

Glimpse Into Past And Future

By REGGIE JOSEPH

It was a good gathering. The community hall was filled with people eager to begin the Feast. Outside, under the warm, peaceful sun, more people gathered near the building entrance. There were about ten cars parked here and there, hinting the distance the people had come.

Inside, 50 to 70 people were busy arranging their plates, cups and spoons on the long white paper roll on the floor. All fell respectfully silent with bowed heads as a clergyman said a prayer before beginning the potlatch.

Once finished, the servers started down the rows dishing out hot soup out of huge pots. Later, baked fish and moose meat accumulated. It was a happy, noisy gathering; some talked and some busily ate their food. It all seemed they were being lost in a time, a time when way back, our people used to celebrate in the same manner.

Outside under the warm and peaceful sun, about 50 feet off the right of the community hall, a group of drunk Natives were gathered around a smoldering fire. There was an endless stream of chatter coming from their direction and one could see their bottles of beer and jars of home brew clasped securely in their hands.

A few feet to their right, there was a Native man saddled on top of another Native man, energetically beating the Native man he was sitting on. His raised fist would swing downward and disappear into a face fairly soon, almost casually, red thick blood, like catpaw gushed from the downed man's face. And then too, almost casually, a girl appeared, stopped the beating, and slowly walked off with the bloody man.

Inside, the traditional Indian

potlatch was moving along in its lost time and we hear the speeches of the older people. In a voice full of deep convictions and fervor, an old man spoke of his past life, the present and what the future looked like.

In his gesturing hands and fine weathered face, you knew he was saying he Native, fight for your Native rights and beware of the threat of white man. In his time-honored eyes, you saw a pleading, a warning.

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Juneau, Sitka, Kodiak Inc.?

Alaska Natives who call Sitka, Kenai, Juneau, and Kodiak "home" can be included among other Alaska Natives who benefit from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act provided they incorporate under the laws of the State of Alaska, Morris Thompson, Area Director, Juneau Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior, pointed out. Kenai Natives have already incorporated as the Kenai Native Association, Thompson said. Natives living in the three cities—Sitka, Juneau, and Kodiak—will have until 1975 to follow suit.

The corporations, once formed, will be able to select 23,040 acres each within a reasonable distance to the mun-

icipalities where their members live, the Area Director indicated. The land will be similar in character to the Natives' home cities. The selection process will involve review and public hearings.

After the selection is made and confirmed, the corporations will gain title to the land's surface. Mineral and subsurface rights will go to the appropriate Regional Corporation.

Regional Corporations, 12 in all, were established in 1972, based on the same cultural and geographic boundaries as Native associations that existed prior to settlement of the Alaska Natives land claim.

Selections of lands must be made by the corporations by December 18, 1975.

Auction

Surplus Property Sale No. 23-73

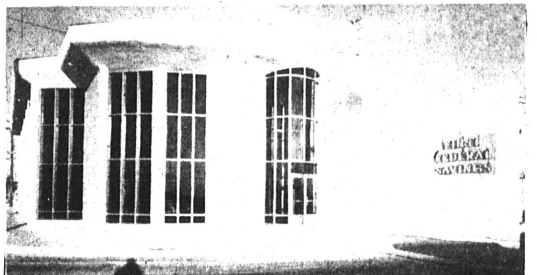
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THE STATE OF ALASKA will sell to the highest bidder at Public Auction in Fairbanks, approximately 190 items including dump trucks, flatbed, 4 wheel drive pickups, standard pickups, station wagons, sportvans, carryalls, sedans, typewriters, calculators, oxyacetylene welding outfits, small generator, scales, soil testers, transits, cameras, sport fishing gear, 22 cal. rifle, snow machines, snow sleds, snow machine trailer, outboard motors, miscellaneous other vehicles and equipment.

Auction begins at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, August 18, 1973; at the Dept. of Highways, Yard, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks. A list of property to be sold may be obtained at the Dept. of Highways, Supply, Fairbanks, or Room 810 MacKay Bldg., 338 Denali St., Anchorage.

Property may be inspected during normal business hours from August 15 until sale time, 10:00 A.M., August 18, 1973.

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Letters ...

(Continued from page 2)

right to kick about what someone else done with the land and money under the Land Claims Act. We can only do so much as human beings. We are so few today and with so much to do.

James Huntington
Regional Director

Thank You All

Beaver, Alaska
August 6, 1973

Dear Sir:

Please place this message in your paper:

To all the people who helped us in our time of need when we lost our beloved Alvin "Bing" Henry — Our deepest gratitude to those from Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village and Beaver.

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