

AFN Solves Unique City Transportation Problem of Natives

How do you get around in a big city without public transportation and without a car? What if it's a strange city to you? Or if you're from a small village and the whole way of life is strange?

Anchorage, with its spread out locations and nonexistent public transportation is a major problem for the villager who is new to the urban way of living. Transportation may not be the first priority, but it is certainly third or fourth.

Thus, one job of the Alaska Federation of Natives, under the department of Special Services, is drivers training and transportation for rural-natives coming to Anchorage.

Supplemental Services provides transportation and drivers training to BIA Field Employment Assistance office clientele in the Anchorage area. This includes Alaska Business College, Beauty College, Anchorage Community students, Adult Vocational Training students, Direct Hires and Project Hires.

The original AFN Supplemental Services contract was for \$198,250 for the year beginning June 22, 1970. When the contract ran out last June it was extended three times. Last extension is till December 31, 1971.

Recreation was another service to be provided, but was deleted due to insufficient funds.

Providing transportation for hundreds of people is a big job. Our Supplemental Services fleet comprises 2-fifteen passenger buses, 1-eleven passenger bus and 2 driver's training vehicles (one with dual controls). Bus routes cover a 10 mile radius from the center of town. A bus drivers day begins at 6:00 a.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m.

Staffing this fleet (we bussed 402 individuals last year on 23,057 passenger trips) and providing drivers training is a staff of nine at our offices in the Kaloa Building.

Our director, Ilidor Philemonof is an Aleut born at St. George Island, Alaska. Coordinator Robert W. Rude is an Athabaskan from Flat, Alaska.

Drivers include Murphy Nuglene (Eskimo) of White Mountain, Arthur Outwater (Eskimo) of Deering, David Herrmann (Aleut) of Levelock Christopher Steik (Kenaitze) of Ninilchik, and temporary driver Anatoly Lekanof Jr. (Aleut) of St. George.

Donald W. McFarlin of St. Paul, Minnesota is a driver's trainer.

Delicate Calcoutre, our secre-

tary, is an Aleut who was born at Mare Island, California. Elmer Adams, a Tlingit from Juneau, resigned November 22 af-

ter having been with the program about a year as a bus driver.

Last year 125 people took

drivers training classes and 46 received their drivers licenses. At least one day, we carried 102 people on our daily buses.