



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

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NEWSLETTER

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Anchorage, Alaska

AFN, INC. BLASTS GOVERNOR JAY HAMMOND

Along with Special Sculpture—

Modern Office Building

ANCHORAGE, AK. — This spring the beauty of Anchorage's downtown area — breakup notwithstanding — will be enhanced by the addition of a new, modern office building and a very special sculpture which has been commissioned to grace its courtyard.

The structure, developed by Carr-Gottstein Properties, Inc., and to be known as the Carr-Gottstein Building, is a luxurious, seven-story office tower located at Third and K Streets. Scheduled for completion at the end of April, the complex has been designed to include a broad, open, landscaped courtyard where the sculpture will be located.

The open concept in the courtyard area has been carried through in the design of the building itself. Set back from its property lines, the building is situated overlooking Cook Inlet and, according to company

officials, will provide a spectacular view of both the Inlet and Mt. McKinley.

Win Hovey, president of Carr-Gottstein Properties, says the building employs six floors of continuous window glass and glass panels, fashioned specifically to augment the feeling of a broad, nonconfining structure as viewed from street level. The same concept is maintained inside the building through use of custom appointments and spacious office suites, tailored to meet the requirements of its tenants.

Although finishing touches are still being applied, Hovey says the building has already been partially leased. He says, however, that leasing arrangements are still available. The first floor of the building, he says, has been designed as a sheltered parking area for tenants, while the upper six floors will provide a total capacity of 70,000 square feet of office space.

In the center of the building's courtyard will stand a sculpture of a blue whale, a tribute to the single largest animal ever to exist on Earth. The sculpture will rise some 20 feet in height, scaled to approximately one-fifth the actual size of the giant sea mammal.

Josef Princiotta, Jr., an Anchorage artist, has been commissioned to perform the work. The commissioning, formally announced by Larry Carr, chairman of the board of Carr-Gottstein Properties, was made through a competitive selection process. According to Princiotta, the design will depict, in a realistic approach, "the interaction of man and his environment."

"While the design conveys and relates its a specific message to me," he says, "I'm hopeful it will have its own particular message for everyone who views it."

Surrounding the sculpture will be a series of extensively landscaped planters composed of shrubs, trees and other plantings. The courtyard itself will be composed of Chena River rock embedded in a tan colored concrete matrix which will also be employed on the sidewalks. The main sidewalk entrance to the building will be heated to prevent dangerous icing, common during Anchorage's long winters.

Princiotta's sculpture, which is to be unveiled in late Spring, is simple in design, yet intricate in execution. According to the artist, months of research have gone into the planning of the piece, including research study on blue whales; close cooperation with architects and engineers; and trips to California and Hawaii to observe whales and other sea mammals common to the same species.

"In February," says Princiotta, "I flew to Hawaii specifically to observe the great blues in their natural breeding waters off the island of Maui. Humpback whales were present in abundance, but, for the first time in the experts' memories, no blues have appeared."

Princiotta reports that discussions with various experts on the Cetacean species, the scientific classification for members of the whale and dolphin family, indicate the great blue whales are severely threatened with extinction. "The population of these great, intelligent animals has been decimated by an automated whaling industry which turns their remains into products such as shoe polish, pet food and car wax."

A resident of Anchorage area for the past ten years, Princiotta has a broad background of credits in both the commercial and fine arts fields. For the past five years, however, he has devoted the main thrust of his work specifically to sculpture.

Letter on Easements To Secretary Morton Raises Group's Ire

Governor Jay Hammond has come in for some severe criticism from the Alaska Federation of Natives as a result of an April 4, 1975 letter which he sent to Secretary of the Interior, Rogers Morton on easements.

Roger Lang, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives and John Shively, Executive Vice President had requested that the State of Alaska review their stand on easements and give particular attention to the State's stand regarding a request for 25 foot easements on all ocean coastlines on Native lands.

Roger Lang and John Shively were scheduled to meet with the Governor in March. However, the Governor was sick and a meeting took place between several representatives of the State government, including Bob Palmer and Mike Smith. The meeting did not resolve anything and it was agreed that the Commissioner of Natural Resources, Guy Martin, would follow up with a meeting at AFN.

Commissioner Martin did meet with Roger Lang and John Shively on April 2nd and on April 4th the Governor sent his letter to the Secretary of the Interior which showed no change in the State's stand on coastal easements.

President Roger Lang said, "I was very disappointed in the manner in which the State handled this. The Governor has not met with us on this subject and the people that work under him seem to be treating the easement issue as if it were of minimal importance."

"We all know that the easement issue is very important to Native corporations and Native individuals. The easements which the State are requesting on coastlines and the linear easements they want on waterways will, by the Governor's own admission, cause great trespass problems for Natives. However, the State has no solution to this trespass problem and is interested in only making sure that the Natives do not receive full fee title to this land."

Another major issue for the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Native corporations has been that the use of land by Natives should not be the basis on which easements are reserved. However, the State feels that easements should be reserved based on Native use in order "to protect the Natives from their corporations."

John Shively said, "the State's desire to 'protect Natives from themselves' would be more credible if the Natives were indeed asking for this protection. However, Natives understand that the easements requested by the State are taking a property right of theirs and the easements are going to cause considerable problems with non-Natives trespassing on Native lands."

"The Natives are much more content to have to deal with their corporations for access than to

trust the State and Federal governments to protect their interest by allowing all the public to use substantial portions of Native land. It amazes me that the State is using 19th century 'paternalism' to justify taking land rights from Natives."

Roger Lang, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, also commented, "The State and the Native Community are very close together on their stands to try to keep corridor easements off of Native lands. However, the easements that the State wants on minor waterways and on Native coastlines will have many more negative ramifications than the corridors most of which would be erased by the year 2001 because the corridors wouldn't be used."

"I understand the Governor has many great problems that he needs to deal with because of the State's financial crisis. However, I am extremely distressed that he could not find time to discuss this extremely important issue with us personally. I don't think he understands that at no time in the history of the Native Claims Act did the State in their presentations to the Congress ever suggest that there should be such things as coastal easements and linear easements along waterways."

"In my opinion, this is a land grab by the State of Alaska and if the Department of the Interior agrees with the State, the Native community once again will have to go to Court to protect the rights we thought we won when the Land Claims Act was passed in 1971."

TAP Conference

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Technical Assistance Program is in the process of developing a state-wide conference on Rural Development which is tentatively scheduled for May 22 and 23 in Anchorage.

Letters of invitation have been sent to representatives from all regional and village corporations. The objective of the conference will be to acquaint all Native corporations with the spectrum of agencies designed to provide assistance on rural development and provide the representatives with access to these agencies and their problem-solving decision makers. This conference is unique because the agencies and representatives of regional and village corporations will be able to get together to discuss specific problems on rural development.

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