

LBJ ASKS EARLY LAND ACTION

Atka May Be Left Without Communications

The tiny village of Atka, out in the remote Island of Atka on the Aleutians is facing a future that may leave it without outside communication this summer.

The only link of communication the village has now is the U.S. Navy tug that comes to the village once a month and the Navy has told the village that this service will be discontinued when the summer comes.

The tug makes the monthly trip from the neighboring Island of Adak where the Navy maintains installations. The distance between the two islands is about 120 miles.

John Nevzoroff, the Chief of Atka, with the assistance of the local teacher, wrote

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Little Minnie Ahgook Saves Her 3 Little Cousins

Little seven-year-old Minnie Ahgook of Anaktuvuk Pass may have saved the lives of her three little cousins last Saturday when a fire broke out in the post office and burned it to the ground.

The home which housed the post office belonged to Noah and Lela Ahgook who lived in it with their five children.

Lela Ahgook is the acting postmaster who took over the post when Homer Mekiana

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NEW LAWMAKER TOURS—Rep. Moses Paukan, D-St. Mary's, seated at right, recently appointed by Gov. Walter J. Hickel to fill out the unexpired legislative term of the late Rep. John Westdahl, is shown recently as he reviewed the current legislative session and toured the newly remodeled Governor's offices in the capitol building. Shown with Paukan in the Governor's office are, seated from left, Rep. Jalmar Kerttula, D-Palmer, the House minority leader; the Governor, and, standing from left, House Majority Leader Bill Boardman of Ketchikan, and House Minority Whip Gene Guess of Anchorage. Paukan was selected to fill out Westdahl's term with the concurrence of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives.

Gruening Lauds LBJ's Message

Following testimony by Senators Ernest Gruening (D-

Editorial—

Udall's Alternative

"INTERIOR SECRETARY UDALL VISITS ALASKA—Historic Rights and Claims Settlement Is Number One Problem Declares Official."

The above headlines pinpointed the banner story of the fledgling newspaper—the TUNDRA TIMES—in its Volume 1, No. 1 on October 1, 1962. After six years and four and a half months later, (today) the headlines read, "LBJ ASKS EARLY LAND ACTION—President Johnson Asks Congress for Prompt Claims Legislation."

In the interview for the initial issue of this newspaper, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall furnished the following material:

"...He said the problem of settling native rights and claims 'has been delayed too long and it is time to look it squarely in the face.'"

"I do think it is something that must be decided

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Pres. Johnson Asks Congress for Prompt Claims Legislation

President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, last week made a strong recommendation to Congress that the pending legislation on Alaska native land claims be given prompt action.

In his Congressional message on American Indians and Alaska natives, President Johnson made the following declaration on Alaska land situation:

"The land rights of the native people of Alaska—the Aleuts, Eskimos and Indians—have never been fully or fairly defined.

"Eighty-four years ago, Congress protected the Alaska natives in the use and occupancy of their lands. But then, and again when Alaska was given statehood, Congress reserved to itself the power of final decision on ultimate title.

"It remains our unfinished task to state in law the terms and conditions of settlement, so that uncertainty can be ended for the native people of Alaska.

"Legislation is now pending to resolve this issue; I recommend prompt action on legislation to:

—Give the native people of Alaska title to the lands they occupy and need to sustain their villages.

—Give them rights to use additional lands and water for hunting, trapping and fishing to maintain their traditional way of life, if they so choose.

—Award them compensation commensurate with the value of any lands taken from them."

Native Lawmakers Laud Gov. on Land Bill Work

State Representatives John Sackett, R-Huslia, Jules Wright, R-Fairbanks, and Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, had warm praise last week for Governor Walter J. Hickel for the fair consideration of the State Land Claims bill, H672.

Bob Baker Dies In Plane Crash Near Savoonga

A bush pilot widely known in the Arctic, especially in the northwest area, crashed on St. Lawrence Island near Savoonga and was killed March 7.

Bob Baker, owner of Baker Aviation based at Kotzebue and former mayor of that city, was flying Public Health Nurse Mary Hayes to Savoonga to attend to a boy, Brantley Kogussatoon, who, according to a radio message, had had a brain concussion. Baker was apparently killed

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"After reading and studying this legislation," the legislators said, "introduced by and for Governor Walter J. Hickel, we offer our congratulations and commendation for presenting a fair, realistic solution to the longstanding land claims matter."

"We know," they continued, "the governor has given this matter long and careful consideration and the legislation, we feel, is a milestone in Alaska's forward advancement."

"We feel his continued support will help bring a solution satisfactory to all."

"We believe adoption of this legislation and of a similar measure on which a U.S. Senate committee recently held hearings in Anchorage, will lift the hearts and hopes of many thousands of our people, improving their living conditions and the chance of their children moving into a new era of education and full Alaskan citizenship."