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Tundra Times

Alaska's Oldest Statewide Newspaper



Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage — Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks — Unanguq Tunuktaug The Aleuts Speak — Ut Kah neek Informing and Reporting — Yupit Kanlautciat The Way Eskimos Talk

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'Spirit of the Wind' premieres

The premiere of "Spirit of the Wind" was held last week in Fairbanks and Anchorage. The feature length film is based on the life of dog sled champion George Attla. Actors starring in the film include Chief Dan George, famed Canadian actor, Pius Savage of Holy Cross (in photograph above), William Ambrose of Nulato, and George Clutesie, well-known Canadian actor. Raven Pictures and Doyon Limited produced the film. A portrait of George Attla, by Yupik artist Moses Wassilie, is on display in the Commodore Room of the Anchorage Westward Hilton this week, and will be auctioned Saturday evening at the Tundra Times Banquet in the Howard Rock Ballroom of the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel on Calista Square.

Photograph by Rebecca Rainey

Part one of series —

FAA charged with history of anti-Native bias

By MARTHA UPICKSOUN
Staff Writer

The federal government is the largest employer in the state of Alaska. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a division of the Department of Transportation, employs 1600 Alaskans in rural and urban sites.

Although roughly 20 out of 100 Alaska residents are Alaska Natives (Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts), only 80-90 Alaska Natives are part of the FAA's 1600

full-time, employee roster. This means that, while Natives comprise 20 percent of the state's population, only 5 percent of the FAA's staff are Alaska Natives. Furthermore, three-quarters of this 5 percent figure are employed in clerical and low-wage positions.

It comes as no surprise that two ancestors to Alaska's first inhabitants, an Aleut named Frank Pagano, and a Tlingit Indi-

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Native Lawyers —

McNeil, Kavasharov pass Bar

By Patrick Anderson

Two Alaska Natives were identified as being among the seventy law school graduates who passed the July 1979 Alaska Bar Examination. A total of 101 hopefuls took the exam, which

must be successfully passed in order to practice law in Alaska.

Sarah Kavasharov, an Aleut who is currently working for the office of the Attorney General in Juneau, responded to the good news with a big "Hurray."

Kostivizov Memorandum cited —

Native tribe continuing land case with Russian lawyer

A Czarist Russian document on land ownership in Alaska, kept secret from Alaska Natives and the American public for more than 100 years, was known to U. S. Government officials, according to an Aleut tribal leader.

Larry Mercurieff, President of the Tanadgusix Corporation and Chairman of the Board of The Aleut Corporation, told the Tundra Times this week that Aleut Tribe of the Pribilofs is continuing to pursue a property claim based on unconditional property rights which the tribe believes were not extinguished by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA).

Earlier this month, the Tundra Times obtained and published a copy of the "Kostivizov Memorandum" in which the Imperial Russian Government told the United States in 1867 that the Czarist Government did not exercise dominion over most of the territory of Alaska, and further confirm-

ed the Russians did not interfere or dictate internal property divisions among Aleuts and other Natives under Russian jurisdiction.

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Asks village beacons —

Wien Twin Otters back to Bethel bush



Wien Air Alaska Twin Otter being met by Native villagers

Wien Air Alaska has announced that a number of De-Havilland Twin Otter airplanes have been returned to service on bush routes serving villages in the Bethel area.

"These aircraft will be supplementing the service of Wien subcontractor Bush Air, in a continuing effort by Wien Air Alaska to improve passenger, mail and freight service to the outlying communities," Wien spokesman Jerry S. Riggan announced this week.

Wien also released a copy of a letter from company president and board chairman James J. Flood to U.S. Senator Ted Stevens in which Flood requested federal and state action to install navigational aids at village airports.

Wien's Twin Otter service on bush routes serving rural villages was suspended in 1976. A number of navigational beacons, which assisted pilots in locating village airstrips, were shut down about the same time. Another carrier serving many villages in the Bethel area, SeaAir-motive, has continued to operate the popular Twim Otter aircraft. Wien also announced last month that it is considering alternatives for replacing bush service currently provided by subcontractor Munz Northern Airlines in the Kotzebue and Nome areas. The contractual arrangement expires in December of this year, and has been the subject of controversial public debate between the two carriers. Munz has claimed that payment from Wien under the contract has been insufficient to pay for the cost of village service, while Wien has argued that the Nome-based carrier has been adequately compensated but has not provided adequate service due to internal management problems.

In a letter sent to Senator Stevens, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and Governor Jay Hammond in late September, Flood wrote, "If simple beacons were installed at village airstrips, we could make more landings in poor weather ... Overall transportation costs can be reduced. These savings will be reflected in the passenger

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AFN meets, banquet set

In keeping with UNICEF's theme, "The Year of the Child", the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) 13th Annual Convention, which will be held November 103 at the Westward Hilton in Anchorage, will focus on the theme "Action Today for our Children Tomorrow."

The three-day event will culminate on November 3 with the 14th Annual Tundra Times Banquet. The banquet serves as a fund-raising event for the country's oldest Native American newspaper and begins at 8 p.m. The site is the Sheraton Hotel.

The Master of Ceremonies is Alfred Grant, who hails from Tanana. The keynote speaker is Frank Degnan, old-time Native leader and politician who was instrumental in the passage of the Native land claims settlement.

A May 1979 graduate of the law school at Boalt Hall, part of the University of California at Berkeley, Sarah plans to remain with the Attorney General's office for a while.

Part of her motivation for at-
(See LAWYERS, Page Five)