

# Tlingits Assimilating Eskimos?— Eskimo Totem Pole!

The Alaska American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has endorsed as an appropriate Bicentennial project the carving of an Eskimo totem pole.

Ferdinand Sorensen, a Danish woodcarver in Solvang, Calif., is chiseling an Eskimo totem pole to represent the State of Alaska at a museum in Denmark.

This chain of circumstance was forced through the efforts of the Rebuild National Park Society, which annually stages a July 4 celebration in Aalborg, Denmark, the only country to hold the festival other than the United States.

Alaska is one of two states not represented at the society's museum in Aalborg. A committee was formed to provide something typical of the 49th State for the museum.

The society ran into problems when it was learned that not only are there no totem poles available for sale in Alaska, but that the art of carving large totems is nearly lost — and very expensive.

At that point, Sorensen agreed to carve a replica of the famed Koteen Totem Pole. The pole, 18 feet long and weighing up to 2,000 pounds, is of pure cedar.

It will be carved into a half dozen or more figures, including a chieftain, a frog, a fox, what appears to be a beaver and a bear.

When completed it will be embedded into a rock base along with a plaque detailing its mission and purpose. The totem pole will be finished and painted by May and shipped by freighter to Denmark.

The gift will be unveiled at the 1974 July 4 celebration. Gov. Egan, who lent his help and support, will be invited to attend the festival.

## FAA Seeks Qualified Gals To Employ

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is seeking to attract qualified woman for employment in technical jobs normally associated with men only, for example, Telephone Lineman, PBX Repairer/Installer, Computer Operator, Engineering etc.

According to a notice received by RURAL CAP, there are many women engaged in air traffic control specialist, drafting, secretarial, data processing, and related administrative types of skills, both in the metropolitan areas and field organizations.

For further information, contact Cathy Waldal, Personnel Management, Room 201, Federal Aviation Administration in the Hill Building, 632 Sixth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. Phone 265-4554.

## Qualified Flyers For Coast Guard

JUNEAU — The Coast Guard is looking for qualified aviators. If you can answer yes to each of the following questions you could be qualified for a direct commission as a Coast Guard aviator.

Are you under 32 years of age? Do you have less than 10 years of total active duty service? Did you graduate from a U.S. military flight training program?

Do you have over 1,000 hours of military flight time? Have you served on active duty as a commissioned officer (pay grade O-2 or higher) in a U.S. military service in the capacity of an aviator/pilot for a minimum of two years?

Have you had military or civilian helicopter or multi-engine pilot experience within the last two years?

Persons who consider themselves eligible may obtain an application form by writing to Commander, 17th Coast Guard District, P.O. Box 3-5000, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

## Tax Refund

Students who work part-time during the school year and those who worked last summer may have a tax refund coming, Charles E. Roddy, district director of Internal Revenue for Alaska, said recently.

Many working students are not required by law to file a federal income tax return because of low earnings, Roddy said. However, many have had tax withheld from their wages and, although they may owe no tax, they must file a return to get a refund of tax withheld.

Persons who are not sure of their status should check their Form W-2 and, if it shows that income tax was withheld, file an income tax return. Roddy said that those needing answers to tax questions or help with the preparation of their return should contact their local IRS office.

"Many persons who are not required by law to file a return for 1973 but who had to file to get a refund can avoid having tax withheld from 1974 earnings," Roddy said. "If they do not expect to owe any tax for 1974, they can file Form W-4E with their 1974 employer and no tax will be withheld."

## Gravel's TT Report

By Mike Gravel  
U.S. Senator, Alaska

It's official now: The Kenai Native Association, Inc., owns what used to be the Wildwood Air Force Station. This transfer of federal property to local use is a prime example of cooperatively using the Native Claims Settlement Act for the benefit of all Alaskans.

### Air Force Leaves

The question of the future of the station was raised a couple of years ago, when the Air Force abandoned its Wildwood base.

A delegation of Kenai residents traveled all the way to Washington, D.C., to see what could be done. There were representatives of the city and borough governments and of the Native Association.

When the group met with me, I suggested that we use the recently passed Claims Act to get the base transferred to the Native Association. Such a move, we all felt, would benefit the entire region, providing both jobs and income to help the economy of the Kenai Peninsula.

### Agreement Reached

We had some hurried meetings with the Interior Department, the Pentagon and other agencies and reached an agreement that the Native Association could select the base as part of its lands, once the roll of the Natives had been completed.

Then we had the problem of what to do until final transfer could take place. We went back to the Pentagon and persuaded the Air Force to maintain the facility for the Natives, letting them use it until implementation of the Claims Act would permit transfer of the base outright to the association. The Natives then began setting up a school at the Wildwood Station.

### Generators and Jobs

Then, in November, 1972, we convinced the military to leave its three electric generators at Wildwood, where they were needed for a University of Alaska soil experiment in high-nutrition food growing.

Originally, the Air Force fought the plan. But when I asked them to explain their plans for the generators, they admitted that they had none. Finally they agreed to do a good turn for Alaska: The generators remained, and the food growth experiment began.

### Final Transfer

On March 28, 1974, the Air Force Station officially became a part of the Kenai Native Association, proudly announced, "You're on Native land now!"

On April 6, I had the pleasure of visiting the newly-acquired facilities. I was, to say the least, very impressed.

### Native School

The Native Association is using much of the facility as a school, with students coming from all over Alaska. George Miller and Alex Shadura, the

director of the Controlled Environment Agriculture program, have great expectations for both the school and the soil experiment.

### Jobs and Food

The potential is enormous: Kenai residents were hurt economically by the closing of the Air Force Station. But the experimental soil program could result in jobs for almost 200 people from the peninsula.

Equally important, the controlled environment growing experiments could revolutionize food production and consumption in Alaska.

In the greenhouse building, I toured the vegetable and fruit growing project. The reconstruction work, incidentally, was done entirely by Kenai Natives who were trained in the various fields required at that time. The special lighting set-up is really something — the experimental lights are remarkable similar to natural sunlight in their effects.

If the project proves successful — and the odds are that it will — the benefits for Alaska will be immense. Even the most remote villages in the state could have fresh vegetables and fruits year-around, and at a lowered cost.

### Native Claims Act A Boon to All

This is positive proof of how we all benefit from the Settlement Act. With the selection of the abandoned base under the Settlement Act provisions, people are getting jobs, children are gaining an education, Natives are receiving compensation for the land in Alaska.

And with the new scientific project about to go full-steam ahead, the Settlement Act is contributing toward the betterment of our lives — and those of future Alaskans — in a very different way.

## Fed. Excise Tax Drops On Telephones

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Federal excise tax on telephone service dropped from nine to eight percent on January 1, 1974, the Internal Revenue Service said.

The tax on local and toll telephone calls, as well as teletype services, is slated to drop one percent each year until January 1, 1982, when the tax expires.

The eight percent tax rate applies to bills issued by telephone companies in 1974, with one exception, the IRS said.

Bills will carry the nine percent rate for communication services furnished by telephone companies before November 1, 1973, regardless of when the customer is billed.

## Letters

(Continued from Page 2)

Agency's should be separated, because of the real conflict of interest that does exist. Where is the VOICE OF MR. MORRIS THOMPSON? Since his promotion to Commissioner of The Bureau of Indian Affairs, it seems he has no comments to make about the LAND WITHDRAWALS proposed by his superior, Rogers C. B. Morton! Strange...

While I'm asking questions Howard, why haven't you printed any letters from Fred Stickman lately, his fan club down here misses them. We want to know what he thinks about the land withdrawals. His views on the changing Native way of life are valued by us out here. All kinds of people have given their view of what is being done for, in respect to Natives, but "Old Stickman" as he's called here, gives us the truth of what is really happening to the Native. Reading Mr. Stickman's letters tells us out here how fish & game laws affect our people. The jobs, or lack of them that are available to natives. Schools, and children. The fuel problem, and how a Native Alaskan handled it. So you see Howard, his letters are important to us, please print them.

Thank you again for leadership in the fine paper the Tundra Times.

Warmest Regards,  
John L. Lombard.

## Alaska Business Directory

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