

Forrest Gerard featured at AFN Convention

It's Convention time again at the Alaska Federation of Natives. And this year some new, innovative ideas are planned for the event which traditionally draws several hundred Alaska Natives from across the state.

The Anchorage Westward Hilton will be the site of this year's annual meeting, which begins November 10 and runs through November 12. Registration fee for the Convention will be \$5.00.

Highlighting the Convention theme, "Does One Way of Life Have to Die so Another Can Live?", the survival of the subsistence way of life will be a major topic of interest to both participants and speakers.

The first two days of the Convention will be spent primarily in small group discussions, focusing on three main areas: Native Lifestyle and Culture, Roles of the Regional Village and Non-

Profit Corporations in the villages, and Government Problems in Rural Alaska.

Interspersed with the small group workshops, a number of noted speakers will address the major topics of the Convention.

Leading off will be keynote speaker, James A. Joseph, under secretary of the Department of Interior, followed by an array of guest speakers from both the state and national levels.

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Convention . . .

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Forrest Gerard, newly appointed assistant secretary for Indian Affairs; Gov. Jay Hammond; Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens; and Congressman Don Young, are all expected to address the Convention during sessions the first two days.

Additionally, Billy Diamond, grand chief of the Grand Council of the Crees (Quebec), has accepted an invitation to attend.

On Saturday afternoon positions developed by the small work groups will be presented before the Convention, and as testimony to the Interim Subsistence Committee of the Alaska Legislature.

Governor Hammond, the Congressional delegation, and special guests, are expected to hear the reports of the small groups, and to be available to answer questions at that time.

As in the past, resolutions will be presented for consideration by Convention delegates; although, this year, pursuant to a resolution adopted at the 1976 Convention, **proposed resolutions must be submitted to the AFN offices in Anchorage by October 27.** The Resolutions Committee, composed of one representative from each region, will meet once prior to the Convention and once during the Convention to review resolutions.

Other "special features" of this year's Convention will include several on-going functions such as the AFN Information Booth; a Chilkat Blanket weaving demonstration conducted by Marie Ackerman; and a Forum Room which will give Convention delegates an opportunity to meet with State and Federal officials to exchange ideas, information and problems.

Another new addition to the 1977 Convention will be a Trade Fair in the hotel lobby sponsored by the business community and offering professional exhibits during all three days of the Convention.

Thursday evening, AFN will sponsor a no-host Kickoff Dance at the Westward Hilton Hotel to set the mood for the remaining two days of the annual meeting. Tickets for the event will be on sale both at the Information Booth and at the door for \$10 a person and \$15 a couple.

Accomplishments of Alaska Native women will be honored Friday at a luncheon in the Commodore Room of the hotel. Traditional and non-traditional employment of Alaska Native women will be highlighted along with a fashion show of customary Native garmets.

Cook Inlet Native Association will present a special program Friday evening featuring groups of Alaska Native dancers from across the state and a demonstration of different events from the Native Olympic Games.

And, culminating activities of the three day Convention, the Tundra Times banquet will be held Saturday night at the Captain Cook Hotel. This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of publication for the statewide newspaper founded in 1962 by the late Howard Rock.

Former AFN President Roger Lang will serve as master of ceremonies for the banquet, which has been billed as Alaska's largest sit-down dinner. Peter McDonald, tribal chairman of the Navajo Nation, will be the featured speaker.

Last year close to 1,000 people enjoyed the festivities of the annual affair.