

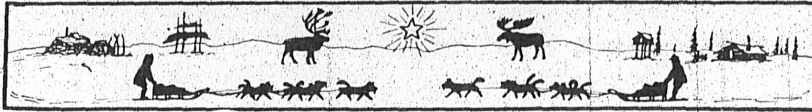
# Tundra Times

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Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Hlenash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



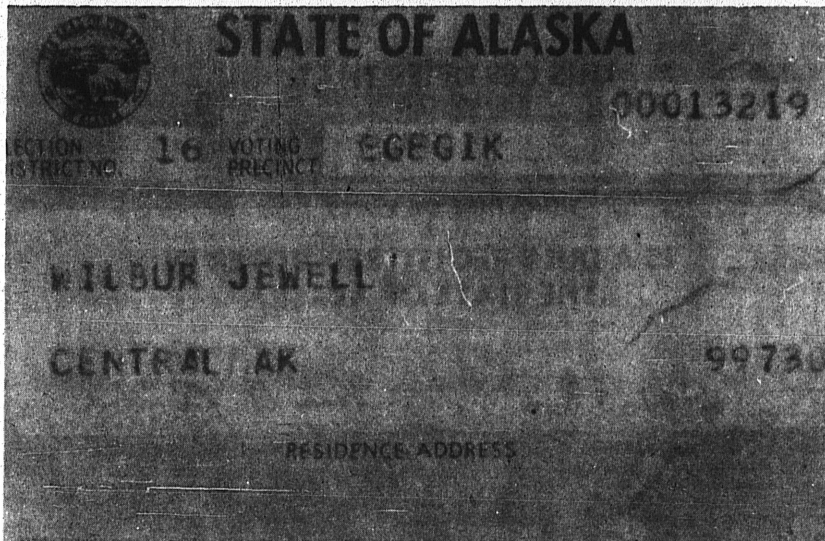
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Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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Fairbanks, Alaska

## ABSENTEE VOTE RILES TOWN



VOTING PRECINCT — On the primary election day on August 27 in the tiny town of Central, you couldn't just walk down the street to vote because the voting precinct was 660 miles away in the village of Egegik in southwestern Alaska.

### Central Voters Also Sneer at Precinct 660 Long Miles Away

By DON ALDER

CENTRAL, ALASKA — Since the turn of the century, voting has been an important event in Central. Located 128 miles north on the Steese Highway, the small community, known as the "Home of Rugged Individuals," has had a polling place.

In the days of heavy mining activity, miners walked in from the hills, the creeks and the bush to exercise their rights and preferences.

As independent in their politics as in their lifestyles, words were never a short commodity when election time rolled around. Until this year.

A new and unfamiliar word was injected into their election vocabulary. Absentee. Central was not to have a voting place, because a reorganizing of the precincts placed their polls in Fairbanks. The only way they could vote was by absentee ballot.

If this were not enough, eligible voters receiving new registration cards found that through someone's error, all Central residents had been placed in the Egegik Precinct, District 16! (Egegik is located on the coast of Bristol Bay in southeast Alaska, 660 miles away.)

Reaction to these changes was predictably varied and violent. Some didn't understand the new system. Some did, but chose not to vote in disgust. Others reacting more violently, talked of some sort of fitting action against politicians in general, and only two that were known actually got their votes in time to be counted.

They returned their erroneous registration cards for correction, and received ballots in the mail. With only two mail planes a week, their ballots just made it.

Now, no real intentional denial of the right to vote took place, but the result was the same. From a roster of qualified voters which numbers fifty (predominately Independent) only two confirmed having voted.

Usually, only 20-plus votes are cast in an election in Central, but vote or not, these "rugged

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Perhaps by End of September—

## Chances Appear Good for 4th Land Claims Payment

By MARGIE BAUMAN

Chances appear good that Alaska's regional Native corporations will receive by the end of September a fourth land claims payment totalling \$70 million.

President Roger Lang of the Alaska Federation of Native Inc. said Monday that the federal appropriation of land claims funds had already been approved, more than a month earlier than last year's payment.

"But the problem is nobody is quite sure of the status of the roll yet," Lang said.

The roll Lang referred to is the list of Alaska Natives enrolled under the land claims act. More than 75,000 persons are enrolled and more are still trying to get on the list.

(The Enrollment Coordinating Office, under direction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has been issuing new lists on a monthly basis since the celebrated "final roll" was presented to congregated representatives of the regional corporations at Anchorage about one year ago.)

Still, Lang was optimistic about an earlier payment this time and last week sent telegrams to each regional corporation advising them of the forthcoming payment.

"That's quite a thing to gear up for," he noted. "Most of them will make the payment within 30-60 days after receiving the money."

Lang said he was surprised, when he made a check on the process of the appropriations to find out it was already approved.

"Somebody must have really steamrolled both Houses," he said. "Last year, it was October before we even got an appropriation signed."

The land claims act, signed in December, 1971, directs a series of 11 federal payments to Alaska Native people totalling \$462.5 million.

The distribution of federal funds is broken down to:

\$12,500,000 during the 1st year;

\$50,000,000 for the 2nd fiscal year.

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### New Aid for Pilots

ANCHORAGE — The Alaska State Division of Aviation has produced a new aid for pilots flying in the 49th State.

Just off the presses is "Flying in Alaska," a 14-page color brochure filled with the basic facts and information every pilot in Alaska needs to have at his or her fingertips.

The brochure, according to Jack Peck, director of the Division of Aviation, is "invaluable to new pilots and veteran aviators alike."

The publication contains essential information, particularly emergency procedures, for pilots to as well as within the state. It also includes a summary of Canadian aviation regulations required for cross-country flying.

Copies of the brochure may be obtained by writing or calling the nearest office of Alaska's Division of Aviation.

### Changes in Lifestyle—

## Curriculum Planning on Claims

"Sweeping changes in life style and land use for all Alaskan, Native and non-Native, will be an inevitable consequence of the Land Claims Settlement Act," stated Fred Bigjim, instructor of a Land Claims seminar for educators held at Alaska Methodist University during August.

"Teachers need help with curriculum planning and instruction so their students can understand the importance and significance of the changes the settlement is causing. Disseminating accurate information regarding the social and economic implications of the Act cannot be stressed strongly enough," was Bigjim's theme throughout the three week course

During the seminar the class invited educators and Native leaders to discuss methods and strategies for teaching land claims. Robert Arnold, who is coordinating the writing of a text book on Land Claims summarized the contents of the text and pointed out that it would not be ready for classroom use this year.

Frank Barthel, former high school teacher in Bethel, outlined the curriculum he used in teaching land claims for the past two years. Two seminar participants, Beth Goodman and Ron Gerton, have also been teaching courses in Land Claims to high school students.

Another guest speaker, Mitch Demientieff, President of Nenana Village Corporation, elaborated on the concept of alternative education systems, such as the Land Claims college initiated by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, which would make it possible for Natives living in rural areas to earn college degrees in their own villages.

Participants in the seminar attended a policy meeting of the Alaska Native Foundation Human Resources Committee where the concern was voiced that "innovative programs are needed to teach Land Claims in all

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CURRICULUM — Educators strongly urge adoption of a Land Claims curriculum in all school systems in Alaska during seminar conducted by Fred Bigjim at Alaska Methodist University. Participants left to right: William Mudd, Henry Anderson, Ron Gerton, Joan Fisher, Instructor of the course Fred Bigjim, and Elizabeth Goodman.