

'Keep Eye on It'—

Center for Northern Education Warning

By LAEL MORGAN
Staff Writer

FAIRBANKS—"Keep your eye on the Center for Northern Education at the University of Alaska," Mrs. Eleanor Ouzts, chairman of the Fairbanks Native Association Committee on Education, warned the Tanana Chiefs early this summer.

"You have to demand that Natives be in that program. Every phase of it from the first planning on what kind of research can be done to putting out the final reports."

In response, the Chiefs passed a resolution asking for Native input into the program which is, according to an initial Ford Foundation proposal, supposed to chart a direction for education in the north.

But Mrs. Ouzts is still concerned.

"I feel it's too vague an open ended contract," she explained. "I know it's a circumpolar study which is to include Canada and Greenland. But it's supported partly by Ford Foundation funds and partly by state funding. If it's going to be supported partly by the state of Alaska, Alaskans should be the ones to benefit the most by it!"

"The Alaskan people feel they have been studied enough. I think it's about time someone listened to what the people have to say. Whether they're educated or not, they know what's happening around them."

Another major concern voiced by Mrs. Ouzts is that the center might not get enough attention from the university.

"The university is really doing some very meaningful things but I feel they need more publicity on some of them. The Native people don't know many of the things they're doing. Their project need coordination. I don't think anybody in any department really feels responsible to anyone as far as ethnic studies are concerned."

"We'd like to advocate setting up a separate department for Northern Studies. We talked with Dr. Kenneth Rae on this but he said there were just too many problems. We'd have to cross too many lines."

Since Mrs. Ouzts' interview, however, the University has come around to her way of thinking. The Center for Northern Education will become an entity in its own right—"like an institute," reports Dr. Frank Darnell who has just taken on

the job of director.

Existing programs in northern education are to be coordinated through the center, he added. Included are the Bilingual Program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Alaska Rural School project, a BIA Advisory School Board training program and a university backed study on the Boarding Home Program.

Although the center will not be fully implemented until 1972, Dr. Darnell has taken half a year's sabbatical leave from his job as head of the Department of Education at the university to gather information for the center through a Ford Foundation Grant.

Funding for the survey is for one man, only, but Dr. Darnell has made arrangement with the Alaska Federation of Natives for one of their staff to travel with him to visit regional offices.

"I'll be explaining the concept of the center and seeking direction on how programs should come about," he said.

The second half of his sabbatical will be spent abroad studying northern education programs in other lands.

"We're trying to determine those programs that parallel programs in Alaska and maybe save some intermediate steps," he explained. "The Danes have been teaching first through fifth grades in Eskimo for a long time and now they've decided to change. We want to learn why. The Laps have an elaborate boarding home program we're interested in. The Siberians have published a great many instructional materials for their Native people."

For this research Dr. Darnell will be based at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England. He chose it, he said, because it places a great deal of emphasis on human resources.

The research material will be brought back to the center and policy will not be set until it is evaluated. To help with the job, a council is being formed which includes the Commissioner of Education, the BIA director of Education, head of the AFN, a member of the OEO Board and regional representatives.

"Plans for the center have not been formed overnight for this purpose," he said. "We are looking for local involvement and anyone interested should contact me through the University."

General Inspects Camp Bear Tracks

FAIRBANKS—Brigadier General C. M. Hall, post commander at Ft. Wainwright, recently reviewed troops and Camp Bear Tracks and found them in good order. Well, not good order by military standards, perhaps.

Too much fun and "games." But the troops at this camp are not ordinary soldiers. They're underprivileged children, aged 9 to 12, who are attending summer camp courtesy of Ft. Wainwright and the Fairbanks Recreation Department. And they're doing well.

Each week, 20-25 youngsters are chosen through the schools and recreation department to attend the facility located on Birch Hill.

The city is funding the cost, handling the structure and development of the camp and field trips. The post handles transportation to and from camp and on field trips and provides a meal each day at 19th Aviation mess hall.

Tents, sleeping bags, a water trailer, medic and wildlife expert are also provided by the military, with an occasional visit from the high command to add to the fun.

The program started the first of July and Hez Ray, city recreation director, hopes it can run nine weeks. Prospects look good and the facility is really developing.

Bear Track's machete-made road, once passable only with a heavy truck, has been improved by Facilities Engineers to the extent that a sedan can now drive in. Counseling staff has been expanded from two to eight and enthusiasm is running high.



"PRIVATE LORD REPORTING SIR!"—One relatively strag young troop smartly salutes Brigadier General C.M. Hall as he reviews the men of the Camp Bear Tracks unit.

(U.S. Army Photo)

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Sudsy Golden Days Beer Drinking Contest Friday, Winner Gets Trophy

FAIRBANKS—A beer drinking contest will be a welcome new addition to the Golden Days schedule at 10:00 p.m. on July 23. Eighty contestants are to down a gallon each with the faster drinker to be awarded a handsome trophy.

Those interested should sign up at the Chamber of Commerce prior to the event or at the band-

stand that night of the dance. If more than 80 sign up, lots will be drawn to select the lucky chug-a-luggers.

The event will be held in combination with a street dance at First St. between Cushman and Barnette. Brew will be donated by Duane Albin of Albin Company but it will cost \$2 to enter the contest.

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