



# EX-PRESIDENT TRUMAN PASSES

## Native Leaders' Reaction to Truman's Death

Harry Truman was very much the common man's president. And he was admired for it by many people, including Alaskans. His death last Tuesday brought a wave of responses from Native and other leaders around the state.

"What I saw was . . . a common man with uncommon qualities," said John Borbridge, president of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council for the Tlingit-Haida Indians of Alaska. "He made his decision based on his assessments and never looked back. I have always admired him because he came into the White House quietly and underestimated," but still made his influence felt on policy, concluded Borbridge.

Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives Foundation, said "History is already showing him to be one of the great presidents we have had. When he was president, he was very interested in American Indians and the civil rights problems they had. It is a sad day for the nation that the former president has died."

Eben Ho, son, mayor of the Arctic Slope Borough, also called Truman "one of our greatest presidents, particularly after he picked up the unexpired

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**FORMER PRESIDENT DIES** — Harry S. Truman, the people's President, passed into history when he passed away last week a day after Christmas. During his tenure as the nation's President, he made some of the greatest decisions any President ever had to make.

## Race for Begich's Seat—Candidates Including Pegge in Race

Gov. William A. Egan called Friday for a special election on March 6 to fill the seat of Congressman Nick Begich, missing since Oct. 16 on a flight to Juneau.

The governor's decision came only minutes after Anchorage District Court Judge Dorothy Tyner signed a presumptive death certificate for Begich. This, together with Superior Court Judge Edmond W. Burke's ruling that a candidate must be chosen in convention, clears the path for the Democrats to choose Begich's replacement. And several people have already expressed intentions to run for the post.

One of these is Pegge Begich, the Congressman's widow. Mrs. Begich flew into Fairbanks Wednesday to meet with political leaders and size up the chances of winning her party's nomination for her husband's seat in Congress. She expressed confidence, both in her support and her capabilities. And she outlined her plans.

Her campaign is just getting underway, as she said, "because of waiting for the presumptive death hearing (held Dec. 12 in Anchorage) I didn't feel until that time as if I could become active." But now she is free to move ahead.

"I know the plan Nick had for Alaska. The job he started,

I would like to continue," she said. And she continued, "The first two years, of course, the Native land claims was a commitment."

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## Nation Mourns Death Of Its 33rd President

Harry S. Truman died last Tuesday morning in Kansas City's Research Hospital at the age of 88, finally defeated by his illnesses.

Thursday was proclaimed by President Nixon, who president "a fighter who was best when the going was toughest." Flags were ordered flown at half-mast for 30 days on federal office buildings, most of which were closed Thursday.

Death came to the former president at 3:50 a.m. AST. Bess Truman, his wife of 53 years, and their daughter Margaret who saw him for 20

a national day of mourning called the nation's 33rd

minutes Christmas Day were at home in Independence at the time.

The funeral, in accordance with Truman's wishes, was kept simple, involving none of the show usually granted great statesmen. Services and burial were at noon AST in the courtyard of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Library.

Truman, who died of what hospital officials called "a complexity of organic failures, causing a collapse of the cardiovascular system," was president during one of the roughest periods in American history.

To him fell the responsibility of dropping the world's first nuclear weapons in order to end World War II. He had to deal with the Cold War with Russia. And he watched it grow much hotter as troops from North Korea invaded South Korea and the United Nations was called in.

And it was Truman who set up the UN, NATO, the Marshall Plan and a number of other foreign aid programs. His "Truman Doctrine," with its extension of aid to Greece and Turkey in 1947 was "crucial to the defense of liberty in Europe and the world," President Nixon said.

Although Truman was in-  
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## BBNC Submits Toward AFN Debt

Willie Hensley, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. commended the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) for submitting their share of the indebtedness of the central statewide organization.

Mr. Harvey Samuelson, President of the BBNC and Nels Anderson, its executive director, signed a check in the amount of \$49,140.16 to be used to reduce the debt of AFN, Inc. incurred during the six-year effort to settle the native land claims.

The Bristol Bay Corporation joins the Aleut Corporation, Koniag, and Ahlta, in the effort to wipe out the debt.

Mr. Hensley indicated that the response from the regions has been positive in the efforts to settle the land claims debt.

# Summary of Settlement Act--

## Series to Cover Analysis of Land Claims Settlement

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of at least seven installments on the "Summary and Analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act." The Tundra Times is publicizing the series in an edited and simplified form at the request of Mike Harper, executive director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. Harper feels that the publication of the summary is of vital importance in this period of post land claims settlement and which should make things easier to understand as far as claims oriented matters are concerned. The summary is an 175 page document prepared by the law firm of Ely, Guess and Rudd of Anchorage for the Rural Alaska Community Action Program. It can be purchased for \$15 per-book at the agency.)

In the year since its passage, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act has raised as many questions as it has people's hopes. An extremely complicated piece of legislature, it has left Natives wondering just what they do and do not have and why.

In an attempt to answer some of these questions, RURAL CAP

money may be distributed. Since the amount of money given is based on the number of Natives per region, this matter becomes highly important.

Just as vital is selection of desired lands. Formal regional corporations must be formed before the Secretary of the Interior will give out any money. And none of the people get funds until all are prepared, so the urgency of quick action is obvious.

Two corporation types are permitted by the Act. A set of 12 regional corporations roughly paralleling the boundaries of old Native associations, with an optional 13th region for non-residents, is the first. Also, village corporations will let individual towns share the wealth. ANF money goes only to the regions, but other funds will go to the villages.

Stock in the regional cor-  
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## Hard Winters Seriously Reduce Moose Herd

By LAEL MORGAN

GALENA — Last fall white hunters flying to the interior in search of moose had the pontoons of their plane punctured and the machine set adrift by Galena residents who did not welcome intrusion into their subsistence hunting area.

The State Troopers and Federal Aviation Agency were contacted by the incident was reportedly settled by a fist fight and did not end up in court.

This season, however, it has become apparent that moose are well worth fighting for. Two hard winters have cut the moose severely in many areas of the state and game experts predict it will take about two years to bring back happy hunting.

Ronald Somerville, regional game supervisor of State Fish in Anchorage reports the count was so far off in the Copper River Basin the regular season had to be curtailed and there was no cow season.

The Susitna River area was similarly hit and hunting was only "so so" on the Kenai peninsula.

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