

# Wallis Corporate President--

## Heads Regional Organization, Stays Head of FNA

After two days of discussion, delegates to the Tanana Chiefs Conference which convened in Fairbanks on Sunday voted to accept the articles of incorporation which transformed the group into a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Alaska.

As one of their first acts of business, the interim board of directors of Dena' Nena' Henash held an election and voted in a new slate of officers.

Tim Wallis, president of DNH Development Corporation—the economic arm of the Tanana

Chiefs—became president of the new corporation after a four way election. Wallis will lead the Tanana Chiefs until March when the new constitution provides that an election must be held.

Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors for two year terms, but are subject to removal by a majority of the Board at any time.

The Corporation board comprises one representative from each village in the corporation—all villages in the Tanana Chiefs Region as defined under the land claims settlement.

For two days, Tanana Chiefs delegates, hastily convened for the three or four day meeting, wrangled over the articles of incorporation and the bylaws. They were accepted with the proviso that they are subject to change by the Board of Directors.

On Sunday, the first day of the Conference, delegates from 36 villages decided to reject the actions of the October 1971 meeting which had approved the articles of incorporation.

At that time the meeting de-

(Continued on Page 6)

# Tim Wallis President...

(Continued from page 1)

cided to hold elections, recognizing that their actions must be ratified or repeated by the first meeting of the official board of directors of the new corporate body.

The board at that time elected a new slate of officers. Al Ketzler, the president of the former "traditional" Tanana Chiefs was re-elected president, Horace Biederman of Eagle Vice President, Ruby John, Secretary and Adam John treasurer.

When a motion to the board of directors to accept those previous elections failed for lack of a second, elections were opened.

"This is the first elected office I've run for," proclaimed Melvin Charlie of Minto in his 'campaign speech.' He polled 14 out of the 36 votes cast on the first ballot. 18 went to eventual victor Tim Wallis, 3 to incumbent Al Ketzler and one to Alfred Grant.

A second ballot—to insure a clear majority, was taken after discussion at the urging of "elections judge" John Sackett who pointed out that since the president is subject to removal by majority rule he should at least have a clear majority at his election.

Al Ketzler, who seemed to

vacillate between running and deciding not to run, asked the board to consider the affect of a change of officers at this time, with only two months waiting till the constitutionally required election in March.

He was joined in this belief by Mitchell Deimientieff of Nenana and Fred Stickman Sr. of Nulato who along with some others questioned the usefulness of an immediate action.

Tim Wallis, who by his election gave up his seat as Fairbanks Native Association's member of the Tanana Chiefs board of directors remains as president of the Fairbanks Native Association and president of DNH Development Corporation.

Under its articles of incorporation, Tanana Chiefs Corporation became a nonprofit corporation composed of member native villages in the Tanana Chiefs region. Although the move facilitates operation of the body, it is not the body which will manage land claims and money and lands—though it will hold the stock of the corporation which does.

Besides its stated aims of promoting the common welfare of the native people of the region the Tanana Chiefs Conference Board of Directors will hold voting power for the stockholders of the economic development arm of the DNH.

The terms Tanana Chiefs Conference and Dena Hena Henash are based almost interchangeably in the articles of incorporation.

The Conference will also be the repository for a number of federal, state and private grants in the areas of health, housing, community development, planning, communication, etc. which the region has obtained and/or intends to obtain.

The Tanana Chiefs election puts Tim Wallis into three of the most influential positions in interior Alaska native organizations.

He is now head of the regional organization—in both its corporate forms, and president of the Fairbanks Native Association, the interior's close knit urban native association.

The FNA has already built up its base through the Model Urban Indian Center (Fairbanks Native Community Center) it operates. According to the staff of the center, it is the most ambitious of the four model Indian Center programs funded last year across the United States.