

ASNA SIGNS QUITCLAIM ON AIRPORT LAND

Quitclaim Paves Way for Development

The Arctic Slope Native Association has signed a quitclaim agreement for land at the Barrow airport, and has sent it to the State for final acceptance.

The agreement releases the airport from the Arctic Slope land claim, allowing the State to obtain full title. This, in turn, will allow the State to obtain Federal aid for improving the airport.

The agreement provides that, for the sum of \$1.00 and other considerations received, the Natives have forever quitclaimed to the State the area within the property lines shown on the Barrow airport master plan.

The agreement also requires the state to grant a public right-of-way to the freshwater lake of Emiksaun and that the individually-owned ice cellars and access to them shall be protected in perpetuity to the heirs and assignees of the owners.

(continued on Page 4)

Quitclaim . . .

(continued from Page 1)

The airport at Barrow was started under a BLM reservation. The Arctic Slope land claim stopped the State from obtaining title to the land.

The airport needs further work to handle some of its present traffic, and the State had planned some improvements. However, they could not get Federal aid without full title to the land.

Because of this complication, the state began negotiations with ASNA last month to obtain a quitclaim for the land. The final draft of the agreement agrees in large part with the State's proposals.

ASNA executive director Hugh Nicholls said that the Bureau of Land Management will recognize the quitclaim. He pointed out that this establishes precedents not only on the recognition of the claims, but for the BLM accepting the quitclaim method for allowing the development of land which comes under a Native claim.

The agreement also provides a precedent for the State in dealing with areas under the claims, and proves that the Native claims need not prevent development of the state.