

Sealaska, Universal partners

John Borbridge, Jr., president of Sealaska Corporation, Juneau, announced the formation of a joint venture with Universal Services, Inc.-International to seek and execute camp catering, housekeeping and maintenance contracts. Initial activities will involve projects in the State of Alaska.

Sealaska Corporation is the largest of the Alaska Native regional corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act established by Federal law in 1971.

Operating from its headquarters in Juneau, the corporation serves the interests of approximately 16,000 Native shareholders enrolled to the Settlement Act from Southeast Alaska.

Founded in Anchorage in 1946, Universal Services is a worldwide catering contractor headquartered in Seattle, with offices in the U.S. and in Europe.

Borbridge commented with enthusiasm: "It's a natural fit. It's simply a matter of two well-established Alaskan firms getting together to do business in Alaska. He indicated that Universal has the depth of experience, and that Sealaska has local acceptance, plus a reservoir of manpower.

"Universal will manage the joint venture projects, and together the two companies will further development of their emphasis upon minority training programs. "We are enthusiastic about the future of this cooperative effort," Borbridge concluded.

George S. Hiddleston, Universal's founder and president, responded: "John and his organization are our kind of people. We were just waiting for the conditions to be right for our getting together. We will be concentrating in this joint venture on certain selected business opportunities. We're not going to go too far too fast, but build solidly as we grow."

Hiddleston believes that the move will further his company's strength and position in its home territory, from which Universal services its farflung worldwide activities which range from the offshore oil rigs in Cook Inlet and ARCO's base at Prudhoe Bay, to the Gulf of

Mexico, the North Sea, and the southern tip of Africa. They have and are operating on six of the seven continents of the world. Hiddleston says, "We are not on Antarctica...yet."

Sealaska's holdings include a

Tongass National Forest timber estate of about 280,000 acres, plus ownership of the Alaska Brick Company, a major Anchorage building products manufacturer and distributor, a red-mix concrete producer, and sea-going tug and barge operator.



John Borbridge, Jr., Sealaska president, with George S. Hiddleston of Universal Services, Inc.-International.