

# BSNC Buys Airline

(Courtesy of The NOME NUGGET)

Bering Straits Native Corp. has made another move to implement its program for moving on a broad base with Native Land Claims Funds.

Jerome Trigg, board chairman and full-time president of BSNC announced the purchase of the non-scheduled Alaska air carrier, Pacific Alaska Airlines.

The purchase was made from Don Gilbertson, who, Trigg said was a pioneer Alaska

pilot and who will remain under the new ownership as president and chief executive officer. Gilbertson is well-known in Nome and other Alaska flying circles.

Trigg declined to reveal the purchase price.

At the outset the firm will be based in Fairbanks and will have six DC-6 planes and three DC-3s. They are licensed to operate any place in Alaska.

Trigg said that the new company is looking into the possibility of establishing loading facilities here.

Trigg said there are plans to get into the passenger business and in that event the firm will purchase a 727 jet.

The actual purchase was made by the Bering Straits Investment Co., with Tom Drake as president of the BSNC subsidiary. Pacific Alaska also is known as PAK.

PAK at present operates in regular non-scheduled freight and passenger service within Alaska under a certificate from the Alaska Transportation Commission and carries freight interstate under a commercial operator's certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The company has other aircraft used principally for fire fighting operations.

Trigg announced that the interest of Pacific Alaska Airlines was acquired because of the desire to invest in basic Alaska industries and particularly a business which serves the people in Western Alaska.

PAK has applied for authority to provide scheduled freight and passenger service between Anchorage, Unalakleet, Nome, Kotzebue and Fairbanks and is evaluating initiation of direct freight service between Seattle and Western Alaska.

New and additional types of equipment, including jet-powered aircraft, will be added to the PAK fleet as required, Trigg said.