

NAIWA PICKS MARY JANE PRES.



ATHABASCAN HEADS NATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP — Mrs. Mary Jane Fate, (left), an Athabascan from Fairbanks, accepts the gavel as newly-elected president of the North American Indian Women's Association from outgoing president, Mrs. Agnes Dill of Isleta, New Mexico. Mrs. Fate was elected to head the nationwide organization at its fifth annual conference Saturday, held on the campus of Northern Michigan University at Marquette. — (NMI photo)

Local Lady Elected to Head Nationwide Indian Womens' Organization

FAIRBANKS — A well-known Fairbanks woman of Athabascan descent, Mrs. Mary Jane Fate, was elected recently as president of the North American Indian Women's Association (NAIWA) at its fifth annual conference held on the campus of Northern Michigan University, June 11-15.

Mary Jane Fate of P.O. Box 1111, Fairbanks succeeds Mrs. Agnes Dill, a Pueblo Indian from Isleta, New Mexico.

NAIWA is a non-profit educational association organized for the purpose of promoting improvement in five basic areas of Indian life.

They are: betterment of home, family life and community; betterment of health and education; inter-tribal communications; awareness of Indian culture, and fellowship among all people.

"It is really an honor to have been elected mostly because of women involved from ages 18-19 to almost 80 years old from reservation areas," Mary Jane quietly evaluated her new job. "It's a challenge and it's not going to be an easy job."

The organization is federally recognized and the new president said it could have something like 3,000 members.

"We have a wonderful board, executive committee which makes it for a wonderful working group," Mary Jane said. "The board members are from Northwest, North Central, North East, South East, South Central and Southwest, covering all areas of the United States."

Some people think that NAIWA is affiliated with Canadian womens' groups but it is not, Mary Jane pointed out. She said women from other countries do attend NAIWA meetings.

The next conference of the organization will be held next year at Cherokee, No. C. on the

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third week in June.

"And I get to appoint my own corresponding secretary and I appointed Mrs. Daphne Gustafson of Fairbanks," Mary Jane revealed.

Both women are on the board of directors of the Tundra Times and have served in that capacity for the last several years.

Mary Jane is married to Dr. Hugh B. Fate and they have three daughters Janine, Jennifer and Julie, "and we often have visitors in our home. At the moment, Alfred Woods is staying with us — and he's a cousin."