

Young Man Learning to Be Chef

Bennett Coffey Driggs, 17-year-old Eskimo young man, was back in Fairbanks recently on his vacation from his chef's training at the Job Corps Center at San Marcos, Texas.

He was one of the first young men to be picked from Fairbanks to go to the training center. One day he had gone to the employment office here and talked with Sam West, employment counselor.

West told Bennett that he might be able to go to a Job Corps Center to train. He agreed and was sworn in on November 19 and left for San Marcos on November 21 last year.

Bennett got interested in cooking when he worked in some local restaurants most of the time as a dishwasher. In one restaurant, he had a chance to do some cooking for a couple of hours a day making hamburgers and occasionally steaks.

"I want to learn to be a chef because a chef knows everything about food including fancy foods," Bennett said.

He is taking a two-year course at San Marcos. The course requires a certain amount of cooking each day.

Bennett said that San Marcos used to be an Army camp. Before vacation time, he said

there were about 3,000 trainees at the center from all over the United States and the Phillipines.

Upon graduation, Bennett Driggs would like to come back to Alaska. He said that the center would line up jobs for the graduates.

"I would like to come back to Fairbanks or Anchorage," he said.

Bennett is the son of Elizabeth and Terrance Driggs of Fairbanks.