

State Department of Labor Places 12,100 Persons in Jobs

JUNEAU.—Commissioner of Labor Thomas J. Moore reported to Gov. Walter J. Hickel's office last week that the Alaska State Employment Service placed 12,100 persons in jobs in Alaska during fiscal 1968.

"This is the largest number of workers placed in any one fiscal year during the 30-year history of the service and represents an increase of more than 1,000 placements over fiscal 1967," Moore told the Governor. "The 1,603 placements made in June,

1968, was a record number for the month of June, exceeding the prior high by about 240 placements."

The commissioner said the jump in the number of placements reflects the intensive effort made by the Alaska State Employment Service to expose as many Alaskans as possible to jobs they are qualified to fill.

Moore said, "The unique interest of veterans in Alaska is shown by the fact that placement of veterans in 1968 represented 21 percent of all placements; the 2,550 veterans placed amounted to almost one-tenth of all veterans residing in Alaska. Placement of veterans is crucial in the effort to establish a strong economy because veterans represent the largest segment of the state's work force."

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CULTURAL VALUE—Recognizing the great cultural and artistic values of Southeast Alaska's original Indian totem poles, the Alaska timber industry—represented by Clarence F. Kramer, left—recently presented a check for \$750 to assist in the inventory, preservation, and restoration of totem poles and totemic monuments in Alaska. The check, first of two such gifts which the industry will contribute, was received by Mrs. Jane Wallen of the Alaska State Museum in Juneau. Observing the presentation, Secretary of State Keith H. Miller, right, commended the Alaska timber industry "for its generosity, its foresight, and its appreciation of a genuine Alaska art form. How appropriate it is," said Secretary Miller, "that an industry which thrives by harvesting and yet perpetuating the forest should assist in a cultural project which has its origins in the forests."

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24 Old Crow Villagers Help Heartbeat Probe

Twenty-four native residents of Old Crow—a village 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Canada's Yukon Territory—have been the subjects of an intensive five-day physiological research program conducted by a team of scientists from the University of Alaska's Institute of Arctic Biology (IAB).

Wired for sound with two electrodes and a tiny radio transmitter, villagers went about their daily routines while three UA researchers listened and recorded their heartbeats at a base station transceiver.

"We selected Old Crow for our tests," explained Dr. Charles J. Eagan, visiting professor of physiology from Colorado State University, and IAB's project leader, "because we wanted to measure the overall physical fitness of native people who hunt and fish for their sustenance, and generally lead more active lives than city residents."

Information of this sort, according to Dr. Eagan, will be useful for comparison with fitness measurements of people—such as office workers—leading more sedentary lives in cities.

The heartrate is a good indicator of physical fitness, explained Dr. Keizo Shiraki, visiting assistant professor of physiology at the institute and researcher with the project. "A trained athlete—or any other person in good condition—can perform strenuous exercise and still exhibit a low heartrate, while someone in poor shape can develop a high rate by climbing a flight of stairs."

The subjects—ranging in age from seven to 60, both men and women—kept a log of their activities to aid the UA team in evaluating their heart data. An ordinary citizen's band radio transceiver was used at the team's base station to receive the heart signals.

Each subject's transistorized transmitter operated on a different frequency, allowing the investigators to monitor any subject with a simple twist of a dial.

"The experiment we performed was simple," said Dr. George Halikas, another project researcher and assistant professor of biophysics with IAB. It was a standard electrocardiogram—something that could be done at most doctor's offices. "The only modification we made was the use of the transmitters to enable us to keep track of our subjects while they went about their daily routines."

Concerned primarily with physiological adaptation of human beings as well as animals in Arctic and sub-Arctic environments, the recent study at Old Crow reflects only one facet of the investigations underway at the UA's institute.

Kivalina Char

(Continued from page 1)

Kivalina have been contacted by Department of Fish and Game personnel and an appraisal made of run size and subsistence needs."

Hickel said that the long-standing policy of the Board of Fish and Game places subsistence use requirements above those of recreational and commercial utilization.

"Two staff members of the Department of Fish and Game will meet with the people of Kivalina in the near future to obtain their views on whether or not they believe a commercial fishery would be in their best interests and if so, at what poundage level they think would be satisfactory to prevent overharvest of the runs," Gov. Hickel said.