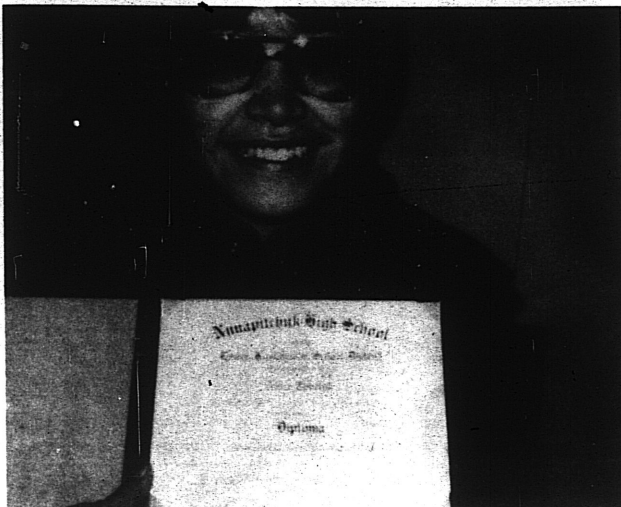


Tobeluk Lawsuit built bush schools in 70's



Anna Tobeluk with hard-won diploma

For residents of bush Alaska, the lawsuit of the decade was Anna Tobeluk vs. Marshall Lind. The 1976 settlement of the case committed the state to provide high schools in every village which wanted one. By the end of the decade, more than 60 new programs had started up in remote villages, and a \$115-million construction program was underway that will eventually see new buildings in some 90 communities.

In the accompanying photo, Ms. Tobeluk, 22, displays the symbol of her landmark suit: the diploma she received in May when she graduated from Nunapitchuk High School. Now a radio and telephone operator in the Nunapitchuk village office, Ms. Tobeluk was out of school when she became a plaintiff in the lawsuit in 1975. The settlement a

few months later resulted in a new high school program in her village, 30 miles west of Bethel, and she began attending classes in a make-shift clinic building. Construction of a \$1.6-million facility is now underway.

Before 1975, the suit was known as the Molly Hootch case, named for one of the original plaintiffs. Ms. Hootch's name was removed from the suit when the state agreed to build a high school in her home village of Emmonak.

The suit that was to become known as the Anna Tobeluk case was filed in 1972 by Alaska Legal Services on behalf of Native children living in villages which had elementary schools but no high schools. The case resulted in the largest financial settlement ever of an education lawsuit.

Nunapitchuk High School
of the
Lower Kuskokwim School District
This Certifies That
Anna Tobeluk
Has completed the work required for graduation from High School
and is awarded this
Diploma

Given this month of May, nineteen hundred seventy-six.

Anna Tobeluk
Student
David Lind
Principal
Boyd
Assistant Principal