

Corporation defends village lands

To Sue Hare, superintendent, Lower Kuskokwim School District:

Alaska Peninsula Corp. is the surviving village corporation upon the merger of the villages of Port Heiden, Ugashik, South Naknek, Kokhanok and Newhalen.

Mr. Chilkott, principal of Goodnews School, conducted a hunting trip on lands owned by Alaska Peninsula Corp. in the South Naknek area in September 1989. Mr. Chilkott admits to having brought some 20 school children and adults to hunt caribou on our lands. We attach a copy of Mr. Chilkott's letter to our attorneys.

Mr. Chilkott and his brother own a bar in South Naknek. Mr. Chilkott is therefore familiar with APC's policy prohibiting trespass on its lands and requiring the payment of an administrative fee and obtaining permission of our Land Department prior to using our lands.

Our policy was established many years ago, and is, from time to time, the subject of some controversy. We have done our best to educate the public concerning the primacy of importance which we place upon our ownership and control of our settlement lands.

Mr. Chilkott failed to inquire as to ownership of the land before he

brought in the Goodnews Bay group. In response to a letter which we directed our lawyers to write, Mr. Chilkott insults not only the wisdom of the corporation, but also the integrity of our Native shareholders in South Naknek who reported the trespass to us.

We do not condone trespass on our lands. We know of no village corporation which allows uncontrolled trespass as a matter of policy. Certainly, one of the goals of the education system, whether rural or urban, ought to be the reinforcement of property rights, in general, and the importance and value of Native land interests, specifically.

Mr. Chilkott's letter demonstrates that he is insensitive to those values.

We trust that Mr. Chilkott now understands that permission of land owners must be requested before entering upon private property, including village corporation lands. We also trust that the Lower Kuskokwim School District, will promptly pay the fees assessed for such entry, \$20 per entry person for a total of \$400.

Very truly yours,
Alaska Peninsula Corp. Board
of Directors
Ralph Angasan, president
Anchorage