

Doubts Limitation of Time on Land Selection

1644 Manatuck Blvd.
Bay Shore, Long Island
New York 11706
Dec. 28, 1972

Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

During the past year I have read reports of the Alaska Native Claims settlement in the NCAI Sentinel, Akwesasne Notes and the New York Times. I am interested in finding out more about the task of land selection and just what I might have to offer in a technical way.

First I have some questions that I hope someone can find time to answer, and then I'll indicate something of my background and experience.

Questions:

How are 220 Native Villages throughout Alaska going to select 22 million acres best suited to the needs of each village — with a fairly accurate idea of where these acres are located on the ground and on geographic base maps (for legal documentation) — with decisions requiring Native knowledge of the land and resources — all in 2 years? (at 640 acres per square mile, that would be like about 330 square mile choices a week for 2 years!)

Will the 12 regional corporations be able to help the villages in some way?

Who will go out to the villages to record desires and decisions, offer information, and take preliminary survey data or descriptions?

Are the Villages, which still have to be incorporated, already located on USGS 15 ft. quad. maps? Can copies of these maps be used as part of legal documentation and location of additional areas claimed? (Here's

where aerial photography would come in handy)

How much aerial photography is available to the regional corporations from the Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service?

Are regional corporations organized yet so that they can act or operate independently of state and federal direction or technical assistance? Who will direct and coordinate this work?

That's all I can think of at the moment. It's a BIG job! Now, a little about myself. I am non-Indian — although my father claimed to be part Indian — I have strong identity and am associated with an Indian group here in New York. I am married and father of 4 grown children. I attended Forestry School at Oregon State and have a degree in sociology from Lewis and Clark in Portland, Oregon. I have been employed by the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission in graphics and mapping since 1965, by Sanborn Map Company 1962-65 with land surveying previous to that in Vermont.

I think the people have a chance to benefit from the new system of corporations and private ownership — provided the corporations can sometimes protect the people from being dispossessed of their land by unfair state taxation and land sales profits with the reward of "well-fare property" and nothing to do — benefits that Indian people here in the states are familiar with from the days of allotment and termination. I guess Alaskans stand a better chance — anyway, things are "looking up!"

Thank you for your attention and I hope to hear from someone,

Sincerely,

K. C. Pickett

Letters from Here and There

Press Assn. Conference Lauded

SouthWestern Cooperative
Education Laboratory
1404 San Mateo SE
Albuquerque
New Mexico 87108
December 7, 1972

Editor
The Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Ak. 99701

Dear Editor:

It was indeed a pleasure and a privilege to attend the National Indian Press Association Conference in Denver. It is a wonderful feeling to know that there is an organization such as this whose endeavors are to have better communications between

our people which is truly needed.

After addressing the association, it was most gratifying to have received enthusiastic response and interest to our project in reference to the Directory. As I emphasized at that time, the importance of this project lies in its intended use in making federal agencies, industries, and institutions of higher learning aware of qualified and available professionals who are Indians. Thus, the directory can be extremely beneficial to the Indian professionals as well as the agency, industry, or institution that hires them.

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation and assistance in making as many people as

possible aware of the SouthWestern Cooperative Educational Laboratory, Division of Indian Studies' efforts in collecting data for the directory via your news media, either through a story or an editorial. Enclosed is a copy of the questionnaire along with the explanatory letter. With your assistance a larger segment of the Indian population will be made aware of the directory and what we hope to accomplish through its completion.

Needless to say, your assistance will be invaluable in this endeavor.

With sincerest good wishes,

Maudine Carpenter
Research Associate