



Actors Linda Ayagarak and Wes Goodwin are among people featured in a new video series on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, produced by the Alaska Native Foundation. See story page nine.

ANF photo



Adeline Raboff is a narrator for "Losing Ground" ANF photo



Jimmie Paukan, background, and his grandsons mend a fish net, while Bob Harris narrates "ANCSA Plain and Simple." ANF photo

Alaska Natives star in ANF's video series

by the Alaska Native Foundation
for the Tundra Times

The Alaska Native Foundation will premiere its new video series, "ANCSA: Caught in the Act," at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Fourth Avenue Theatre in downtown Anchorage.

More than 15 years after the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was passed by Congress, the future of Native land is still uncertain. It will get even more complicated in 1991 when ANCSA allows for Native corporation stock to be sold and undeveloped Native land to be taxed.

ANF is a nonprofit organization designed to enhance the well-being of Alaska Natives through research, training and technical assistance.

In 1985, the Alaska Department of Education contracted with the foundation to produce the ANCSA series through their office of Instructional Services. The series is designed to be used by high school and university students and meet the urgent need for ANCSA educational materials.

The ANCSA crew of writers, producers and editors have been led by Carrol Hodge, the series producer. She and her staff have been guided by content advisors throughout the state and classroom reviewers from Angoon to Noorvik and Anchorage to Kotzebue.

The six programs in the series include a drama produced entirely in St. Marys village, documentaries shot in Dillingham and Hydaburg and interviews with numerous Native leaders who explore the questions of:

- Where did ANCSA come from?
- How is it working out?
- What does the future hold for Native people and the ANCSA corporations?

This series of programs was designed to unravel some of the complexities of ANCSA and explore the issues that must be addressed before 1991. They include:

•"Common Ground," a 25-minute drama of two young people who hold different views of the world, land and family. It reveals the conflicts between traditional culture and current economic demands

Native actors, Linda Ayagarak, originally from Chevak, and Wes Goodwin of Kotzebue are featured.

•"Losing Ground," a 16-minute segment that shows the historical continuum of federal Indian policies in the United States which resulted in Native American land loss and set the stage for ANCSA. Former Gov. Jay Hammond and Adeline Raboff of Anchorage are the narrators.

•"The Struggle," an 18-minute segment, documents the unique struggle by Alaska Native people to settle their claims to Alaska lands by going directly to Congress. The program identifies the allied interests and events that led to the adoption of ANCSA. Playwright Diane Benson is the narrator.

•"ANCSA Plain and Simple" is a 15-minute presentation which discusses the major provisions of ANCSA — land, money and corporate structure, as well as examining how the corporations were initially set up. Bob Harris, the narrator, travels between fish camp and corporate America.

•"Beyond the Bottom Line," a 15-minute segment, examines the sharp contrast between two village corporations — one successful, one bankrupt. What were the differences in choices made along the way?

•"Land at Risk" is a 16-minute segment that documents the many ways for Native people to lose their land — corporate bankruptcy, takeover and taxation. Solutions? Amend ANCSA, transfer land to tribal entities. The future is in flux.

A varied and talented group of Alaskans collaborated in the production of these programs.

"Common Ground" and "ANCSA Plain and Simple," were shot entirely in the village of St. Marys on the Yukon and Andreusky Rivers in Western Alaska.

Several generations of the extensive Paukan family played dramatic roles in the dramas and generously shared their time and their fish camp last summer. Other families provided boats,

three-wheelers, homes and props.

The board and staff of ANF believe that the series will provide both urban and rural Alaskans with a foundation to think about issues such as how all Alaskans are involved in the question of who owns 11 percent of Alaska or how different values have shaped perceptions about land.

"The ANCSA series could be a useful educational tool for the U.S. Congress and staff as they think about the proposed 1991 amendments to ANCSA," said Jane Angvik, ANF president.

Those who would like more information about the series may write the Alaska Native Foundation, 733 West Fourth Ave., Suite 308, Anchorage 99501; or call 274-2541.



Linda Ayagarak and Wes Goodwin visit with Flora Paukan and her daughter at their fish camp. ANF photo