

## ***To Meet Deadline—***

# **File for Land**

By SUE GAMACHE

December 18 is the deadline for the Regional Corporations, Native Groups, and Natives residing in Kenai, Kodiak, Sitka and Juneau to file their applications for the land ownership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Regional Corporations must also file for a title to existing cemetery sites and historical places by this date. As of mid-August slightly over 10 million acres had been filed for by Regional Corporations.

In addition to these groups Village Corporations must have their applications in for "relocated lands." These lands represent the difference between 22 million entitlements for village corporations provided for in the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, and the amount the villages are entitled to because of population.

Village Corporations were required to file their original selections before Dec. 18, 1974.

After Dec. 18, only lands actually selected by Alaska Natives will remain withdrawn and segregated for their possible future ownership.

All unselected lands automatically are classified for retention in the public interest. These lands are referred to as D1 lands.

Many Native corporations have filed for more land than they are entitled to, or over selected additional lands in the future. These will also revert to D1 status.

The next stop for BLM will be adjudication of the land selections to make sure that all regulations are met. An interim conveyance can be granted which provides all rights of ownership pending survey of the land, at

which time a patent will be issued.

Additional information may be obtained from BLM in Anchorage at 555 Cordova Street, or in Fairbanks at 1028 Aurora Drive.