

# Local hire rule pleases NANA

by Steve Pilkington

for the *Tundra Times*

NANA Regional Corp. officials are hailing a recent decision by the state that will require the hiring of Northwest Arctic Borough area residents for a state-financed road project, but officials of the construction company involved say it may increase their cost.

"We at NANA think the state's designation is important to all rural Alaskans because it's the first time that rural Alaskans have been given the advantage for jobs in their own area as a result of state policy," said John Shively, senior vice president for NANA.

Roger Blankenship, project manager for Enserch Corp., however, said the decision by the Department of Labor to label the Northwest Arctic Borough

as "economically distressed" may significantly boost the cost of Enserch's road construction project near Kotzebue, originally estimated to cost \$48 million.

He said the increase would be as a result of the paperwork involved with hiring in an economically distressed zone.

The project, state-funded with bonds issued by the Alaska Industrial Development Authority, is to construct a 52-mile road connecting the Red Dog zinc-lead-silver mine with the coast.

The Labor Department, after reviewing the economic situation in the Kotzebue area, labeled the borough economically distressed Aug. 20. This is the first time an area of Alaska has been so designated.

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As a result, Enserch, which had already started hiring for the construction project, is now required under emergency regulations to hire at least half of its future employees from the area.

Enserch still needs to hire about 150 more workers before construction can continue, and Enserch officials say

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by early contact with Euro-Americans as market art pieces made for sale.

Gunyo specialized in raven and frog carvings, which is why the piece is attributed to him. It is an important early example of argillite carving.

The association also donated an oil on canvas, "In Scola Pass," by Amanda B. Sewell. The painting was probably done around 1914 when Amanda and her artist husband, Robert V. V. Sewell, toured Southcentral Alaska.

Works from this year's Earth, Fire, and Fibre craft show were also donated, including a turned oak bowl by Buz Blum, a stonewear teapot by Mary Ann Dunham, a necklace by Jane Meyer, a paper sculpture by Karen Stahlecker and a metal sculpture by Sheila K. Wyne.

Among other works acquired are four hand-tinted prints representing Spence Guerin's ongoing suite of 101; "Ciingqutaiyuk," a mask by Jach Abraham; "Fusion: Yesterday & Today," also a mask by Susie Qimmiqsak Bevins; and "Shaman's Headrest," a mixed media work on paper by James Schoppert.

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