

ANB-ANS Hold 57th Convention In Town of Kake November 10-15

The 57th annual convention of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood was held in Kake, Alaska, on November 10-15, 1969. A record of 167 resolutions was submitted by the various camps throughout the state to the convention and 160 were adopted.

The ANB founders' dreams of better education for the young seemed to be in the minds of the delegates since a number of adopted resolutions concerned education. The education resolutions covered such issues as the inclusion of Alaska native history in the curriculum, higher salaries for rural teachers, upgrading the Mt. Edgecumbe High School facility, and an Upward Bound program for southeastern Alaska.

There were approximately 25 resolutions adopted pertaining to the Department of Fish and Game regulations. The important resolutions were for the discontinuation of commercializing the sale of herring roe and the restrictions imposed on the catching of salmon for subsistence purposes.

An equal number of resolutions pertained to the improvement of health conditions among native people. Other resolutions concerned the endorsement of the land claims bill prepared by the AFN, airports, marine ferry stops, constitutional changes and miscellaneous items such as ANS Beauty contests and the correct spelling of the word "Tlingit."

The Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood has accomplished over the years many things beneficial to all natives. Among these are: the recognition of natives as citizens; winning the right of the native to vote; securing direct relief for aged natives; and initiating the Tlingit-aid land suit which some people call the Father of the Land Claims in the State of Alaska.

Elected as the new ANB Grand

President was Richard Stitt of Juneau. Other grand camp officers elected to the brotherhood were: Steve Hotch, Klukwan, first vice-president; Irving Igtanloc, Barrow, second vice-president; Walter Soboleff, Juneau, secretary; Frank O.W. Williams, Sitka, treasurer; and Harold Bremner, Yakutat, sergeant at arms.

Elected to grand offices in the ANS were Stella Martin, Juneau, grand president; Mary Jones, Ketchikan, secretary; Teresa Stitt, Juneau, treasurer; and Mary Jackson, sergeant at arms.

Other elected officials were: Elwood Thomas of Craig, the ANB fisheries representative and Byron Mallott was elected to represent the organization on the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Mallott is the Executive Director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

Juneau ANB and Klawock ANS received the first prize as the best organized camps in the State of Alaska in the year 1969.

A new innovation created by this convention was the adoption of the next convention town by secret ballot and the campaign entitled, "Why I want the convention in our town." This added curiosity and excitement to the traditional convention since the results of the election were a

secret until announced prior to the grand ball.

The annual ANB convention in Kake proved to be very successful despite the weather and transportation difficulties. The proof was shown by the enthusiasm of the 110 delegates on their last exhausting evening during the traditional installation of officers, awards ceremony and finally, the grand ball which made Kake—whose meaning in Tlingit means "the town that never sleeps"—live up to its name.

On Saturday no one slept for one event led to another until finally it was over—until the 58th annual ANB and ANS convention convenes in Petersburg, Alaska, next November.

Those who do not complain are never pitied.

—JANE AUSTEN