

## Things A-Buzzing—

# Seward Youth Center

The Seward Youth Center is really on the move, according to Betsy Wakelee, Program Development Specialist. With a well-qualified staff of two, the programs and activities offered this summer are the most varied and exciting of all those offered over the past two years of the program's existence.

The Center Director, Miss Pam Himsforth, is a fairly recent arrival to Alaska and is very good in leading such activities as guitar lessons, folk singing, crafts, and drama.

Julius Pleasant, originally from Nome, is the Recreation Director and is responsible for outdoor sports program including baseball, basketball, football and volleyball.

Other activities include weekly ping pong tournaments, sewing classes, a chess club, bowling league, swimming, picnics, and arts and crafts, including lapidary work, jewelry-making, painting and making modern, artistic objects from scrap material of all sizes and shapes.

Daily attendance at the Center averages about 50-75, with more participating at special events.

Besides playing hard, the teens have also had to work hard. The building now housing the Center used to be a variety store so the inside had to be completely re-done.

The shelves were taken down, the walls were painted, the plumbing was fixed and new steps going down to the basement are near completion.

While the teens did most of the work, many local citizens contributed their time and donated supplies and the Alaska Skill Center helped with tools and technical assistance.

The teens have also been working with local organizations by manning the concession stands and sponsoring races for the July 4th festivities and will do the same for the famed Salmon Derby in August.

According to OEO guidelines, the program in the past has been strictly a summer program, but the guidelines have now changed. Effective January 1, 1971,

Youth Development Programs will be on a year-round basis.

Programs are to be designed to directly attack the problems of young people between the ages of 14 and 25 and provide activities which give youth increased skills and self-direction and help prepare them for regular employment conditions.

This includes, but is not limited to, such activities as education, employment neighborhood development and economic enterprise development.

Another Program Account provides for recreation activities to the poor on a summer or a year-round basis.

These activities are distinct from those listed above since there are no age restrictions and programs may be devoted exclusively to recreational activities.

Programs may be funded under one or both of these Program Accounts.