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Tundra Times



Inupiat Paitot *People's Heritage*
 Den Nena Henash *Our Land Speaks*
 Unanguq Tunuktauq *The Aleuts Speak*

Tlingit
 Ut kah neek *Informing and Reporting*
 HAIDA
 Yaunk yawn sue
 Speak the absolute truth

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Fairbanks, Alaska

TANACROSS CLAIM IGNORED

Agencies Sit on Claim While State Acts Fast Selecting, Disposing

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
 Staff Writer

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel recently indicated that neither his office, nor the State Division of Lands, nor the Bureau of Land Management has knowledge of any claim filed by natives in the Tanacross area.

This was revealed in a letter written by the Interior Secretary to Tanacross Chief Andrew Isaac and made public Wednesday by Chief Isaac.

In the letter, Hickel stated that his department, the State Division of Lands Office in Anchorage, and the BLM "were not aware that any of these lands had been applied for by any Native."

"When I received your radiogram," Hickel said, "I checked with the Bureau of Land Management here in the Department. They were of the opinion," he stated, "that the lands being offered for sale had been selected by the State before the 'freeze' and that the land was patented to the State as required under

the State Land Act."
 "Upon learning of this, a call was made to the State Division of Lands office in Anchorage and they advised us that all the lands being offered for sale in early May in Fairbanks were owned in fee by the State," continued Hickel. "They were not aware that any of these lands had been applied for by any Native," Hickel stated.

"They agreed to re-check their records and call me back. This they did and reported that neither their records nor the records of the Bureau of Land Management showed any applications on file in either office," Hickel said.

Research of the Tanacross Land issue by the Tundra Times last week indicates that a serious intra-department communications problem exists, or, at the least, a lack of expediency.

A visit to the Fairbanks BLM office produced no less than four documents filed by the Tanacross Village and stamped as received by that office.

The first, dated November 6, 1950 was a petition addressed to the Secretary of the Interior requesting "that you establish a reservation for our exclusive use and occupancy." It was signed by 42 members of the Native Village of Tanacross.

A second document, entitled Petitions for Possessory Rights Hearing and Reservation in the matter of the Natives of Tanacross, was signed by former Village Council President David Paul and dated November 30, 1950. It was stamped as received by the Fairbanks BLM office on November 16, 1961.

The eleven-year delay in filing
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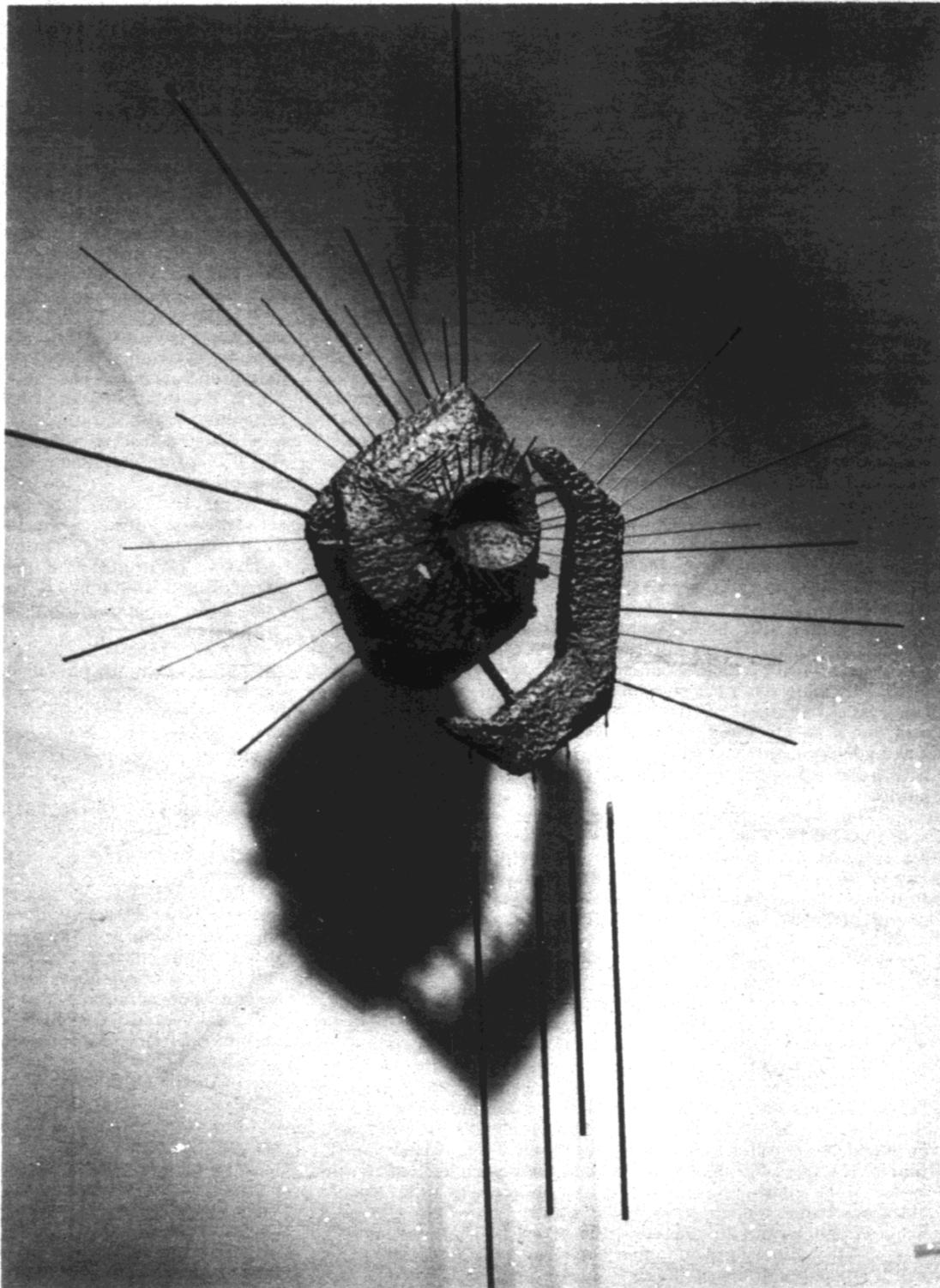
4th of July In Villages

Independence Day has traditionally, since the early territorial years, been a festive occasion in Alaskan villages throughout the State. The Fourth of July celebration in the year 1969 will be no exception. One such program will be held in Kotzebue Friday.

Morning events will include footraces with classes open to children, teenagers, men, women, old men, old women, and even women packing babies on their backs.

Afternoon activities are just as colorful and diversified. In the Eskimo hi-kick contest, competitors will bind their feet and attempt to kick a ball dangling above their heads.

Eskimo hunters will display their skill in the seal hooking contest. In this event, they will compete from boats to hook a
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ESKIMO MASK FORM—A talented young Eskimo, Larry Ahvakana of Anchorage, created the art piece working from a traditional King Island Eskimo mask. Larry told Sheila Turner, who formerly worked for Tundra Times, that he likes to start with traditional forms and build on them. Larry's parents, Maj. Lloyd and Lucy Ahvakana,

are originally from Barrow. Larry is now a student at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He has just started sculpturing this year. See picture of Larry and another creation, "Spirit of the Apache Warrior," on page 5.

Charles Edwardson Starts Organization

"There is a great lack of awareness among the general public of Alaska natives and their problems," Charles Edwardson told the Tundra Times. "We hope to change that lack of understanding on the socio-economic problems of Alaskan natives through Friends of Alaska Natives."

Edwardson is the president of the newly created Friends of Alaskan Natives, Inc., a private non-profit education and research

oriented corporation which seeks to "coalesce individuals, organizations and groups interested in educating the American public about the history of Alaskan Natives and the significance of their present efforts toward self-determination."

FAN, which has its offices in Washington, D.C., was organized last April for five major purposes. Edwardson outlined them as they appear in the organization's Ar-

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U.S. Arts, Crafts Brd. to Print Special Banquet Publication

The U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board is planning to print a special Alaska-oriented publication and that it will be printed to coincide with the date of the Tundra Times 7th Anniversary Banquet in Anchorage on October 4, 1969.

Myles Libhart, supervisor of museums, exhibitions and publications for the board, said that the publication would be aimed

to be of special interest in relation to the cultural theme of the Tundra Times banquet.

The theme of the October banquet is: "Cultural Contributions of the Native People of Alaska."

Myles Libhart on June 11 wrote Tundra Times editor Howard Rock that the board was contemplating issuing the special publication. Libhart inquired about the estimate of the ban-

quet attendance.

"On the basis of your estimate, we are moving ahead with plans for the Board publication, which we hope to be able to issue in time for the banquet," said Libhart. "We shall be able to forward definite word to you on this by late August or early September."

At that time, Libhart said, the board hopes to work out an
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