Morris Thompson Made Name . . .

BIA is also now involved in an experimental housing program, Thompson said. In 1971 the Division of Housing and Urban Affairs declared that 6,000 units of housing would be built every year for five years, or a total of 30,000 houses were to be built. This was to be done to provide low-cost housing for people in rural communities who could not provide their own adequate housing.

The project never got off the ground, Thompson said, because of the "exceedingly high prototype cost." The federal government's design for one of the new houses amounted to nearly \$60,000 apiece.

A compromise was reached when the BIA designed a different prototype house design. This design can be built for around \$20,000 to \$30,000, depending on transportation

By next summer 500 houses of the BIA design are to be completed in various villages.

Commissioner Thompson is interested in having Native people get into politics. There is a "good reputation of having Native people in Alaskan politics," he said. The average percent of Natives in politics is much higher here than in the smaller states.

When you develop policy, I'm of a mind that it's good to have people who know the local needs and desires," he said.

Alaska has usually been a victim' of Washington policy-makers who do not know the real needs of the state.

Commissioner Thompson's political career has been a relatively short one. He got involved in local politics in 1966 when he became campaign manager for a friend who was running for the state House of Representatives.

Through this job he "met the Hickel people" and was offered a job in Juneau in 1967. He stayed there until leaving for Washington, D.C., with Walter Hickel, who was appointed Secretary of the Interior in 1970.

Thompson served as Area Director for Alaska from 1970-73. Then in December 1973 he was appointed Commissioner of the BIA

Born and raised in Tanana, Alaska, Thompson has ties that drawhim back to Alaska.

"I get home twice a year, my mother and family all live in Tanana," he said.

As a young man, Thompson had no idea that he would one day end up in national politics. He attended elementary school in Tanana and continued his education at Mt. Edgecumbe boarding school.

CIRI Meeting . . .

(Continued from Page 2) Stephan from Tyonek area, Alice (Debbie) Fullenwider, Leo Stephan from Eklutna area and Nick Sacaloff from the

Salamatoff area. Directly following the annual meeting, the new board went into a special session to elect officers.

John Colberg was re-elected Board Chairman; Roy M. Huhndorf, re-elected to the presidency; Robert Rude, 1st vice president; Ralph (Andy) Johnson, 2nd vice president; Gosta Dagg, 3rd vice president; B. Brown, secretary; and Frank A. Peratrovich, treasurer.

"Everybody, of course, wants to be a leader," he said. But he wasn't to realize this desire until many years later.

Commissioner Thompson ended up in a very demanding job. Naturally there are problems in the BIA, but Thompson is adept at handling them.
"The Indian business is a very

personal business. All the programs deal directly with problems," he said.

Having proven his ability on an administrative level, Thompson has given his home state his best efforts. Whatever the future holds for this Alaskan Native, he will continue to be of service to his people.

Effects Lifestyle ...

and transportation costs become more expensive while a person is accessible by paved roads. Those waiting for the right job to become available.

In addition to the obstacle of having to compete with an influx of people from the states for pipeline jobs, those from the rural communities have to content themselves with a 48-hour time limit for dispatch.

The 48-hour time limit is also part of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

Three agencies have been involved in recruiting rural Alaskans for pipeline training and employment, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the State Department of Labor.

Recruiters from all three organizations have been to rural communities in the Interior over the past year.

Recruiters from one agency evidently do not always inform the others as to their travel and recruitment arrangements, and fail to adequately explain the function of the agency they are affiliated with.

LACK OF INFO

In addition to the lack of information and confusion about the pipeline hiring process, the people interviewed in Kaltag. Huslia and Galena talked about how difficult it was for many Alaskans to stay on the job for a long period of time.

Several reasons for this were stated including, how hard it was for Native people to stay away from their families and villages.

They are not used to year round employment, and they find implicit prejudice and discrimination in the camps.

Another problem for rural Alaskans, according to several sources, is a lack of information about banking procedures, which has been related to the problem of many persons returning home

without any money.

The main reasons being that their money is being stolen from them on the streets and from their hotel rooms.

The second report deals with aan indicated relationship between pipeline construction and difficulty in filling local positions.

A loss of population makes it difficult to find qualified persons to fill jobs that are vital to the community such as pump house generator maintenance positions, and it also results in a diminished cash flow and a decreased tax base in the village.

PAY DIFFERENCE

In the village, water/sewer plant operators are paid \$250-\$300 per month, while the same operators can expect to earn \$2,500-\$3,000 a month working on the pipeline

Airlines have cut their freight services to the villages because flights have been diverted to therefore, pipeline camps, therefore, supplies and mail rarely ever arrive on schedule.

The third study was done

rom Page 1)
concerning the villages that were areas being Tok, Tetlin, Eagle Village and Delta Junction, The problem mentioned most frequently had to do with increased traffic through the

The main ramification of increased traffic has been increased business activity. A grocer in Tok reported to have had a sales increase of 50% during January, February and March of this year compared to all of 1974.

Increased highway traffic has put a burden on the ambulance service. The Tok ambulance responded to 142% more truck related accidents than in 1973, according to an impact statement prepared by the Tok Community

Although most persons interviewed said that few pipeline job-seekers were settling in Tok, a population increase is expected during the next five years with the construction of a Coast Guard LORAN-C site (long range radio navigational system) and development of the BLM administrative site at Tanacross g Airstrip.

The Tok Impact Committee estimated a permanent population increase of 120-150 persons over the next 10 years as a result of these projects.

ARRESTS INCREASE

According to a report by the Chief of Police at Delta Junction, traffic citations increased 29% between May and June, and arrests increased 63%. Seven of the 24 traffic citations issued in May were pipeline related as were 10 of 31 issued in June, an increase of 43%.

Questionnaires were distributed through the Tanana Chiefs Conference sub-regional directors in Galena, Fort Yukon, McGrath and Tok.

Among the communities surveyed, prices of fuel varied greatly, due at least in parts to means of fuel transportation. The highest price per gallon for gasoline was listed as Arctic Village, which is the only community of those surveyed which depends solely on charter air service for fuel delivery.

The questionnaire on food availability indicates a relationship between commercial food shortages and available means of freight transportation, similar to the relationship between fuel availability and transportation means.

Tok was the only highway community that reported a commercial food shortage during the winter of 1974-75, which was attributed to insufficient freight delivery service.

Several reasons for shortage in other communities were reported, including poor freight service, transportation difficulties, during the inclement winter months, and limited cash available for purchasing supplies in large quantities.

Banquet ...

Island will be displaying her art at the Endeavor Room. Her art is said to be as skilled as that of late Florence Melewotkuk, also of St. Lawrence Island. The art pieces will be available for buyers.

Since the women who expressed a desire to show off their new dresses, a ball after the banquet will be put on so the ladies will have time to display their new fineries as they visited and danced.

A Native dance band has been organized by Moses Wassilie and the Tundra Times board has dubbed the aggregate the "Permafrost Trio."

The annual feast is to honor the Native leadership featuring those men and women who have had a large part in the resolution of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

One of the honored guests, William Byler of the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc. of New York, will not be able to attend because of pressing work in Washington, D.C., regarding water rights of the lower states Natives.

Byler and his association had spent a great deal of time and multi-thousands of dollars during the push for the Alaska land claims settlement.

The menu for the TT banquet will be salmon.

The admission fee to the banquet will be \$25 per person. The annual dinner will begin at 8:00 p.m. which is expected to end at around 10:30 p.m., to allow more time for the dance.

There will be color-coded admission tickets to the banquet and people are asked to note the colors at three entrances, white, blue and orange, before they enter. This is being done to expedite the seating at the annual feast.

The dress will be semi-formal and those who wish to wear tuxe dos are urged to do so.

The annual event is being held once again in conjunction with the annual Alaska Federation of Natives. Inc. convention that begins on Thursday morning in the Foredeck Room of the Captain Cook Hotel at 8:00 a.m. 23 and continue until Saturday, Oct. 25.

SUBSCRIBE!!!

