

13th Annual Meeting brought many to Noatak

A large crowd of about 500 shareholders gathered in the Noatak school gym on March 17 to participate in NANA's 1986 Annual Meeting. After the usual fun-filled morning of races and games, NANA Board Chairman Robert Newlin opened the meeting with a brief introduction and Grace Bailey gave the invocation. Guests in attendance were introduced by Chairman Newlin. Hank Giegerich, Cominco Alaska President, announced that the state and Cominco had agreed to the financing of the Red Dog road and port and that construction would begin on the project this summer with the permanent barge dock and the staging area at the port site. He announced that this was the first major step in moving the Red Dog project to development.

The next guest was Laurie Herman, representing Governor Sheffield's office. Ms. Herman reminded the group of the governor's continued support of the Red Dog project, establishment of a borough, and of his commitment to seeing that subsistence

legislation was passed which was favorable to those who depended on it most.

Other guests in attendance introduced by the Chair were: Bill McKay and Lou Cancelmi of Alaska Airlines; Janie Leask, President of Alaska Federation of Natives; Oliver Leavitt, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; Jeff Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Regional Affairs; and Mike Irwin, Special Assistant to the President of Doyon, Inc. Special thanks was given to a number of people for their service to the people of the region. Special recognition was given to John Schaeffer, NANA's outgoing President; Marie Greene, President of Maniilaq; Chuck Greene, Governor's office in Kotzebue; Sandy Burgess, Noatak School Principal, for her cooperation in helping to host the meeting; and to the people of Noatak for their hospitality for the Annual Meeting.

Billy Mills, the 1984 Gold Medal Olympian in the 10,000

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Janie Leask, President of AFN presents an Eskimo wooden mask to outgoing NANA President John W. Schaeffer in appreciation for his years of effort in serving all Alaskan Natives. photo: Allen Marquette

13th Annual Meeting

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meter run, then spoke to the group about the work he had been doing in each of the region's schools the previous week. Mills, a Sioux Indian, shared with the group the many hardships he overcame in recognizing that once you really become aware of who you are and are proud of it, anything is possible.

The main business was the election of eight members to serve on the Board of Directors. A large turnout of voters participated in the election. The following were elected to serve three-year terms: Ambler — Miles Cleveland; Buckland — Lester Hadley, Sr.; Deering — Gilbert Karmun; Noatak — Roland T. Booth; Noorvik — Robert Newlin; Selawik — Bert Greist; Shungnak — Stanley Custer; At-Large — Willie Hensley.

In what has become a special part of the Annual Meeting, special awards and other presentations were made. (See related story on p. 2.)

One of the main highlights of

the meeting was the joint naming of outgoing President John Schaeffer and Board Chairman Robert Newlin as the 1986 shareholders of the year. Schaeffer remarked upon receiving the award, "I could not have done anything without him (Robert Newlin). I want to thank you for putting me in the same place as Robert, the greatest honor you could give me." Newlin responded, "I do not deserve it; it was done by John, the Board, staff, and mostly my wife." Pauline Harvey then gave the benediction at 7:00, and everybody adjourned to the traditional Native feast.

Afterwards, there was plenty of entertainment, highlighted by a performance by the Wainwright Eskimo Dancers, and a showing of Billy Mill's life story as depicted in the film, *Running Brave*.

The NANA staff and Board of Directors would like to thank all those who attended and those who mailed in their proxies. They are looking forward to working with the shareholders again next year and to another successful meeting.