

Rapid Changes Prompts Collection of Legends and Tales

FAIRBANKS—Rapid changes in the North Country have prompted the Department of Journalism at the University of Alaska to intensify its project of collecting the legends and tales of the North Country's Native people, Prof. Jimmy Bedford said this week.

The department head said the Alaska Folklore Depository now is more actively collecting the folklore because it is in a "sort of race against time" occasioned by the increasing development of the North Country, which, inevitably, is affecting the Native people and their culture.

"We encourage Alaskans and others to assist us with the project we began almost a decade ago," Prof. Bedford said. "We are heartened that such material is beginning to take its rightful place in the publications across the nation."

Charles J. Keim, professor of journalism and English, is coordinating the project.

Bedford especially praised three recent books dealing with North Country folklore. These are "Tales of Eskimo Alaska," by Alaska Methodist University

"Tanaina Tales from Alaska," by Bill Vaudrin, former instructor of English at Anchorage Community College, and published by University of Oklahoma Press; and "The Rescue of the Sun and Other Tales from the Far North," by Edythe Newell,

former journalism student at the University of Alaska, and published by Albert Whitman and Company.

Both the University of Alaska and Alaska Methodist University are carrying out other important publication projects dealing with

this kind of material, Prof. Bedford explained. Schools, churches, newspapers and other groups are performing important work, too.

He urged persons or groups who have such material, printed or merely written, to send it to: Alaska Folklore Depository, c/o Department of Journalism, Bunnell 18, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

"We also ask all donors to attach their names and addresses so we can give them proper credit for the submission. Ultimately, we will see that such material goes into the University of Alaska Archives. Students in various courses at the university will be able to use the materials. If publications result, donors again will receive proper credit. Right now, though, we ask more Alaskans and others to join us in this important race."