



WHY HENSLEY'S RESIGNATION



JUST A TRIAL RUN — Visiting students from the village of Allakaket surround Carol Drake of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (center) as they try to see how many can fit on a snowmobile and sled at Compeau's store in Fairbanks.

Photo by MARGIE BAUMAN

Allakaket Bilingual Students

By MARGIE BAUMAN

Nine bilingual students from Allakaket who wanted to get involved in the land claims movement are getting a big start ... thanks to the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

They spent the week of November 5 in Fairbanks, visiting the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Doyon, Limited, meeting all the people who work for their village on the regional level, and getting some novel side trips as well.

It all started out back in August, when James Huntington of Galena wrote an open letter to all Alaskan villages in the Tundra Times, urging Native

people, especially young people to get involved.

"Get involved and make yourself proud to be an Indian of Alaska ...," Huntington wrote. "We need at least 500 young men and women to help us administrate the affairs of our people throughout Alaska, so stop now and look at yourself. Do you really want to help your people or are you so full of bull that you can't see straight?" Huntington challenged.

He urged young people to immediately get involved and the answer, from the bilingual class at Allakaket was a positive one.

Thirteen students studying

(Continued on Page 6)

Unique Alaska Native Pre-History

By LAEL MORGAN

There's a joke in the African bush country that goes, "Send more anthropologists. The last one was delicious!"

Alaskans don't go quite that far but the annual spring migration of anthropologists to dig up one's ancestors is not always received joyfully.

It must be conceded, however, that it was the digging of anthropologists that helped substantiate native land claims. And, currently, scientists are piecing together a fascinating pre-history of Alaskan natives. The only problem is the results of their

labors reads more like a mystery than a history.

"There hasn't been enough archaeology done up here," explains Dr. John P. Cook, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska. "Material is scarce."

Strangely enough, archaeology is generally carried on in more settled areas, he went on to explain. Alaska's wide open spaces have not attracted many scientists and those who have come find the season limited and the going rough.

The oldest skeleton material

(Continued on page 6)

BLM Initiates ANCSA ALERT

The Bureau of Land Management begins a new series this month with the initiation of the ANCSA ALERT, an informational system to keep Alaska Natives informed of important events and decisions regarding the Native Land Claims Settlement.

The new service began Nov. 12 with a reminder that the filing date for Natives claiming their primary place of residence is Dec. 18 of this year.

ANCSA ALERTS will be sent to all Native organizations as well as to media around the state and to postmasters for posting as a public notice.

AFN, Inc.'s Arrears Largely Paid Off During His Presidency

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

ANCHORAGE — During an interview with the Tundra Times on Monday, Alaska Federation of Natives president Willie Hensley discussed his reasons for resigning the presidency of the statewide organization and his hopes for the future of the Native federation.

Hensley, an Alaska State Senator from Kotzebue, said he accepted the presidency over one year ago because of his concern about the financial condition of the AFN and because he recognized the need

for a continued statewide voice for Native People.

At the beginning of his administration, the AFN was faced with a number of problems, including a debt of over 700 thousand dollars and the withdrawal of two regional Native organizations from the federation.

The financial burden of the AFN has been largely relieved during the past year.

"We have paid over 600 thousand dollars and our current financial obligations now stand at less than 100 thousand. I don't have much doubt that we can get a decent budget for the coming year from each of the ten, if not more, participating regions," Hensley noted.

In spite of great limitations, the AFN has been able to continue lobbying its position effectively in such priority areas as federal regulations guiding the implementation of the Native claims settlement and advance payments to regional corporations from the federal treasury.

Limitations to the effectiveness of the AFN operation,

(Continued on Page 6)

Support for Morris—

Alaska Delegation, Morton Join

WASHINGTON — Alaska's congressional delegation proved among Morris Thompson's strongest supporters November 14 in U. S. Senate confirmation hearings for Thompson as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Delegation members reaffirmed support for Thompson this week after some question arose during hearings about his ability to show fairness to non-resident Alaska Natives.

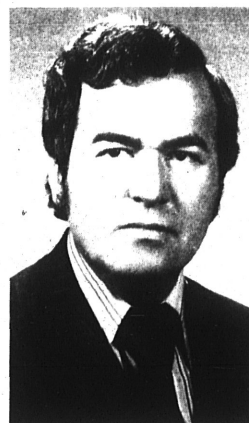
U. S. Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens and U. S. Rep. Don Young all spoke out strongly on behalf of Thompson, an Athabaskan Indian from Tanana who would be the youngest Commissioner in BIA history.

During hearings before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee last week, Gravel called for speedy confirmation of Thompson, whom he spoke of as a "uniquely qualified" candidate for the post.

"I speak in Morris' behalf not just as a fellow Alaskan, but as a good friend and personal admirer," the Democratic Senator said.

"Over the past years, I have had the opportunity to observe Morris administer the Alaska area of the BIA in a fair and effective manner with vision and with diligence.

"His leadership expressed itself in valuable input to the Alaska Native land claims settlement and its complex implementation. He is respected



MORRIS THOMPSON

Arctic Village, Venetie Vote To Keep Land

Residents of Venetie and Arctic Village have voted 259-9 in favor of taking full ownership of those lands lying within the huge Venetie Indian Reservation.

The vote means some 300 residents of these two Athabaskan Indian villages above the Arctic Circle will get full rights of ownership to 1,788,000 acres of land. Attorneys for Alaska Legal Services Corp. had estimated this to be about 10 times as much land as the villagers would have gotten under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The vote, however, means they will not become stockholders in Doyon, Limited, the powerful regional Native corporation of the Interior established under ANCSA.

Both villages still retain membership in the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the regional Native social services organiza-

(Continued on Page 6)

I'll Be 50 in 2003—

Dome Cities, Dead Villages, Etc.?

By MARILYN RICHARDS

Can you imagine what Alaska will be like in 30 years? Thirty years doesn't sound so far away, but when you say or hear the year 2003, it seems centuries away! Two thousand three!

In 30 years, still sounds incredible, there probably will be many fantastic changes since the last few years held a few surprises in themselves.

There could be dome cities on the North Slope. No snow or wind. Some people say that the

villages will be dead, some say they'll thrive and become large urban populations.

There could be two or three bridges along the Yukon River. There might be a connecting network of highways in Nome, Barrow and Bethel.

Did I hear that Alaska will be putting out six million barrels of oil a day? Other possible sources of energy might be from volcanoes and the sun.

Over a million people will

(Continued on page 5)