



International Arctic peoples Community confab planned



VILLAGE OF BARROW—The farthest north settlement of Barrow may be the site where the international peoples of the Arctic will hold their planning conference in March 1976.

—Photo by FRANK WHALEY

Agenda planning site To be either in Canada or Barrow

From The A.E.H.A. Newsletter
By T.A. FOX

Alaska's Eskimos, along with her other Native peoples, take pride in the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act not only for the ownership of their land and monetary compensation it is affording them, but because it has established the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere to control the terms of development on their traditional lands and to have a voice in determining their own destiny. The international repercussions are obvious.

A friend from Uppsal, Sweden, wrote me that the problems the special consideration. And in northern Quebec, Canada, a land claims settlement with the Inuit (Eskimos) and Cree Indians has been negotiated allowing a go-ahead on the James Bay hydroelectric complex and future related mining development of this area that such a project would engender.

Alaska served as an example since there was no Canadian legal precedent for such a settlement. The Quebec understanding specifies the roll of the indigenous peoples in the management of traditional resources while at the same time allowing for development of non-traditional resources.

North Slope Eskimo leaders

have for many years felt the need to get together with their circumpolar colleagues of all persuasions to discuss the establishment of an Arctic policy for development oriented nations.

An \$80,000 grant by Lilly Endowment, Inc. (a non-profit organization set up by the Lilly Pharmaceutical Company of Indianapolis, Indiana) has been received to plan and conduct the first International Inuit Community Conference which will probably be held in fall or early winter, 1976.

An agenda planning conference is scheduled either in Barrow or Canada in March, 1976, for Canadian, Greenlandic and Alaskan Eskimo to work out the details.

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RCA Publishes New booklet on Telephone use

RCA Alast-a Communications, Inc. has published a new booklet entitled "How to Use the Telephone in Alaska." Designed primarily as a learning tool, the booklet is illustrated with cartoon drawings and games as well as text.

The communications booklet has been especially prepared for elementary school children in grades three, four and five.

It is being distributed to villages that are served or will be served under RCA Alascom's Bush Communications Program, including those to receive telephone service via the small earth stations provided jointly by RCA Alascom and the State of Alaska.

Featuring Charlie, a youngster from a rural village, and his relatives, the children's booklet uses comic strip stories to explain how to make various types of long distance telephone calls, how to use directory assistance and what to do in case of an emergency.

The booklet, illustrated in yellow, blue and green, also contains educational games and puzzles that test children's knowledge of communications.

The publication has been made available to all schools and other children's organizations. Copies can be obtained by writing Public Affairs, RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., 629 E. Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

To over 6,000-- BSNC mails benefit checks

(FROM THE NOME NUGGET)

The Bering Straits Native Corp. has paid out more than \$1 million recently to its enrollees under terms of the Native Land Claims Act, Robbie Fagerstrom, an official of the corporation in charge of payment announced this week.

There were 6,340 eligible stockholders who benefitted to the tune of \$78.41 each. In addition, at large enrollees received payments of \$473.46

each.

He did not say how many of these there were. They are the Natives who lived out of the state but were former residents of the BSNC region.

They are those who will make up the 13th region when that is formally organized Feb. 1. Most of them live in the states of Washington, Oregon and California. They have no claim to Alaska land because of their residence elsewhere.

Disaster unemployment assistance available

Governor Jay Hammond announced that Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to Bethel area workers who are unemployed because of the December 2 fire which destroyed the electric power plant in that community.

Hammond said anyone whose unemployment resulted from this fire or was due to the lack of electric power which followed may qualify for this assistance. This includes individuals who were self-employed in the Bethel area.

Funds for payment of Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) are provided by the Federal Government. This is but one of the many Federal assistance programs which became available to Bethel residents when President Ford declared that community a disaster area in response to Governor Hammond's request.

Hammond said that persons who may qualify for DUA have 30 days in which to file their claims under Federal regulations. Claims may be filed at

Department of Labor Employment Centers of by writing to the Employment Security Division, P. O. Box 3-7000, Juneau, Alaska 99811.

Association of Interior Eskimos back El Paso

The ranks of supporters for the Trans-Alaskan Gas Pipeline routing swelled in December with the very important decision of the Association of Interior Eskimos.

The formal resolution of the tribal governing body signed by president of the association John L. Heffle, Sr., holds that this route is in the best interests of Alaska and the Interior Eskimos.

The resolution goes on to state, "we fully and

wholeheartedly support El Paso company and their desire to construct a natural gas pipeline in the already existing corridor from Prudhoe Bay."

OMAR, the citizens group seeking the Trans-Alaskan routing also noted that the Akluk development corporation joined in this resolution. Akluk is the native development corporation owned by the Association of Interior Eskimos.

Smoke detection Devices needed

Alaska Fire Marshal, Ron Hendrie, of the Department of Public Safety announced Tuesday that approved smoke detection devices must be installed in all living units, built, manufactured or sold in the state as of January 1, 1976.

This action is in compliance with a statute passed by the 1975 legislature.

"Experience has shown that homes with smoke detection experience fewer fire fatalities because of the early warning nature of such instruments," Hendrie said.

The Fire Marshal emphasized that this law applies to any dwelling unit sold after January 1, 1976 as well as to those built and/or manufactured.

According to Hendrie, the smoke sensing devices must be approved by the State Fire Marshal as to type and deployment. "The sensors must be approved by the State Fire Marshal as to type and deployment." "The sensors must be approved by Underwriters Laboratories or Factory Mutual," Hendrie commented.

For further information contact the State Fire Marshal at Pouch N, Juneau 99811 — phone 456-4331; P.O. Box 6188 Annex, Anchorage 99502 — phone 272-1586; or 1514 Cushman St. Rm. 201, Fairbanks 99701 — phone 456-4002.