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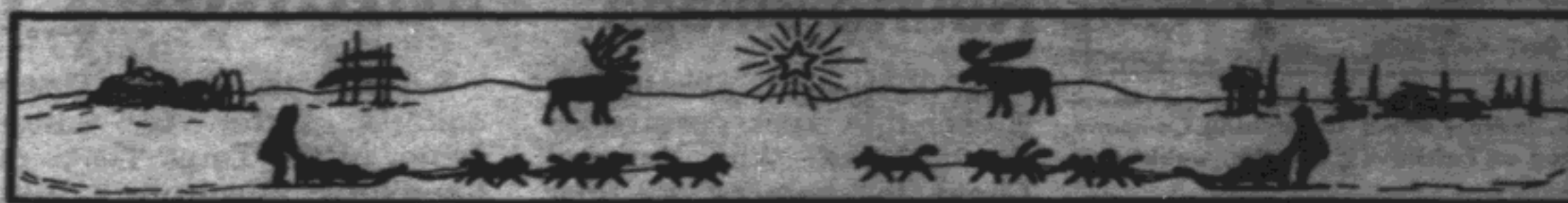
Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

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VILLAGERS SEE DRAMA UNFOLD



CLIFFORD HARTMAN — State Commissioner of Education Clifford Hartman is driving home a point during his discussion on high school education before the members of the THEATA Club, a native college students organization on the campus of the University of Alaska at College. Commissioner Hartman was subjected to a wide range of questions on education of native stu-

dents in Alaska. Shown with him are: center, Jane Sutherland and Vic Fisher, director of the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research at the university. Fisher was introduced by the THEATA President Reva Wulf as "the head of the Institute of Everything."

Photo by TIMES EDITOR

Land Claims Attorney Explains Reason for Leaving Conference

A moving drama unfolded this week in the City of Bethel while the conference of the Association of Village Council Presidents of the Kuskokwim-Yukon area progressed at the meeting hall.

"...It is because of my

father why I spend so much time on these matters," Clifford Groh had told the assemblage. "He was an emigrant. He could not speak English well—nor did he have an education..."

Cliff Groh was talking about land claims matters on which he has spent a great deal of time working with native people and their organizations.

With offices in Anchorage, he is the attorney for several native associations, among them the Kuskokwim Valley Native Association, Tyonek, and in recent months he has been engaged by the Alaska Federation of Natives to do legal work.

Latently, along with Roger Connor of Juneau and Barry Jackson of Fairbanks, he has been engaged in helping to draw up bills in connection with the complex land matter in Alaska.

Last Wednesday, Cliff Groh flew in to Bethel to attend the Council Presidents meeting.

Through an interpreter, he meticulously explained the proposed land claims bill that is being drawn up by the Land Claims Task Force Comm-

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Jacobs Asking Referendum for Vote in Bethel

In his latest letter this week, William Jacobs, executive director of the Alaska Legal Services Corporation asked Mayor Arthur L. Nicholson and the City Council of Bethel "to initiate a referendum on the next general election ballot on the proposition whether or not council meetings should regularly be conducted in both Eskimo and English."

Since Bethel council story broke into newsprint two weeks ago, there have been several exchanges of letters between the Alaska Legal Services Corporation and the Bethel City Council.

The first letter was sent to Bethel on Jan. 2 by the Legal Services and it was replied to by Mayor Arthur L. Nicholson of the Kuskokwim city on Jan. 11.

In his initial letter to Bethel, William Jacobs, executive director of the Legal Services with offices in Anchorage, charged that the council was not representative because there was approximately 90 per cent Eskimo population compared with about ten per cent Caucasian and that the city council was nearly 100 per cent White.

In his delayed reply, Mayor Nicholson said that the charges were "irresponsible allegations" and that the statistical information contained in the Legal Services' letter was

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Cliff Hartman Favors Regional High Schools

Commissioner Clifford Hartman of the State Department of Education does not necessarily agree with the legislature's idea that urban high schools should be built in Anchorage and Fairbanks for rural students.

Hartman favors the idea of regional high schools and feels that "closer and smaller high schools are better to go to where a student can live with foster

parents."

He said he feels that the boarding home program should be pushed with careful selection of homes for students and that once the student is accepted in a home, he should not be asked to do only menial labor.

Last Sunday, Commissioner Hartman was subjected to a wide range of questions from

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Land Claims Task Force Meet Sets Down Recommendations

After a strenuous six-day meeting in the State Capitol, the State Native Land Claims Task Force completed its work last Wednesday.

The meeting dwelt mostly working on recommendations drafted and which will be written into a bill by the native organizations lawyers Barry Jackson, Roger Connor and Clifford Groh. The lawyers are from Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage re-

spectively.

Chairman of the Task Force, State Rep. Willie Hensley of Kotzebue, said the group was hopeful of having all proposed federal legislation introduced in Congress and that he hoped they would be sponsored by Senators E. L. (Bob) Bartlett and Ernest Gruening and U.S. Rep. Howard W. Pollock prior to the end of this month, January.

Earlier in the week Hensley had said, "I think, so far, the progress has been substantial and everyone is attempting to do his utmost to give and take when he has to."

"The Governor accepted the idea of obtaining 40 million acres, and another very important thing—the Interior Department has conceded to the idea of

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Olympics Asks Alaska, Canada Natives to Enter Poster Contest

World Eskimo Olympics committee under the direction of its chairman Guy Elliott, is launching a poster contest drive among the Eskimo, Indian and Aleut nonprofessional artists in Alaska and Canada.

Posters must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, February 26, 1968 and they must be sent to World Eskimo Olympics, 550 First Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

The winning poster will be used officially for distribution of advertising all over the State and it will be used as an official cover design for the World Eskimo Olympics program booklet.

As an award, the winning designer will be given a plaque of special design and a free trip to and from the

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Merculieff Succumbs to Heart Failure

An able St. Paul Island native leader, Eddie Merculieff, passed away last week on Jan. 11 on the island from heart failure. The heart seizure occurred in the evening and he was pronounced dead at 9:30 p.m.

The funeral services were conducted on Jan. 13.

Eddie was highly rated by government circles in Alaska that have worked with him.

The personnel at the Regional Solicitor's Office in Anchorage, an able man in selling of ideas, persuasive and an effective spokesman for his people.

Eddie Merculieff had been working hard persuading his people on St. Paul in ways to convert the town into a self-ruling municipality under the provisions of the Pribilof bill that was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson last year.

Eddie was only 47 years old when he died.

"I hate to see anything happen to these leaders because they are needed so badly here in Alaska," said a person from the Regional Solicitor's office in Anchorage.

Eddie followed the death of another well-known man, Hom-

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