

# BSNC changes to be topic of meeting

BY MARGIE BAUMAN

Future leadership of Bering Straits Native Corp. and the financial direction of the firm will be decided at a reorganization meeting in Nome April 23.

"There might be some changes at that time," said Jerome Trigg Sr., president and chairman of the Board of the troubled firm.

Trigg said that a part of the recent lawsuit filed by stockholder Suzanne Wassman, who was elected to the board April 3, asked for the removal from the staff of himself and Tom

Drake, executive vice-president.

Trigg noted that resolutions at the annual meeting April 2-3, asking for the termination of employment for the two top executives, were not adopted by stockholders.

half of herself and her four children March 25. Named as defendants in the suit were Trigg, Drake, and State Rep. Al Nakak, who did not seek reelection.

Mrs. Wassman has declined to comment on her suit, saying the matter was now "before courts." "The reason the case was filed in Nome was because

it belongs there," she said. "I don't feel it's my right to give any information."

BSNC leaders have asked her to drop the suit, but there are no indications at this time that she's considering that proposal.

Trigg, a long-time Native leader was active in the land claims movement in the 1960's.

When BSNC was organized in 1972, he was named president. A year and a half ago, he became a paid, full-time president.

Trigg said the annual meeting had been a rather hot and heavy session, stretching into an unusual two days, "but by the time the meeting was over, there was a lot better understanding by the stockholders," he said.

Vern Olson, chairman of the board of the subsidiary Bering

Straits Investment Company, at Anchorage, said that it would be several weeks, in any event, before any reorganization began.

"We haven't made any new investments for the last 14 months," he noted. In that period one subsidiary, Life Systems, was closed down, while another, Alaska Truck Transport, was sold. Mobat Alaska, a tire and retraining firm at Fairbanks, is now being studied to determine its future status with BSNC, as is the Fairbanks structure originally slated to be the Fairbanks Plaza Hotel.

"The hotel structure is still in limbo," Trigg said. "There are 13 options on it and the best one at this time appears to be for an office building," he said.

One suggestion the board probably will act on is to move

the Anchorage Office, Trigg said. The accounting staff would on board direction move from its present offices overlooking Cook Inlet in Anchorage to the offices of Anchorage Trailer Sales, another BSNC subsidiary.

Trigg said it was also expected that the executive vice-president's office would be moved to Nome. Drake has been working mainly through BSNC's Anchorage office.