

Statewide in Alaska

August 1969

The work incentive (WIN) program has been termed an initial success by the governors office. 351 welfare recipients have been enrolled in WIN during the period from September of '68 through August of this year. Of this number 100, or 28 percent are now employed in a wide variety of occupations with an average income of \$2.75 an hour. WIN has been jointly funded by the state and federal governments with federal paying 80 percent and the state paying the balance. The program was conducted in Juneau, Anchorage, Ketchikan and Fairbanks. Plans call for WIN to be expanded to include Bethel, Barrow, Nome, and Kotzebue in the near future.

A Manpower Center office is scheduled to open in Kotzebue on October 1. The office building is being constructed on municipal reserve land donated by the Kotzebue City Council. The facility is the latest in a series of Manpower Centers opened to serve the needs of rural Alaskans. Over the past two years facilities have been opened at Bethel, Barrow and Glennallen with additional ones to be established in other locations throughout the State as funds become available.

After four years of inactivity the Hydaburg Cooperative Cannery is to resume production. Shoshoni Incorporated of Boise, Idaho has taken over operation of the cannery which was originally financed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs working through the Hydaburg Cooperative Association. The resumption of operations should mean increased employment for residents of the village.

Air transportation in Alaska has enjoyed considerable prosperity since oil was discovered on the North Slope. This prosperity is mirrored by the large increases in traffic and gains in projects reported in the September issue of the Alaska Industry magazine for two Air Carriers operating in Alaska. Sources within both companies attribute the upsurges to North Slope oil activities with tourism also playing a significant part.

The Bristol Bay salmon run, first predicted to be better than average, then predicted to be a bust, was termed highly successful by the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game. The pack of nearly one half million cases from a commercial catch of 6.6 million fish represents a twofold increase over the 1968 pack. According to early reports next years Bristol salmon run will be the largest in the area's history. This will require hiring of considerable additional help and strong emphasis will be given to placing resident Alaskans in the industry.

According to the Alaska Department of Commerce a total of 683 in state and out of state corporations were doing business in Alaska during the first eight months of 1969. The number of registrations was up 57 percent over the same period in 1968 indicating an increase in economic activity within the state. Some 78 of the registrations, or 11 percent, were oil or oil related companies including the activities of drilling refining, exploration, oil equipment and supply, and oil transportation.

Exploratory drilling for oil is currently under way in the Gulf of Alaska. In a joint venture Panoil Company and Arabian Shield Development Company are operating offshore in the Katalla area. Some sources within the oil industry have speculated that vast oil reserves may lie beneath the Gulf of Alaska.