

AFN Group Authorizes 250 Subscriptions for Villagers

The Alaska Federation of Natives has authorized 250 subscriptions to the Tundra Times to be left to the discretion of the newspaper staff.

The editor of the Tundra

Times, Howard Rock, said that he would like to ask the villagers everywhere where they would like a subscription to be sent either in the village itself or to some relative in the Lower 48

states. The subscriptions, to be paid for by the AFN, will be entered on the subscription list on the first come, first serve basis. The staff will also draw up a list on its own and check if there would be any duplications.

The 250 additional subscriptions are deemed important as many more native people will be well informed on the native affairs and the upcoming native land claims legislation in the Congress of the United States. Send subscriptions to Tundra Times, Box 1287, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

1st Tanacross Claim

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stein told the villagers that a road would soon be built through the area and the claim was made for their protection.

Judge Goldstein later traveled to Tetlin and drew up their claim, which is now the Tetlin Reservation.

The road was built. Judge Goldstein, and the Native Legal Services, were never heard from again in the Tanacross area.

Other claims, of which four were made between 1950 and 1967, have also been ignored. In the entire 50 year history of the Tanacross Land Claims, no final determination was ever made.

Despite correspondence with the members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Governor Miller, and Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel, no action has yet been taken to expedite a determination on the claim.

In May of 1969, Senator Mike Gravel requested Bert Silcock, Alaska Director of the Bureau of Land Management to meet with the Tanacross natives.

Chief Isaac and Tanacross Council members say that they have not been informed by Silcock of his willingness to attend any meeting.

The Tanacross land issue was further complicated recently when the state notified Abraham Luke of Dot Lake that it would place a lien on his native allotment, foreclose, and sell it. The state said it was justified in this action due to non-payment of back taxes.

A 70 year old federal law, allowing for granting of native allotments, states that allotments are held in trust by the federal government and are non-taxable.

Luke sought legal recourse through the Fairbanks BIA Realty Office. Final determination is still pending.

National publicity on the Tanacross claim came Sunday when the news team of Mike Wallace and Paul Lowenwater filmed a story from the village. The television commentators, from the Columbia Broadcasting System, were alerted to the issue from a story in the Tundra Times.

One of the questions asked by the CBS team was in regard to use of the land if the Indians were to gain title.

To this, Chief Isaac replied, "Everybody still uses the land. They used it long before the White people came to Alaska."

He said, "This road (the Alaska Highway) went right through our hunting and fishing places. After they did that, people came and placed up signs: 'No Trespassing, Private Property.'"

"How are we going to feed ourselves?"

Chief Isaac stated, "I have got an idea of what the Indian is going to use the land for. If the state took the land, what would they do with it? They can sell it, rent it, lease it, and make money from it."

"We will lease it, rent it, sell it, and make money from it. Why can't the native people make money off their own land?"

World's Tallest Totem Pole . . .

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undertaking was not completed.

The project was dead or seemingly so, for more than a year. Then, early this year, the Sixth Alaska State Legislature authorized and funded Alaska's participation in Expo '70, Asia's first World's Fair which will be held in Osaka, Japan next year.

Upon hearing this news, officials from Kake contacted the Alaska Department of Economic Development and presented their dream to Commissioner Frank H. Murkowski.

Once again, though, the problem was money. The determined villagers were not to be denied, however, and managed to raise the necessary funds among themselves.

Once that was solved, another problem appeared. Totem carving is rapidly becoming a lost art and several carvers would be needed to insure that the early deadline for Expo could be met.

The solution came in the form of Alaska Indian Arts Incorporated, of Port Chilkoot, Alaska. This non-profit corporation had worked for years to revitalize the Indian heritage of the region through such activities as the world famous Chilkoot Dancers, and totem carving.

The organization had not only the capability but the desire to undertake the task and was prepared to put a half dozen carvers to work immediately.

It was at this point that, hopefully, the final problem occurred. After inspecting the aforementioned spruce, Carl Heinmiller, Director of Alaska Indian Arts, felt that it was too big,

weighing over thirty tons.

He also felt that spruce wood did not lend itself to carving and that cedar would be much preferred.

Commissioner Murkowski then contacted members of industry and solicited their aid. First to respond was Ketchikan Pulp Company in the form of Vice-President Art Brooks. Brook's crews spent weeks searching for a suitable tree.

Finally, a slender Alaskan Red Cedar measuring more than 130 feet was located. The tree was cut and gently lowered by block and tackle, placed aboard a barge and then towed several hundred miles by the Halverson Towing Company of Ketchikan, for delivery to Port Chilkoot.

The finished product will be transported to Japan on a lumber ship provided by Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company of Sitka.

Carving on the totem is now in progress. The designs which will be incorporated are all authentic figures from Tlingit lore, many of which are now seldom seen.

When completed, the totem will measure 132 feet, which, according to authorities on art, will make it the longest single piece of sculpture in the world.

First stop for the big totem will, of course, be Osaka where it will form an integral part of Alaska's exhibit at Expo '70.

Its final resting place will be Kake where it will serve as a center for what villagers hope will be a major tourist attraction for the industrious little community of about 500.

Atlantic Richfield Hires Well Known Man as Chief Ecologist

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—Angus Gavin, senior vice president of Ducks Unlimited (Canada), Winnipeg, has joined Atlantic Richfield Company as chief ecologist for the company in Alaska, it was announced here Wednesday.

Gavin, regarded as one of the foremost ecological naturalists in North America, served from 1928 to 1945 with the Arctic Division of the Hudson's Bay Company during which time he discovered the nesting grounds of the Ross' Geese and the Tule Geese, in the Perry River district of the Northwest Territories of Canada.

During his long sojourn with the Eskimos, Gavin developed and perfected the first workable Eskimo dictionary, used today by men of Hudson's Bay Company and others working in the far north.

Gavin joined Ducks Unlimited (Canada) in 1945. He was named provincial manager for the major conservation group in Saskatchewan in 1947, general manager in 1951, and senior vice president in 1968. During his career with Ducks Unlimited most of the group's 900 important waterfowl habitat projects across Canada became a reality.

In announcing the appointment, Joseph H. FitzGerald, said, "not where there is a large population."

The HEW proposal included funds for Alaska this fiscal year, Gravel said, but in future years the funds would erode to insignificance.



ANGUS GAVIN

Alaskan manager of Community Affairs for Atlantic Richfield said:

"Our company is pleased and honored to have as a key member of its Alaskan staff a man of the stature of Angus Gavin with his tremendous depth of knowledge of the Arctic regions, its people, wildlife and other natural surroundings. In his new post he will review and study the total ecology of the Alaskan areas in which the company is operating and establish practices to be followed which will insure maximum conservation of the land and all natural features."

A native of Ellon, Scotland, the 61-year-old Gavin was educated at Gordons and Kanes Colleges in Aberdeen, Scotland, and immigrated to Canada after receiving his degree at Kanes.

He and his wife, the former Phyllis Avery, have one son, William Angus Gavin, who also lives in Winnipeg with his wife and small daughter.

Juneau Man . . .

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are derelict" phrase may apply to several of us imperfect mortals. Should it have been tossed deliberately at a man who is doing a creditable job for our state? Maybe things appear to be moving slowly but appearances may be deceptive. Perhaps you can suggest to Keith Miller a way to get top-flight personnel on appointive jobs which will last a bit more than a year in the Juneau climate.

Could it be that because our governor was an army man and you were in another service, that there is a lingering interservice grudge? Interservice grudges went out of style in WWII.

I consider you as one of Alaska's outstanding men but I don't think you should rely too much on the popularity polls. I hope your letter to Gov. Miller doesn't backfire and become the "kiss of death" for you politically because we need friendly, dynamic men like you and Keith Miller to help lead Alaska without looking down on or talking down on any Alaskan.

It is hoped that you will be charitable enough to encourage Miller in the many constructive things he had done in the interest of conservation of natural resources, and creation of industry in Alaska and his interest in Education and native problems—and I hope that you will give him credit for his keen interest in our most vital human resources and for his forthright and courageous stand against drug abuse and his efforts for the improvement of the above mentioned human resources.

Have you spoken out strongly on drug abuse?

Sincerely,
John Cherry Briggs
Alaskan homesteader

TB Prevention

U. S. Senator Mike Gravel has joined in the sponsorship of a bill which provides a comprehensive new federal program for care, prevention and research in tuberculosis and related communicable diseases.

The bill, introduced by Senator Ralph W. Yarborough (D-Texas), would make grants available on a project by project basis rather than the block grant system proposed by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

"This bill is a meaningful response to the unsatisfactory policy adopted by HEW which is at best a short-range program," Gravel said.

"Our legislation puts the money where the problem is," he

Plant Maintenance Men

Graduation was held on June 27, for twenty-one Native maintenance personnel attending the seventh annual Plant Management Maintenance School held at Mt. Edgecumbe.

The men completing the month long course were from villages all over Alaska and the ones primarily responsible for the day-to-day operation and upkeep of the utility systems of the BIA schools there.

The course was on HEATING SYSTEMS and included oil burner servicing and adjustments, operational theory and troubleshooting of heating controls, firebox repair, combustion testing, and all phases of preventative maintenance servicing of furnaces and boilers.

A certificate of achievement was presented to each graduate along with technical books, and a complete set of tools to perform the work for which he had

OK's Weinberg

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on Alaska native land matters before leaving the Interior Department last January.

The Justice Department ruling at this time has been received quietly in Alaska.

"I am deeply gratified at today's ruling," Weinberg told the press from Washington, D.C. "The decision is consistent with our informal advice from the Justice Department as well as with my own impressions of the matter."

AFN President Emil Notti concurred with the ruling in the following manner:

"I am certain that Mr. Weinberg's participation will expedite a just resolution of our claims. Mr. Weinberg brings years of experience in the public service as well as a deep feeling for the rights of our people to this cause."

"We were delighted when he was first brought into the case by Justice Goldberg and we are delighted now that he will be able to stay with us."

received training.

The following men attended: Caleb Adams of Kivalina, Walter Anagick of Unalakleet, Kenneth Ashby of Noatak, Roger Atoruk of Kiana, Zaccheus Barr of Shishmaref, Paul Evan of Lower Kalskag, Carl Flynn of Tununak, Evon Fox of Kipnuk, Fred Greene of Nome, Frank Kameron of Emmonak,

Ted Hunter of Hooper Bay, Tim Kaganak of Scammon Bay, Eugene Monroe of Kotzebue, Tom Olitkun of Kotlik, Jack Paniyak of Chevak, Clarence Saccheus of Elim, Joe Smith of Alakanuk, Christian Tritt of Arctic Village, Samson Weston of Mekoryuk, Nathan Williams of Mt. Edgecumbe, Gerasim Pestrikoff of Mt. Edgecumbe.

Speakers at the graduation ceremony were James Griffin and Irving Carr of the Mt. Edgecumbe School staff, Don Anderson of BIA Juneau Area Office and Bill Woosley and John Mathews of the Plant Management Service Center in Anchorage.

The latter persons developed the course and will be following up this training session with an on-the-job-training visit to each Village this summer.

BIA sources claim that these training investments have been found to pay good dividends in reducing maintenance costs at their village schools.

T-H Funds . . .

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The program planning committee of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians proposed plans for the use of the judgement funds in November, 1969. The plans were approved by the Executive committee, were reviewed, and supplemented during a meeting of the Central Council.

"I believe the conditions subject to release have been met and see no reason for these funds to be withheld from the Tlingit and Haida people any longer," Senator Stevens said.