

Over Ancient Use—

# Juneau Borough, Park Service, Tlingits Clash

The Greater Juneau Borough, the National Park Service, and the Auke Tribe of Tlingit Indians have met head on concerning the future status of Indian Point, near Juneau on the Glacier Highway.

The controversy stems from the boroughs plan to reclassify the area from public recreational to residential.

"The Tlingit-Haida Council goes on record as opposing the reclassification of Indian Point to a residential area," Mrs. Rodriguez stated in Juneau Wednesday.

"The Auke Tribe of Tlingit Indians have had the use of Indian Point since time immemorial," she said.

Mrs. Rodriguez continued, explaining that the Tlingits have traditionally used the area to harvest herring eggs. "In fact, although we have had no legal title to the land, the Tlingits have always thought of the land as their's."

"Many families have historically utilized the 24 acre area in the summer and spring, both for setting up smoke houses and harvesting herring eggs."

"We set leafy twigs on the beach. The herring come in to lay their eggs, depositing them on the leaves. Then, we harvest them," Mrs. Rodriguez also indicated that Indian Point is one of the few areas left which the Indians have been allowed to use.

The borough argues that the area will make ideal waterfront property for which there is a large demand. It feels that the sale of this property will bring increased revenues to the borough. Opening the land would also bring increased revenue from property taxes.

A public hearing was held on April 14 on the proposed zoning change. Some of the arguments in favor of the change cited the increased revenues from the sale of the land.

It was argued that Juneau would be able to compete with Sitka in attracting industry if the millage rate were lowered. The profits from the sale of lots on Indian Point would enable a reduction in the mill rate, it was theorized.

Objections to the sale of the land were also voiced. One person stated that the most important industry would be the tourism industry. It is important, he argued, that the borough retain the land for recreational purposes and development.

He continued, stating that the borough would only have to buy back areas at a much higher

price in the future to provide recreational sites.

Other area residents, not in attendance at the hearings, complained that there was little publicity for the hearing. They raised further objections, stating that added costs of police and fire protection would nullify any revenues the borough would receive.

Bob Howe, Superintendent of Glacier Bay National Monument, favors the designation of Indian Point as a natural area.

In favoring the designation, he cites the "spectacular seascape views" and the need for maintaining public recreational areas. "At low tide there is a wide beach area and there could be very attractive rocky trails developed down to the beach."

It was also noted that ANB and other native groups utilize the area for picnics and other recreational activities. One member of the Auke Tribe, who declined to be quoted, said that recently attempts have been made to close the area to their use.

One example cited was a 'no trespassing' sign which had been posted at the site. It wasn't known whether it was posted by the borough or some other agency.

There was an incident last summer of one member of the Auke Tribe who was shot with a salt-loaded shotgun as he passed the sign to gather eggs.

One further hearing on the proposed zoning change is to be held in the near future at a yet unspecified date. Differences may be resolved, but at present, all parties stand firm to their positions.

## Rights Comm. to Meet at Kodiak

The Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, following its practice of holding meetings in various parts of the State in order to study the problems of discrimination, and also to familiarize the community with the works of the Commission, will hold the first quarterly meeting of the year in Kodiak, Alaska, on April 29 and 30 at 8:00 p.m. in the Kodiak Electrical Association Building.

While meeting in the city, the Commission intends to have a joint meeting with the Kodiak Native Association. The public is invited to attend the session and also to appear before the Commission if they desire.

## Disposition . . .

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Haida local; the bonding of local treasurers is also being worked on to be completed prior to the disbursement of funds allotted for administrative and program planning purposes.

"The foregoing measure," John Borbridge stated, "will enable the individual Tlingit and Haida organizations to more effectively express their needs and present their ideas for inclusion in the overall plan that is to be submitted to Congress on behalf of the Central Council."

"The progress of the statewide land claims," Borbridge added, "with emphasis on efforts by the Alaska Federation of Natives to retain Justice Arthur J. Goldberg as general counsel

will receive attention."

Another important subject that is being discussed is the census of the Tlingit and Haida Indians and other native people of Alaska.

The promotion of the Tundra Times at the conference is also being mentioned.

The election of officers will be proceeding today, April 25.

The present officers are: John Borbridge, Jr., Anchorage, president; Roger Lang, Sitka, first vice president; Frank See, Hoonah, vice president; Kenneth Leask, Seattle, vice president; James Thomas, Yakutat, secretary; and Harvey Marvin, Sitka, treasurer.



SEN. GRAVEL AT CHILOCCO—Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, is seen speaking to the Alaska contingent of the students at the Chilocco School for Indians recently. Sen. Gravel made an unannounced visit to the school to investigate allegations that the students had been subjected to brutality when some of them had been drinking and were punished with handcuffs for long periods. After spending some 11 hours at the

facility, Gravel declared that the charges were false. The allegations were made public by the Department of the Interior not long ago. The report was drafted by Assistant Commissioner of Indian Education Charles Zellers of the Indian Affairs. Sen. Gravel said he would seek an investigation to questions those responsible for the report. About 400 Alaska native students go to Chilocco every year from all parts of Alaska.

## Coordination With Pipeliners Asked by Man

Anchorage businessman John Gilbert today called on the State to work closely with oil company officials to combine North Slope road-building efforts with the trans-Alaska pipeline.

"The pipeline people are already taking soil tests to determine the best route," Gilbert said. "There should be a coordinated effort between the state Department of Highways and pipeline planners to share the knowledge."

Gilbert called on the state to examine the possibility of building a permanent year-round road alongside the pipeline, instead of having the state and pipelining company make separate efforts.

## Fling Accusations . . .

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legislation still in the Senate.

Legislation on such proposed programs as "alcoholism, child care, increased AFDC benefits, revenue sharing for bush areas, and the ethics bill" were still "holed up in the Senate," said Hensley.

He also referred to the hot-lunch program, a public defender bill, and employment compensation for seasonal workers as legislation which the Senate will not release.

"The sum total," said Hensley, "is that nothing has been accomplished."

It does not appear likely that any major legislation for the bush areas will be considered before the session ends. Any action on major legislation may have to come from the Legislative Council, which will tour the rural areas of the bush this summer.

The Legislative Council is the interim body of the legislature which functions between sessions.

Representative Gene Guess, Democrat of Anchorage and Chairman of the Legislative Council, stated that he wants the council to be "exposed to the problems of the bush." He continued, saying that the areas most explored would be educa-

## AVAILABLE AT: Chilocco . . .

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Two Juneau stores, the Baranof Book Shop, 223 Seward Street, and the Twin Totems, Juneau Municipal Airport, will sell the Tundra Times beginning with this week's issue.

Subscriptions will also be available from the Tlingit-Haida Council of Juneau. Anyone wishing to subscribe to the paper should contact Mrs. Rosita Rodriguez at 586-6364.

A Tundra Times representative met with ANB and Tlingit-Haida members this week. It was indicated that there was increased interest among the native people of the Juneau area in better communications on the native land claims and other issues.

It was agreed that the Tundra Times could fulfill this purpose and arrangements would be made to make the paper available in the Juneau area.

a hearing in Washington and expressed frustration.

"Here we have a branch of the federal government that has knowledge the children are being beaten and dogs are being set upon them and for six months nothing happened," stated Gravel.

Gravel said either the overnment is completely unresponsive or the allegations are without foundation.

## CORRECTION

In the April 18 issue of the Tundra Times, due to a transmission error on the story about regional high schools, a wrong figure was printed in connection with the classroom funds for Kotzebue and Barrow. We printed:

"\$56,000 for classrooms at Kotzebue and Point Barrow."

It should have read:

"\$596,000 for classrooms at Kotzebue and Point Barrow."

## ANICA Opposes . . .

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ANICA President Paul Jones and Vice Presidents Henry Deacon, Sergie Ermeloff, Paul Albert, and Winfred Matuklook, ANICA denied considering any such move.

"Your House Resolution No. 42 together with a letter of inquiry from Senator Stevens, and reply from Commissioner Bennett has just come to our attention," the statement read.

"While we appreciate your concern in the interest of the ANICA membership, your resolution is not consistent with the facts. We, the Executive Committee of the ANICA Board of Directors, delegated with the decision making powers, reserve the right to make our own decisions based on our known membership needs.

"Contrary to recent rumors, the Board is not considering any action to move our principal office to Alaska."

The statement concluded, "This Board has successfully managed the affairs of this organization for the past twenty years and anticipates continuing to do so in the future."

The statement was addressed to Representatives Fink and Moses and signed by the ANICA Board of Directors.