

CONFERENCE OF OLD NATIVE PEOPLE IN PLANNING STAGE

Philosophies of Elderly Leaders Deemed Vital in Present Unsettled Times

Philosophies of older Indian and Eskimo leaders from across the country will be recorded at a meeting planned by the Myron Institute, an organization related to Adelphi College in Garden City, New York.

Sylvester Morey, a trustee of the institute, has asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to supply a list of names of older Indian leaders across the nation. The institute will then select leaders to attend the meeting and will pay for expenses of the trip.

The reason for the meeting, according to Mr. Morey, is that a record needs to be made of the philosophies of these

older leaders because they can be of value in the present, unsettled times.

In Alaska, the BIA and individuals in various areas of the state are providing a list of names for the BIA to send in. Persons from this list will be chosen by the institute.

Among those suggested from Interior and Arctic Alaska are Peter John, Minto; Andrew Isaac, Tanacross; Guy Okakok, Barrow; Lennie Lane, Sr., and Jimmie Killigivuk, Point Hope; Theodore Hunter, Sr., Hooper Bay; Oscar Nictune, Allakaket;

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Elderly Leaders . . .

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Kivotoruk Moses, Nome; Chester Seveck, Kotzebue; Peter Simple, Fort Yukon; Bessie Henry and Chief Henry, Huslia; Little Beatus, Hughes; Misel, Nulatto; Maggie Elia and Mrs. Jimmie, Tanana; and Emma Willoya, Nome.

Other leaders have been suggested from other areas of Alaska, but the complete list from Alaska is still being drawn up.

The persons suggested from Interior and Arctic Alaska have been prominent in leadership in their particular areas and have rich knowledge of the old days before and during the time when civilization came to the remote areas.

Among them, Peter John of Minto and Andrew Isaac of Tanacross are presently chiefs of their villages; both are around 70 years old. Isaac has had very little schooling, yet is an eloquent speaker.

Guy Okakok is a columnist for the Tundra Times in Barrow and, when Inupiat Paitot, the first Eskimo organization in Northwestern Alaska, was formed in November, 1961, he was named its chairman. He is about 68 years old.

Lennie Lane, Sr. and Jimmy Killigivuk have been involved in the leadership of Point Hope in former years and are authorities in the cultures and customs of the area. Both are over 70.

Killigivuk participated in one of the expeditions of Vilhjalmur Stefansson in the early part of this century.

Theodore Hunter, Sr. is an oldtimer from Hooper Bay. He has written for Tundra Times and has seen his people in comical light when they first came in contact with civilization, such as the time when the first airplane landed in the

village 40 years ago.

Oscar Nictune of Allakaket also witnessed his people when civilization came into the area, describing situations with a rich sense of humor.

Emma Willoya of Nome is a lady rich in the knowledge of the old days. She was the first woman in charge of the old Nome Skin Sewers Association.

The other leaders have, like the ones described above, contributed their services in leading their people and have a knowledge of their people and their reactions to civilization.