

Native Claims Not Income Under Social Security Act

Tax exempt payments to Alaska Natives under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will not be considered as income in determining eligibility for assistance under the Social Security Act.

The announcement came from Frank C. Carlucci, Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and was related to the Tundra Times by the Seattle office of HEW.

Carlucci said that all Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits and Supplemental Security Income payments previously withheld from Alaska Natives are now to be paid retroactively.

The decision itself is expected to affect thousands of Native Alaskans, both in the State of Alaska and other states, especially in the Northwest corner of the United States, Carlucci said.

The State of Alaska has been disregarding the claims payments with HEW regional concurrence, but many Natives outside the state had been declared ineligible to receive supplemental security income and aid to families with dependent children benefits shortly after receiving their claims checks.

"The new ruling carries out the intent of Congress in the settlement act and will be implemented by both the Social

Security Administration of HEW for SSI and the various state and local public assistance offices for AFDC," Carlucci said.

It is still vitally important, however, that all persons receiving money under the land claims act report those payments, said John Shively, executive vice president of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc.

"Failure to report payments even though they will be excluded could result in charges of fraud against these welfare recipients," Shively noted in a memo to each of the 12 Native regional corporations.

"This in the long run might be far worse than some of the welfare money that the individuals might have lost had not the Department of Health, Education and Welfare ruling been made," he said.

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Parents Don't Approve of Movies, But— Mida Savok Wins Film Role

By MARILYN RICHARDS

A full-blooded Eskimo girl has been chosen to co-star in the movie, "Julie of the Wolves."

Mida Savok, 18, of Buckland, was chosen to play Pearl, the part of Julie's best friend. The movie, a \$1 million production will be directed by Tom Mac Gowan, who also did "Born Free." One third of the movie will be shot at Barrow. Mac Gowan has not yet found the star for the movie.

Mida, who thought "there was nothing to lose in trying," was given the major speaking role, much in Eskimo. Julie's part is more action and facial expressions. "I had never thought in being in a movie before," said Mida who applied only because all her friends were urging her to do so.

The daughter of James Savok, Jr., owner of a general store and his wife Annie of Buckland, is the second youngest in a family of seven brothers and five sisters. Her parents, Mida said, are very religious and do not attend movies or allowed their children to, so she did not tell them she was applying until she knew for sure if she got a part. Mida is still not sure of their reaction but is excited over this new experience offered to her.

Mida is a sophomore at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. She is considering Japanese as a possible major, particularly because she had lived in Japan for two months.

Mida was born in Nome and graduated from Dillingham High School, though she had never been to Dillingham before. For three years she attended Nome-Beltz High School, but in her senior year she traveled in Japan through the Dillingham High School Japan Project obtaining



— Photo by Walter Lewis

both high school and college credits.

Japan, she said, was very nice and much more different than Alaska. "I experienced a whole lot of new thoughts."

Mida, whose Eskimo name is Oookpik, meaning owl, thought "no way was I going to make it," was also second runner-up in the Miss Fairbanks Native Association pageant this spring.

Mida has just returned from California with Mac Gowan. The movie was originally scheduled to begin May 15 but is now postponed until June.

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