

# Highlights of summer activities

by Wilson Justin, Operations Manager

As autumn deepens, and the leaves begin to fall, the view from my window changes and the thoughts stir as to changes, and endings and beginnings.

The Land Department has spent most of the summer traveling, and working in the field. As September comes to a close, plans are to close-out the summer field season, and work will begin on analyzing data and processing it into a meaningful assemblage of facts. The majority of time spent in the field was on 14(c) work, material source sites, and numerous other items related to land ownership and selection patterns.

The highlight of the summer was a two-day Land Policy Meeting held at the Ahtna office on August 23 and 24. Draft Land Policies had been circulated to the villages and Board of Directors for about a year and a half prior to the policy meeting. As a result, proposed Land Policies have been adopted on an interim basis, pending Board review and final adoption.

Village Shareholder Committees will also have a chance to get familiar with these policies at the Annual Shareholder Committees Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for late October. The intention is to take the

policies through a review, revision period throughout the remainder of FY '86, and then look to have the Board of Directors adopt the final version sometime early in '87. Implementation will begin thereafter.

The Ahtna Lodge had a real good season, serving numerous buses and incidental highway traffic. Dan LeBlanc was moved into the Acting Lodge Manager position in July. Since then, he has run some fairly comprehensive studies as to operational defects and other material flaws relative to the Lodge. The coming winter months will be spent on developing ideas and plans based on Dan's work as to a more efficient and financially secure Lodge for '87 and beyond. Dan's firsthand experience with the Lodge will serve to help enlighten the Board of Directors as to the many complex and difficult decisions that lay ahead for the Lodge.

The Ahtna Enterprises 10-unit HUD project in Copper Center is well on its way to completion. Our projection is that we should be completed by Oct. 20, or sooner, which is about a week or two ahead of schedule. We experienced our fair share of problems and setbacks, but it was all taken in stride. Much thanks goes to Bud

Fuller, our Project Manager, for giving us the depth of expertise needed to bring this project to a close on time under budget, and with minimal correctional actions. Plans are to bid on another project, or projects, of a similar nature for the coming year. AEC is a subsidiary of Ahtna, Inc., and is licensed as a general contractor. We also expect to be licensed as a Minority Business Enterprise by mid-December.

Ahtna Construction had a better season than expected, given the times and the economic downturn overall within the state. The dramatic drop in oil prices early this year triggered a severe downturn in the construction industry, and further shows no sign of abatement through the next 4-5 years. Fortunately, this came as no surprise to Ahtna, and discussions were well underway as to options and alternatives long before the economic situation became apparent to the general population. Again, hard and difficult decisions lay in store for us in this respect.

Shareholder Relations: Unfortunately, we finally ran short of funds for student loans. To date, and over the years, Ahtna had funded well over \$300,000 worth of student loans with

minimal returns. I was finally forced to put a hold on all requests for student loans beginning in late March. The future of our Student Loan Program is uncertain and will bear much discussion at the Board level. We still have a viable Student Scholarship Program, and several Ahtna shareholders were approved by the Shareholders Committee to receive student scholarship funds.

In closing, I'd like to mention that the above is just a quick snapshot of some of the summer's activities. Ongoing are developments related to subsidiaries, joint ventures, Legal Dept., village issues and concerns, land issues, Group Corporations, National Park Service, review of investment proposals, and an endless list of day-to-day detail which blot out huge blocks of time.

Ahtna's interests are far-reaching long-term, and subject to numerous adjustments relative to internal/external pressures and considerations. This sometimes makes it difficult for management to second-guess what it is that shareholders want to know about, in general. It's a little like trying to put a mountain in your living room. The best that we can do is take a picture every now and then, and send it on to you.