

Village Welfare Fee Agents Out of Jobs

Village welfare agents, 173 of them throughout Alaska, were terminated of their jobs on July 1 by the order of the Commissioner of the State Department of Health and Welfare J. Scott McDonald.

McDonald has since resigned. To date, the order has caused confusion in villages and the would-be welfare recipients are said to be in quandary because many of them do not know how to fill out applications for welfare benefits.

Many of the recipients are old native people who neither write or speak English. Welfare agents, can no longer help these people because of the amendment to the Social Security Act.

In his June 27 letter of notification, McDonald wrote:

"The new system requires that the applicant himself fill out the forms and send it to the District Welfare Office for processing.

"Although the applicants or recipients may seek help from relatives, village councils, post-

masters, teachers, etc., in filling out the form, it is the applicant's responsibility to get the form filled out. Occasionally we may have to ask the Village Council to see why the applicant has not answered a letter or to verify certain facts."

Some people who are familiar with the old system regard the new one as violating the confidential nature of giving welfare benefits. These people said native welfare recipients do not like to have everyone know of their status.

The fee agents, although paid very little (\$5 for a new recipient and \$3 thereafter) have been working for many years and the sudden termination of their jobs has been upsetting.

Those who know believe that many of the fee agents will keep working without pay anyway.

"All records and supplies for the Department of Public Welfare, including the Agent's Handbook, should be forwarded collect to the District Office," concluded McDonald.

Eskimo Olympics . .

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popularity. The games have been annually attended by representatives from a multitude of Alaskan villages.

An early highlight of the games tonight will be the introduction and review of queen candidates in traditional native costumes. Miss 1968 World Eskimo Olympics, Audrey Ambrose of Huslia, will oversee the activities from her throne until

ANCHORAGE WELCOME CENTER MOVE

The board of directors of the Anchorage Native Welcome Center disclosed today that the center will be moving to a new location early this fall.

The location will be announced soon. This change will coincide with the hiring of a new director, who will replace Mrs. Pat Locke.

Leonard Monaghan, acting president of the board, noted that these important changes present the center with an excellent opportunity to re-evaluate the center's goals and to enlist fresh public support.

In this evaluation, according to Monaghan, the board reaffirmed the goals of the center, as follows: to serve as a liaison between persons new to Anchorage and the agencies or people who can help them; to provide a meeting place for strangers in Anchorage; and to encourage and promote any programs relating to native culture or improvement of the natives' education or economic status.

In a related action, the board voted to alter the role of the center in relation to the problem of public drunkenness. As a result, a new policy will go into effect which will exclude drunk persons from the center.

In a statement on the policy, the board stated:

"We regard the problem of excessive use of alcohol as among the most serious confronting our community. Our commitment to a solution is unrelenting, but the center must reluctantly admit that it lacks the necessary funds, personnel and facilities to cope with the problem adequately."

Times as he grows old teaches many lessons. —Aeschylus

the coronation of the new queen Saturday. Nineteen girls, from a number of Alaskan villages, have entered the contest.

Entrants are: Joyce Roberts, 18, Tanana; Nita Sheldon, 17, Norvik; Louisa Stine, 18, Anaktuvik Pass; Grace Ann Jacobs, 18, Bethel; Sarah Seeberger, 17, Miss Arctic Circle; Dorothy Napoleon, 21, Hooper Bay; Vera Silas, 18, Minto; Cynthia Ahwinona, 16, Nome;

Sally Woods, 19, Miss Nuchalawoyya; Helen Nicholia, 17, Miss Tanana River; Mary Gabriel, 16, Fort Yukon; Penny Lie, 16, Kotzebue; Denise James, 16, Miss Hospitality House; Marie Irwin, 18, Nenana; Annie Saunders, 18, Fairbanks; Edna Apapiki, 19, Gambell; Anna Marie Westdahl, 18, Miss Kuskokwim; and Linda Cook, 20, Metlakatla.

Three Judges have been selected for the queen competition. Johnny Anderson, Mable Hopson, and Lorenz Shuerch will review the queens and make their decision Saturday evening.

Another major event this evening will be the native dance team competition. Barrow, Kotzebue, Nenana, Minto, Tanacross, Mentasa, and Northway have indicated that they would send representatives to the games.

Master of Ceremonies for both evenings of competition will be Bill English, a veteran Wien pilot. He is described as a welcome addition to the program because of his familiarity with the games and many events.

Six seals and fifty pounds of muktuk have been flown in from Barrow for the seal skinning and muktuk eating contests, which are scheduled for both evenings. Muskrats have been brought from Minto for the muskrat skinning contest, held tonight.

Other games will include the nalukatuk (blanket toss), knuckle hop, ear weight, high kick, leg hop, Indian stick pull, and Eskimo yo-yo.

A special feature Friday evening will be the parky contest. Two events, canoe racing and seal hooking, have been cancelled due to high water in the Chena.

Native dancing exhibitions, open to the public at no admission, will be performed Saturday afternoon at the University. Evening events, beginning at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday evening will cost \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.



MISS ESKIMO OLYMPICS—Miss Audrey Ambrose, 1968 World Eskimo Olympics queen, will be succeeded by her 1969 counterpart on Saturday evening. Charming Audrey is from Huslia. Nineteen contestants for the crown will parade

during the Olympics being held here starting tonight. There will be many other events at the Olympics.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph



FLAP ABOUT FLYING—Flight instructor Jim Sebesta, on wing, and Dick Jensen of Alaska Aeromarine Corp. discuss use of wing flaps with Irv Hallman, left, a UA Upward Bound tutor-

counselor, and students Louisa Stine of Anaktuvuk and Stan Nevak of Bethel who are learning to fly.

—UA Photo

University of Alaska Upward Bound Students Learn to Fly

Several Upward Bound students at the University of Alaska are actually learning to fly.

Flight instructor Jim Sebesta, who is teaching the ground school flight course for the students, says several are doing quite well and are discovering there are careers in aviation they might be interested in.

During their eight weeks in Upward Bound these students have taken about 38 hours of ground school instruction. Some also received an hour of flying time at the controls of a light plane.

The flight training was arranged by Dick Jensen of Alaska Aeromarine Corp. who donated eight hours of flying time to the students. Sebesta said the students also gained some flight

experience by riding in the back seat while another student sat at the controls.

Sebesta said the course was held primarily to introduce to the students the opportunities available in the field of aviation. He said a few may be prepared to take the written portion of the Federal Aviation Administration private pilot examination when they complete the course Thursday (Aug. 10).

The Upward Bound program is offered each summer at UA with support from the U. A. Office of Education to encourage rural high school students to seek higher education.

Students who enrolled in the flight course included Louisa Stine of Anaktuvuk, Peggy Simon of Allakaket, Joe Hinz,

John Moses, Stan Nevak, Paul Francis, and Moses Guest of Bethel, John Garrison and Jerry Ivanoff of Unalakleet, and Sam Hughes of Fort Yukon.

Sebesta said this year's course was a trial and that if another course is held the students would need to have more flight time.

Sebesta also teaches mathematics in the Upward Bound program and served last year as a counselor. He is a student at Weston College, Mass. where he is studying to become an ordained Catholic priest and is a member of the Society of Jesus.

He's been flying since he was 16 and worked his way through college as a flight instructor. In 1966 he taught at Copper Valley School.