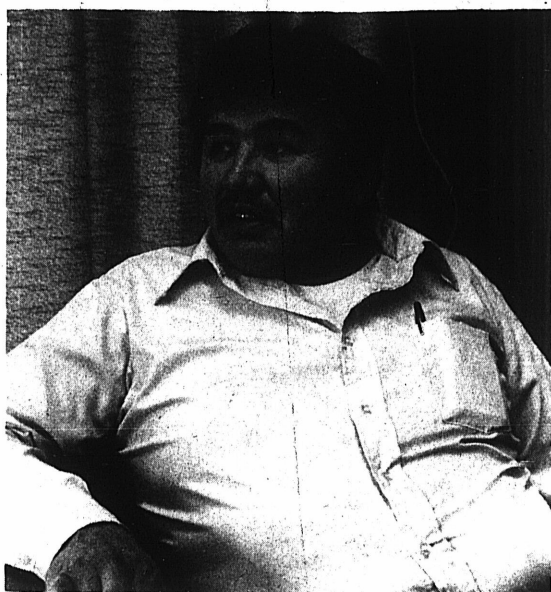


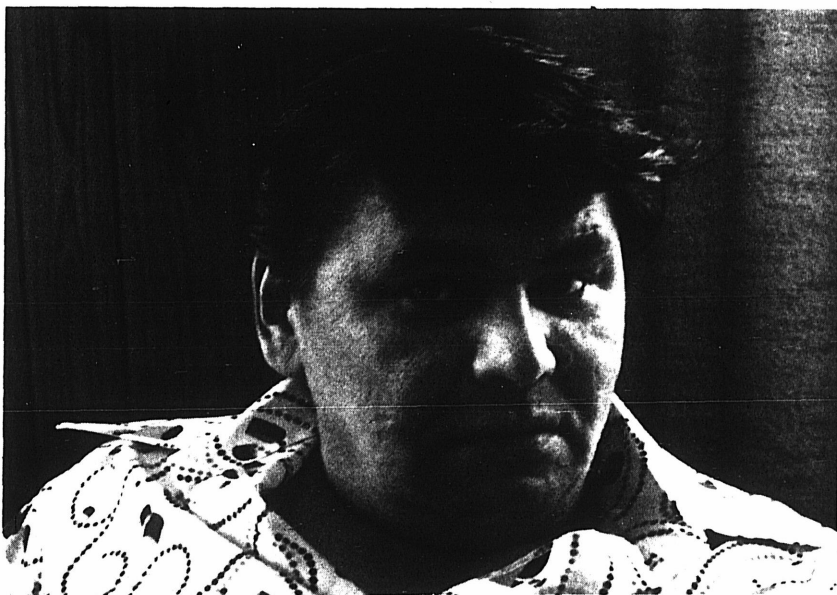
Ahtna, Inc. — A small, quiet, successful Native corporation



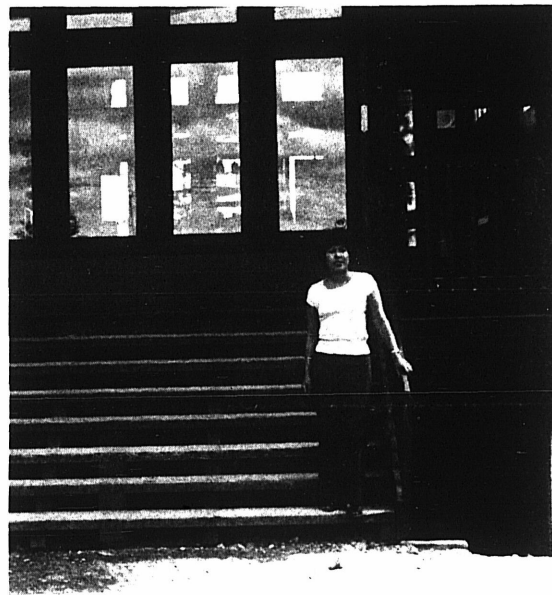
AHTNA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PRESIDENT ROY TANSY



SEAL OF THE AHTNA, INC. REGIONAL NATIVE CORPORATION



AHTNA GENERAL MANAGER NORMAN T. JOHNS



PRESIDENT CHRISTINE YAZZIE IN FRONT OF THE AHTNA LODGE

"We've been very lucky," says Ahtna General Manager Norm Johns

Norman T. Johns has been appointed general manager of Ahtna, Inc. by the regional Native corporation's board of directors. Johns was formerly manager of Ahtna Development Corporation. He replaces Nick Jackson, who has joined Meridian, a venture involving Ahtna, Chugach Natives, and Fru-Con Corporation, has the pipeline maintenance contract for the southern district of the Alyeska Pipeline.

Pipeline related activity continues to hold Ahtna's interest, according to Johns. "As Ahtna, we'll always be involved in a part of the pipeline, I think," Johns told the Tundra Times. "There are a lot of other areas we are considering, however these are largely confidential at this point. Re-bidding the pipeline maintenance contract is our next project," he added.

The southern district pipeline maintenance contract with Alyeska is presently Ahtna's largest project. Through Meridian Contractors, Ahtna joint-ventures with Chugach Natives, Inc. and Fru-Con Corporation of Houston in providing regular pipeline maintenance from Pump Station 10 south to, and including, the Valdez Terminal. The venture, a three-way equal partnership of the two Native regional corporations and the Texas firm, has the contract

until October 1.

Through another subsidiary, Ahtna Construction, Ahtna, Inc. has joint-ventured in electrical contracting work. Ahtna, Fischbach, and Moore currently has four small electrical contracting jobs, including participation in the construction of the Nome high school project.

In keeping with corporate policy, Ahtna has placed one of its shareholders as an administrative trainee in this venture. "Elmer Marshall has been retained as 'junior administrator' for Ahtna, Fischbach and Moore. We have all been very pleased with his performance," Johns said.

Ahtna Minerals Company Inc., is the region's newest subsidiary. The region has recently signed agreements with a group of companies to provide for mineral exploration and development of lands which Ahtna will receive under the Native settlement act.

Companies with whom AMC will participate in exploration and development include WGM, Inc. mining and geological consultants, American Copper and Nickel Company, and the mineral and metallics exploration divisions of General Crude Oil Company and Continental Oil Company.

Calling the exploration agreements an "important turning

point in the history of Ahtna," Ahtna, Inc. President Christine Yazzie told the Tundra Times. "We foresee widespread economic benefits to the Ahtna region, to the village corporations of the region and to the shareholders of Ahtna, Inc. as a result of these agreements."

Ahtna lands manager Herb Smelcer is president of the minerals subsidiary. Smelcer will leave his job with Ahtna this fall to resume his formal education.

The region's construction subsidiary, Ahtna Construction, recently acquired equipment through a previous joint venture. The construction company has expressed interest in working on village housing projects, is seeking to become qualified as a "Buy-Indian" contractor through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and is hoping to build a new Ahtna office building.

"Buy-Indian" certification would mean that Ahtna would be eligible to obtain contracts for federal Indian projects without competitive bidding.

"It appears as though you need a truck load of paperwork to get qualified," Johns said. Johns added that one regional subsidiary, NANA Construction, has been successful in obtaining "Buy-Indian" qualifica-

tion.

The region's most visible local investment is the Ahtna Lodge, a modern hotel facility near Glennallen owned by the Ahtna Development Corporation and the Community Enterprise Development Corporation of Alaska. Ahtna Development is owned 50 percent by Ahtna and 50 percent by the region's village corporations.

The Lodge has never consistently shown a profit for the corporation. Strict state environmental standards have required an expensive and tedious method of liquid waste disposal, which the region says contributes to a high cost of operation. ADC hopes to invest in a newer sewer system which should reduce the cost of operating the facility.

While profits have been disappointing, the Ahtna Lodge has assisted the region's economy, Johns said. "That Lodge has really boosted the economy of this area. It has added 24 permanent employees to the payroll of the region," Ahtna board member Roy Tansy, of Cantwell, is president of ADC.

Ahtna is the smallest, and often the least visible of the Native regional corporations. It is also one of the most successful, and it was the first regional corporation to pay dividends to shareholders from profits.

Ahtna is also the only regional corporation headed by a woman. Christine Yazzie, enrolled to the village of Chitina, is president of the corporation. All other officers of the region are also women. Ruby John, of Cantwell, is vice president. Eleanor Dementi, also of Cantwell, is secretary. Carolyn Craig, who is not a board member, is treasurer.

"We've been very lucky with this pipeline activity," Johns told the Tundra Times. "As small as Ahtna is we are still right up there with the rest of them," he added.

Ahtna is not only the smallest region, it also has some of the smallest villages. The region has had a proposal to merge the regional and village corporations under consideration for some time.

President Yazzie is in favor of the proposal. "I would like to see that (merger) happen," she said. "One of the villages only has 35 members. That doesn't provide very much capital. With the region and the villages being so small, it makes sense to merge," she added.

Surviving the test of time, Ahtna remains the smallest, the quietest, and one of the most successful regional Native corporations.