

Sewage... Rural Area Houses...

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seaweed and their hunting paraphernalia to show their dependence on the sea.

For two years, sewage has been a dangerous, noxious presence to the people of Mekoryuk with the full knowledge of the BIA. Sewage treatment would cost money, and the villagers feel that this situation will only be corrected "if they have to." The dumping area is used not by the villagers themselves, but by the BIA school and teachers' homes.

The Mekoryuk Youth Club, Advisory School Board and City Council who organized the demonstration, hope it change. If not, the village will look for legal redress.

Already, a petition signed by 85 concerned citizens of Mekoryuk has been sent to Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton demanding the situation be changed.

Two resolutions introduced this year, received no word. However, when informed of the demonstration BIA Assistant Plant Manager Chandilier in Be-

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Alaskans were starting from scratch and inadequate ground work because it had been a short time since Pres. Nixon had approved the 1200 units for Alaska.

He stated that the Nixon administration has repeatedly stressed the concept of total involvement of the native people in all the planning and building of their homes. This will include the design and selection of sites so as to make this a permanent part of the native community.

At a two hour work session previous to the conference Robert Butler, executive director of ASHA stated that they had agreed that the Alaska Federation of Natives and ASHA were forming a partnership in building and that he was "convinced that this new partnership will lead to the development of better

houses for all Alaskans."

ASHA will take over all aspects of the housing from HUD and the AFN will be the exclusive and prime consultant with authority to select the villages sites and the number of homes to be placed in each village.

They will also select the type of homes, the developers, and the type of work subject to the approval of HUD and ASHA. In addition Mr. Butler stated that AFN can be the consultant in the management of the homes after completion.

Dr. Wilson, who is the director of OEO's Indian Programs stressed to the other panelists and different agencies that the knowledge of the natives with regard to building is available and that this should be utilized.

He showed that the Navajos in the Western states, a group who had the lowest illiteracy and highest death rate, were able to manage and become the developer for housing in their area and even continue their operations into building other structures such as shopping centers.

Today they employ planners, consultants, and are reinvesting their profits to better their houses by making additions to them.

A note of caution was stressed by the Public Health Service as to their capabilities of gearing up in time to put in water and sewer systems. Mr. Larsen, of the Indian Health Service stated that due to the beginning of the fiscal year in a few weeks and the red tape in Wash. the implementation of water and sewer systems may take a few years.

William Dockser, a member of HUD from Washington said that President Nixon has approved 8000 units of housing nationwide and that 6,000 units are planned for building during this year. Of this amount Alaska will receive 1200 homes.

This housing program is to be

Flooding Danger in Fairbanks Lessens

The following is this weeks river report from Ted Fathauer of the National Weather Service in Fairbanks:

Surface temperatures at Fairbanks during the past week averaged 4 degrees above seasonal normals and this has resulted in a significant reduction in the snow pack at Fairbanks.

Snow depth at Fairbanks this morning (Monday) was six inches with a water content of 2.8 inches which is a reduction of 12 inches in snow depth and 2.5 inches in water content since last Monday.

It should be emphasized, however, that the snow conditions in Fairbanks are not representative of the conditions in most of the Chena River Basin.

For example, near mile 38 on the Chena Hot Springs Road, the snow depth ranges from 18 to 24 inches with a water content of six to eight inches, quite a bit more than in Fairbanks at the present period.

Upstream on the Chena, near mile 12 on Chena Hot Springs Road, the little Chena River has approximately 3 feet of ice with water running on top.

On the Upper Chena River near mile 38 on Chena Hot Springs Road the river is showing open patches of water.

To date breakup conditions have been ideal - favorable for a slow and gradual runoff.

However, the outlook is still for minor flooding to occur around mid May. The high water mark is expected to be one to three feet above flood stage, or

four to six feet below the 1967 high water mark. Flood stage is 12 feet.

With the cooler temperatures for the next three days, there will not be a major rise on the Chena River for another week.

Flooding of several feet above bank full is still expected on the Chatanika and several streams in the Fairbanks and Nena areas.

Throughout the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Basins there has been little change since last week except for some reduction in snow depths resulting from the warmer temperatures.

While a long period of above normal stream flow will prevail on the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers, ice jams will be the primary threat to overbank flooding rather than high runoff.

The threat of ice jamming in the Kuskokwim River continues to be evident.

Sitka Dorm...

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1135 West 8th Avenue, Anchorage is the recipient of a \$110,000 contract award granted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior.

These funds will be used for architectural and engineering services for design of the Sitka Dormitory.



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Apprenticeship...

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Today, this is changing.

"It's an absolute must that the unions will have to open up and get more minorities into their apprenticeship programs," insists Joe Marshall, director of the new Fairbanks Apprenticeship Outreach Program.

Marshall, a Negro veteran of many years in the building unions, has always felt this way. Now, he is in a position to open apprenticeships to the native people of Alaska, to the black and the poor white as well.

OUTREACH works by sifting minority applicants into apprenticeship programs, not out of them. In many cities, for many years, openings to apprenticeships were available only to the children and friends of union members - almost never to the black, the Indian, the poor.

This must change, Marshall says, by order of the U.S. Department of Labor, which supports OUTREACH.

In Alaska, as of now, a fraction of one per cent of the members of skilled trades are natives. Not one union leader is a native.

To change this, OUTREACH is seeking young native men just out of high school to enter apprenticeships as electricians, painters, plumbers, pipefitters, bricklayers, carpenters and a dozen other highly skilled and paid building trades.

The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, operates through the Building and Trades Council of the AFL-CIO in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

After signing an indenture with a union, each apprentice begins a training period of between two and five years leading towards qualification as a full fledged journeyman.

After the initial weeks of classroom training, the apprentice is out on the job. He earns 50 per cent or more of the high hourly rate earned by a qualified journeyman in his trade. His wages go up as he becomes more skilled in his trade - till he qualifies as a journeyman.

In the past, many apprenticeship qualifications have acted to disqualify minority group members. Most unions, for example, require a high school diploma or its equivalent as a prerequisite.

With the support of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other agencies, Outreach will arrange for applicants to enter GED classes in Fairbanks and Anchorage towards high school equivalency. Outreach pays tuition,

thel was heard to say "we thought that would happen."

According to the villagers of Mekoryuk "We cannot lose, but have everything to gain."

BIA pays living expenses, etc.

Special classes in English or whatever else the applicant needs can be taken through the North Star Borough - through a contract with the Department of Labor.

After completing prerequisites, the applicant takes a standard trade aptitude exam.

From these scores, he will be directed to unions.

"I'm trying to squeeze the unions so that if a white and a native man have the same scores the native will go first," Marshall explains. If any qualified native applicant who is sent to the union through Outreach is turned down for indenture, the union must have a good reason - or face anti-discrimination proceedings from the U.S. Department of Labor.

During the first year of the program in Anchorage, 46 native men were inducted into skilled crafts unions. On the whole, Marshall says, after they have adapted to the white man's way of life and work they are better workers than comparable whites.

After training, craftsmen will return to their villages and work on jobs in and near their own villages. As journeymen, they will be the first hired on any project near their homes.

Since it began work in March, Outreach has advertised in newspapers that go to the villages, sent pamphlets to village high schools and BIA workers, to attract young natives into apprenticeship programs.

Inquiries can be directed towards Fairbanks or Anchorage OUTREACH (see address in their ad). Applicants can be accepted to the program by mail, arrive in Fairbanks or Anchorage to attend classes, take exams, go for interviews.

"Actually," explains Joe Marshall, "a skilled blue collar worker five years out of high school is already \$40,000 ahead of his fellow graduate who went to college."

He has already been earning a living, learning a skill, building seniority and can look forward to opportunities as job foreman, superintendent, union leader, even as a contractor. In today's labor market also, Marshall pointed out, many Ph.Ds. are out of work.

"If there are ten apprenticeships opening in each union this year," Marshall explains, "I want ten natives to fill them."

If you are from one of these communities, you probably know someone attending Sheldon Jackson College.

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