AFN Hires Ketzler Assistant Director

Rep. William Hensley said this week that the Alaska Federation of Natives has hired Alfred Ketzler of Nenana to be the assistant executive director to Hensley himself who was appointed executive director by Emil Notti, president of AFN.

"Al Ketzler is going to be my right arm," said Hensley. "He's going to work with AFN administering programs, attending sessions on behalf of AFN. He'll take some load off my hands and I'll be able to spend most of my time doing what I'm supposed to do."

Al Ketzler moved to Anchorage last Monday to take over his new duties.

Hensley said that AFN as a native organization has applied and received several large grants and the programs that result from them will have to be administered and processed.

"In that light we need constant surveilance to see that they are processed well and to see that the programs stay within their budgets," said Hensley.

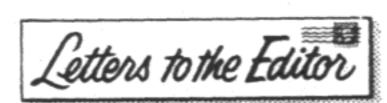
He said that on the other

hand his office has the responsibility of maintaining communications with the board of directors, work with the state, local lawyers, and the Alaskan public; work with Washington, D.C. representatives of the AFN, and at the same time get enough operating funds for emergency expenditures.

Some of the work is difficult and some of it is just having enough time to do it all," Hensley said. "There is a constant stream of people coming through the office, telephone calls from all over, and there are many meetings we have to attend."

He said that at the last AFN board meeting it was decided that the most important thing at the present time was to push for legislation on land claims. He said the intent was to involve the board in this process as much as possible.

Washington representatives Hensley mentioned are Emil Notti and John Borbridge, first vice president of AFN. Borbridge is also president of the Tlingit and Haida Indians Central Council.



(Continued from page 2)

passion for the village people and their problems. This includes not only Mr. Birchell and his staff at Bethel, but State people, OEO, and even that seldom heard from outfit, ANICA.

The last point that I would like to make is that the purchase and shipment of 300 drums of petroleum products runs into many thousands of dollars. These are not Federal dollars nor are they State of Alaska dollars, but Native dollars. Dollars which have been the backbone of Native cooperation with each other for the past 22 years in a Cooperative called ANICA. ANICA is not much of a flag waver, nor are we very politically orientated; frankly, we are just too busy trying to do a good job of what the Cooperative was originally designed to do, provide sensiblypriced foods and general merchandise to scattered Alaskan villages.

It isn't with just a little pride that ANICA points to its central purchasing system which has built itself an AAA credit position or the marine insurance program that is built into the landed cost of all water shipments sent by ANICA or the Reserve for shipping loss which holds the cost of village goods down to their normal level when nature interfers (such as the river being too low for barge delivery to Shungnak, ANICA picked up the tab for over \$4,000 in air freight to Shungnak without raising the cost of one item in the Shungnak store).

Then you might consider the

1 Mile Richardson Highway

ANICA insurance program which is unique in bush Alaska and covers literally hundreds of village store buildings, warehouses, community halls, and a few light plants-Point Hopes' store, community hall, and generator are all covered under this policy and stores at Hooper Bay and Unalakleet have burnt to the ground and been rebuilt. Only Standard Oil Company and the State of Alaska have similar insurance programs that I know of and they are not on Native-owned buildings to the best of my knowledge.

ANICA em-Additionally, ploys three hard-working, traveling men who spend half their time traveling from village to village in their areas working with the village store managers, councils, and doing whatever they can to upgrade and improve the general welfare of the village store and people.

Enough about ANICA. I had better get to work. I did want to emphasize in this letter, however, that although much support and help comes from Washington, there are an awful lot of people "where the action is" just as interested and working just as hard in their way. I appreciated the nice letter your Miss Ericsson wrote to our Store, Ron Larson. ANICA will continue to lend assistance to the Tundra Times and to communication between the villages whenever it can.

Phone: 452-2266

Sincerely, Donald S. Dorsey ANICA Manager

Seeks Hearings on Indian Health

Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens has urged the chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Senator Ralph Yarborough (D-Texas), to initiate hearings on a review of the entire scope of the Indian Health Service programs.

"The Indian Health Service is a vital part of Alaska's health concerned over the viability of

care system. It represents approximately one-third of our state's hospital delivery system for health care and is absolutely essential to the well-being of Alaska's natives," Senator Stevens said.

The Alaska Republican stated he was becoming increasingly

have done to the Indian people

have been one of their biggest

headaches today. Their failure

to grant some percentage of

royalty will more likely result in

a more severe and prolonged

ASNA suit they are filing to

prevent the state from spending

the \$900 million, the group has

been planning it since last April

and that it was not a spur of the

sale if we chose to, but we

suit itself was something the

state should have evaluated; that

the state knew that they were

about to sell leases on lands they

"We could have prevented the

He said the possibility of a

moment proposition.

didn't," Hopson said.

did not own.

Hopson said that as far as the

headache than ever before."

vice.

"The personnel ceiling under which the Indian Health Service is operating is causing a severe staffing shortage," Stevens said. He added, "A potential personnel morale problem which could reach serious proportions and affect the quality of health care delivered is developing."

the program. He said he has been

receiving letters from the state

expressing a severe financial

strain on the community hospi-

tals who take part in, and depend

on, the contract medical care

program of Indian Health Ser-

Stevens also informed the committee chairman that construction of Indian Health hospitals and health centers in Alaska was not proceeding fast enough.

"The boom-city of Fairbanks is planning the construction of an urgently needed new hospital with EDA, Hill-Burton, state and local funds. But unless PL 86-151 funds are made available by a supplemental appropriation this year for the Indian Health Service, the native community of over 3,000 will continue to have to go without access to Indian Health Service hospital facilities," Stevens said.

Expresses Misgivings..

(Continued from page 1)

tion. "The Arctic Slope Native As-

sociation, having committed itself to unity and for an overall settlement has supported it," Hopson said. "But, had we been in a position to ask for a settlement through legislation, we would have asked for the same amount for our region. That is how strongly we feel about our land claim.

"For this land," Hopson continued, "we are about to lose through the passage of this legislation, the overriding royalty is the one most dear to us. This provision is the most important part of the settlement that we are asking for.

"The argument against this proposal saying that the Budget Bureau would never approve it is a poor excuse for denying a justice. Permitted to finalize a settlement without an overriding royalty will be a repeat of the long sad history of the Congress of the United States in dealing with the Indian people.

"The chance to do justice to the first citizens of this country is now. The Congress should grasp this opportunity to do justice and not make a fast deal and forget it.

"I should not be the one to tell them that the injustices they

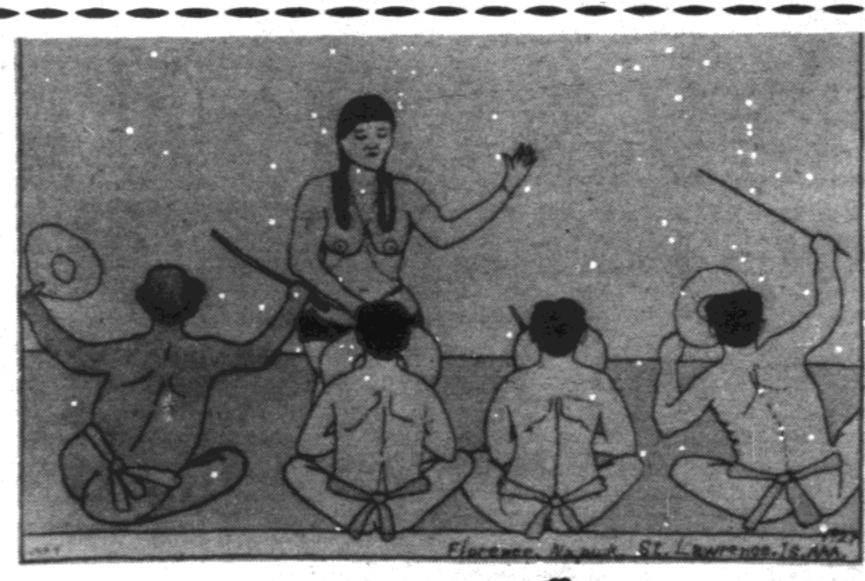
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