

Only 45 Days Left to Enroll--

Enrollment Deadline Fast Becoming Nearer and Nearer

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

There are only 45 days left in which to enroll for the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement.

That is something like saying, "Only 21 more shopping days 'till Christmas!" The giant package under the tree in this case is some 40 million acres of land and a cool 962.5 million dollars.

It's a family affair and the family in this case is the Alaska Native people — grandmothers

and grandfathers, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, and even — prodigal sons.

It's the prodigal sons who are causing the biggest headaches in enrollment. How do you deliver a package marked, "To Whom It May Concern", or "Address Unknown, Return To Sender"?

Alaska Natives who dropped out of sight years ago are surfacing for their chunk of the big fish landed by Native lobbyists when the United States Congress passed the Alaska Na-

tive Land Claims Settlement Act on December 16, 1971.

At that time, the Secretary of the Interior set a time frame of two years to register all $\frac{1}{4}$ blood Alaska Natives eligible to participate in the benefits declared under the Act.

March 30, 1973, seemed a long time away. But Alaska is a big place, and Alaska Natives resided in some 229 remote and scattered villages, many accessible only by air. Not to mention a larger world, "outside."

(Continued on page 6)

Enrollment Deadline...

(Continued from page 1)

Enrollment enumerators flew in to urban centers for training by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then flew back again to villages to track down their prey — the elusive Alaska Native. Sometimes they found him along the river, in a fish camp; sometime in a cabin, miles removed from the village, running his trapline; and in one actual case, out on the ice, hunting whales.

And sometimes, they did not find him at all. He had dropped out of sight and not even the closest relatives knew where he had gone. Many Alaska Natives departed their native state for wider horizons.

And some of the brothers who stayed behind and fought the fight for the land resented the Johnny-come-lately's who left the land and now wanted their share of the family fortunes.

But brotherhood is brotherhood. "Blood will out," went an old saying, and the Act read: "all persons of $\frac{1}{4}$ Alaska Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut blood or any combination thereof."

It is a tradition among Native people to care for one's people — a brother's widow, an old woman, a fatherless child. Blood relations would not be denied. And a search went out for the lost children of Alaska Native blood.

Spot announcements were

sent out to 500 television stations, 2700 radio stations, and over 1200 newspapers and magazines. Indian organizations and welfare departments all over the United States were called upon to help search for Alaska Native children who were adopted by non-Native parents.

To date, over 65,000 Natives have been counted in the state of Alaska and about 7500 from outside the state. George A. Walters of Anchorage who heads the search for out-of-state claimants believes there may still be some 13,500 Alaska Natives in the outside world, still unrecognized and unregistered.

Walters expects the total overall enrollment figures to tally around 80,000, exceeding by about 20,000 the estimate made when Congress passed the bill.

So far, claimants have turned up in every state of the Union and in 19 foreign countries.

Yet even in Alaska, where enrollment is no farther away than your friendly enrollment office down the street, many Alaska Natives have procrastinated right up to the last minute and are still not enrolled, including Tundra Times' Editor Rock.

45 days left! For more information and for application forms, write to: Enrollment Coordinating Office, Pouch 7-1971, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. The deadline is March 30, 1973.