

# Tundra Times Weekly Page

## ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

### Citizen Warns On Coming Of Lobbyists

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following telegram was sent to John Borbridge, vice president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, by Mr. Bill B. Hickman for copy and distribution as deemed appropriate by the AFN. Copies were sent to Congressman Pollock and Senators Stevens and Gravel in Washington, D.C.)

To: John Borbridge, Jr.  
Re: Native Claims

Please note that all of Alaska elected representatives in Washington are attempting to work toward a settlement acceptable to the Natives and the nation's conscience.

They are the only voices in Washington that we the voters of Alaska have authorized to speak for us, consider their opinions in that light.

You will be subjected soon to a group of lobbyists from the State's Chamber of Commerce. In the name of "the good of the state," "just and equitable," and "right" they will propose a settlement which in my opinion fails to properly assess the value of the rights the natives are being asked to relinquish, and one which will not allow the native people to bridge the existing cultural gap and become a viable economic and political force.

They have profited by the present unconscionable situation and will profit by its continuation, consider their opinions in that light.

Non-native citizen interested in the optimum utilization of all of Alaska's resources, the greatest one of which is its people.

Bill B. Hickman

### PHS Patients To Get Land Claims Info

The office of public relations for the Alaska Federation of Natives, through its staff member, Flore Lekanof, has arranged to have weekly presentations at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

Permission was granted for these presentations by Mr. Warden, Assistant Administrative Officer of the US Public Health Service. On a trial basis the meetings will be held once a week for one month beginning at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday evening.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide opportunity for the AFN public relations office to become acquainted with people in the hospital and to explain the process of the Alaska native land claims to them. The meetings are to be held in the hospital solarium weekly.

The weekly presentations will include distribution of a variety of materials regarding land claims, including current issues of the Tundra Times.

These will be supplemented by audio-visual aids such as the Mike Wallace movie on Alaska, and video programs which are currently being developed by the public relations office.

The first scheduled meeting is Jan. 7 at which Mr. Flore Lekanof, President of the Aleut League, will be the speaker.



AFN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—William L. (Willie) Hensley flashes a big smile as he returns from Washington, D.C. last week after working on land matters. His wife, April, welcomes him.



AL KETZLER—AFN board member, Al Ketzler, is hurrying home after returning from Washington.



FLORE LEKANOF—AFN board members were in good spirits as they departed in Anchorage last week and Flore Lekanof shows it. All worked on land claims in Washington.

## AFN PR Man Joins Committee

Jim Thomas, Director of public relations for the Alaska Federation of Natives, has been named to the legislative committee of the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce by the chairman, Mrs. Joann Miller.

Thomas informed the Tundra Times that this appointment comes from the AFN's membership in the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. The AFN joined the chamber some three weeks ago.

After attending a 7 o'clock breakfast of the committee last Tuesday which included Anchorage legislators, Thomas commented favorably on AFN participation in the Anchorage chamber.

"The legislative Committee of the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce discusses major issues which faces the Alaska legislature, and is of impact on the greater Anchorage area," Thomas said.

Issues covered range from law enforcement and consumer credit protections to Alaska native land

claims.

"Participation on this committee offers us (Alaska natives) not only expanded knowledge in a wide area of Alaskan issues, but also, and most importantly, the on-the-scene involvement by us in those issues which concern our native peoples in the urban area and naturally the Alaska native land claims," Thomas explained.

Presently the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce has taken a position on the native land claims which does not fully support the AFN position, and yet it is not fully in support of the State Chamber of Commerce either, according to Thomas.

Their position on the matter is as follows: "After careful and thoughtful study of the major concepts pertaining to the Alaska native land claims settlement legislation, our Chamber of Commerce is confident and unanimous in its strong recommendation to our congressional delegation as follows: We urge your



AFN BOARD MEMBER—Byron Mallott is met by his wife, Evelyn, as he returns from the nation's capitol.

## AFN Officers Thank Presbyterian Synod

ANCHORAGE, Dec. 28—Executives of the Alaska Federation of Natives expressed appreciation and praise to the Washington-Alaska Synod of the United Presbyterian Church upon receiving word that the Presbyterian's fund for freedom had given the Alaska Federation of Natives a \$10,000 grant for its public awareness program.

"The church has for centuries been an integral part of the native's lives in the villages and urban areas of this state," said Emil Notti, President of the AFN. "We are grateful that the Presbyterian Church has chosen to continue this involvement by making this grant available for our public awareness program in the Alaska Native land claims."

Representative William Hensley, Executive Director of the AFN, stated: "The announcement of the grant came at a time when it was most needed, not only financially but as a boost to our spirit as well."

He added, "We know that the church has financial struggles of its own in Alaska and for the church to make this grant to the

AFN is very impressive. Any public statements from us certainly cannot convey the appreciation we feel in our hearts."

The grant was announced in a letter to AFN President Emil Notti by W. Wilson Rasco, Executive Director of the Synod of Washington-Alaska of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

John Borbridge, Jr., Vice President of the AFN explained that the efforts of making the public aware of the Alaska Native land rights has been effective to date, but costly.

He said, "I am very gratified that the Presbyterians have made this grant available to us for it gives us assurance and hope that we can continue our public awareness efforts and certainly assists us in bringing the claims issue to a successful conclusion."

Borbridge stated that the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives will be meeting in Anchorage on January 8-9 and expects that the Board will officially acknowledge the Presbyterian grant at that time.

## Pueblo Indians Support

The All-Indian Pueblo Council of New Mexico in a meeting held Dec. 6, at Pueblo, passed a resolution supporting the Alaska na-

tive land claims settlement, and particularly the position as taken by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The council, which represents nineteen Pueblos of New Mexico, stated that the moral and legal obligations of the federal government to the Alaska natives are clearly defined and indisputable.

The resolution further states that in return for clear title to the rest of Alaska, the federal government should as a part of the settlement grant the natives 40 million acres of land, \$500 million in cash and a 2 per cent residual royalty on gross revenues.

Copies of the resolution were sent to Senators Henry Jackson and Representative Wayne Aspinall of the Senate and House Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, and to Senators Anderson and Montoya and Representatives Manual Lujan and Ed Foreman of New Mexico.

Congressman Lujan is a member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and was a member of the committee when it toured the state prior to land claims hearings last October.

The All-Indian Pueblo Council is presided over by Domingo Montoya, a well known Indian leader in the United States.

endeavor and testimony to reflect our point for an early and just settlement by the federal government of the Alaska native land claims WITHOUT royalty payments of any kind. This position we submit is definitely in the best interest of ALL Alaskans rather than a segment of our people."

"We realize that Alaskans will have differing views on segments of our proposed settlement," Thomas continued.

"But as long as we as natives are permitted to present our views and our rights and as long as non-natives are willing to discuss the issues with us, without completely closing us out, then we are on the road to a successful conclusion of the land claims issue."

"We must all work together just as we will after the settlement and the current participation in the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce appears to be in a positive direction."