

# Seattle Times Publicizes Chief Isaac

The plight of the Athabascan Indians at Tanacross received broad coverage this week as Stanton Patty reported their story in the Seattle Times, circulation of about two million.

The "Indians in the area," he wrote, "are losing their ancestral lands—even their graveyards—to a state that seems to have no feelings. The United States government has done nothing to stop it."

When recently in Alaska to gather information, Parry said he hoped that his story would in some way help the Indians.

Led by Chief Andrew Issac, the Indians feel that their land is being taken away from them by the State. They originally thought their land was protected by a claim filed in 1950, but later found that the claim had been lost.

With the land freeze now on, all of their recent applications for land claims have been rejected because the Bureau of Land Management is processing none of the applications until the freeze is lifted. It seems that the BLM is keeping only a file copy of the rejection order, and the Indians

fear that when the land settlement is made, the bureau will have no precise description of their applied-for-land on file.

"The B.L.M. announced the other day that it would review the case," wrote Patty. "But hope ebbed long ago for Andrew Isaac and his little bands.

"How do you unring a bell?"