



JOE UPICKSOUN TO HEAD ASRC

First Formal Slope Organization Launches Operation

By MARGIE BAUMAN

BARROW — Joseph Upicksoun, the outspoken Inupiat Eskimo leader from the North Slope, was elected Saturday as the first president of the Arctic Slope Regional Corp.

The election of one of the chief architects of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act came in the

aftermath of an all-night first annual meeting of the regional Native corporation representing eight Eskimo villages north of the Arctic Circle.

Eddie Hopson Sr., was elected first vice president; with regional land chief Jacob Adams as second vice president and North Slope Borough Mayor Eben Hopson, third vice president. Nelson Ahvakanna was elected corporate secretary and Oliver Leavitt, treasurer.

Upicksoun, weary after the 12-hour meeting in the multipurpose room of the local schoolhouse, said he was pleased with the outcome.

"We are independent, autonomous and are practicing self-determination for our own Inupiat people within the boundaries of the Arctic Slope Region," Upicksoun wrote in his message as interim president of the corporation in the ASRC's first stockholders' report. "With your participation we will succeed in all our endeavors."

Participation the ASRC got plenty of, as some 500 of the Slope's 3,913 stockholders packed into the schoolhouse for the start of the meeting Friday night. With the sun low in the sky over Barrow and the temperature at about 15 below zero, stockholders representing all eight villages took their seats in preparation for the long night ahead.

Before the business at hand commenced, however, they paused to give a standing ovation to one of Arctic Slope's most prominent stockholders — Tundra Times editor Howard Rock, who flew in from Fairbanks for the meeting.

At the request of a number of those present, the meeting was conducted almost entirely in Inupiat, from start to finish — much to the chagrin of a stockholder from Anchorage who complained that she was being discriminated against because she spoke only English. "How would they feel if the shoe were on the other foot," she argued.

The majority of stockholders, however, were quite pleased with that move — as evidenced by the number of older stockholders who gave the meeting their rapt attention through the

night.

A major point of contention at the meeting was the procedure used by the corporation in the solicitation of proxy votes. The election was challenged by several persons, but by the time results were counted and the new 15-member board chosen, both sides appeared satisfied.

Elected at-large to the regional corporation board were Eddie Hopson Sr., Jacob Adams and Nelson Ahvakana. Representatives for the Barrow area were Upicksoun, Leavitt, Arnold Brower, Eben Hopson, and Thomas Brower Sr. Other representatives from the villages were Dempsey Bodfish, Wainwright; John Oktollik Sr., Point Hope; Danny Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass; Herman Rexford, Kaktovik; David Brower Sr., Nuiqsut; Willie Tukrook, Point Lay; and Joseph K. Akpik, Atkasook.

Except for Barrow and the at-large seats, the candidates for the board were unopposed.

After several lengthy reports on land selection and subsidiaries of the regional corporation, the polls opened at 3:15 a.m. Saturday.

When the results were in it

(Continued on page 6)



NO EMPTY SEATS — Looking for front row seats, but finding most of the chairs full, some stockholders opted for the floor. At far right,

Wainwright artisan Weir Negovanna, well-known for his whalebone carvings, tapes the meeting on a cassette tape recorder.

Senator Hensley Formally Announces Candidacy

William Hensley, D-Kotzebue, on April 19 filed for the U.S. House of Representatives in Lt. Governor Bouchers office, following is his statement.

"Every Alaskan who finds unbelievable prices at the grocery store; every Alaskan who cannot find a decent place to live or the money to pay for one if they do; every Alaskan who cannot understand why their paycheck (if they are lucky enough to have one) cannot keep up with the cost of living which constantly runs far ahead of them — every Alaskan who knows these issues must

realize that we are now represented by a Congressman who has endorsed and voted for every aspect of the national economic program which has created our present economic situation."

"I think Alaskans should squarely face the fact that the present Congressman has virtually supported every single aspect of the economic policies which have brought us where we are, and if you don't like where we are right now economically, then the way out is clear."

"For eight years in the Alaska State Legislature, I be-

lieve I have pursued the simple and direct goal of improving the basic quality of life in Alaska: fair prices, adequate housing, communications in transportation; bringing our cost of living closer in line with that of the Lower 48."

"Now, at a time when all Alaskans have been made the promise of better times because of the development of North Slope oil reserves, it appears that the national economic situation will rob us of whatever gain we will make."

"This is no accident — the

(Continued on page 6)

Huge Problems—

Kivalina High School

By LAEL MORGAN

KIVALINA — The entire high school at Kivalina decided to grant an interview to the Tundra Times.

"What is it you need for your school?" was the first question.

"PENCILS, PAPER, MATH BOOKS, ENGLISH BOOKS, BILINGUAL BOOKS, ANOTHER TEACHER, A MULTIPURPOSE ROOM!" the students answered in a ringing chorus.

"That's pretty basic stuff."

"Yes, we've got problems!"

"We've just got to work a little harder or our high school could just die away," noted Oscar Swan, bilingual teacher, who sat in on the session.

For three years there's been a high school at Kivalina. Currently it has 20 students (six from Noatak boarding with Kivalina families), but money to

(Continued on page 6)



VILLAGE OF KIVALINA — Part of the village of Kivalina is shown as some of the school children are playing at recess time. There, the tiny high school of 20 students is having a hard time trying to keep the High School going.

NANA Holds Smooth Meet

KOTZEBUE — President Robert Newlin Sr. chaired the meeting using the butt of a pistol for a gavel (he claimed it was a toy) and the lights went out and stayed out for a while, but otherwise the first annual stockholders meeting of the NANA Regional Corporation went with professional smoothness that IBM might envy.

The session, held April 17, started promptly at 4 p.m. and adjourned at 8 p.m. following an election that left the original board intact. Some 300 stockholders turned out for a lively question and answer period and reports by President Newlin; John Schaeffer, executive director; Lance Anderson, accountant; James Gregg, deputy director; and Richard Baenen, attorney.

(continued on page 6)