

# Vide Bartlett Recalls Alaska Legislation in Territorial Days

The Alaska Territorial legislature spent most of its time bombarding Congress with resolutions. Until statehood, said Mrs. Vide Bartlett, Alaska had little control over its destiny and resources.

The wife of the late senator, E.L. "Bob" Bartlett who fought for statehood from 1945 until it was finally achieved in 1958,

reminded about Alaska's political history for history students at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

The former Vide Gausted was born in Dawson in the Yukon Territory and, at the age of one, moved with her parents to Cleary Creek near Fairbanks where her father owned a gold mine.

She vaguely remembers the first territorial legislature which met in 1913. Then her father, a Republican, was elected to the 1915 legislature and her recollections since then are vivid.

Mrs. Bartlett, a member of the university's Board of Regents, told anecdotes about Alaska's early day legislators to the combined classes on the History

of Alaska and Modern U.S. History, taught by John Nelson and Ralph McGrath respectively.

One of the first bills enacted by the territorial legislature, she recalled, reduced the 12-hour work day to eight. The author of that piece of legislation was defeated the next time around and another bill was passed stretching the work day to 10

hours.

Elections then were held in October "because there was no one here in November. They all went outside during the winter months."

In 1917, Gov. Strong, a Democrat and a Canadian, was governor then. The Republicans wanted to have a little fun, she said, so they put in a bill proclaiming Strong the best governor Alaska ever had. Well the Democrats had to vote for it and it passed unanimously.

"It was cause for celebration," she said, and the governor gave a dinner party at his house.

She said there are pictures of that event, but few people actually know the history of it.

There were 24 legislators in those days and they met for a month at the most.

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## Solution Nearer

**JUNEAU** The Alaskan and Canadian Tlingits and Haida Indians met recently and a solution drew nearer to settle the question of how eligible Canadian Tlingits and Haidas would participate in the 1969 Land Claims Judgment award of \$7.5 million, award to that group by the U.S. Court of Claims.

Central Council President, Clarence Jackson said a five-member Alaska delegation met with three representatives from British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, "to attempt to reach an accord on how to recommend resolution to our respective constituents."

No details were made public, "however dependent upon for their deliberation, the details may be released at a later time," he said.

It was in early 1969 that the Tlingit and Haidas won a court judgment against the U.S., Jackson explained, and the Act of Congress specified Canadian Tlingit and Haida descendants were to be beneficiaries of the judgment funds.

The Alaska delegation included Jackson, John Hope, Robert Willard of Anchorage, Richard Kito of Petersburg and Roger Lang of Juneau.

The Canadians were represented by Richard Dickson of Whitehorse, Reg Kelly of Victoria, B.C. Legal counsel for the Yukon and British Columbia groups was Allen Lueck also of Whitehorse.

Morris Thompson, BIA Area Director, coordinated the meeting and the Interior Department Solicitor Charles Soller of Washington, D.C. was also on hand to respond to any technical issues that may have arisen.

Jackson said he was pleased that some progress had been made and the issues identified.

"The Negotiating Committee will report to the next Tlingit and Haida Central Council Convention when it meets next year. Future meetings may be held," Jackson said later.

## Wrangell Eagles

(Continued from page 2)

opportunity to run some extra races although they never saw their competition.

It would be difficult to pick one top runner for this group because the competition was always very spirited and the boys were constantly trading off for the front position.

Three boys were steady runners and should be mentioned as such. Elmer Cheemuk of St. Michael, Harvey Demantle of Akiak and Seymour Tuzroyluke of Point Hope always appeared in the top five running positions in about every race run this year.