

**Good Results Apparent—**

# Unique Cook School of Ariz. Teaches Older Natives

By SUSAN TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

Hardy Peters is a 43-year-old Alaskan native who decided to do something to better himself and his people.

So, he temporarily pulled up stakes in his village of Tanana and, with his wife and six children, moved to Tempe, Arizona where he is now attending Cook School.

Last year he received a high school diploma and has gone on to take additional work before returning to Alaska at the end of this year.

And Peters is only one of six such Alaskans who are now attending Cook School under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Church.

The others are Rev. Titus Peter, 45, of Fort Yukon who will this year complete a 2-year course in community development; Alfred Grant, about 40, of Tanana, who received a high school diploma last year and is now taking some college courses; Timothy Sam, 27, of Venetie, who is scheduled to complete three years work and to receive his high school diploma this year; Luke Titus who is taking two years of college work, and his wife Alice who is also attending the school.

A seventh native is attending the school under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church.

As sponsored by the Episcopal church, the program pays for the educational and living expenses of the student and his family, as necessary.

According to the Rt. Rev. William Gordon, the Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, the students pay what they can and the church makes up the difference.

For a single person, the room and board at the school is about \$1,000 per year, the bishop said.

All of the Alaskan students return to their home during the summer and often use money that they make during this time to help pay their expenses while attending the school.

In selecting students for the program, the church requires that the applicant be recommended by his village, Bishop Gordon explained.

"Although the program is geared to a projection of the Episcopal Church to have resident native clergy in all our 20 villages within five years," he continued, "none of the students are required to become ordained ministers."

Rather the chief concern of the church, the bishop added, is to develop leadership within the villages so that the people can better serve themselves.

No stipulation that they must return to their home is placed upon them, he said, but the church is concerned that they use the training wherever they may be to help to their own people.

Cook School is nondenominational and, with a predominantly Indian faculty, is designed to take Indian and Eskimo people from any level of education which they wish to attain.

One reason the church sends the natives there, Bishop Gordon said, is because the school will take students with a limited educational background.

"Most of the people we sponsor," he said, "have had only a sixth grade education."

Also, the school offers training in community leadership, he added.

The church suggests that the student be willing to stay at least two years and encourages

him to stay as long as there is something of benefit to him.

Beyond the high school level, Cook School offers two years of college work.

And any student desiring to go even further can attend Arizona State in Tempe, also under the auspices of the church.

The student himself chooses the area he wants to study, Bishop Gordon said.

Any married man is required to bring his family to Tempe with him while he attends school and apartments are furnished for this purpose. The children attend the Tempe public schools.

Wives accompanying their husbands are required to take a few courses at the school.

Most of the natives, Bishop Gordon said, have had to make quite an adjustment, and the school and the church provide counselors to assist in this adjustment.

One problem is that of regimentation, he explained. It is hard for the older people who have not been in school for a long time to go back.

Other adjustments are necessary due to the fact that the students are away from their communities and also due to the change in climate.

Although none of the students have returned to their villages permanently yet, some of them have returned for the summer and significant differences could already be noted, Bishop Gordon said.

They are learning English, writing, and public speaking and, when they do complete their schooling, he added, will be better equipped to adjust to modern civilization.

Thus, they will be able to adapt to jobs provided by the government in their villages and will better understand the relationship between white and native people and can use their understanding to explain the relationship to other natives.

## Eskimo Christmas

By GEORGE JENNINGS GALE

THE Kalmaks were very poor and their rock and mud hut was quite small but they were a close knit family and...

It was Christmas Eve and 65 below zero outside and all was as silent as only the far North can be silent.

The prayers were said that evening and no one expected anything better for Christmas but about 2:00 a.m. there was a sort of jingle-jangle outside and the husband and father went outdoors and there stood a lone trail reindeer hitched to a herders sled.

The reindeer looked tired and hungry so Kalmak unhitched him and led the deer down into a low place where the moss grew thick and lush.

Then he began looking the sled over and there on found many good things, flour, sugar, tea, coffee, dried meat, a pair of new mukluks, a new parka, a 30-30 Winchester carbine with 5 boxes of cartridges and also several toy Eskimo dolls and one doll from the Outside.

The Kulmaks had a very, very Merry Christmas that year and no one ever showed up to claim the reindeer and sled. No one ever heard of how the deer happened to appear at the Kulmak hut so perhaps it was some unnatural event that took place in the High Arctic that winter but no one ever, ever knew and the Kulmak family were satisfied that it did just happen that way.

The Episcopal church hopes to send two more students in February, Bishop Gordon said. Anyone seeking further information should contact him at the Missionary District of Alaska in Fairbanks.

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