

New President . . .

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ket, and Flora Bergman succeeds Barbara Haggland, Fairbanks. Bergman is enrolled in a six-week village management training course in Fairbanks, sponsored by Doyon Ltd., the Interior Native corporation.

New executive board members elected for 1974-75 are Williams, the Fairbanks Native Association (FNA); Donald Honea, Ruby; Richard Carroll, Fort Yukon; Al Woods, Tok, and Paul Williams, Beaver.

Andrew Isaac, Dot Lake, continues as traditional chief of TCC, a lifetime post. Nominated for executive director seats, but failing to win a majority were Jim Walker, Holy Cross, Lorraine Albert, Northway; Kenny Sam, Huslia; Bob Jonathan, Tanacross; Franklin Madros, Kaltag, and Liz Newman, Rampart.

The TCC meeting began Wednesday in a week when hundreds of Natives came to Fairbanks for four major events; the convention, the first stockholders meeting of Doyon Ltd., FNA's annual potlatch and the Open North American Sled Dog Championships.

Speaking Friday, Sen. John Sackett, Doyon president, explained the proxy voting method which took place the following day. Regarding the corporation, he said, "Tomorrow is going to be the greatest day any of us have ever had. It will be the first time the corporation will be truly independent, with no government strings attached. Now we'll make it or break it, and I think we will make it." Sackett was re-elected president.

Some 70 resolutions were drawn up by TCC with 20 going to the executive board for action and the remainder approved by general membership. Among resolutions are the following:

That training opportunities be widely advertised in rural areas; that the state's decision to open the Yukon River Bridge and North Slope Road to public use be reversed (and the bridge and road conform to second class standards); that all proposed routes and designs for the Prospect Creek to Kobuk road be declared null and void; that TCC support creation of an Alaska department of transportation; that the organization form a committee to provide input to state transportation and land planning; secondary education for villages; land claim curriculum for use in Alaskan schools; inter-village communications by way of satellite and continued use of existing satellite communications.

Other resolutions called for improved mail services to rural areas, a vote of confidence to Monroe High School, Fairbanks, for an "excellent" education program and low drop-out rates; a curriculum on Athabaskan history for all schools in the TCC region; drug and alcohol abuse education in rural Alaska; opposition to a surface transportation corridor from Prospect Creek to Bettles, and support for a high school in Holy Cross, as well as extended Wien F-27 service to that community.

Sen. Mike Gravel, who hasn't announced his re-election plans, told the convention that as far as Washington is concerned, the Natives Land Claims Settlement Act is a "personal legacy" to Natives, "not a money payment to take the place of all other federal responsibilities" to them. "That should be understood once and for all," said Gravel.

The senator's remarks reacted to a workshop report the day before on a Native needs study (2-C) by Cliff Black. In strong language, Black said that because of lack of support from the Department of the Interior and

State of Alaska, the 2-C study is "the most frustrating, most demeaning" project he has ever been involved in.

"I'm glad Senator Gravel is here," said Black. "It gives me the feeling that someone is listening." He added, "If this study fails, we will have had no settlement and we will have lost millions of dollars."

Black urged all Natives to contribute input to the needs study because it will be the document that will influence Native life in Alaska for years to come.

Reacting to Black's speech, Sen. Gravel sent letters to Washington urging additional funding and a one-year extension of the study. He also requested that study headquarters be switched from Seattle, Wash., to Anchorage, "where it belongs."

Gravel asked support of one of his pet projects - Pet-4, the Navy's Arctic petroleum reserve where the senator says the Navy is hoarding oil and closing off 25 million acres of land. He wants to see the reserve opened up so that the state and Natives can select lands from the area and receive oil-mineral revenues.

In a delivery that rang with the rhetoric of a campaign speech, Gravel reminded his hosts that he alone stood up to argue for two per cent oil-mineral monies for Alaska Natives, a percentage that will run into the millions of dollars as years pass.

If Pet-4 were opened, the senator suggested, tantalizingly, "maybe you could take the two per cent off the top, receiving the revenue in six or eight years instead of waiting 20 or 30 years."

That approach would give the Natives working capital when they need it most, he said.

In his welcoming remarks opening day, Traditional TCC Chief Isaac talked to young delegates in a fatherly way: "We have important business to do at this meeting. I want you right here - three days, for sure."

The Chief reminded them that young people were missed at the semi-annual TCC meeting held in October.

He told the convention: "We (Natives) know this land, we own it - our land." Isaac expressed confidence in the "younger generation" and impressed upon them the responsibilities that they have inherited.

Poem Points Out Education . . .

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"Never before have the Native people - particularly the young - been so much in need of training and skills to fulfill the tasks laid before them."

The speaker called for Native Corporations to offer themselves

as a training ground for the young by providing active intern programs. He exhorted corporate leaders not to fear young competition, not to create "closed shops of their people's corporations as some have done already."

Jacquot said that long after the difference concerning land

and money are settled among the Natives, education for the people will remain.

Said Jacquot, "The Native corporations and associations should not merely look at themselves as cold-blooded economic entities such as are the white corporations, but rather as corporations with public consciences."

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ka State Commission for Human Rights and to the Alaska Federation of Natives Human Resources Committee of which he was elected chairman for 1974.

"I have no (formal) education," Chief Isaac said, "but that makes no difference. I am doing my job."

The Dot Lake chieftain is respected for his years of speaking up for Native people. His efforts have been felt from Alaskan village meeting rooms to the halls of Congress.

ROGER LANG

On the convention's first day, Roger Lang, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, urged strong, Native-originated legislation for subsistence hunting and fishing. He warned that no one must be allowed to develop an attitude that says subsistence is no longer needed by the Natives "because they have all that settlement act money."

Lang signed a non-negotiable agreement with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. guaranteeing 1,000 Natives jobs during the first year of pipeline construction. That figure will increase to 3,500 the second year and hold during the third year, he said. Assurances were also secured that Natives will make up one-fifth of the operation and maintenance force.

Lang said pipeline jobs will be difficult because they will keep many Natives away from home during hunting and fishing seasons. "But, we'll let you know what employment conditions to expect," he said. "One thing is certain - there won't be any Louisiana rednecks saying 'hey, boy' to a Native."

The AFN president feels he has the "most interesting job in the world."

He cautioned against any assumptions that Native leaders are "getting rich" under the settlement act. "You don't get rich working for Native causes," he said. "After seven years, I'm getting poorer."

TT to Remain . . .

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newly-created position; Elfrieda Kushida, first vice president; Daphne Gustafson, second vice president; James Immel, treasurer, and Mary Jane Fate, secretary.

Board members elected were Rock, chairman, Kushida, Gustafson, Anderson, Mary Jane Fate, Ron Senungetuk, Immel, Betty Johnson, Charles Cole, Jim Bedford and Karen Perdue.

Advisory board members named are Laura Bergt, Dr. Mildred Matthews, Toni Jones,

Fred Brown, David Stein, Dean Warner, John Shively, Bill Timme, Professor Victor Fischer, Lauri Herman, Tom Richards Sr., George Bell, Ron Crowe, John Sackett and Barry Jackson.

Stein was presented a tan corduroy parka, trimmed with wolf and wolverine, and made by Mrs. Olive Anderson. The gift was in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the Tundra Times. Stein is general manager of the Anchorage Daily News.

Sackett Re-elected . . .

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lected Reggie Denny, Tanacross, as the 11th member of the board.

The annual meeting, first for any of the regional corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act attracted representatives from several other regional corporations, including President Robert Newlin and Executive Director John W. Schaeffer, of NANA Regional Corporation Inc., Kotzebue. Deputy Director Tom Drake of Bering Straits Native Corporation, Nome, and George See, special assistant to President John Borbridge, Sealaska Corporation, Juneau.

Packing the lobby outside the ballroom before the meeting were three lines of stockholders waiting to register and receive their ballots. They came from as far as Seattle, Anchorage and Hydraburg, in addition to the villages within the Doyon Region. The meeting had been planned to immediately follow the three-day Tanana Chiefs Conference convention so that a number of stockholders in town for the Tanana Chiefs meeting could attend without additional travel expense.

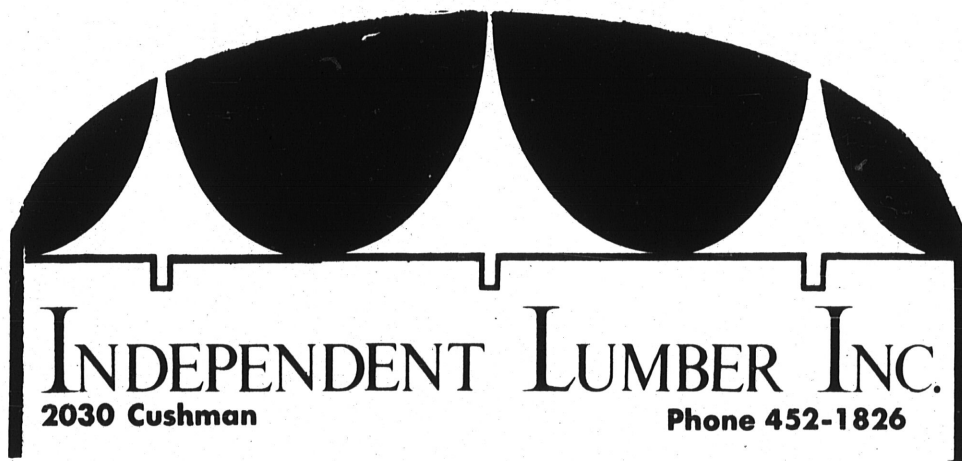
Following reports from President Sackett and several other

Doyon leaders, the balloting began. While the first ballot for the board of directors was being counted, stockholders were also asked to vote for several other issues, including approval of the independent certified public accounting firm recommended by the board. Sackett also took time to read the mid-afternoon results of the North American Sled Dog Championship, in progress several miles away.

A number of those present were trying to pack into the weekend not only the stockholders meeting but the sled dog races and the annual potlatch of the Fairbanks Native Association.

First ballot results of the board of directors' election showed only seven persons having the required vote of 1/20th of the total vote cast so a second ballot was called.

Ballot boxes were left open for two hours to be sure any persons who had left the meeting or were caucusing would have a chance to vote. When the results were tallied little over an hour after the polls closed, the new board had been selected, replacing the interim board which had served since the formation of the corporation.



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