



TAKE OUR LAND...TAKE OUR LIFE

MARTHA CAMILLE—This is the poster the Alaska Federation of Natives utilized to help win the fight for the settlement of the Alaska Native land claims. Tim Kennedy took the picture but didn't know who the Eskimo woman was until a long time later. AFN is selling the poster and the sales are doing well, and Martha will receive a royalty which may amount to \$2,000.

—Photo by TIM KENNEDY

Martha Helps Natives Win Claims

By LAEL MORGAN

Martha Camille helped Alaska Natives win their land claims settlement but for a long time no one could discover her name.

"She was a mystery woman," recalls Tim Kennedy who took the photo of her used on the land claims poster. "She was on a bush plane with me but even the Wien station man who loaded her, didn't know who she was."

Kennedy supervises the SKY-RIVER program run by the Community Enterprise Development Corp. to establish direct communications between rural

Alaska and the government.

He photographed Mrs. Camille because he liked her face but didn't remember to ask her name until after she'd disappeared. When the picture was chosen for the cover of a book on land claims published by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Kennedy started tracking.

It wasn't easy.

"She was in Bethel all the time we were filming there but didn't see her. I circulated her picture for months. Finally someone in Bethel identified it."

She lives in Sheldon Point. Her Eskimo name is Aagwaq.

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Martha Helps . .

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(pronounced Nangwak) which means some kind of toy. She may be 80 years old. Or she may not be, quite.

The Tundra Times hasn't had a chance to interview her on how she feels about her role in promoting the land-claims, but we know she'll be rewarded for her work.

Because Kennedy photographed her in a public place, and, also he believes, because she is classified as a primitive, there is no provision under law that requires she be given any gains from the sale of the poster.

Kennedy has seen to it, however, that Mrs. Camille will receive a royalty and, if the poster sells well (and it is at the moment), that it could earn her a couple of thousand dollars.

The Rural Community Action Program, working with CEDC, is having a large run of posters printed for distribution throughout the United States and Canada.

They haven't set the price yet—somewhere between \$2 and \$4. If you're interested and want to write to them, they should have it all ironed out by the time your letter arrives (Drawer 412 ECB, Anchorage 99501).

It's a matter of life and land... and a pleasant surprise, we hope, for "Aagwaq".