

Federally Chartered T-H Credit Union

The TLINGIT-HAIDA Federally Chartered Credit Union of Juneau, Alaska, is the newest of some 13,000 federally chartered credit unions. Administrator Herman Nickerson, Jr. of the National Credit Union Administration announced in Washington D.C.

The Administration is an independent agency of the United States Government.

In signing Charter No. 21117, Administrator Nickerson noted, "This is the first time native Alaskan Indians have been organized for the purpose of promoting thrift within their own community," adding, "I am honored and proud to present a Federal charter to the TLINGIT and HAIDA Indians of Alaska."

The issuance of the charter means also the issuance of NCUA insurance. All FCUs are insured by the Administrator, NCUA, up to \$20,000 per member account.

This NCUA insurance is simi-

lar to that of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC), available to banks and savings and loans, respectively.

The field of membership in the new Federal credit union includes enrollees and employees of the Central Council of TLINGIT and HAIDA Indians of Alaska in order to help these native Alaskans become more oriented toward the present economy.

The membership potential for the new FCU numbers around 10,000 with share account holdings estimated to reach into the millions of dollars.

The President of the TLINGIT-HAIDA FCU is Victor Haldane. Marcelo Quinto, Jr. is Vice President. Frieda R. Dams is the Treasurer and Cecilia David is the Secretary.

The first credit unions in this country were started in New Hampshire in 1908. Today, nearly 13,000 Federal credit unions have assets exceeding \$11 billion owned by 13.3 million members.

Largely operated by volunteers, Federal credit unions have average savings of \$757 per member. Assets of Federal credit unions range from a few dollars to many millions of dollars with the median size being slightly more than \$200,000.

Membership in credit unions is limited with a common bond of occupation, association, or residence. Individuals interested in starting a new Federal credit union should write to the National Credit Union Administration, Washington, D. C. 20456.

Edward Bernhoft, Regional Director of the NCUA Region VI in San Francisco, represented Administrator Nickerson, when he presented the new Federal credit union charter to the officers of the credit union in

Juneau on December 8.

A letter of congratulations from Mr. Robert Robertson, Executive Director of the "National Council on Indian Opportunity, was read at the ceremony.

Federal Building...

(Continued from page 1)

the Chamber of Commerce and borough officials favored the location.

Alternate sites were suggested in the Weeks Field area near Airport Way and in the vacant lot south of J. C. Penney's.

George Easley, representing the governor's office, testified first. Noting that architects have been retained, he said they were prepared to go ahead and could probably put out plans in June.

"It would certainly provide advantages for citizens attempting to do business with the government if all business were centrally located," he said.

Borough Chairman John Carlson favored the central spot.

"In Fairbanks, federal offices are scattered over a wide area. A new building would improve efficiency and create jobs and new business opportunities. Other business would be attracted," he said.

"I see nothing but good coming from this building and would encourage it. Basically, there is a feeling that it should be in the core area," he added.

Mayor Gillam, while favoring construction of the building, objected to "displacing people who have made their homes there (on the East Side)." He also proposed the Weeks Field area, as it is near major traffic arteries and close to the complex consisting of the present state building, MUS, and the police and fire stations.

Gillam, along with several others, felt that a central location would do more harm than good. Ice fog and traffic congestion were two reasons given against such a spot and he said, "It'll be over my dead body that this plan will go through."

C. W. Baer, Chamber of Commerce representative, endorsed the new building, saying that a new and better cost system was greatly needed. The Native Land Claims act will require expanded agency room in Fairbanks, he stated. Also, the town is growing and office space is on the short side.

Mrs. Alice Wilson, chairman of the East Side association, protested being taken into urban renewal without knowing what was happening.

"The people have a constitutional right to privacy. The government has the constitutional responsibility to inform," she said, quoting from Sen. Gravel's book, Citizen Power.

Other East Side citizens spoke on the already-bad pollution problem, the possibility of relocating the main post office and quality of life here in Fairbanks as opposed to that in the lower 48.

Celia Hunter, co-owner and operator of Camp Denali, said this proposal is like the Army in Vietnam saying "We had to destroy the town to save it."

Speaking for Howard Rock, editor of the Tundra Times, was Frank Murphy. He said that Rock was in total support of the project because of what it represents in terms of employment and because it would help the Natives. He continued that Rock hoped money could be allocated for an Alaskan Native motif to express individuality. And he concluded by saying that if Fairbanks did not want

Wright BIA Head?

Don Wright, recently fired as head of the Alaska Federation of Natives, has been named "among the top three" contenders for commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs by Washington sources.

Wright, one of seven Indians listed as candidates for the spot, faces heavy competition from the others. He endorsed Senator Ted Stevens and President Richard Nixon this year. He also was regional chairman for the Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Both Stevens and Senator Mike Gravel will support Wright, their spokesmen say, and are meeting with him at Wildwood, near Kenai.

But support from the AFN is doubtful if Wright gets the BIA post. And other Indian leaders who are unhappy with Alaskan Indians and Eskimos because of the Native Land Claims Settlement Act might also create opposition.

Others named as possibilities are Webster Two Hawk, president of the National Tribal Chairmen's Council; Peter MacDonald, chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council; John Artchoker, BIA area director in Phoenix, Arizona; and Bruce Townsend, a Tulsa, Oklahoma lawyer.

Coed Slain...

(Continued from page 1)

is there.

District Court Judge Hugh Connelly denied a request by the public defender that bail be reduced. He also ordered psychiatric care to be decided by the Superior Court when attorneys could not agree on a doctor or the type of examination necessary. A hearing is set for December 15th, with District Attorney Monroe Clayton seeking a murder indictment at Tuesday's Grand Jury meeting.

Miss Stambaugh's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne H. Stambaugh of 415 6th Street in Juneau, flew to Fairbanks Sunday evening and were met at the airport by university officials who provided them with accommodations.

Mammal Protection...

(Continued from page 1)

emption is for two years from the date enactment.

These exemptions are subject to regulations which in the case of commercial fishing will be designed to achieve a goal of zero mortality of marine mammals.

The exemption to Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos is subject to restrictions necessary to protect depleted stocks of marine mammals.

In addition, the Pribilof Island fur seal program is not subject to the moratorium, but the program will be studied for possible modification.

Enforcement of the Act will be the joint responsibility of the Commerce and Interior Departments.

The proposed Interior Department regulations were published in the Federal Register on December 1, and by the Com-

merce Department on December 2. Comments from interested parties are requested by December 15, 1972.

It is anticipated that the interim regulations will be promulgated by December 21, effective on that date.

After the effective date the record will remain open for additional comments for a 60-day period expiring February 21, 1973.

Written comments, views, or objections to the proposed regulation, or, after December 15, to the interim regulations, should be made to the Director National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., 20235, or to the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 2024.

The Dying Language...

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can.

Sally rounded up eight interested people and they met for an hour and a half once a week. Sally did it because: "It frightened me to see our language dying out and so much else dying with it."

From the start, Dave Henry did not want to teach just the language but stressed learning the method by which it could be recorded.

"Most of my students speak Athabaskan better than I do. But I'm trying to give technical assistance, so that they can write it in a systematic way and so that they have the tools to write anything in the language and preserve it."

Prior to this, there had been no written Athabaskan that accurately represented the spoken language.

These small private classes continued for two years, until the Fairbanks Native Community Center offered the use of its facility to hold an expanded three hour session on a weekly basis.

The initial response was enthusiastic, with twenty or more people attending each class. However, constant shifts of time and location made necessary by demands of other activities in the heavily used Native Center, severely hampered the program.

This was most damaging to the younger students, who had no previous experience with the language.

Having discovered that there was widespread interest in learning Athabaskan, Henry decided to apply for federal funding to start a bi-lingual program in the schools of the Koyukon region.

A proposal was written and submitted to the Title I board of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. John Sackett, president of Tanana Chiefs Regional Corporation, and a member of the State Senate, used his political influence to back the proposal.

As Henry says, "It was Sackett who got people on the ball for this program. Without the support of powerful groups like Tanana Chiefs, the Indians might be overlooked entirely because they're so small numerically."

The program includes a six week training session for bi-lingual instructors, the establishment of Athabaskan classes in the State Operated Schools at Nulato, Koyukuk, and Huslia by Jan. 1, 1973, and the printing of an alphabet book, a syllable

book, intermediate primers and pre-primers, and an expanded dictionary to be used in the future, as the program develops a secondary level.

Seven days before the training session was to begin, Henry received word that the funding had been approved.

Those "approved funds" would not be converted into cold cash for some time to come, so with nothing more than a travel voucher and an optimistic outlook, Dave Henry visited the villages involved in order to recruit instructors. More applicants than necessary responded and the village councils had to decide quickly which of the applicants would be chosen to participate in the program.

The instructors-to-be flew in to Fairbanks and, somewhat familiar with a cashless economy, managed to scratch up housing, transportation and material and begin the training session, while still awaiting the arrival of federal money.

The course also attracted a number of Athabascans from Fairbanks, some of whom, like Sally Hudson, had been studying the language for several years.

According to Henry, "Enthusiasm keeps the program moving ahead, despite all drawbacks."

The students range from a great-grandmother to teen-agers, but at the end of seven hours in the class room, "nobody is tired or bored."

Speaking to John Kito, Director of Bi-lingual Programs for State Operated Schools, it would seem that most of the program's problems are behind it. Kito, who is responsible for implementation of the Athabaskan Bi-lingual Program, explained that the delay in payment had been due to bookkeeping problems inherent with a new program. Henceforth, funds should flow smoothly. Kito sees a bright future for Koyukon Athabaskan.

"The program itself is a great thing. It's strong now and it will get stronger if the bush people let everyone know that bi-lingual education is a need, a want and that they deserve to have it." Dave Henry and Sally Hudson also hope a combined language and culture course could be developed in the urban high schools, where young Athabascans are almost completely cut off from their heritage.

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