

Tundra Times

25c

Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
 Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

Vol. 11, No. 26

Wednesday, June 26, 1974

Fairbanks, Alaska

AFN-MORTON MEET A SUCCESS

Free-Wheeling Confab Progresses Toward Resolving Problems

By BETZI WOODMAN

ANCHORAGE — With an 11-point bill of particulars from the Alaska Federation of Natives for an agenda, 57 Native leaders sat down with Secretary of the Interior in Anchorage last Thursday to thrash out problems stemming from the Land Claims Settlement Act. Included in the discussions were 21 specific recommendations regarding allotments, also prepared by the AFN.

After a hot, intense closed-door session, the secretary and Alaska Federation of Natives president Roger Lang declared the meeting was "constructive" with "real progress" made. In a press conference after the meeting, Morton and Lang laid out the problems and Interior's promised remedies.

"There are two major issues I want to see worked out," Morton said. "The first is the allotment question. There is something different here — something I can't put my finger on, that has me definitely up-tight."

He was speaking of the way land tract allotments to Natives had been rejected. Of the more than 7,700 Native allotment applications filed, some 85 per cent of those completed are being turned down by land inspectors and adjudicators who say they cannot find needed evidence of use.

The second issue which Morton said needed "final resolution" was the matter of Cook Inlet Region Association deficiency lands.

"I'm going to urge the solicitor to deal with these," said Morton, adding that the Cook Inlet group was to "make their best offer" to the solicitor before he left for Washington Friday.

Lang commented that in spite of the large group present for

the discussion, "the issues were not diluted... I share with the secretary that it was constructive, a free-wheeling, free-dealing meeting. In the past, problems would get referred for action, but no one ever came up with specific answers. This time we HAVE come up with many answers."

"In most instances," Lang continued, there were specific answers. Many issues were technical and involved, but those problems which were identified have people assigned to handle. A long list remains, "but we won major concessions."

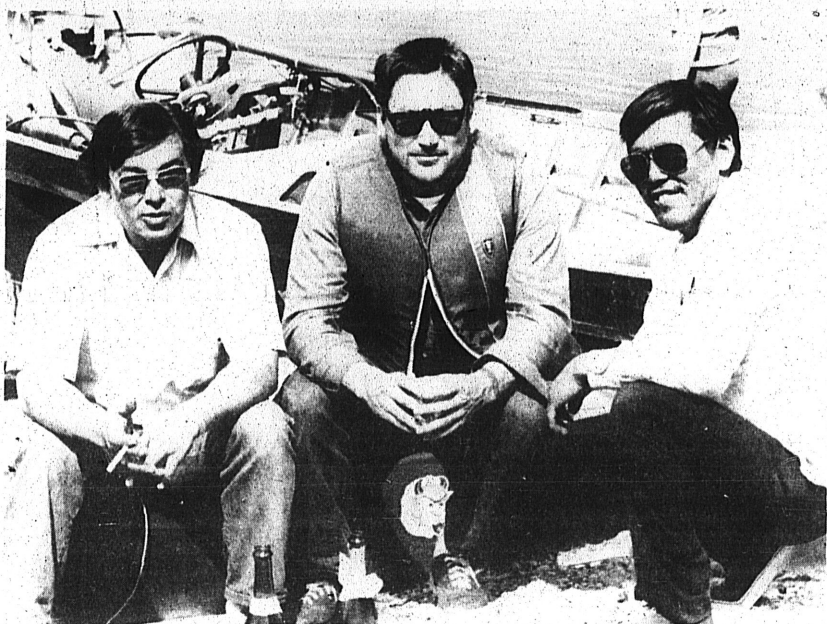
Meetings earlier in the week between Natives and land management officials had set the stage for Morton who then had a list of changes — some major — to offer before he was confronted with arguments about previous policies.

"Although we may not agree on all points," Morton said, "(the conference) uncovered a significant number of deficiencies which if corrected will improve substantially our administration of this program."

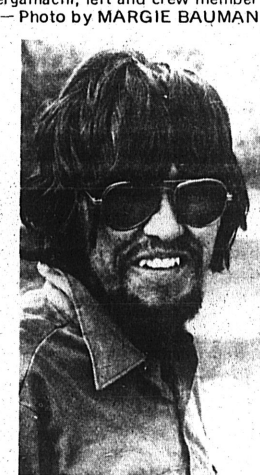
As a result, Morton has directed that the following series of steps be taken immediately:

— Applicants (for allotments) will be provided with copies of all field examination report, and Regional Corporations will receive copies of all correspondence sent to an applicant. All official correspondence will also contain a more simply worded,

(Continued on Page 6)



WINNERS OF THE YUKON 800, which ended Sunday after more than 16 hours of hard racing, from Fairbanks to Galena and back. The new champions, who stayed well ahead of the pack in the Miss Hotsy, are captain Jerry Evans, center, engineer John Bergamachi, left and crew member Don Moses, right. They ran the race in under 17 hours.



CHARLIE TITUS JR., engineer aboard the second place Miss Tesoro, in the Yukon 800. The Miss Tesoro, with captain Jim Movius and his wife Toni, teamed up with Titus to win the Yukon 800 in 1972 and 1973. This time the new boat, Miss Hotsy, was just too fast for them.

— Photo by MARGIE BAUMAN

Land Use Planning Handbook

NIKOLAI — A field test was held here earlier this month of a village land use planning handbook produced by the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission with assistance from several agencies and individuals.

Two days of intensive work was carried out in the village with Tony Alexie, president of the Nikolai Native Corporation serving as the planning officer.

Aim of the handbook being tested is to help villages redistribute village corporation land under provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, sometimes called 14(c) reconveyances. Provisions in this portion of the Act require village corporations to redistribute lands to residents, businesses and non-profit groups such as churches.

During the field test, villagers including corporation officers and city council members, identified lands they wanted for public uses — streets, airports, boat ramps, designated lots for residents, businesses and non-profit groups.

Commission planner Janet McCabe and Larry Kimball, a planner with the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, coordinated the handbook project and served as advisers in the Nikolai sessions.

Representatives of the Federal Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Division of Aviation, Doyon, Ltd., and the Alaska Native Foundation also participated in the field test.

The manual is titled "Reconveying Land — A Handbook for Village Corporations." It provides a step-by-step planning guide for villages which have yet to be surveyed by the BLM.

About 100 villages must be surveyed in preparation for land redistribution and could make use of the handbook.

AIA to Bring Components for Barrow Hotel

BARROW — A 40-room hotel is due to arrive here this week. Its modular components will be flown in on Alaska International Airline's Hercules cargo planes.

The hotel is a project of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and will be erected within the next six weeks in downtown Barrow.

The Regional Corporation has contracted with Sheffield Enterprises, which operates a number of hotels in Alaska, to manage the new facility.

Laura to Lead Eskimo-Indian Olympics Performers at Folk Life

By MARILYN RICHARDS
 Unofficial Eskimo ambassador Laura Bergt and four top Eskimo and Indian athletes will demonstrate Native games at the 8th Annual Festival of American Folk Life in Washington, D.C. July 1-15 sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute, a non-profit organization.

The four Natives were top winners in last year's Eskimo Olympics. They and Laura also made a guest appearance on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show

and presented the surprised host with an oosik. In the hilarious episode, an embarrassed Laura explained to Carson the oosik was not a walrus tusk but a male reproductive organ.

The four are Roger Kunuyak formerly of Diomedes now of Fairbanks, Reggie Joule of Kotzebue, Lester Bodfish of Wainwright, and Fred Titus of Minto.

Joule won the two-foot high kick with a distance of six feet eight inches last year. He also

(Continued on page 6)



MORTON AND LANG — Two main participants in a free-wheeling meeting last Thursday were Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton and the AFN President Roger Lang. The meeting involved the Interior Department and the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. in an effort to solve post land claims problems involving Native allotments, etc. Roger Lang evaluated the confab as "constructive."

— Photo by BETZI WOODMAN