

FAIRBANKS NATIVE WELCOME CENTER

Activities and Programs

Employ Assistance

By ELLEN CHAMBLIN
Employment Specialist

The Employment Assistance program is designed to aid individuals, newcomers and hard-core unemployed attain steady employment through the combine of processes of job counseling (giving stimulus and motivation), referral to training, and/or referral to jobs.

One of the training-related programs implemented at the Fairbanks Native Community Center at 520 Fourth Avenue is a Driver Education program to help trainees get their drivers licenses. This started, early in November with 26 potential drivers.

The program was started when there was a need seen here by a recent survey conducted at the Fairbanks State Manpower Center. It indicated that at least twenty-three Alaskan Natives could have been referred to definite job orders last month if they had had a valid drivers license.

Many of the jobs available in our urban centers in Alaska require having such a license. Jobs such as car lot attendants, service station attendants, stock clerks, cargo handlers have some need for driving. And of course deliverymen, truck drivers and messengers fall fully into this category.

The lack of this license has in effect created yet another barrier that the Native confronts when seeking employment "in the city." However, hopefully this barrier can be relieved somewhat, more easily than some of the others, with the initiation of this program. At least, this is a start in that direction.

Program Has 142 Students

The State Department of Education Boarding Home Program in Fairbanks has 142 students to date. They are an impressive group of boys and girls, of whom their families should be proud.

Most of them attended the Land Claims hearings in October at Alaskaland, and in spite of the difficulty in hearing the proceedings, they concentrated on listening and behaved themselves admirably.

Vice-president of the students, Sarah Seeburger of Kotzebue offered a short testimony and answered questions put to her by the Senators conducting the hearings.

A successful dance under the chairmanship of Anne Saunders was held on October 31. Over fifty youngsters were in attendance, enjoying the music of the Concord Mustache.

An Advisory Board of the FNA meets with the Coordinators of the Boarding Home Program on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to discuss policy and any problems that might arise.

Members of the Board are Mrs. Kitty Harwood, Mrs. Mary Jane Fate, Mrs. Betty Johnson, Mr. Robert Charlie, and Mr. Nels Anderson, Chairman.

Many students are participating in sports at their respective schools. Cora Chappell of Wise-

I like this Welcome Center cause it serves the Natives a good deal. I personally think that there should be more places like this.

—BILL FELIX



CENTER DIRECTOR—Mrs. Clara Carroll is the director of the Fairbanks Native Welcome Center at 520 4th Avenue in Fairbanks. The Center assists native people in getting employment and other needs.

—ROBERT KOWELUK Photograph

FNA Aids Center Financially To Assist Underemployed

In August, 1969, the Fairbanks Native Association decided to reassign some of their monies for the Fairbanks Native Community Center. One of the main concerns of the FNA group has always been the employment picture of the Interior and especially the Fairbanks area.

Realizing that part of the reason for the unemployed and the underemployed is education, the FNA gave \$2300 to the Fairbanks Opportunities Industrialization Center (FOIC).

FOIC is a broad based manpower training program designed for the unemployed and the underemployed in the Fairbanks community and the outlying areas.

The program is not an adult basic education program. There is no screening and anyone who is interested is welcomed into the program. Each person is allowed to work at his own pace in this program.

The training program has three phases. Phase one is the feeder. The feeder program is geared toward establishing proper attitudes and motivation toward employment.

During this part of training, the trainees will learn about

personal hygiene, communication skills and the computational skills.

Phase two is the skill training program. This phase will be under close supervision of advisors who are mostly in the existing industries. It is hoped that the petroleum industries on the North Slope would be some of the main contributors.

Phase three is the job placement and the follow up that goes along with it. FOIC will place and help follow up on each trainee.

The Fairbanks Native Community Center has been most helpful by having the Employment Specialist, Mrs. Ellen Chamblin, take care of the recruiting and any inquiries. Her phone number is 452-4697 if anyone desires more information.

When asked about the program, Miss Emma Widmark, the corresponding secretary, thought that this is so far the best manpower training program she has heard of in the nation.

She says that she feels that the feeder program is the key to the OIC program. After all, if a person does not have an acceptable attitude toward working these certain hours and this many

Youth Prime Concern At Fairbanks Center

By MARIE LUDECKER
Youth Counselor

Of prime concern to the Fairbanks Native Center is the youth. We would like to involve them as much as possible in our activities to assure our programs fit their needs.

A youth council is being set up so the youth can plan their own activities at the Center and elsewhere in the community. There will be twelve students on the council; two from the community, four from Monroe, four from Lathrop, and two from the University of Alaska.

There are several students signed up for the youth council and they are planning a dance for Saturday, December 6. Everyone will be invited, and posters will be posted on the dance.

There is also an old time dance planned for December 13 featuring local talent on the fiddle and guitars. Dances will include the Fort Yukon jig,

waltzes and square dancing. More information will be posted.

The Center has two youth counselors who's duty is to help the youth as advisors and setting up activities such as dances and social get togethers. They will also help the youth in using and learning their native heritage and culture.

They have started native dance groups, Eskimo and Indian. On Saturday, Nov. 22, they had a dance practice at the Center. There were several students from the U of A, Monroe and Lathrop schools participating.

The University of Alaska Anthropology professors have been approached and they are willing to help in giving Alaskan History discussions at the Center.

We hope by letting the Native youth learn of their traditional values and understand of their Native ways, we will help build self confidence and pride in the youth.

BIA Contracts With Community Center for Needs

By MARY ANN OQUILLUK
Community Worker

In the latter part of October, 1969, two Community Workers were assigned to the Fairbanks Native Community Center in the Community Service Department under a contract with BIA to assist families and individuals to overcome emergency situations and enable them supportive help to meet their own needs.

The objective is to provide a systematic approach for individuals who have felt the impact of certain social conditions to adjust and develop toward more satisfying conditions.

Included are activities such as classes and group discussions in consumer education, homemaking, daily problem solving, senior citizens activities, and referring individuals to those agencies which can help them.

In order for the Community Worker to be effective with the Community Center participants, they must be exposed to Social Services available in the urban environment and must know how to deal with people in crisis situations, so staff orientation has been planned with several agencies such as BIA, DPW, PHS-ANS, Food Stamp Program, etc., to learn what services the agencies have to offer, the methods used in rendering services and to establish contact with one individual to service all Center participants.

So far several days has been spent with BIA in Social Services. The Community Worker sat in on interviews with clients in need of assistance which enables us to better understand the procedures of interviewing and also in filling out the BIA forms.

Monies also will be provided under this contract for emergency needs such as food, temporary housing, clothing and transportation.

In December, 1969, several hours a day will be spent with DPW and PHS-ANS and with Food Stamp Program.

It's a pretty cool place, it has a free pool table and games. It's pretty nice.

—ERIC CLOCK & BARRY HOLMES

Official Opening

The Center officially opened November 2, 1969. An open house potlatch was held with people donating food. There was a large selection of Native food ranging from dried sea food to Eskimo ice cream.

Following the dinner, there was native dancing, with Earl Titus from Minto as our star dancer. The younger folks held a modern dance in the basement.

The Center was filled to capacity and it was a happy opening for all of us.

Whoever you are, wherever you are, the Native Center welcomes you.

—ROBERT CHARLIE

I like the Center because its a good place to meet people from our hometown.

—JIM KAINGAZINA

It's great to know that the Center is underway once again.

—VALERIE MATTHEW

man is on the Lathrop cross-country ski team.

Michael Akerelrea of Scammon Bay is on the Monroe Basketball team. Nora Nungasak and Mary Akpik, both Barrow-ites, play on the Lathrop girl's basketball squad, along with Emily Lane of Point Hope. Leonard Kriska has also gone out for skiing at Lathrop. He is from Galena. Emil San (Huslia) is an outstanding wrestler in his class, according to the Lathrop wrestling coach.

Warren Matumeak is another active Barrow boy who is on a Lathrop intramural basketball team. Dorothy Nicholi (Kaltag) plays for Monroe's girls' basketball group.

Cross-country skiing is a popular sport at Monroe, under the coaching of Mr. John Nagy.

Members of the team are John Oktoyak (Emmonak), Thecla Hootch (Emmonak), Janet and Virginia Woods (Manley Hot Springs), Angela Alexie (Kalskag), and Amy Nelson (Galena) who was in the BH program for two months.

Honor Roll students at Monroe for the first quarter were Angela Alexie (Kalskag), Virginia Woods and Freda Semaken (Galena), who were both awarded honorable mention recognition. Alice Beans of Mountain Village is a member of Lathrop's Girls Concert Choir.