

# Publisher's Notes

## AHTNA: AN ANCSA SUCCESS STORY

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was not a perfect act, and its progeny, the village and regional corporations, are sometimes blamed for all the imperfections, whether deserving or not. We sometimes overlook the fact that ANCSA corporations are mere business tools, which if used wisely, can bring some rewards to our people.

After hearing all the negative commentary about the ANCSA, especially during the "Roundtable" and village hearing conducted by Canada's Justice Berger, it is indeed refreshing to hear about the positive aspects.

Ahtna's twelfth consecutive year of profitable operations is a success story that needs to be told throughout our state, if for no other reason than to counter the negative comments that have been heard recently.

It is true that financial gains are only one indicator of success for ANCSA corporations, but it certainly is one factor that cannot be dismissed easily, particularly when those gains have been growing year after year.

Apparently, Ahtna, its management and shareholders, have found the formula for making this business tool work well. No matter what the future holds, even in 1991, with continued prudent management, Ahtna will be prepared to handle the problems easier than others.

If Alaska had a "Fortune 500" listing, Ahtna would be at the top. We extend our sincere congratulations to Ahtna's Board of Directors, staff, and shareholders. We know your annual meeting will be a productive one.

## ELIMINATION OF THE POSTAL SUBSIDY COULD HURT TUNDRA TIMES

For almost ten years, the Tundra Times, Alaska's oldest statewide newspaper, has been sold for 50 cents per copy and our annual subscription rates have remained \$20. Other papers have raised prices, but we have not.

The time may be coming when we will have to raise our rates, however, because the Reagan Administration has proposed an end to the second-class postal subsidy, which has helped us distribute this newspaper throughout Alaska for 23 years.

President Reagan's attempts to reduce the postal subsidy were thwarted in the past, but now he is seriously trying to eliminate it altogether, and at least the Senate Budget Committee is agreeing with him.

In February, the postal rates were increased, and for small newspapers, this meant at least a 47 percent increase in costs. With the elimination of the postal subsidy, our costs for distributing could go up more than 300 percent.