

Thirteenth annual meeting held

The Thirteenth Annual Shareholders' Meeting was held on May 17, 1986, at the Kluti-Kaah Memorial Hall in Copper Center.

Prior to the meeting being called to order, President Roy S. Ewan welcomed everyone and introduced three guest speakers, David Vought, Executive Director of the Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority; Michelle Bayless, AFN Youth Council Representative; and Dorothy Shinn of the "I Care" Indian Education Program; who had each volunteered to speak but were not included on the meeting agenda.

David Vought, Executive Director of the Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority, spoke briefly concerning the Housing Program in Copper Center, and answered several questions from shareholders.

Next, Michelle Bayless, Ahtna's representative on the AFN Youth Council, reported on their activities, and her experiences on the Council. She urged Native youth to get involved, so that they will be ready when it is their turn to take over.

Dorothy Shinn addressed the issue of education, and spoke about the activities of the "I Care" program and the importance of educating our youth.

Chief Jim McKinley opened the 13th Annual Shareholders Meeting with a prayer. He then began his address to the audience by stating his concerns for the Ahtna Lands, and asked the younger generation working for Ahtna to look out for their elders to see that the work is protected and continues to benefit the shareholders.

An update of the 1991 issue was given by George Irvin, Executive Vice President of Alaska Federation of Natives. Mr. Irvin talked about the fears that Alaskan Natives have concerning the loss of their lands and stock, and how the amendments to 1991 would help the Native Villages and Corporations to keep control of these things.

President Roy S. Ewan reported on the year's activities, highlighting some of the major events, such as the resolution of the Intertie court suit and the buy-out of Community Enterprises Development Corporation (CEDC) interest in the Ahtna Lodge. He pointed out that, this year, the corporation is facing a shortfall, but that the Board and management had taken several steps to assure Ahtna's continued profitability.

Mr. Wilson Justin, Operations Manager of Ahtna, Inc., reported on his role in the corporation, and highlighted some of his priorities for 1986, which include establishing the Ahtna Foundation, pursuing employment opportunities for shareholders, improving communications with the villages, and developing policies and procedures for Ahtna, Inc. and its subsidiaries.



Jim McKinley, Traditional Chief, addressed the crowd at the 13th Annual Meeting.

Robert Marshall talked about his duties as the Shareholder Relations Officer. Mr. Marshall stated, "I am proud of Ahtna and its accomplishments since its inception in 1971, based on the prediction by other regional corporations that it would fail in a few years, since it was too small."

Other reports given included that of Ahtna Construction & Primary Products by Nicholas Jackson, General Manager. He reported that the maintenance contract with Alyeska is still in effect and employing three shareholders. He also reported on several construction jobs coming up

this summer. One piece of disturbing news he had was on the case of vandalism at the garage site owned by the construction firm in Copper Center.

A report on Ahtna Development Corporation was given by President Douglas MacArthur.

Mr. Larry S. Lau, Resource Manager, gave a report on the Land Department activities. He said they are focusing their attention on specific areas, such as collecting and organizing resource information, and working on the 1.5 acre and 14(c)1 programs.

Treasurer, Daniel LeBlanc and Controller, Marc Stemp gave the Financial Overview of all Ahtna Companies. Mr. Stemp reported that the value of the shareholders' equity has increased.

This was followed by the Legal Overview given by Corporate Attorney, Robert M. Goldberg. He gave an update on the following issues: Copper Center By-Pass, the Ahtna Foundation, joint venture proposals, Native Group eligibility, and Gulkana River navigability.

Tribute was given to Herbert R. Smelcer, former President of Ahtna, who worked for Ahtna for several years.

A plaque was presented to Mrs. Katherine McConkey in recognition of her late father, Hector V. Ewan, who spent many years in the service of Copper River Native Association and Ahtna.

Five seats on the Board of Directors were up for election. The election results were as follows:

Seat A - At Large; Carolyn Craig, Joeneal Hicks and Ruby John.
Seat D - Chistochina; Lillian P. Boston.
Seat F - Gakona; Christine H. Gene.

The Thirteenth Annual Shareholders' Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m., and followed by a dinner of barbecued ribs and baked halibut.



Michelle Bayless, AFN Youth Council Representative