

Anaktuvuk Pass Dispute Goes To Appeal

would be an invasion of privacy. Attorneys for the Natives also said the Native claims came from aboriginal rights and the

Scientists Note Aid

the years. The reason why Eskimos have such a thorough knowledge of their environment, including fish, plants, animals and humans found in it, is an impressive one.

Dr. Irving points out that Eskimos can reach back in time for many generations to find their truths, while most white men in America can't go back beyond grandparents.

Citing Sir John Richardson's account of the famous lost Franklin expedition in the Arctic, Irving recalled reading that Eskimos have occupied the longest span of time any people have stayed in one environment in the history of man.

"I guess that kind of a record says something about the accumulated knowledge — scientific and in other areas — that Eskimos possess," said the UA professor.

Another interesting story was related by Dr. Fred Milan, an anthropologist who in recent years has led the International Biological Program's team of medical scientists in a study of the people of Wainwright. During 25 years, Milan has studied while living in Arctic villages.

The scientist told of an experience he once had in Northwest Greenland. One day he went by a "tippy" kayak from his camp to the Village of Thule, an Eskimo settlement. There he met a man named Odak.

To Milan's astonishment, Odak said he had been to the Pole with Peary, the famous explorer.

"We were sitting talking in Odak's house," said Milan, "when the old man started rummaging through a box. String, screwdrivers and harpoon heads came from the box."

"Finally, Odak found what he was looking for — a paper certificate announcing his Honorable Membership in the Explorers Club."

This modest Eskimo had been a part of one of the most daring expeditions undertaken in the history of man, but had probably never been credited for it.

Said Milan, "If it weren't for people like Odak, we probably wouldn't be very far ahead in the Arctic today."

In answer to a Feb. 6 editorial in the Tundra Times citing the sorrowful lack of recognition given to the scientific accomplishments of Natives, Dr. Irving wrote:

"I am indebted to many Eskimo friends for hospitality, information and help in studying physiological adaptations that enable birds, mammals generally and people to live comfortably in the Arctic. Without their help I know a little and see much more that could be learned."

In discussing another subject, the UA scientist gave three reasons why he thinks the future of Natives in Alaska is an "exciting" one: oil, the Alaska Natives Land Claim Settlement Act and the emergence of 12 Native corporations.

"I look to the corporations to be a valuable guide and balance to the whole development of Alaska's future," he said, and it looks like the young Native leaders are extremely competent and will become a powerful force in guiding the future of their people."

Dr. Irving has proposed that the Department of the Interior utilize Natives and other local residents as guides and hosts for the 83 million acres of federal land proposed for withdrawal

by Washington. The advantage would be two-fold, he believes, first insuring residents of an income and, second, using the people who can best acquaint visitors with a given locale in a short period of time.

"Natives have a genuine pride in their land," said Irving. "They are bright, friendly and enjoy a delightful sense of humor. This makes them perfect hosts in their own home."

Besides, he added, many outsiders brought in to perform such work are more apt to consider an assignment to a remote area "not quite the way to move up in the bureaucracy... They wouldn't make the best hosts."

Anthropologist Milan said the Settlement Act brings power to Natives in politics, education and economics. "Unless Natives are economically successful, their way of life may eventually be eradicated."

And both men agreed that a successful and increasing Native population will serve as a stabilizing influence in an Alaskan society in which the greater white population is largely transient.

ensuing Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

The judge said the denial is "predicted upon the willingness of the defendant to pay damages as ordered" by any court for injuries sustained by the Natives and no truck convoys would be allowed to use the pass after April 10. Alyeska was also ordered to post a \$50,000 bond.

A Precedent Set?

The ruling by the judge may set a precedent for similar cases in the future. An editorial appearing March 6 in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner stated, "Interest in extending the Alaska Railroad is reaching new proportions with the rapidly approaching construction period for the trans-Alaska crude oil pipeline and general development of our North Slope area."

"Our North Slope area," "Our" certainly isn't the Natives. The ruling by the judge in the Anaktuvuk case may set aside other suits for injunctions by Natives against other oil, construction companies and the state itself.

Rep. Don Young has called on the secretary of transportation to include an extra \$200,000 in next year's budget for an engineering study on an extension of the railroad from Nenana to the Yukon River.

The News-Miner continued, "The funds requested by Rep. Young would be the next step

in extending the line to the Arctic Ocean. The engineering study would follow up on an earlier study done from the firm of Tudor, Kelly and Shannon." If the Natives object to a highway will they take a railroad?

Rep. Young said the benefits of the extension are several. The railroad would keep water transportation on the Yukon open an additional two months a year, it would deliver fuel and necessities to Yukon villages, open up the asbestos and timber resources, and for transportation of oil field equipment into other oil basins in the state.

Besides the denial of the injunction by Anaktuvuk, the proposed railroad extension there are plans to extend a state highway through the Kobuk and Nome areas. The highway has already met opposition by Bering Straits Native Association and Northwestern Alaska Native Association. The Natives there fear the highway would also bring damage to the environment and their subsistence way of life.

The proposed construction of a gas line from the North Slope through Canada's Mackenzie River Valley has voiced objections from Canadian economists, environmentalists, and the Natives of those northern regions though the success of that application is confidently anticipated by the oil industry and government officials both in Alaska and Canada.

POLATCH

(Continued from Page 1)
The story telling may be done over a public address system this year so that people can enjoy the stories while dining. Three dance teams have been confirmed.

"We'll have chicken and ham for the people who come in from the villages," said Matthew. "Sometimes they like to try that city food."

Plans are also being made for a Miss FNA contest.

Tickets, available in a limited number, can be picked up for \$4 per person at the Fairbanks Native Community Center, Perdue's Jewelry and the Wood Center on the University of Alaska campus.

Traditionally held during the North American Sled Dog Championships, this year the potlatch is also being held on the same day as the Doyon Native Corporation's first annual stockholders meeting in Fairbanks.

Additional plans for the event were being concluded this week by Matthew, assisted by Mabel Peterson and others.

Stockholders . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
wishes to elect.

The method of voting, referred to as cumulative, assures stockholders who are a minority in number an effective way of electing one or two board members. This is done by voters living in outlying villages, pooling their votes in favor of a candidate to represent their locale.

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