

## CORPORATIONS



Sealaska Chairman Byron Mallott, left, and ASRC vice-president Larry Dunneen sign the document to be brought to the board room.



Sam Kito representing Doyon Limited, signs the document.



Toasting their own success after 14 months of hard negotiation are, left to right, Willie Hensley and John Shively of NANA, 7i chairman Byron Mallott of Sealaska, and mediator, Ralph Wienshienl.

## Ceremony filled with friendly jokes

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Willie Hensley passed coffee around, feet were propped up on tables.

At about 10:30 p.m., attorneys brought in three copies of

the document, then a further delay occurred when a working stapler had to be found to fasten the documents together.

At last the papers arrived in the board room and the par-

ticipants grew silent for what was the first time during the evening.

Mallott asked if anyone had any business to conduct and Huhndorf said, "Mr. Chair-

man, I move the agreement before us, the settlement of the 7i provision of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act as approved subject to approval of our respective board of di-



"You guys really took us to the cleaners," Ahtna's Herb Smeltzer jokes as he shakes the hand of Kogi's Harry Carter, right after he signed the document.



Willie Hensley was one of numerous photographers at the historic event.

rectors."

Kukoot seconded the motion.

Roger Lang of Sealaska called the roll and one-by-one the representatives walked to take a chair near Mallott to sign the name.

Smeltzer was first and as he walked toward the signing table he said, "I'm a member of the past objections league."

By 11 p.m. the signing was over.

After the signing was over nine bottles of champagne were brought to the board room and passed out. Mallott raised a just-opened bottle in a toast and said, "Gentlemen, to you."

As the champagne was being uncorked, Kito rose and said in mock seriousness, "Mr. Chairman: The requisition for these refreshments called for 12 bottles. I only count nine on the table."

Herb Smeltzer from Ahtna chimed in "That's 70 percent" and the room exploded in laughter.

The other three were produced by a grinning CIRI aide.

Another in the room said, "To the spirit of Kha-Nee-La."

Arbitrator Wienshienl said, "Never have so many done so much to so many."

Edgar Blatchford raised a toast to Mallott's efforts through the 14 months and Huhndorf said, "I'd like to bid you all a fond farewell."

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Sam Kito jokingly asks why three bottles of champagne are missing from the requisition and is told that the nine bottles on the table represented 70 percent distribution of 7i!

Photos by Bill Hess