



NWT ESKIMOS GET BRIEFING

Justice Conference Testimonials Get Bitter at Minto

By MARGIE BAUMAN
MINTO — Bizarre stories of justice in the Alaskan bush rumbled from the floor; bitter testimonials from the recipients of this system of justice.

Outside, the mosquitoes buzzed between the trees, near the banks of the Tanana River, having had a good sampling already of administrators, lawyers and residents of rural Alaska packed into this Athabaskan village to examine the state of bush justice.

It was a far cry from the first conference on bush justice, nearly four years ago, which began with a cocktail party at the luxurious Mt. Alyeska Ski Lodge in Girdwood, southeast of Anchorage, Alaska.

But it was in the spirit of one of the resolutions passed by the First Conference on Bush Justice that this second Conference began:

"The locus of decision-making in the administration of justice in the village Alaska must move closer to the village. To achieve this result there must be greater Native participation at all levels in the administration of justice."

The Second Conference on Bush Justice attracted in addition to the administrators of the law a cross-section of Alaska's Native people, from Pt. Lay on the Arctic Slope to Napakiak to Bethel and Dillingham and Eagle.

By the time the four-day conference concluded in Minto June 12, the participants had come to seven major conclusions:

1. that police protection for village people is inferior and in need of improvement.
2. that the importance of fish and game protection to village people is underestimated by state authorities and fish and game laws are unequally applied.
3. that village people do not generally understand the state

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NANA Outraged by Withdrawals

KOTZEBUE — Northwest Alaska Eskimos outraged by proposals for five federal reserves within their traditional lands have charged the Interior Department with misconstruing the land claims settlement and its effect on people.

In a biting letter addressed to Theodore R. Swem, chairman of the Alaska Planning Group within the Interior Department, executive director John W. Schaeffer of NANA Regional Corp. Inc. demanded that the present proposals be altered to terms the people of Northwest Alaska can live with.

NANA's attack was aimed at the proposed Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Noatak

Ecological Range, Selawik Wildlife Refuge, Kobuk Valley National Monument and Chukchi-Imuruk National Reserve.

"We do not charge that we, the people of the region affected by the proposals, the most important resource of the region, were ignored or forgotten by those who prepared the proposals," Schaeffer said.

"But we do charge that those who prepared the proposals misconstrued the settlement act and effect on us. So we must set the record straight."

Schaeffer charged that the land claims act is not going to make individual Native people rich; that the actual monetary

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AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS in the Minto conference on bush justice was District Judge Nora Guinn of Bethel.

— Photo by MARGIE BAUMAN

Per Wind, Sandstorms— Hensley Campaigns

A campaign trail he hopes will lead to the U.S. House is taking Willie Hensley down some rugged roads these days, with sand storms and an occasional barrage of insects standing between him and the voters.

Hoping to reach as many voters as possible before the August primary, Hensley is traveling by car, jet, bush plane and even flatbottom river boat, combing the state on a much wider scale than in any of his previous campaigns.

Which brought the Democratic State Senator from Kotzebue just the other day, to a lively adventure on the Tanana River.

On invitation from friend and State House candidate Mitch Demientieff of Nenana, Hensley

hopped an 18-foot flatbottom boat, equipped with a 25 horsepower motor, to go to Tanana from Minto, where Hensley had been attending the bush justice conference.

"We started out on what was allegedly a five-hour trip," said Hensley with a wry smile, as he related the story later to the Tundra Times. Then he told, with gusto, how it actually took 10 hours going down the Tanana River, in the company of De-

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AFN Gives Canadians Information on Alaska Native Land Claims

By BETZI WOODMAN

ANCHORAGE — Five Eskimos from Canada's Northwest Territories and their lawyer have completed a 10-day swing through Alaska to gain information to help them in their land claims battle.

Headed by Sam Radi, Inuvik, president of the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement (COPE), the group included Josiah Kadlutsiak, Igloodik, a director of Inuit Tapirisat, a national Eskimo brotherhood; Victor Allen, vice president of COPE; Judy Jacobson, Tuktoyaktuk, COPE director; and Jose Kusegak, Rankin Inlet, also a COPE director.

Their lawyer, Peter Cumming teaches law at Toronto and is appointed for the work by the Canadian national government at Ottawa. He says that in spite of the seeming lack of progress in land claims settlement for the Eskimos, the Canadian government is "most progressive" in providing finances for groups and their members to prepare their proposal on the subject. The recent trip was paid for by the government.

In Anchorage the Canadians had intensive briefing sessions with leaders of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Native Foundation, Land Use Planning Commission, the Community Enterprise Development Com-

mission and Rural CAP. They also went to Barrow and Bethel to observe and learn.

They were particularly interested in how the Regional Corporations were formed and their boundaries and also the method of land selection under the Settlement Act. They were surprised at the separateness of the land areas and the problems which were provoked by formation of the corporations.

Although there are many similarities between the situation of the Canadian Eskimos now and the Alaskan Natives at the start of their land claims battle, there are also some distinct differences.

The 1,253,438 square miles of NWT is more than twice the size of Alaska. Total estimated population today is 45,000 of which some 30,000 are Natives, primarily in NWT, Eskimos. Although only about half the number of resident Natives in Alaska, the Native population there rep-

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Pulls \$4 Million Deposit— T-H Accuses Bank

The Tlingit-Haida Central Council and its various entities

have ordered withdrawals close to a \$4 million in deposits and checking accounts from a major statewide bank.

The action was taken because of treatment and attitude demonstrated by the bank toward Native depositors which the Council has deemed discriminatory.

The decision occurred as a result of the refusal by the bank manager of an application for a boat loan. The applicant for the loan was told by the bank manager that, "They had been having trouble with boat loans to Natives."

The fisherman had both savings and checking accounts with the bank for several years.

In addition, the man had been steadily employed for more than five years. The individual involved, then proceeded to another banking institution and was immediately granted the loan.

The action was deemed necessary because an individual was refused on the basis of race.

"I hope the business community takes note," said Ray Paddock, executive director of the Central Council.

Emily Ivanoff Brown Finalist for Woman of Achievement Award

FAIRBANKS — Mrs. Emily Ivanoff Brown, prominent Eskimo writer, is one of 20 finalists for the Woman of Achievement Award conferred annually by the National Federation of Press Women, Inc.

Mrs. Brown and the other finalists will attend the federation's Woman of Achievement banquet June 27 in Bismarck, N.D. and the national winner will be announced at that time.

Mrs. Brown was nominated for the award by the Alaska Press Women, an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women.

The daughter of a half-Russian father and full Eskimo mother, Mrs. Brown was born at Unalakleet and raised at Shaktoolik. She decided early on a teaching career and taught briefly at Kotzebue following her graduation from Chemawa Indian School at Salem, Oregon

in 1928. But she subsequently gave up her career plans to



EMILY IVANOFF BROWN

marry Robert Brown.

After his death, and with three sons to support, she

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