

For Training Oil Drilling Workers—

Rep. Tom Fink Calling for Native Training Program

A resolution calling for the development of a training program in oil drilling operations for natives has been introduced in the State House of Representatives.

According to the resolution, as presented by Rep. Tom Fink, Anchorage, such a program would be developed by "the State Department of Labor, the Anchorage Community College and labor unions with available training funds.

The Eskimos and Indians of rural Alaska have the ability and desire to work in the oil fields of the North Slope but lack the training to be hired, he wrote.

As an example, he mentioned a petroleum training program established in the Province of Alberta in Canada where men are trained to become drillers' assistants.

It has been found, he stated in his resolution, that the Canadian Arctic Indian and Eskimo make excellent workers because they learn drilling technology quickly and understand the winter cold on northern drilling rigs. The training received at the

Alberta center, he continued, has provided well-paying jobs for Native people who have had to rely on laborer's wages or their indigenous abilities as hunters and fishermen.

It has also "decreased markedly oil rig accidents."

In a letter to the Tundra Times, Rep. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, who is chairman of the Health, Education and Welfare House Committee, where the resolution is now being considered, noted his support for such a program.

"I am hopeful that that kind of program can be established in Alaska and be an on-going thing," he wrote.

"I feel that we have many men who would gladly take the course and would make excellent workers on the slope and along the pipeline route."

Located in Edmonton, the Alberta Petroleum Industry Training Center was opened in 1966 by the Provincial Government and trains about 1,000 men a year for the job of driller's assistant.

In late 1968, the school began to admit Indians and Eskimos from Canada's Arctic.

Applicants at the school are supposed to have a fourth grade education, but, if natural ability is apparent, the education requirement can be lowered.

Natives selected for the four-week training course are flown to the school and home again free of charge. They pay neither living costs at the school or the price of tuition and are given an allowance for their families while they are away, pocket money, and even the necessary boots, tin hat and work clothes.

The total cost for each native trainee runs about \$1,000.

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Mar. 31 Deadline to Apply for Medicare

March 31, 1970, last day to apply for medicare. If you were born October 2, 1901 through October 1, 1902, Tuesday, March 31, 1970 can be a very important day to remember.

That's when the deadline for prospective recipients of medicare, born October 2, 1901

through October 1, 1902 must register to qualify for doctor insurance under program regulations.

To enroll for the doctor's insurance part of medicare, contact the Social Security Administration, 617 "G" Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Phone: 277-7507.

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Chalkyitsik First to Give to Heart Fund

The village of Chalkyitsik in northeastern Alaska was first among villages to send in a generous contribution to the 1970 Heart Fund, the Alaska Heart Association announced this week.

About \$61 was sent to the fund as the result of a bake sale held by the Village Council and Women's Club.

Also, Eek, near Bethel, was the first village to agree to donate handicraft. The handicraft will be sold with the proceeds going to the Heart Fund. Each family in the village has been asked to donate one item.

For being first, both villages will receive balloons for their children and a Heart Fund Banner.

The Heart Association would like either a cash or handicraft contributions from other villages throughout Alaska.

President of the Heart Fund for northern Alaska, Dr. Charles Marrow of Fairbanks explained that part of the money collected finances the Annual Heart Clinic.

Held in Fairbanks, the clinic offers expert surgical diagnosis for patients referred by physicians throughout northern Alaska.

Also, the Heart Association sponsors an education program in all of the junior and senior high schools and hopes to reach about 12,000 students in the next three years, Dr. Marrow said.

Winners are currently being chosen for an essay contest sponsored by the association in the schools on the prevention of heart disease.

The Heart Fund monies also provide free penicillin for the prevention of rheumatic fever

which often damages the heart.

A continuing nurses training program for the intensive care unit in the hospital is another project.

All of these projects are in addition to contributing to the activities of the National Heart Association and to carrying on extensive public education program through the mass media informing people of the symptoms of heart disease.

About \$4,000 of a \$6,000 goal has been raised thus far to sponsor and carry out the goals mentioned above.

Dr. Marrow stressed that the association is primarily striving for a service goal with the monetary goal merely being the means to carry out the service projects.

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