

Tundra Times

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Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

Vol. 8, No. 25

Wednesday, March 31, 1971

Fairbanks, Alaska

ADMINISTRATION BILL SOON

Bush Air Routes To Continue Under Subsidy

Alaska's bush air routes, the lifelines which tie remote villages to the outside world, will continue under the subsidized jurisdiction of the Civil Aeronautics Board, according to a decision released this week by CAB examiner Merritt Ruhlén.

"Although air transportation is no doubt needed in many areas which cannot economically support it, nowhere is such service needed more than in rural Alaska," the examiner wrote in his opinion.

He strongly rejected the proposal by the Bureau of Operating Rights that the CAB suspend the bush routes served by Wien Consolidated Airlines and Alaska Airlines.

They would be replaced, the BOA opinion held, by air taxis who could operate under state control—without federal subsidy.

"Relegating the small Alaskan communities to service only by the air taxis places all of the costs on the local traveler or shipper, the person who can least afford it. Furthermore, due to the unfavorable operating conditions, unsubsidized air taxi

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SJC Conducts Education Conference

In a two-day conference held on Sheldon Jackson College campus, over 100 Native leaders and students from across Alaska urged the Alaska State Legislature to pass H.B. 52, which calls for funding the tuition equalization provision of the Alaska Student Loan and Grant Act.

The controversial bill to provide funds to enable students to attend the private institutions of their choice in Alaska has been in troubled waters in the State House.

Participants also recommend forming an All Alaska Native Educational Association to coordinate and oversee educational programs dealing with Native students throughout the State of Alaska.

The Conference had suggestions for not only Sheldon Jackson College, but other educational institutions as well. They included a voluntary foster parent program for students outside the college community; employment of full-time development planners in order to secure funding for improved curriculum and facilities; additional Native involvement in program planning; follow-up studies of Native students employment of counselors with a greater understanding of all the students and their complete cul-

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Our Girl Most Congenial— Flora Is Alaska's 'Miss Congeniality'



MISS ESKIMO OLYMPICS

"I'll never be the same, I loved it," exclaimed Flora Bergman, Alaska's Miss Congeniality on her return from the Miss Alaska Pageant in Anchorage last

weekend.

"They kept us so busy, I didn't have time to think," reported lovely Miss Eskimo Olympics about her week as one of 20 contestants for the Miss Alaska crown.

The crown went to Linda Joy Smith, 19, Miss Elmendorf, who will represent Alaska in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City this September.

Yet, Flora impressed all who met her - with the colorful native Indian dress she wore for her talent presentation and the exuberant personality which won her the coveted title of Miss Congeniality and a \$250 scholarship award presented by the Mt. McKinley Lions Club of Anchorage.

On her return to Fairbanks en route back to her Native Allakaket, Flora retreated for 14 hours to make up for the rest she lost during the hectic pageant rehearsal, social and pres-

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Tanacross Presents its Reasons Why Village Needs Relocation

By MADELYN SHULMAN
Staff Writer

Tanacross. To get there in winter you take a deep breath, breathe a silent prayer that the village people are right when they say the already rotting river ice is thick enough and plunge your car down from the bank to drive across.

Actually, it is only a bit more than 10 miles from Tok, less than a mile from the Alaska Highway and off into another world.

The village has less than 80 inhabitants this winter. They fill about 18 cabins, crammed in 8 to 10 to many cabins. The water from the wells is contaminated and 5 people have been sent to the hospital with tuberculosis this winter. Children in Tanacross appear almost constantly ill, along with the aged who include most of the village adults.

The people of Tanacross want to move their village—abandon the rotting cabins cut off from land by changes in the Tanana River and live in new houses like the impressive modern cottages the BIA funded in Dot Lake, 40 miles down the highway.

Tanacross is dying. It is dying of poverty, of a tangled land title situation which may exclude its people from any land claims or native allotments,

from contaminated water and hopelessness which drives the young and able away to Fairbanks, Tok and other places.

Oscar Isaac, the village chief, went to school through third

grade in 1931 and wants a better and healthier life for his people.

Oscar is one of the few men in the village with a job. He works for the tiny 9 pupil school

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Beautiful Katherine Itta of Barrow Wins Miss Mt. Edgecumbe Title

By MARILYN FRANK
Mt. Edgecumbe

Founders Day at Mt. Edgecumbe began with the Miss Mt. Edgecumbe Pageant on Friday, February 19.

Miss Katherine Itta from Barrow, Alaska was crowned queen and her talent was a song, "Alaska Earthquake," (she also accompanied herself on the guitar).

Katherine has been very active in school activities since coming to Mt. Edgecumbe as a sophomore last year.

The first runner-up for Miss Mt. Edgecumbe was Clara Wilson a senior from Levelock; second runner-up was Miss Sandra Lynn Edenshaw, a junior from Hydrburg; and the coveted title of Miss Congeniality was won by Miss Roberta Lee Natkong from Hydrburg.

At the ball on Sunday evening, a senior Eugene Asicksick was crowned King.



MISS KATHERINE ITTA

Measure Expected to Be Generous in Land, Cash

An administration land claims bill, which is reported to be the most favorable to the Alaskan Natives ever proposed by the U.S. government is expected to be released before the end of the week by informed sources in Washington D.C.

The Nixon administration bill should provide for a land settlement of 40 million acres and a cash settlement of \$500 million plus mineral royalties which may bring the total cash settlement up to one billion dollars.

During the past weeks Alaska Federation of Natives President Don Wright has been in close contact with the Interior Department legal experts drawing up the land claims bill. Wright seemed highly pleased with the administration position last week.

The AFN will continue to press for a land settlement of 60 million acres in Congress, but is highly encouraged by a favorable government position. At present the AFN bill in Congress has attracted 20 cosponsors in the Senate at 14 in the House of Representatives.

According to Tundra Times sources, the administration bill provides for land and money to be distributed through one central corporation, which may be changed in further House and Senate work.

Meanwhile, reports for the last week have been that the administration announcement of its land claims settlement will be forthcoming very soon.

In Juneau, Alaskan state government officials are awaiting the administration announcement and the U.S. House Interior Committee Hearings on the bill expected to be scheduled soon after.

One major problem for the state government is what will be done about the claims and land rights of native villages located on land which is presently patented or tentatively approved to the state.

"The administration is anxious to make sure state law recognizes traditional rights of occupancy on such lands," said State Attorney General John Havelock when asked what the state proposed for these villages.

At present, at least one village, Mentasta Lake, is involved in a suit against the state pertaining to land rights. Alaska Legal Services which represents the village, will send a representative to Juneau this week to meet with the Attorney General to discuss the problem.

According to the Attorney General, his office has worked on various drafts of legislation and proposals to solve issues

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Alaska's Dean Of Publishers Jessen Dies

Ernest F. Jessen, 80, dean of Alaska newspaper publishers and a widely known pioneer died Friday, March 26. Funeral services for the esteemed newspaperman were held Monday in Fairbanks.

Mr. Jessen came to Alaska in 1905 from Seattle. He arrived at Valdez, a 15 year old youth short of funds and walked and worked his way up the long trail to Fairbanks, arriving as a dog team driver.

After leaving Alaska for Seattle and returning in 1912, Jessen mined in Nome without much success and then tried to develop king crab fishing out of Cordova.

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