

Right now the group is seeking ways of getting financial assistance. He doesn't think that the two volunteer math teachers and one English teacher should continue to volunteer their time too much longer. Also there is a need to have a full time salaried director now.