

Tundra Times Weekly Page

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES



NATIVE PEOPLE—The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), has a considerable responsibility in working for the welfare and progress of the native people of the State of Alaska, such as the Eskimos shown in the picture. These are Barrow residents assembled at the Top 'o the World village to hear testimonies of their leaders on

land claims before U.S. House of Representatives Indian Affairs Committee. Other native peoples of Alaska are Tlingits, Aleuts, Haidas, Athabascans. The AFN Board of Directors are currently meeting in Anchorage on the status of the native land claims to date and discussing other subjects. —DAVID S. FAUSKE Photograph

AFN Sponsors Two Native Men at Alcohol Workshop

A seminar exploring the problems of alcoholism will be attended by two Alaskan Natives, according to Willie Hensley, who announced that the AFN has agreed to sponsor the two students.

The two students, Lloyd H. Tom of Anchorage and Kenneth Paneok of White Mountain, will earn six credit hours during the intensive workshop on how to cope with alcoholism.

Included in the workshop, which is sponsored by the South Central Regional Center of the University of Alaska, will include lectures, field trips, video lessons and will explore therapeutic tech-

niques on how to cope with the alcoholism problem.

The staff will be headed by Dave Pitman, who holds a PHD in sociology and was instrumental in founding the St. Louis Detoxification Center.

Also on the roster will be Laura E. Root who holds a Masters of Art in Social Work, Dr. Hal Post and Richard Saxton, Executive Director of the Anchorage Council on Alcoholism.

After training, according to Hensley, the two students will be able to work with alcoholic agencies in rural areas throughout the state.

Lloyd Sutton Named Health Coordinator

Lloyd Sutton was recently named health coordinator for the Alaska Federation of Natives

under the Office of Equal Opportunity Bethel Healthright Project.

Sutton, a Tlingit Indian from Sitka, is also on the board of directors of the program planning and evaluation committee of the area office for the U.S. Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Alaska Native Health Service.

He was appointed by Governor Walter Hickel in 1968 to a one year term on the State Comprehensive Health Advisory Council and has since been reappointed by Governor Miller for another term of three years.

Pending the final signature of Robert Finch, Secretary of Health Education and Welfare, Sutton will also serve on the Advisory Committee to Indian Health Service in Washington, D.C.

AFN Speakers Bureau Kicks Off New Year

The AFN Speakers Bureau kicked off the New Year with a heavy schedule. Jim Thomas started the year with a talk before the Anchorage Council of Churches, then flew to Fairbanks where he appeared with Barry Jackson on a radio show, the "University of Alaska Forum," which will be aired throughout the State.

Showalter Smith was scheduled to speak in Unalakleet, Nome and Kotzebue the first week in January, while Flore Lekanof was to speak before a teachers group in Anchorage as well as at the Alaska Native Service Hospital there.

Speaking before the Fairview Democratic Club in Anchorage will be Willie Hensley and before the Nurses Association will be Jim Thomas.

Other requests for speakers have not as yet been confirmed.

FRANK DEGNAN—A Unalakleet resident all his life, much of the time as mayor, Frank Degnan has tried to help his village. Affable and outgoing, Degnan meets the poorest of his people in the same manner as he meets senators and generals. At AFN conferences, he speaks with humor as well as with logic.

Californians Hear

Californians heard the story of the Alaska Native Land Claims, according to Adam John, who combined vacationing with proselytizing while on a trip to the West Coast.

John, who is a 28-year-old Athabascan Indian, is president of the Native Participants Council of Anchorage and secretary-treasurer of Alaska Legal Services Corporation, affiliated with the Office of Economic Opportunity.

While in California, John met with the executive director of the Victor Gruen Foundation who is well known as a fundraiser for urban projects, planning and building.

According to John, Miss Moholy-Nagy, director of the foundation, offered to help arrange benefits in Southern California for the Alaska land rights struggle.

John also appeared on "Tempo," a Los Angeles TV show, and "Newsroom," another television show which brought in numerous requests for more information.

A visit to Alcatraz Island was the high point of the trip, according to John. While there he met and talked with Richard Oaks, who is the leader of the more than 300 people on the island.

During his stay there John met reporters from all over the world most of whom were vitally interested in the Alaska Native Land Rights issue.

Wright Attends Affiliated Meet

Don Wright attended a meeting of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held Dec. 18-19 in Spokane, Washington. Attending were L.R. Bruce, commissioner of BIA and Bob Robertson, executive director of the National Committee on Indian Opportunity who represented Vice President Agnew.

According to Wright, over 200 delegates and BIA directors from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and

Northern States were present.

Wright gave an oral report on Alaska Native Land Claims, distributed copies of the Tundra Times issue containing the AFN Bill and distributed other materials including "Land Claims at a Glance," "Deadline for Justice," "Remarks by John Borbridge," "Questions and Answers by Ramsey Clark," and numerous press releases and clippings compiled by AFN Public Relations.

During the convention, Wright adds, Robertson made strong statements of the President's commitment to the American Indians and Alaska Natives.

"It is my view that some of these positive position statements should be brought first hand to the attention of the United States Senators and Representatives and perhaps the Governor of Alaska and our State Legislators," Wright states.

'What Your Land Means to You'

It has long been felt by the officers of the Alaska Federation of Natives that Alaska's Natives can best describe what their land means to them.

Thus, beginning next week, we will publish letters and TRUE STORIES of what YOUR LAND MEANS TO YOU, and how you

have lived off the land, etc.

We urge all villages to take part so that the readers of the Tundra Times can get the different views from all points in Alaska. Mail your letters or stories to: Alaska Federation of Natives, Office of Public Relations, 1675 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Know Your Leaders—

AFN Sergeant at Arms Frank Degnan Leads a Varied Life

A lifetime of active participation in public affairs marks the career of Frank A. Degnan, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Degnan, who says he feels that "all people should have a fair and just consideration in the land claims settlement be they Eskimo, Indian, Aleut, white, black or any race," was the first Eskimo to ever file for the Legislature, was elected in 1951 as a representative to the Alaska Territorial legislature.

At present, Degnan is owner-operator of the Unalakleet Cab

Company, president of the Native Village of Unalakleet, president of the Unalakleet Valley Electric Fisheries Corporation, president of the Unalakleet Fisheries, Inc., and president of the Unalakleet Land Claims Commission.

He is also a member of the Rural Affairs Commission.

In the past, Degnan was president of the Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association, grand vice-president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, a member of the Alaska Fish and Game Board, and a lieutenant in the Alaska Territorial Guard.

