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Inupiat Paitot *People's Heritage*

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Ut kah neek *Informing and Reporting*

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OTZ PLANS RETIREMENT HOME

Health aides from nearly 30 villages in the Kotzebue and Norton Sound areas led by Willa Ashen felter, of White Mountain, (front row, center), gathered in Kotzebue last week to discuss a number of job problems, including low pay. On call seven days a week, 24 hours a day, the health aides get $510 per month and no fringe benefits. The group is considering sending lobbyists to Washington, D.C. to improve their situation.

Kotzebue Sets to Build Innovative Facility for Its Elderly Citizens

By MARGIE BAUMAN

KOTZEBUE – "Make it a home for the living – not the dying," the architect was told and that, in a nutshell, is what the retirement home to be built in this village of Inupiat Eskimos is all about.

Armed with $1.75 million in state funds earmarked for a pioneer home in Kotzebue, community leaders like John W. Schaeffer are determined to build an innovative retirement home sensitive to the needs of elderly people of Northwest Alaska.

Meeting Friday at the offices of NANA Regional Corporation Inc., regional Native corporation of Northwest Alaska, Schaeffer brought the point home simply to Fairbanks architect Donald Wilson when he told Wilson to "make it a home for the living – not the dying."

Circled around an architect's plan drawn up at Alaska Architectural and Engineering Co., Fairbanks, Wilson listened for over an hour to Schaeffer, Kotzebue School principal Charles Perry, senior citizens group leader Jimmy Hawley, Levy Mills and State Senator Willie Hensley, all of Kotzebue, deputy director Tommy M. Ongtooguk of Norton Sound Health Corp., Nome, visiting legislators and health workers from the region.

Hensley, strongly instrumental in bringing the state funds into the region, was emphatic that it not be an intensive care facility and that the facility be built soon. "Every time we get money, two to three years go by and we lose 15 to 20 per cent of the money through infla-

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Kotzebue Health Aides Fume Over Low Pay

By MARGIE BAUMAN

KOTZEBUE – Health aides paid little over $500 a month for a job that puts them on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week are getting so furious they don't laugh when someone suggests they strike.

The point was made Thursday in the midst of a week-long meeting of health aides from the Norton Sound and Kotzebue areas, as the subject of pay arouse.

"Why don't you strike?" asked a visitor to the meeting.

"Say, that's not a bad idea," said one health aide to another immediately. "If we did that everyone would have to go to the hospital. It would cost the government more and maybe then they would listen to us."

While no such action was taken, the group did strongly consider a lobbying effort, including sending representatives to Washington, D.C. when the Public Health budget is being worked on by Congress.

Health aides with eight weeks basic training from the Public Health Service are getting $510 per month; those with less than basic training get $400. The government has raised the ante for next year to $523, but this still includes no employee benefits and no pay for alternate aides who work while health aides are away from training.

Despite their low pay, the job responsibility is great, "especially when some villages have 500 people," said Lavonne Hendricks, a health aide field trainer

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Tanana Chiefs Meet Wed.-Fri.

FAIRBANKS – The Tanana Chiefs Conference Inc. holds its semi-annual convention Wednesday through Friday at Fairbanks, with delegates from over 40 Interior villages participating.

President Mitch Demientieff said the meeting would focus on various programs of the non-profit Native corporations and projected activities at the regional and village level.

Also slated for discussion are state fish and game regulations which may adversely affect the traditional lifestyle of the Interior Natives.

Speakers will include S. Bobo Dean of the Association of American Indian Affairs and President John Sackett of Doyon Limited, the profit-making arm of the Tanana Chiefs region.

Laura Bergt On Alaska Plan Policy Board

ANCHORAGE – Ms. Laura Bergt of Fairbanks has been elected to the Alaska Plan Policy Board, a group bent on making sure that Alaskans get the first crack at job opportunities in their state.

"Ms. Bergt is a strong advocate of equality of people in all walks of life," said board chairman Clifford Black. "We have a board that believes in equality, brotherhood and compassion and she'll fit in. I'm sure she will continue to work and express herself the way she has so admirably done in the past," he said.

Aleut Corp. Protests Chain Fishery Closures

ANCHORAGE – Growing concern over depletion of fish in Southwest Alaska has prompted a new protest from the Aleut Corp. disputing fisheries closure affecting peoples of the Aleutian Chain.

"When ships with the capability of capturing almost everything within their path are raping our fishing grounds, regulations we impose upon ourselves serve only to butter the bread of foreign interests," says the September edition of the Aleut Corp. newsletter.

The Aleut Corp. discusses a suggestion from Bristol Bay fishermen that there be absolutely no fishing in the Unimak-False Pass area during the month of June.

In the absence of evidence indicating an emergency situation, says the newsletter, "it would seem incumbent on a regulatory agency to at least initiate the research necessary to establish the impact of a fishery on

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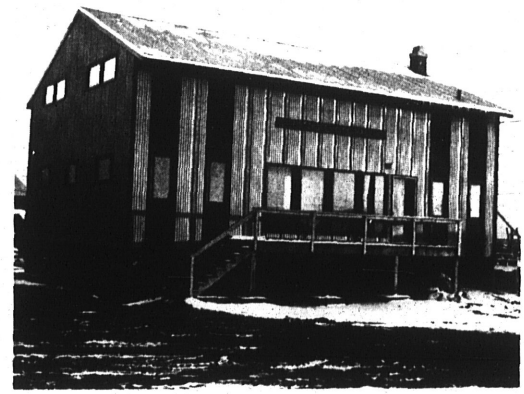

Kotzebue's new city hall opened for business Oct. 1, complete with offices for City Manager Leo Schaeffer, Police Chief Lorrie Schuerch and other employes. City council meetings will be held in chambers on the second floor, across the hall from state trooper headquarters.

Judge to Issue Decree–

Aleuts Seek to Halt Land Sales

Alaska Superior Court Judge James K. Singleton is expected to issue within 30 days his final decree in a suit brought by the Aleut Corp. to halt land sales in the Aleutian Chain.

At that time the state is expected to appeal his decision of Sept. 6, a decision which affects the entire state.

The controversy centers around a state statute which states that "no land in or adjacent to an incorporated municipality or other organized community may be sold or leased, or a renewal lease issued until the proposed use of the land has been studied and reviewed jointly by the director and local authorized planning agencies."

In a suit filed Sept. 28, 1972, the Aleut Corp. and its village members contended that the villages involved qualified as "other organized communities," and that at no time had the proposed use of the land been studied and reviewed jointly by the director of the division of lands and the Aleut Corp. or any of the villages.

Villages named in the suit include Sand Point, Squaw Har-

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