

Calista Opens Sheraton Anchorage

By Terry Bakkon



CALISTA CAFE

A Native theme prevails in the Calista Cafe with an Aleut leaf design on the draperies and authentic Eskimo, Tlingit and Athabascan masks adorning the walls.



JOSEPHINE'S CONTINENTAL RESTAURANT

The rooftop restaurant is named after the Empress Josephine. The Trumpeter Swan motif, used throughout the restaurant, was a personal emblem of the Empress and is also a famous migratory bird native to the Calista Region.

Alaska is a land of spectacular natural beauty and wilderness. The Alaskan Eskimos, the state's best known Native people, have contributed to the growth, beauty and economy of Alaska with the completion of the new Sheraton Anchorage On Calista Square.

The 13,264 shareholders of Calista Corp., the second largest Native Corporation in Alaska, are the proud owners of the new hotel which is destined to contribute to the growth and economy of Alaska.

Calista Corporation covers a region of 56 villages in southwestern Alaska with offices in Anchorage and Bethel. The completion of the Sheraton Anchorage has instilled a sense of pride in the shareholders of the Calista Region.

Eskimos can trace their roots several thousands of years back to the time when the Bering Sea was for many centuries a tundra plain. Archeological diggings at Cape Krusenstern indicate that Natives have hunted along the Bering Sea coast for more than 10,000 years, possibly since the Bering Land bridge to Siberia receded 25,000 years ago.

It is a historic fact that Natives had dominion in Alaska from the beginning of time. They are often called the world's toughest people, since they have survived the low-temperature regions of the far north for many thousands of years. Many of the people living in the villages today depend on subsistence hunting and fishing just as their ancestors did.

The hotel was built by Calista Corp. as an investment in the

future for the shareholders of the Calista Region.

Village shareholders who have had the opportunity to visit the hotel have expressed a sense of awe and pride as they enter the spacious lobby illuminated by a two-story glass encased atrium canopy. The lobby portrays a park-like effect with Florida-bred Fica trees surrounding the interior of marble, brass, jade, and life-size marble etchings created from the art work of well known Alaskan Native artists and sculptors.

The famed international Sculptor Nerone of Turin, Italy interpreted the Native artist's original work into marble life-size murals etched into the walls of the interior of the hotel.

Alaskan Native artists involved in the art work in the hotel include Jim Schoppert, Tlingit; Larry Ahvakana, Eskimo; George Ahgupuk, Eskimo; and Robert Mayokok, Eskimo. Schoppert served as the Native art coordinator in the interior of the hotel.

The exclusive Native decor in the interior of the Sheraton Anchorage is based on an original concept by Gail Notti of International Designers, Inc. It reflects the culture of all Native Alaskans including Yupik and Inupiat Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan, Tlingit and Haida Indian.

Other typical Alaskan names used in the hotel include the Yukon Room, Kuskokwim Ballroom and the Paimiut Lounge. Paimiut is the name of a village in the Calista Region and means, "The gathering place."