

Renowned Scientist Honored Nearly Half of BIA

Dr. Sydney Chapman, world renowned geophysicist on the University of Alaska faculty, will be honored Wednesday, February 28, when the building housing UA's Geophysical Institute is dedicated as the Sydney Chapman Building.

The dedication will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the birth of the scientist, who has served as professor of geophysics and advisory scientific director of the institute since 1951.

Dr. Chapman was 80 on January 29. He divides his time between the UA campus and the National Center of Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colo.

Local and state officials have been invited to the building dedication, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. outside the entrance to the Geophysical Institute on the UA campus.

The ceremony will include unveiling of letters designating the Sydney Chapman Building and talks by university and institute officials.

After the dedication, a seminar will be conducted on magnetism and the aurora in Schaible Auditorium. Keith Mather, director of the Geophysical Institute, will preside.

A discussion of the aurora will be given by Dr. Syun-Ichi Akasofu of the institute staff.

A film issued by the National Aeronautical Space



DR. SYDNEY CHAPMAN

Administration (NASA) will be shown. Entitled "The Challenge of Unanswered Questions," the film includes scenes from the institute.

After the film, a book, "Sydney Chapman, Eighty," will be presented to the geophysicist by a member of the institute's advisory board.

The book is a collection of autobiographical talks by Dr. Chapman, some recollections and messages from his

friends and reviews of his scientific accomplishments.

It was edited by Dr. by Dr. Akasofu, Dr. Benson Fogle, also of the institute staff, and Bernhard Haurwitz of the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Both the dedication and seminar will be open to the public.

Dr. Chapman has received medals and honorary degrees from societies and institutions throughout the world.

Employees are Natives

Nearly half of the Bureau of Indian Affairs employees in Alaska are Alaska Natives, it is reported from the Juneau Area office. Native hire within the bureau has risen sharply in the past few years in line with policies of Indian Affairs Commissioner Robert L. Bennett.

Of a total 1250 BIA Alaska employees, about 600, or 48%, are Native, according to Dave Weaver, Chief of the Branch of Personnel for Alaska. This is a dramatic increase in Alaska over five years ago when barely half that number were employed.

About 80 percent of the vacancies in clerical and blue collar jobs are filled by Alaska Natives. They hold only a small percentage of the more technical positions, explained Weaver, because of the educational requirements attached to the many teaching and social service positions. This percentage is rising as the number of Natives in higher education increases.

Native hire on field station jobs is an example of the bureau's practice. Roughly

95 percent of all field station maintenance men in Alaska are local Natives. Each summer, training in the upkeep and operation of light plants and other equipment is given for them by the branch of Plant Management.

One significant factor in the rise of Alaska Native hire is increased educational opportunity. The BIA makes every effort to encourage students to pursue education and training beyond high school. The numbers of Native students in higher learning has risen tremendously, from just 54 twelve years ago to over 1000 today.

The Native people are awakening to the value of education. Assistance is given in the form of scholarship grants. Native students attend colleges and universities, vocational and trade schools, and the bureau's own Heskell Institute and the Institute of American Indian Arts.

And although numbers of Alaska Natives students are still small, the bureau foresees no change in the tremendous upswing into higher education.

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