



SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Tommy Welcyng, an Eskimo from Anchorage, Alaska, is assisting in a worldwide drive by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to locate Alaska Natives eligible for benefits under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Tommy's reward from BIA Commissioner Morris Thompson for posing in publicity photos was an ice cream soda—but enrolled Natives are eligible to share in benefits from a Congressional award of \$962.5 million and more than 40 million acres of land.

Search made to find ANCSA eligibles

ANCHORAGE—The BIA has launched a world-wide search to locate Alaska Natives who may be eligible for substantial benefits in land and money under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

It is estimated that between 5,000 and 10,000 persons are

eligible for benefits under the act but have not yet applied for these benefits.

Many of the eligible Alaska Natives are believed to be living in the Northwest U.S. and along the West Coast, although the BIA has indications others are scattered throughout the

continental U.S., in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and several foreign countries.

The Native Claims Settlement Act grants to Alaska Natives \$962.5 million and more than 40 million acres of land.

Enrollment for benefits under the act began soon after its passage, and more than 77,000 eligible Natives were enrolled in the initial registration period which ended in March, 1973.

The federal government now is re-opening enrollment in order to make certain that all those who are eligible have an opportunity to file their applications. In its efforts to locate eligible but unenrolled

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ANCSA eligibles . . .

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Natives, the BIA plans a massive public information program that will include public service television and radio advertising, newspaper and magazine advertising, direct mail, signs and posters in prominent places, including United States embassies and military posts throughout the world, and an intensive public relations program.

"The potential benefits to eligible Natives are substantial," said a BIA spokesman. "We want to do everything possible to make certain that no person who is eligible for benefits is left out because he has not heard of the

program."

BIA representatives are enlisting the support of print and electronic media throughout the U.S. to help in the quest for unenrolled Natives, and also will be sending materials to English language newspapers throughout the world.

"We hope that anyone who believes he or she is eligible, or has any friends or relatives they think may be eligible, will file an application," said the BIA.

Application forms and further information may be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pouch 7-1971, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.