

Koncor joined by Yak-tat-kwaan

By LONE E. JANSON

The first joint venture between village corporations from different regions was announced in mid-April at a dinner meeting for Koncor, a joint timber management corporation in the Koniag region.

Yak-Tat-Kwaan, the Yakutat village corporation, announced it will put up 13,000 acres of timber to join the three Koniag villages already in Koncor: Natives of Kodiak, Ouzinkie, and Leisnoi, Inc. (Woody Island).

The timber company held a dinner on April 13 to welcome the new partner and to hear the results of the first year of operation. During 1978, Koncor's operations grossed over a million dollars, and the management announced that during the first three months of this current year it has already done that same amount of business.

Karl Armstrong, secretary of the regional corporation and president of Leisnoi, described Koncor as "one of the more unique concepts" in Native business. "What Koncor has done is converted trees, which is a part of its capital, and provided a return of capital to the three participating corporations."

"Koncor does not actually have any land," he said. "All it has is trees. The villages pledged so many acres of trees, which

Koncor manages. No village actually has enough timber to really impact the market. It is only through a concept of joint management like Koncor that they can have any impact at all."

Approximately half of last year's return of capital has been provided to the villages involved, and Ouzinkie is rumored to be planning a disbursement to its stockholders, possibly larger than any similar distribution made to date by any region or village. Leisnoi gave out a \$100 distribution last November and may be planning another. Natives of Kodiak, Inc., one of the four urban corporations in the state with a different financial situation as one of the "four cities," do not know if they will be able to distribute anything at this time.

Armstrong said Koncor's dinner originally hadn't been planned to do much. "It was just to be the boards of directors of the partners having dinner together, but we turned it into something a little more special because of the interest shown by the villages and some of the other regions."

Roger Lang was feature speaker, and the guests included Willie Hensley and both co-chairpersons of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission,

Walt Parker and Esther Wunnicke. All five villages of the Chugach region were represented, and Roy Huhndorf of Cook Inlet Region telephoned his regrets that another commitment prevented his attending. Armstrong said that, although Koncor is at this time only a village enterprise, "we have reason to believe that we have attracted the interest of Sealaska and her villages, at least in the concept."