

What others say...

ANCSA video series

To the editor:

Fifteen years ago, President Richard Nixon signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act into law. The act had, and continues to have, far-reaching effects on our state.

Through ANCSA, the federal government felt it had reached a fair and just settlement with Alaska Natives over their claim to land in Alaska. It set up Native corporations; pumped a billion dollars into the economy; and turned 44 million acres of land over to the Native corporations.

With the signing of the act, construction began on the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline; the state was able to continue its selection of millions of acres of land; and the way was paved for the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Today, Alaska Natives face a series of important decisions as a result of ANCSA. What can be done about the "New Native" situation where many young Native people are excluded from the benefits of ANCSA?

How will Natives deal with stock and taxation protections that end in 1991?

These are questions that must be answered to ensure that the act does

what it was intended to do, keep the land and corporations in Native hands, now and in the future.

More education about ANCSA is needed if Natives, and others, are to face the decisions of today. But, few ANCSA materials exist that are relevant to both young people and the present adult Native population.

To meet this need, a video series and accompanying print materials are available from the Northwest Arctic Television Center in Kotzebue. The video series explains the historical events that led to passage of the act, critical information about the act itself and future issues and options for Alaska Natives.

While the video series was designed for high school students, it is also suitable for a general audience. Accompanied by a teacher's guide and selected student readings, the package as a whole gives the user good information on all aspects of ANCSA. Large kits of these materials have been distributed free to every school district in the state.

Thank you for your time. Happy Holidays!

Bob Walker
Kotzebue

State seeks proposals

To the editor:

Alaska State Parks is ready to open the doors to one of Alaska's most fascinating historical roadhouses. Built in 1904, this three story log structure overlooks the Tanana River in a serene setting that transports the visitor back in time to the pioneer days on the early 1900's.

Restoration work on the roadhouse and several out-buildings has been completed, and the state is now seeking proposals from individuals and firms interested in concession operation of the roadhouse and other park facilities.

The park is located at Big Delta, on the Richardson and Alaska Highways. It is part of the Alaska State Park System, and the Roadhouse is on the National Register of Historic Places. Several buildings have been completely restored, however, some commercial facilities must be installed in order to begin a concession operation.

Proposals for the contract must include a working roadhouse with overnight lodging, gift shop and simple meals served to overnight guests and visitors. The park must be open to the general public for tours, however, a fee may be charged by the concessioner for those tours. All commercial activities must enhance the themes of

the park.

A minimum estimated investment of \$50,000 to \$100,000 in park improvements and inventory will be necessary to begin operation under this contract. Major construction work must be completed on the septic system and on the kitchen facilities according to plans approved by the division. Plans for other capital improvements must be submitted with the proposals.

There will be an on-site pre-proposal conference held at the Big Delta State Historical Park on Jan. 21 from noon until 3 p.m.

All persons or firms interested in the concession contract are asked to attend this conference or make other arrangements to inspect the park premises.

The deadline for proposal submission is Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. at the Fairbanks office, 4114 Airport Way in Fairbanks.

Thank you for your interest in Alaska State Park concession opportunities. We look forward to receiving your proposals on this and other state park projects in the future.

Neil C. Johannsen, director
Division of Parks
and Outdoor Recreation