

# UA Rural School Project Beginning

The fourth Summer Institute of Alaska Rural School Project opened last Monday, June 23, at the University of Alaska. Fifty prospective teachers have enrolled in the eight-week session to prepare themselves for the new experience of teaching in Alaskan villages.

Twenty enrollees will teach next year in schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, twenty-six in State-Operated Schools, (Rural) and four in borough school districts which operate schools in small communities.

The Alaska Rural School Project is designed to improve rural education and to meet the specific needs of children who live in remote and isolated areas.

The program incorporates careful teacher selectivity, the intensive training institute which combines cultural anthropology, applied linguistics and special teaching methods with the development of culturally appropriate teaching materials and continuing consultative service to village schools.

A unique feature of the Summer Institute is the Laboratory School, which is a simulation of the typical one-room, multi-level school of the small villages in Alaska.

Twenty children whose ages range from six to fifteen years have enrolled in this school. Here the teachers in training observe an instructional program including all elementary levels in one classroom.

They participate in teaching multi-aged groups, study the development of relevant programs and materials and evaluate a wide variety of teaching methods and techniques.

The professional staff of the Institute includes not only noted authorities in all phases of elemen-

tary education, but many experienced and successful "bush" teachers from the village schools of Alaska.

Alaskan native leaders in education, business and government serve as consultants and visiting lecturers.

At mid-point in the training session all trainees visit their teaching stations for a week-long preview of village living.

This phase of their summer's work affords the teachers opportunity to see their future homes and to meet many of the children they will teach, and their parents. They then return to the University for the remainder of their training.

The program is supported jointly by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau; the Division of State-Operated Schools, Anchorage; the University of Alaska and the Ford Foundation.