

Thirteenth Regional Native Corporation On The Move Economically

Since the legal clouds hovering over it since 1971 have apparently disappeared, the 13th Regional Native Corporation has lost no time catching up with

its 12 companions in the north-land.

Creation of the 13th was provided for by Congress in the event that a sufficient number

of Alaska Natives living outside the state expressed an interest in staying outside and participating in the land claims settlement. Out-of-state Natives

had the option of enrolling to the 13th or one of the 12 indigenous profit corporations. Incorporation of the 13th corporation was blocked by chal-

lenges from the 12 Alaska regions who feared losing shareholders and, thus, money from the billion-dollar claims settle-

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13th Corporation . . .

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ment distributed on a per capita basis.

Since the resolution of these disputes, the 13th has entered the fishing industry, formed a housing company and is seeking land in Alaska.

With an eye on Alaska's rich commercial fisheries industry, the 13th has obtained 50 per cent interest in a 98-foot Toche crabber, tentatively named the Aleutian Beauty. The other owners of the boat are Howard Carlough, an Aleut fishing skipper, and Leif Lokingholm, who own 25 per cent each.

The vessel is of steel construction, 160 gross tons, with a hold capacity of 100,000 pounds. She was built by Bender Boat Company of Mobile, Ala.

The Aleutian Beauty will operate in the King and Tanner crab fisheries in the Bering Sea. Since the vessel is equipped with a saltwater chilling system, it will also be suitable for tendering salmon and bottomfish.

The 13th has also formed a wholly-owned subsidiary known as Alaska House Movers, Inc. Under its current program, the firm buys residential lots, purchases homes from Airport Houses of Burien, Wash., locates the houses on the lots and markets the package. Alaska House Movers utilizes Alaska Native labor to lay foundations and

utilities and for other site preparation work. AHM is based in the main office of the 13th Region in Seattle.

The effort of the 13th Regional Corporation to acquire land in Alaska has raised some eyebrows in the north, but 13th officials have assured the other 12 regions and their villages that the Seattle corporation is not seeking land selected or in the process of being conveyed to indigenous corporations.

The 13th has suggested that Congress provide for a second, "mini" land claims settlement when it considers the National Interest Lands (d-2) legislation in the next 15 months.

Besides these major activities, the 13th has become involved in several smaller cultural and human development programs for its people. It has agreed to sponsor an educational film about the contribution of Native people to American culture. The film will be narrated by N. Scott Momaday, a Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and poet of Kiowa descent.

The 13th region also conducts a modest reentry program for jail inmates to help reduce the number of second offenders; conducts a business loan program under the direction of retired banker George Trotter; and has purchased the Washington Technical Institute with the idea of providing training to its Native constituents, including a G.E.D. class.