

Native Allotments

(From THE LAND)

The Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations in Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is busy processing large numbers of Native allotment applications.

Native allotments were part of the 1906 Native Allotment Act which provided for up to 160 acres of land to an Alaskan Native applicant who had "substantially continuous use and occupancy" of the land for five consecutive years. This act was repealed by the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Prior to approval of this act there was a last-minute rush to file, resulting in nearly 8,000 applications.

From July 1, 1974, to June 1, 1975, 885 Native allotments were approved and survey requested, 24 Native allotment certificates (patents) were issued, and 452 allotment applications were rejected.

Over 50% of the rejections were land-status related. Generally the rejections were brought about because the land filed on by the applicant was already withdrawn

for other uses prior to his filing.

The BLM has been giving considerable weight to additional evidence submitted by the applicants after they have received "60-day notices."

When there is insufficient evidence to make a decision, 60-day notices requiring the applicant to submit additional information to BLM is sent.

The new evidence can include affidavits from individuals who are familiar with the use of the entire parcel of land, claimed uses by the applicant, letters, sketches, photos, and any information that would prove substantial use and occupancy of the entire area.

Of the applicants who were sent 60-day notices, over 40% of the applications have been approved after the receipt of additional information.

There are six full-time adjudicators working on Native Allotments in the Alaska State Office and three in the Alaska State Office. The BLM staff will continue to process applications until all final actions are completed.



INTERIOR ESKIMOS FLOAT—Eskimos of the interior entered a float on last week's Golden Days Parade and it turned out to be quite distinctive. The intrepid crew of the umiak (skinboat) has harpooned a whale denoting what their fellow Eskimos do during whaling season in the Arctic. — Photo by MARC OLSON

D-2 Confusion

(From THE LAND)

Many new and often confusing terms have come out of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) that gives title to some 40 million acres of land to Alaska Natives. One of those new terms is "(d)(2) lands." Just what are (d)(2) lands, and what is anyone doing about them?

In Section 17(d)(2) of ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to designate up to 80 million acres of Alaskan land to be set aside for possible inclusion in units of the National forest, park, wildlife refuge, and wild and scenic river systems.

This land was withdrawn in 1973, and the Congress of the United States has until 1978 to act on the Secretary's recommendations.

What will happen to these lands until 1978, or until Congress acts on the Secretary's recommendations? The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been given the responsibility for managing these lands in the interim.

This presents some unique management problems. National forests are managed differently than national parks, and parks are managed differently than wildlife refuges.

In an effort to avoid management actions that could damage these lands for their possible future use, BLM has appointed Jens Jensen to the newly created position of Four Systems Coordinator.

Jensen will be responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management and the other four agencies that may ultimately manage these lands. The other agencies involved are the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Forest Service, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

The goal for these five agencies is to establish a cooperative interim management plan for the 80 million acres of (d)(2) lands.

Jensen, former Chief, Division of Resources in the BLM Alaska State Office, reports directly to the BLM State Director, Curtis V. McVee. Jensen will be using the knowledge and talents of many people on the staffs of BLM state and district offices.

Since being appointed to the post in December, Jensen has held a series of meetings with the other four agencies to draft a memorandum of understanding regarding the interim management procedures for these

lands.

Jensen will also be working closely with the State of Alaska and the various Native corporations that would be affected by any change in the management of these lands. Some of the areas of immediate concern are the proposed 3.18 million acre addition to Mt. McKinley National Park, the proposed Noatak National Arctic Range, and the Iliamna National Resource Range.

In late summer a delegation from Washington, D.C. is expected to visit Alaska to look at the (d)(2) lands, since many congressmen have never seen the areas which they may be proposing as new national forests, wildlife refuges, parks or wild and scenic rivers.

The delegation may also hold public hearings to gain insight on needs and wants of Alaskans regarding the (d)(2) lands.

Gasoline Pricing Complaints

Traditionally high gasoline demands for summer driving are pushing retail prices toward maximum legal limits, therefore, the Federal Energy Administration will be carefully monitoring retail gasoline prices.

Anyone who suspects they may have been overcharged for gasoline can call an FEA office in Seattle, Portland, Boise or Anchorage to file a complaint, and FEA investigators will check to see if the customer has been overcharged.

Jack B. Robertson, Northwest FEA Administrator said that retail gasoline prices have been, on the average, below legal maximums for the past several months.

"Reduced demand for gasoline this last winter and spring has forced many dealers' prices down two or three cents below what they can legally charge," said Robertson.

Consumer complaint numbers for each State in FEA's Region X are:

Seattle, Washington (206) 422-7285
Portland, Oregon (503) 221-3363
Boise, Idaho (208) 342-2711 ext. 2857
Anchorage, Alaska (907) 265-5363.

Continental Shelf... Olympics...

(Continued from Page 1)

prior experience in archaeology and in marine operations in the Arctic.

Interior said it would cancel the award to the Alaska museum upon an appropriate "ruling" from the Comptroller General at GAO.

The "technical reasons" reported by Jack Anderson have since been described by the BLM in a brief meeting accorded to Iroquois-Cousteau scientists and managers at the Department of the Interior in Washington.

However, Bernard W. Poirier, Director of Iroquois Research Institute, criticized the Bureau for dominating almost half of the session to a misspelling in the proposal of the geological term "QUATERNARY."

Ironically, it was determined after the meeting that typists had spelled it exactly as had the Government in its solicitation for proposals.

Poirier called BLM's concern over this type of detail "ludicrous overkill and not serious for an important discussion."

Iroquois Director Poirier was more critical when BLM refused to reinstate evaluation points

which had been wrongly deducted from the Iroquois-Cousteau score over whether the BLM - required geophysicist would be on the research vessel. Iroquois and Cousteau had proposed having on board for the tests:

- the former head of the Geology and Geophysics Branch of the U.S. Navy's Oceanographic Office
- a professor of Geology of the University of Alaska
- the Dean of Engineering, Physics and Mathematics of the University of Alaska
- the Chairman of Anthropology and expert in Alaskan archaeology, of the George Washington University
- a Professor and expert in statistical probabilities from George Mason University and other experts for the required tests.

Poirier quipped, "We offered such heavy scientific talent that the vessel would list if all these experts stood on the same side."

The Iroquois Institute spokesman asserted that "the manipulation of points scored and the changes made in evaluation criteria have eventually permitted BLM to justify only the academic museum being qualified and the public has been denied the services of proven expertise and of outstanding services even though these were available at a much lower cost to the taxpayers."

"There comes a time," added Poirier, "when a legitimate offer must stand up a protest a Governmental action even at the risk of reprisals by certain officials over future business relations when the action is so grossly unfair to the public and to the offerors themselves."

Plucky Hopeful

(Continued from Page 1)

and has been deaf since the age of two. When she was five, she was sent to a school for the deaf in Utah. In an essay for the Cook Inlet contest, she wrote about the experience:

"I remember crying, not wanting to leave my mother and father and grandmother whom I loved very much." She continued, "At the age of 16 I started working in the fish cannery during the summer vacations. I always look forward to Christmas vacations and being home with my family."

When she was in Utah, Ginny studied photography, modeling, and dactylogy, communication with signs made with the fingers.

sent to Wyoming to compete in the Miss Indian America contest.

Something different in this year's pageant is one contestant, Ginny Nathan, Miss Cook Inlet Native Association. She is deaf-mute, having lost her hearing at the age of two.

A person who can talk to her in sign language will be at the Olympics to assist her in speaking with judges and to answer questions.

Competitors are staying in Skarland Hall at the University, in the same complex as Hess commons, where they will eat, and a short walk from the gym.

Three floors of Skarland and food expenses will be provided for official competitors at the expense of the Olympics, sponsored by Tundra Times.

Set up for the Olympics is tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. Persons wishing to help set up the gym are being encouraged to go and assist. Help will also be needed during the clean-up on Sunday, starting at 1:00.

Security for the games is being provided by volunteer Fairbanks Police officers, in cooperation with University of Alaska security.

Identification cards and numbers for the food lines will be given to each competitor.

As Olympics time was nearing last week, Olympics Chairman Jerry Woods commented, "Everything has fallen into place." Much hard work and preparation has gone into this year's event. It should be a big success.

Native Hire...

(Continued from Page 1)

an Alaska Native with a Native off it's "A" list first, then its "B" list, and then off the Alaska Native Referral list. The Alaska Native Referral list will no longer exist after October 15.

The agreement was reached on June 25.

Alaska Legal Services Corporation, in a letter to Manpower Specialists, emphasized to them the importance of their part in getting Natives hired. Large numbers would be hired only is AFN is kept continuously supplied with names of job-ready Teamster applicants, they wrote.

According to Williams, the agreement is void after October 15, and hiring practices will revert to the old procedure. He said that there should be enough Natives on the "A" and "B" lists by that time to keep Native hire per centages up.