

# Klukwan Gets First Land Patent

The first patent to be issued to Alaska Natives electing to take their former reservation land was issued by the Bureau of Land Management last Friday to the Chilkat Indians of Klukwan Inc., said Curtis V. McVee, BLM state director.

The small village near the town of Haines, Alaska last Saturday (June 1) celebrated the acquiring of title with a formal ceremony and a big banquet with visitors expected to more than triple the local population.

Klukwan, located in Southeast Alaska, received full and unrestricted title to 892.208 acres of land. The village residents now have title to both the surface and subsurface estate of their full entitlement under the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

Unlike the other Southeastern communities in the ANCSA, Klukwan is not a member of SEALASKA, the regional corporation for its area, nor does SEALASKA hold any interest in the former reserve lands as it normally would under the provisions of the Act.

Klukwan, which claims an en-

rollment of 253 people, was first established in 1913. Additionally to the reserve were made in 1922 and 1957 by con-

(Continued on Page 6)

# KLUKWAN . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

gressional action. The village reserve along with all others in Alaska was revoked by ANCSA.

This is the first transfer of land to Natives claiming a former reserve under the ANCSA. There are four other areas which have elected to take the lands that were former reserves, Elim, St. Lawrence Island, Tetlin and Venetie.

The Klukwan patent is the first because the lands in the former reserve were surveyed many years ago.

Interim conveyance documents will be issued to the other communities until survey is made and confirmationary patents are issued.

"We are sure that we are the first village in Alaska to get the land title," said Bill Watson, corresponding secretary for the local Camp 8 of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

"During the celebration," added Watson, "costumes that have been shown for many, many years will be worn. It's going to be quite an occasion."

Dignitaries were expected including Governor William Egan, BLM officials, Roy Peratrovich, district superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Anchorage area, and others.

"Lots of people worked hard for the occasion including Dick and Steve Hotch," concluded Watson.

Klukwan is one of the oldest villages in Southeast Alaska.