

# Oil Exploration

Raymond C. Christiansen, president of the Calista Corporation, a Native Alaskan Regional Corporation, announced that Calista has entered into a preliminary exploration agreement with Shell Oil Company.

Shell is an international petroleum company based in Houston, Tex. Calista is a corporation formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

The multi-year agreement provides for Shell to conduct geological and geophysical surveys on the approximately 18 million acres of land, located within Calista's corporate boundaries, which were withdrawn under the Native Claims Act.

The land is generally located in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Basins, adjacent to the Bering Sea.

Mr. Christiansen stated that Shell's survey data will be used in assisting Calista with its selection of approximately six million acres, to which Calista shareholders are entitled under the Native Claims Act.

After Calista makes its final selection of acreage, in December, 1975, Shell is to continue with its exploration program in further evaluating and developing the hydrocarbon potential of the area.

Mr. Christiansen views the agreement with Shell as an opportunity for Alaskan Natives in the Bethel-based Calista region to participate in the economic growth of Alaska's oil industry.

The employment of Calista Region Alaskans will be utilized in carrying out the exploration program. Other terms of the agreement were not announced.

## Doyon . .

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case, allowing the State Supreme Court to review a lower court stand against Hootch in this class action suit.

Doyon's board of directors, advised during a weekend meeting of the status of the case, agreed to support the plaintiffs — including Molly Hootch of Emmonak and a number of other young people from her village who went to court to demand secondary education at home.

William Timme, general counsel for Doyon, Limited, was given tentative approval to act as Alaska counsel in the appeal, with the American Association of Indians in New York expected to write the Amicus (friend of the court) brief.

The Native American Rights Fund, headquartered in Boulder, Colo., is expected to participate in the amicus action on behalf of the North Slope Borough.

Alaska Legal Services filed a lengthy brief back in 1972 on behalf of Molly Hootch and others angered because they had to leave home and travel 500 to over 2,000 miles to attend high school.

Her father, James Hootch, brought the action on behalf of his 16-year-old daughter and parents of other Emmonak, Kwigillingok and Kongiganak students joined in.

The decision will affect all Native children in bush Alaska.

They charged that the state was denying their constitutional rights to education and that various state officials and agencies named (including State Operated Schools) were guilty of racial and geographic discrimination.

"This is a civil action brought by Alaska Native school-aged children to secure their right to an education in the form of secondary education in their community of residence and to redress a willful and continuous pattern and practice of racial discrimination against Alaska Natives in violation of the constitutions and laws of the United States and Alaska," the suit said in part.

Singleton ruled in favor of the state on the first count, that of denial of constitutional rights. Counts two and three are still awaiting decision before the Superior Court, but meanwhile he issued on Jan. 11 a partial summary judgment affecting the first count.

Summary judgments are issued by a court when there is no question of facts involved and where the judge must simply decide what law applies and how to apply it.

In counts two and three of the Hootch case, the attorneys for the students of the three have to show proof in court of racial and geographic discrimination.

## Reindeer Industry Under Study

Operating under a special legislative appropriation, the Division of Economic Enterprise is working with other government agencies and western Native regional corporations to reverse the downward economic trend in Alaska's reindeer industry.

Under a program worked out late last year, a bill will be introduced in the 1974 legislative session to create a "Reindeer Policy Board" to replace the moribund Reindeer Herders Association and provide centralized direction for further assistance efforts.

The board would consist of representatives from the six regional Native corporations concerned. By legislative directive, Economic Enterprise is the lead agency in the effort to improve the reindeer husbandry and marketing situation.

### DOYON SETS MEET

The board of directors of Doyon, Limited has set March 16 at Fairbanks for the first annual meeting of the regional Native corporation of the Interior.

The date was approved during the weekend board meeting at Fairbanks, in which a number of details relating to the annual meeting were discussed.

## Franklin Harris Honored in Memoriam

By MARILYN RICHARDS

The new Friends Church in Fairbanks was dedicated to Franklin Harris of Kotzebue in a memorial service Jan. 16. Harris, a newly-ordained Friends minister, was killed in a hunting accident early last fall. Sarah, his wife, was in town for the services. Two small children also survive.

Over 180 persons from the villages of Kotzebue, Shungnak, Kiana, Selawik, Noorvik, Kivalina and Noatak also attended the dedication said Rev. Sam Williams, formerly of Kotzebue and head of the church here.

## Privileges . .

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hunters to fly into the region to take the moose and caribou in far greater numbers than has ever been reported.

It is widely held that a few "bandits" are projecting a very bad image for the rest of the big game guides.

"The Office of Public Safety is now accountable for proper game management and protection, and with only 40 officers for the entire state, it is near impossible to catch violators, much less get convictions," noted one guide from the Alaskan Peninsula.

In the past few months, other areas such as Galena, have been experiencing similar problems.

"The State Fish and Game Board will be meeting in late March and RURAL CAP will present positions and/or proposed regulation changes that we hope will be favorably received, stated Harper.

"Something is grossly wrong," he continued, "when low income or near marginal poor people in rural areas are deprived of their meat supply by metropolitan fly-in hunters who certainly don't have the need of those village people.

"The area limitation for guides, as currently proposed in the legislature, would go a long way toward curbing those few 'bandit' guides who start their business in the Brooks Range, then move over to the Wrangell Mountains, and finally wind up the season in the Alaska Peninsula.

"As the advocate for low income rural people, we will be seeing to it that certain measures are either adopted or laws already on the books are more stringently adhered to," concluded the CAP director.

# Indian Fuel Shortage—

## There are No Major Crises: BIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (AIPA) — "There are no major fuel crises facing the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the Indian people, and none are anticipated unless the fuel shortage becomes more critical or the winter becomes more severe," said Edward Nelson, engineering advisor to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

At all levels, the BIA has set up a system for coping with the emergency problems that might arise during this winter and is working closely with the Federal Energy Office on the matter of fuel allocations, said Nelson.

However, very little has yet been done on analyzing the secondary and long range consequences of the energy crisis.

What will happen to Indian farmers and ranchers who may be driven out of business because of the tremendous increase in the cost of fuel?

According to Nelson, Billings Area Director James Canan and Aberdeen Area Director Wyman Babby, the major problems faced by the BIA and Indian tribes are related not to the availability of fuel but its cost.

The BIA presently is receiving an allocation of 80 per cent of their fuel consumption in 1972,

but Nelson said the BIA was "able to live with" that amount at this time.

The increased cost of fuel for the BIA will be taken care of in the upcoming fiscal year budget, according to Nelson.

In the BIA areas, the increased cost of heating fuel particularly to Indians receiving welfare or general assistance is being handled by working with state governments to raise welfare payments and general assistance payments.

The many Alaska Native villages are having problems with the availability of fuel, but the problem there is more a matter of transporting the fuel rather than a fuel shortage. The BIA's Juneau Area has a two-year stockpile of fuel for emergency situations, said Nelson.

## Recruitment . .

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selling of Alaska Natives.

"Continuously during pipeline construction, Permittee shall conduct a pre-employment and on-the-job training program for Alaska Natives, adequate to qualify them for initial employment and for advancement to higher paying positions thereafter.

"Permittee shall do everything within its power to secure the employment of those Alaska Natives who successfully complete Permittee's training program."

Alyeska proposed that 3,500 Natives would be accepted for training and/or employment purposes, with a minimum of 2,470 bodies to fill those slots.

AFN did not approve this method; instead 1,000 will be hired and/or trained the first year, with succeeding years to be renegotiated.

# Rights Commission . .

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grounds this discriminates against Native peoples.

Johnson said he was quite aware that the problem existed but questioned Vaudrin's solution of job paring; also known as cluster hiring. Under such a plan two or more people might be hired to take turns on a year-long job, allowing each to work only several months.

Job-paring would improve morale and get the job done, argues Vaudrin.

"You're not necessarily doing a favor by offering a \$20,000 a year job to one man." In some villages, it might create a lot of problems if one man came home very rich and the rest had none, "but if four guys get \$5,000 apiece, they have a lot more in common," he said.

Johnson contends that while his union has a positive plan it is just about impossible in some seasons to keep people from walking off the job.

"Trouble is, the work is in the summer and fall and if you think men won't walk off the job to fish and hunt, you are wrong. They will and they do," he said.

"We do have a positive plan," Johnson said. "We are going to train them. We are committed and we're going to do it. We want to work with the Native corporations. It's just common sense."

Johnson argues that working relationships between the unions and the Native population have been good, but stuck to his argument that the Human Rights Commission did not have jurisdiction.

"All we want is one boss, one set of rules and one direction," he said, at the same time contending that international unions

do not fall within jurisdiction of the law forcing unions to meet parity with the population.

If the Teamsters local resents pressure from the Human Rights Commission, it has no beef with the issue of Alaska hire.

A day before the Fairbanks meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Jesse Carr of Teamsters Local 959 in Anchorage came out strongly in favor of local hire before the addition of any non-Alaskans.

The Teamsters use four lists in determining who goes on the job first; the "A" list for Teamsters with 400 hours or more construction work to their credit in Alaska the previous year; the "B" list for less than 400 hours Alaska work experience as Teamsters in Alaska; the "C" list for those with Alaskan work experience not as Teamsters and the "D" list for all those (including Teamsters) who have not worked previously in Alaska.

"What we can't qualify, we'll train, but we will train Alaskans first," Johnson told the commission.

The commission, meanwhile, wants more than Alaskan hire — it wants minority Alaskan hire in line with the percentage of minorities in Alaska.

"They (the unions) are used to dealing with the Human Rights Commission as a social service agency," said Vaudrin.

"We are asserting ourselves as a law enforcement agency rather than a social service agency."

"Our motto for this year is 'law and order in civil rights,'" he said. "We have requested information from the Teamsters and if they refuse we have to go on what we have," he said.

## Alaskan Of the Year

The Alaskan of the Year Committee announced the five nominees for the eighth annual Alaskan of the Year Award. Nominees are: Mary Hale, Mukluk Marston, Howard Rock, Sen. Ted Stevens and Dr. William Wood, according to Bob Arnold, chairman of the committee.

Final ballots will be submitted to the electorate later this month and returned to the firm of Johnson and Maagan for tabulation. The winner will be announced, by that firm, on the banquet, March 29, 1974 at the Anchorage Westward Hotel Ballroom.

Previous recipients of the Alaskan of the Year Award have been Bob Atwood, 1967; Sen. E.L. "Bob" Bartlett, 1968; Walter J. Hickel, 1969; Gen. William Egan, 1970; Ernest Gruening, 1971; Robert Reeve, 1972 and Nick Begich 1973.

The purpose of the award is to honor those living Alaskans who have made outstanding contributions to any aspect of Alaskan life—people who have significantly affected the character and growth of Alaska.

The nominating process in which all newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations and 40 Alaskans representing 25 communities participate, resulted in the nomination of 36 distinguished Alaskans.

## Indian Center . .

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to be of service to the Native population of the area by supplying information concerning them.

Of prime concern to the Native community at this time is the Land Claims Settlement and the numerous questions that have arisen regarding enrollment, per capita payments, custodianship and the preparation of wills and other documents.

Persons with concerns regarding these issues are urged to express them at the center.

Plans for the future include gathering stories and songs from the older people, encouraging Native Arts and Crafts and their distribution and special projects for the youth.

The center plans to coordinate services for the elderly and to promote gatherings, boat pools for camping for our youth, gathering material for our craftsmen and food gathering trips.