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## Villagers: "You'll be hearing from us"

### Citizen's Conference sets goals for legislative session

BY JEFFREY R. RICHARDSON

JUNEAU—"You'll be hearing from us."

With these words, Robert Schaeffer of Kotzebue served notice on the Alaska State Legislature that rural Alaskans will maintain a high profile in Juneau to protect and advocate the interests of Alaska's bush communities.

Schaeffer was one of about 50 rural Alaskans who descended on the state capital last week for the Citizens' Participation Conference (CPC), designed to develop strategy in a legislature dominated by urban lawmakers. After two intensive days of workshops spent reviewing bills being debated by the legislature this session, CPC delegates reported their recommendations in five major categories: subsistence, alcoholism, energy, education and local government.

The recommendations were presented to a disappointing turnout of legislators at a Saturday luncheon. Of a total of 60 senators and representatives, only 10 showed up for the beginning of the lunch. Only four remained until the end of the four-hour session. They were Senators Jalmar Kerttula (Palmer) and Chancy Croft (Anchorage) and Representatives Alvin Osterback (Sand Point) and Red Swanson (Nenana).

Primary recommendations of the CPC were:

#### ENERGY

—That a comprehensive state energy plan be developed under the direction of the governor with strong commitment to the implementation of the plan. CPC delegates agreed that an energy plan should consider: the impact of energy development on subsistence, local control of resource and energy development, taxation pressures on rural people, weighing the value of renewable and non-renewable resources and the impact of development of those resources and the development (not just the study) of alternative energy resources such as solar, wind, geothermal and tidal power.

—That a direct subsidy be authorized to assist the electrification efforts in rural areas and that the subsidy apply to communities not currently being served by the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

—CPC delegates offered support in principle to legislation that would set a minimum level for revenue sharing, making funds available to many communities that do not qualify for state revenue sharing funds under existing formulas.

#### EDUCATION

—The Citizen's Participation Conference called for adequate funding of Head Start programs throughout the state in keeping with delegates' concern for 100 percent educational support in the state.

—The CPC also recommended that an additional \$2 million appropriation be added to pending legislation to plan, develop and carry out bilingual/bicultural programs.

#### ALCOHOLISM

—The primary recommendation of the CPC in this category was neatly summed up in the report of the alcoholism workshop, whose findings were endorsed by the whole conference: "We wholeheartedly re-endorse the Governor's alcohol package and express great concern over the fact that the bills introduced have had little action considering the amount of time that has

elapsed (nearly a year)."

#### SUBSISTENCE

—The workshop on subsistence was attended by nearly 30 of the CPC delegates who examined 20 of the 27 pieces of proposed subsistence legislation now before the legislature. The conference endorsed the decentralization of state fish and game management, leaning towards bills introduced by Rep. Nels Anderson, with some modifications. Anderson has proposed a radical legislative solution to state mismanagement of subsistence resources, as opposed to Gov. Jay Hammond's administrative approach to solving the same long-standing

problems.

The subsistence committee of the conference set forth its reasons for endorsing the Anderson approach:

"The committee desires regulatory, not advisory Boards, as each year the people see the recommendations of the local advisory Boards being neglected, and the recommendations of often-times "blinded, unaware" biologists being accepted. Last year only 20 percent of the local advisory committees' recommendations were approved, while over 90 percent of the biologists' recommendations were adopted by the State Board of

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ELLEN NAPOLEON, 20, daughter of George and Alice Napoleon of Hooper Bay, will represent the World Indian-Eskimo Olympics in the 1978 Miss Alaska-Universe Pageant, March 4th in Fairbanks. She is a junior at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, majoring in history.

Photo by Margie Bauman

## Sheldon Jackson celebrates 100th

SITKA—One hundred years ago a group of single-minded individuals opened a training school for Tlingit Indians in an old soldiers' barracks in Sitka. The institution continued to grow throughout the years and in April of this year, Sheldon Jackson College and its predecessors will have provided a century of educational service to the people of Alaska.

All staff, students, alumni and other friends of Sheldon Jackson College are invited and urged to join in the commemoration of the founding of Sheldon Jackson School. Banquets, reunions, symposiums, plays, speakers and lots of memorabilia will all be a part of the historic celebration.

Governor Jay Hammond has proclaimed April as "Sheldon Jackson College Centennial Month," urging the citizens of Alaska "to continue to recognize the importance of private education in our State so that we can be proud of the educational opportunities

and resources available to us."

What began as a small classroom a century ago has now developed into a major physical plant of 37 buildings and 345 acres on which to grow. Graduates of Sheldon Jackson School, High School and College have become leaders in Alaska and elsewhere and many of their sons and daughters have turned to Sheldon Jackson College for part of their education.

Among the major highlights of the Centennial celebration will be:

A dinner and original play about the history of Sheldon Jackson at the Centennial Building in Sitka on April 17. Similar celebrations will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, on April 19 and in First Presbyterian Church, Seattle, on April 21. For information, contact First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, or the

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