

# ASCAP Battles . . . Arts, Crafts Groups

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personnel committee selected three names, to which the board itself added Lekanof. Ralph Perdue of Fairbanks, a member of the board, reported that he had been added because board members felt he was most qualified.

There was "no question of his ability to carry out the job," said Perdue. The reason given for the selection was that the board members wanted a dollar for dollar accounting of results and money spent, and that they felt Lekanof could carry out that responsibility.

Several of the people who resigned claimed that the selection was influenced by government agencies included in ASCAP. Both Valentine and Tansy stated that the three votes against Lekanof were cast by the target-area representatives of the lowest income sections of the state.

Miss Tansy said that she did not resign in support of Fothergill, but in protest of the way the selection was made. She felt that, while Lekanof was familiar with the problems, he lacked competence in some respects, such as leadership.

"When he states that he will be working in full cooperation with the Governor,

my decision to resign is final because ASCAP can not work effectively with the poor if we have to have full cooperation with the governor," said Miss Tansy. She felt the programs would work for, not with the poor as a result of the board meeting.

She said that she was resigning from her position, but not from her anti-poverty work. "I will continue working with the people through my own personal letters," she announced.

Emil Notti, who replaced Valentine as regional director in Anchorage, said that there was no official count of resignations, but he felt that a published figure of 24 was much too high. He said that recruiting would start as soon as the extent of the problem is known, and that the overall program would continue.

But the temporary problem of re-staffing the programs may not be the biggest problem facing the War on Poverty in Alaska. Whether or not politics influenced the choice of directors, ASCAP-formed to help the poor—is suffering from strong internal dissension. And those who are supposed to benefit from the programs are the spectators in this battle.

## Nulato Meeting . . .

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Roots.

The meeting opened in the Community Hall with a large crowd present. The first afternoon was more or less introductory.

Each representative presented himself and gave a short talk. The villages represented each gave a summary of the problems they are faced with at this time.

Such topics as generators, Neighborhood Youth Corps, village relocation, airstrips, tourist enterprise, arts and crafts, radio communication, surplus equipment were discussed in general terms.

The meeting moved into the Women's Club that evening where problems and solutions were discussed more specifically, the agencies offering advice wherever possible.

State Housing was heard from regarding village relocation especially. State Housing will be working closely with Nulato and Koyukuk in their planned village relocations.

The following morning BIA spoke on how that agency could help on many different fronts.

Following this, a movie for all was held in the Hall. The movie was excellent in its presentation of how cooperatives had worked in an Eskimo village of the Hudson Bay area.

Following lunch, Ron Benkert of the Anchorage law firm which represents Tyonek, spoke on land claims, the native land rights, what has been done in the past, and what is proposed.

Later, he told exactly how to go about presenting a land claim and fight for it. It was decided that an area including the land of eight villages

would be one land claim.

These villages would start collecting historical data to show long time residence as evidence when the land claims goes to court.

The villages involved will meet again to choose a law agency to represent this group.

While the visitors were in Nulato, they roomed in the Armory and received well prepared meals at the Women's Club building.

The visitors were also treated to potlaches and native singing and dancing as this was the week of the celebrated Stick Dance, an event native to this area of Alaska and occurring about once every four years.

By the time Andrew Demoski adjourned the meeting, much had been accomplished and there was a greater understanding between the village people and the agencies.

We can expect some action now as a result of this most informative meeting.

## Reindeer . . .

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Hickel and Sen. Robert R. Blodgett, D-Teller, was to let the reindeer intermingle with caribou herds and harvest the resulting herds through controlled killing. This might also eliminate the cycles of caribou population.

Don Dickey, general manager of the State Chamber of Commerce, said that the Japanese were interested in importing reindeer meat from Alaska.

"Character is like a tree. A reputation is like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of. The tree is the real thing."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

## Vie at One Another

Mr. Joseph Senungatuk & Pete Seegana  
Sitka Demonstration Work Shops  
c/o Box "D"  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Senungatuk & Mr. Seegana:

Your letter to the editor of Tundra Times was most interesting to the undersigned who, with Mr. Heinmiller, do not disagree with your right to do whatever kind of art you desire. We question many things in your letter, which follow the policy and effort of the people who employ you. You failed to tell the readers that you are employed by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the Department of the Interior under Mr. George Federoff and that you have shops, equipment, training, etc.

supplied by our taxes to pursue, what you claim is "fine contemporary art" although the same can be found in most shops in Copenhagen.

We note you say Mr. Heinmiller would "keep us as display pieces" yet the very jobs you have in "Indian country" at the Sitka Information Park is as demonstration craftsmen.

We would also like to ask you a question which you can easily answer any way you want. We note that you both received top awards in the Centennial Art Show. Were these pieces done on the job under Mr. Federoff's supervision? Also we note Mr. Federoff was also a judge of that work. It is rather odd, isn't it?

(to be continued)

## Kabuki Becomes Alive in Alaska

One of the leading exponents of Japanese dance will appear at the University of Alaska February 5.

Nobuko Shimazaki will present a program of Kabuki dance at 3 p.m. this Sunday in the Schaible Lecture Hall under the sponsorship of the university's Special Events Committee.

Her program will be based on the popular Japanese art form, the Kabuki Theatre, which originated in the late 16th century. Extremely popular with the Japanese commoners, Kabuki provided a vivid commentary on events of the day in a spectacle employing dance, music, mime, decor and costuming.

Kabuki is a very demanding art, requiring such great control and mastery that most performers begin training in their early childhood. Miss Shimazaki began studying the art when she was only six years of age.

With her dance movements and gestures, she plays a variety of roles ranging from toothless old men to demure young maidens. Portions of her costume provide props to complete the illusions.

In Miss Shimazaki's performances, Kabuki becomes a living theatre, showing the audience new avenues of artistic experience which are aesthetically moving.

## Eklutna Chief Takes Pride In Newspaper

Box 326  
Chugiak, Alaska

Dear Editor:

Since I began subscribing to your newspaper after the Native Conference in Anchorage, I have been looking forward to each weekly issue.

My family and I have enjoyed reading the articles written by and for natives. I enjoy reading your editorials, for they, I believe, reflect our thoughts and feelings about the subject at hand.

Your reporting of events and activities taking place at other villages throughout the state are outstanding. I really enjoy reading the various articles written and contributed by others. They are, at times, both humorous and interesting.

Mr. Robert Bennett, our Commissioner, often stresses his confidence in the Indian people. I am confident your newspaper will continue and become the best newspaper in Alaska, owned and published by a Native such as yourself.

Sincerely,  
George Ondola

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## Tlingit Wins . . .

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eastern Alaska.

Dr. Soboleff also has lectured on Tlingit culture at the Juneau-Douglas Community College.

Born in Killisnoo, Alaska, November 14, 1908, Dr. Soboleff graduated from Sheldon Jackson School in 1928. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1937 and in 1940 received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from the Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Dubuque University awarded Dr. Soboleff an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1952.

He served as minister of the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Juneau from 1940 to 1962 and has held various offices in the church organization, including those of moderator and state clerk for the Alaska Presbytery and moderator of the Washington Synod.

Dr. Soboleff has served chaplaincy in both houses of the State Legislature. He holds the rank of Chaplain Major in the Alaska National Guard, an organization he has been active in since 1951. He and his wife Genevieve have four children.



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