

Special Publication . . .

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exclusive release to the Tundra Times for a review of the publication.

"Such publicity coverage would be most valuable to this Board's programs by helping to underscore our cooperative endeavors with Indian and Eskimo peoples to provide a professional basis for promotion, interpretation and education relative to their arts and culture." Libhart stated.

Chairman of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, Vincent Price, has been invited by Tundra Times to be the keynote speaker at the October banquet of the newspaper. Price has accepted the invitation on a tentative basis giving as his reason the staggered times of his movie schedules.

Vincent Price is a longtime movie favorite in the nation as well as internationally. He is also a widely known art critic. He has long been interested in the arts of the Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts.

Tundra Times 7th anniversary banquet will be held in the ballroom of the Anchorage-Westward Hotel in Anchorage. The ballroom seats about 650 people banquet style. In the event of an overflow, the hotel management said the Commodore Room will be made available which seats about 200 people.

Efforts by the board of directors of Tundra Times are being made to assemble art items from

towns and villages of Alaska to be exhibited at Museum and Fine Arts Building, 121 W. 7th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

All items will be for sale unless otherwise requested by the artists. When they are sent to the above address, they should be designated, "To Tundra Times Arts and Crafts Exhibit." The arts and crafts will be handled by professional staff of the Anchorage museum.

Chief Executive of the State of Alaska, Gov. Keith H. Miller, has accepted the banquet invitation as well as congressional delegation in Washington.

The Alaska Federation of Natives will also be holding its annual convention on or around the October 4 banquet date and most or all of some 250 delegates are expected to attend.

The state legislators and many other dignitaries will be invited. Anchorage-Westward Hotel will furnish a block of rooms at a special rate for some of the people who will come to the banquet. Other hotels in Anchorage are expected to do the same.

The dress for the annual dinner will be semi formal. The admission price will be \$25 per couple and \$15 for single. There will be a no host cocktail hour prior to the banquet in the lobby of the Anchorage-Westward Hotel.

Additional information on the banquet will be publicized as the program develops.

Takes Issue with Blodgett . . .

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All the rural schools are now participating in a hot lunch program, with the exception of those schools whose Advisory Boards voted against it. The type of lunch program in a school is either Type A or B, dependent upon the facilities available for preparation. The State is striving to bring all schools up to the Class "A" Lunch category; however, it should be pointed out that there is actually little difference in nutritional value between the two.

All employees in State schools including cooks, custodians, maintenance men, kitchen helpers, teacher aides, etc. are paid in accordance with the State Personnel System.

The State is developing a special program for training Advisory School Boards. It is preparing them to assist in operating their own schools in their own communities. This means in the future the community will be determining to a large part, the kind of education they desire for their children.

In summary, the State under the Constitution, has accepted the responsibility for educating its "rural" students and will continue to provide top quality programs and services to the villages and communities in the unincorporated areas of the State.

Sincerely yours,
CLIFF HARTMAN
 COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
 By: Merle M. Armstrong, Director
 State-Operated Schools

- cc:
- Ambler Advisory School Board
 - Anaktuvuk " " "
 - Barrow " " "
 - Brevig Mission " " "
 - Buckland " " "
 - Deering " " "
 - Diomed Island " " "
 - Elim " " "
 - Gablell, St. Lawrence " " "
 - Golovin " " "
 - Kaktovik, Barter Island " " "
 - Kiana " " "
 - Kivalina " " "
 - Kobuk " " "
 - Kotzebue " " "
 - Koyuk " " "
 - Noatak " " "
 - Noorvik " " "
 - Northwest Cape Village
 - St. Lawrence Island " " "
 - St. Michael " " "
 - Savoonga, St. Lawrence " " "
 - Selawik " " "
 - Shaktoolik " " "
 - Shismaref " " "
 - Shungnak " " "
 - Stebbins " " "
 - Unalakleet " " "
 - Wainwright " " "
 - Wales " " "
 - White Mountain " " "

Moore Asks Aid for Alakanuk

Commissioner of Labor, Thomas J. Moore, stated his Department has been asked for help in finding summer employment for up to 120 unemployed cannery workers who reside at Alakanuk, a small Eskimo village at the mouth of the Yukon River on the Bering Sea.

The Point Adams fish cannery in that village is being closed, apparently because of failure to

meet certain requirements of the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Community leaders advise that the shutdown will affect the main source of jobs for the community, and result in real hardship.

Moore said, "Our Department is sending Bill Bramkamp, Manager of our Nome State Employment Service Manpower Center,

to Alakanuk this week to obtain specific information on applicants who would be willing to accept employment for the summer in fish and shellfish processing plants in other Alaska locations.

"At the same time Doris Simon, Manager of our Kodiak office is making preliminary contacts with superintendents and officials of Pacific Alaska Fisheries, Pan Alaska Fisheries, Alaska Packers, and others in plants in the Aleutian Islands, and around Kodiak Island."

The Labor Commissioner indicated the initial response from industry officials was very encouraging, with genuine interest shown in utilizing the experienced Alakanuk workers, and in committing work stations for them.

"This is another significant example of cooperation between Alaska industry and State government," Commissioner Moore concluded.

New Procedure: Health, Welfare

J. Scott McDonald, Commissioner of Health and Welfare, has announced that effective last Tuesday, July 1, 1969, the Division of Public Welfare will be starting a new procedure for eligibility and recertification of welfare recipients.

This requirement of the 1967 Social Security Amendments must be implemented by October 1, 1969; however, the change is being made early in keeping with the Health and Welfare

Department's policy of revitalization of its programs.

District welfare offices are at the following locations:

Juneau, Pouch H; Sitka, Box 1069; Ketchikan, Box 257; Anchorage, 527 4th Avenue; Valdez, Box 524, Dillingham, Box 221; Seward, Box 755; Kodiak, Box 2515; Bethel, Box 365; Fairbanks, 604 Barnett Street; Nome, Box 221; and Kotzebue, Box 41.

Edwardson . . .

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articles of Incorporation.

"FAN seeks to promote the development of an enlightened public opinion with respect to Alaskan natives; to provide the public with a fair, accurate and non-partisan presentation of information about the history, the interests and the problems of the Alaskan natives; and to encourage research and the publication of studies with respect to the history, the interests and the problems of Alaskan natives," Edwardson said.

He described two other purposes as "to make use of the various media of communication to disseminate educational information about the Alaskan natives to the public; and to raise funds for the Corporation's affairs from any source, public or private."

Edwardson stated that FAN was in full support of the land settlement sought by Alaskan natives. Commenting on the lack of awareness of Alaska native problems, he concluded, "What we are exerting is public education on Alaska natives."

4th of July . . .

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dummy seal weighted to sink rapidly out of reach of the hook and line.

Nalukatuk performers will test their skill in the blanket toss. Participants twist and kick as they jump high into the air from the walrus or oogruk hide blankets.

Drummers will maintain a steady beat, pounding with wooden sticks on drums constructed of intestine membrane. They will accompany the Eskimo Dancers as they perform the motion dances, or the ancient traditional dances.

Other contests include a tug of war, muktuk eating competition, and the Arctic Baby Beauty Contest which is open only to babies under one year of age.

Drawings will be held for such prizes as an outboard motor and a portable sewing machine. Cash prizes will also be awarded to the hunter who has caught the biggest beluga.

One of the greatest attractions will be the selection of Miss Arctic Circle of 1969. Contestants will compete in parkys for the title. The winner of this event will represent Kotzebue at the 1969 World Eskimo Olympics program, to be held in Fairbanks on August 8 and 9.

The day of celebration will be concluded with a community dance, attended by nearly everyone in town.

the original petition with the Land Office is due to inaction on the part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Realty Office, then headed by Charles Jones, which did not file the petition with the BLM until 1961.

An appeal prepared by the Area Director of the BIA, dated February 24, 1962 was also filed with the Fairbanks Land Office. The appeal asked for a hearing on the original 1950 petition.

"It is respectfully submitted that the Northway and Tanacross Indians are entitled to a hearing to present evidence of their claim of use and occupancy of the lands in question," the appeal read, "and that the decision of the Manager arbitrarily denying the Northway and Tanacross claims without a hearing is contrary to law and should be reversed."

The BLM subsequently dismissed the petition, citing that there was no existing law under which it could be recorded. An immediate appeal was made and was forwarded to the BLM Director, in Washington, D.C., where it has sat since with no determination made either affirmative or negative.

In the meantime, the State was granted tentative approval or patent on 63,533 acres of the Tanacross claim. When the State received this approval, it gave assurances that it would not seek to dispose of any land until a final determination was made.

A statement issued by State Lands chief Roscoe Bell, dated June 9, 1965, said, "We believe that the rights of individuals should be a paramount and that we will now make doubly sure that the rights of individuals are not jeopardized by our actions before we move ahead with any disposal plans."

Despite these assurances, the State proceeded to offer land located within the Tanacross protest for sale. In 1964, the State placed vacant lots within the Tanacross townsite up for sale.

In 1965, the State also had plans to sell "wilderness estates" at George Lake during the New York World's Fair.

Both sales were thwarted when they received extensive newspaper coverage. The State presently is offering land for sale which is located within the protest area. This action has sparked renewed controversy.

On August 17, 1964, Chief Andrew Isaac sent to the BLM office written notification of a blanket claim filed by him on behalf of the Village of Tanacross. This action was prompted by an attempt by the State to secure and sell lots within the

Claim Ignored . . .

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Tanacross townsite.

When queried as to the status of these claims, the BLM stated that the 1962 appeal was sent to the Secretary of the Interior for action. During the entire 20 year period since the original petition was filed, Chief Isaac states, the Tanacross natives were never given notification of the official status of their claim.

The only advice given to the Tanacross natives by the Interior Department since the claim and subsequent appeals were filed came from Secretary Hickel himself, in his letter to Chief Isaac.

"I would suggest," stated Hickel, "that you protest directly to the State Division of Lands Office in either Fairbanks or Anchorage and submit to them any specific evidence you might have that your people claim ownership of these lands."

Commenting on the Hickel letter, Chief Isaac said, "Isn't it amazing that the State and Bureau of Land Management could not locate either the 1950 claim or the one put in the early 1960's; Also that they could not locate any Indian allotments?"

"Now we see how they could overlook a whole village, they just didn't look," stated Chief Isaac.

For years, Chief Isaac and the Tanacross Indians have angrily contended that their claim has been ignored. It appears that this charge has received unknowing support from no less than the Secretary of the Interior.

Had an expedient determination been made by the agencies involved, the Tanacross Indians granted title to lands procured through historical use and occupancy, there would be no cloud on the title to the claim.

Subsequently, had the State held fast to its promise that it would not dispose of the lands until a determination was made on the protest, the Tanacross natives may have received all the land which they believe is rightfully theirs.

As a result of inaction by the BIA and the BLM Washington Office, and as a result of rapid action by the State, the natives of Tanacross have been ignored. The claim, and subsequent appeal, still sits in the office of the BLM Director and still no decision has been made.

The entire issue has been grossly ignored. The State has profited from this inaction, and will continue to profit. Chief Isaac and the native people of Tanacross continue to suffer, and continue to lose the land that they have occupied for countless generations.

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