



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 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.