

# Part twenty-three of serial: four named cities, groups, and settlement organizations

(Ed. Note: This is the twenty-third in a series of excerpts from the *Alaska Native Land Claims book*. It is the hope of the *Tundra Times* and Alaska Native Foundation that the publication of the series will further the understanding and implementation of all parties involved and affected by the *Claims Settlement Act*. The book was released by the ANF in 1976 and was also made possible by a Ford Foundation grant. Robert D. Arnold edited the text. Authors include: Janet Archibald, Margie Bauman, Nancy Yaw Davis, Robert A. Frederick, Paul Gaskin, John Havelock, Gary Holthaus, Chris McNeil Thomas Richards, Jr., Howard Rock and Rosita Worl.)

## Local corporations: four named cities

Another category of local business corporations is made up of the four corporations formed by Natives in Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak and Sitka. These communities, historic Native places but now no longer villages, were the subject of a special provision of the settlement act.

Like the village corporations, these four are obtaining surface ownership of land, but no more than one township each, whatever their size. The corporation with the largest number of stockholders is Goldbelt, Inc., in Juneau, which has 2,640. Sitka's corporation, Shes Atika, Inc. ("village on the ocean side of the island") has 1,804. The corporations in Kodiak and Kenai have 500 and 477 stockholders, respectively.

Unlike the village corporations, these corporations do not receive monies distributed by the region. Their stockholders, however, do share in the distribution as at-large stockholders in the three regional corporations in which they are members.

## Local corporations: groups

By the end of 1974 two local corporations had been certified as "groups" by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The two are Caswell Native Corporation, with 35 stockholders, and Montana Creek Native Corporation, with 45 stockholders. Both communities are within the Cook Inlet region.

Under the act, Native groups which do not qualify as villages may incorporate and obtain the surface estate in no more than 7,680 acres of land. As with villages, the sub-surface estate goes to the regional corporation.

Groups which incorporate do not receive funds from their regional corporation, but their stockholders are also stockholders in the regional corporation and, as such, share in the compensation provided for by the act.

## Chapter 26 Other organizations

Implementation of the settlement act saw two new governmental organizations established to perform tasks required by terms of the act. Existing organizations saw their roles changing to meet new demands.

Regional Native associations, freed from activities aimed at obtaining a settlement, turned their attention largely to social and educational programs. Most of these associations became nonprofit arms of the regional corporations.

The two newly-established governmental organizations were the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission and the Alaska Native Claims Appeal Board.

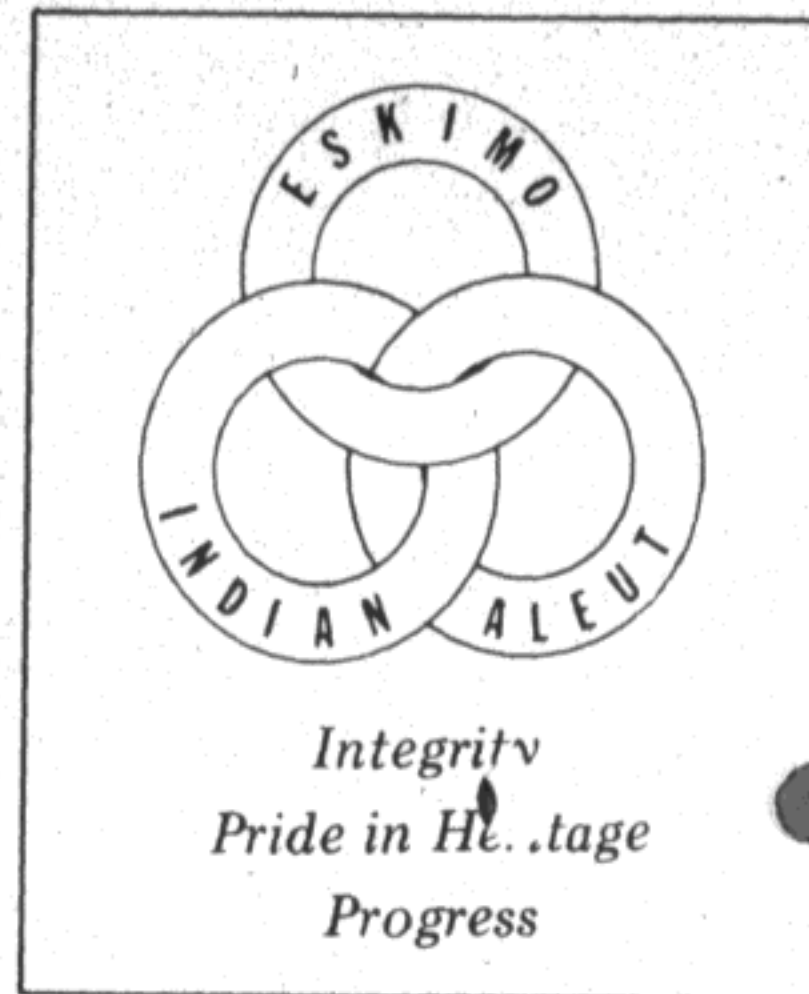
## Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission

The Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission was provided for in the settlement act to carry out a process of planning for land use in Alaska and to make recommendations to the State and federal governments regarding such use.

This 10-member commission, half of whose members are appointed by the Governor of Alaska and half by the President, has its office in Anchorage. A former executive director of AFN and founder of the Kodiak Area Native Association, Harry Carter, was a member of the original



Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission  
Walter Sampson, Land Planner of NANA, addressing the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. He is accompanied by Robert Newlin, Chairman of the Board, NANA Regional Corporation. Behind them is Frank Ferguson, a State Senator and NANA Director.



Alaska Federation of Natives symbol.

commission. Upon his resignation, he was replaced by John Schaeffer, the president and executive director of NANA Regional corporation.

During its first years, the Commission undertook to assemble information about lands and resources and to review federal withdrawals.

Information that could aid in evaluating land values existed but was widely scattered. The Commission's resource planning team conducted inventories of factors such as timber or minerals that could be expected to establish land values; the Commission then made this information available to villages and regions. It did not, however, make specific selection recommendations to any region or village.

Over the years, federal agencies had withdrawn a vast amount of land in the state for specified purposes. Some of this land was being used for the purpose for which it was withdrawn but much of it was not. In many instances, these withdrawn lands were close to villages and could interfere with their land selections. It became the Commission's responsibility to review these withdrawals and make recommendations for modifications in their sizes when it became evident that they were not being used for their original purposes.

## Alaska Native Claims Appeal Board

The Alaska Native Claims Appeal Board was organized as part of the U. S. Department of the Interior in early 1974 to review questions of village eligibility and disputes over land selection and to make recommendations for final action to the Secretary of the Interior.

The four-member board — all Alaska residents — has its office in Anchorage. It is often referred to as the Ad Hoc Appeal Board.

Although a list of villages expected to benefit under the settlement was contained in the act, the eligibility of some of them was uncertain. Further, some communities which were claimed as villages by enrolling Natives were not on the list.

The initial determination of eligibility was made by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Protests against some of the Bureau's findings then were filed by State or federal agencies, Native groups, private firms, and others. By mid-1974, 109 appeals were before the Board regarding 38 villages, but final action was completed on all of them by the end of the year.

The Board is expected to have a life of five to seven years. The first of what was expected to be many land selection appeals was filed early in 1975.

## Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

Even though provision for a statewide Native organiza-



Tundra Times  
Roger Lang, AFN president, 1974-1975.

tion was discarded in the final shaping of the claims settlement act, the organization which had been the vehicle for winning the settlement was not discarded by Natives. Three years after the victory, the Alaska Federation of Natives was, instead, firmly established as an organization of continuing significant influence in the state.

Immediately after the achievement of the settlement, the AFN's future had looked very bleak. The principal binding force for Natives across the state had been the struggle for a settlement act and that goal had been realized. None of the act's benefits would go to AFN, but they would go to corporations formed in regions and villages. And the organization was in debt.

During this period, State Senator Willie Hensley, who had succeeded Don Wright as president, served for six months without a salary. There was no money with which to pay him.

While the Native community seemed to want AFN to continue, its leaders were deeply involved in organizing at regional and local levels to carry out the settlement.

However, issues common to regions in the implementation of the settlement pumped new life into AFN, now incorporated as a nonprofit organization. One of the first of many such issues was the wholly unacceptable regulation drawn up in the Department of the Interior in 1972 regarding village eligibility and land selection.

There were numerous problems in the proposed regulations. To illustrate, the word "urban" was defined in them in such a way that none of the larger Native communities would have been able to select land. Furthermore, the settlement act had provided for "maximum participation by Natives in decisions affecting their rights and property," but the regula-



Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission  
The Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission in 1972. From left: James Hurley, Charles Herbert, Joseph H. Fitzgerald, Co-Chairmen Jack Horton and Joe P. Josephson, Max Brewer, Celia Hunter, Dick Cooley, and Harry Carter.



Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center  
Kodiak is one of four named cities in which enrolled Natives incorporated to obtain up to one township of land.

tions had been developed without any participation of Natives. Following several meetings between the Department of the Interior, regional representatives, and AFN, Inc., more nearly acceptable regulations were adopted.

Although the AFN had once again proven a suitable vehicle for statewide Native action, it was still hampered by financial problems. Then, in December of 1973, at a meeting of the AFN board of directors, the regional corporations agreed to a program of financial support. Under terms of this agreement, each region was to contribute \$8,000 plus \$1 for each of its members annually toward the cost of operating the AFN.

The emerging role of the statewide organization had been clarified six months earlier when board members voted to separate the educational and service functions of the Federation from its role as land claims spokesmen. In 1974, its Division of Human Resources administered a budget of about \$10 million for educational, health, employment, and other social programs. With funds from federal agencies, the division was contracting with Native organizations, school districts, and others for, among other things, cultural heritage education projects, health aide training, and support services in colleges for Native students.

In mid-1975, Roger Lang, a Tsimshian from Sitka, resigned to enter private business. He was replaced by Sam Kito, a Tlingit from Petersburg, who moved to the AFN presidency from the position of executive vice-president of Doyon, Ltd.

With the return of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation to the AFN in October, 1975, all 12 regional corporations were members of the AFN.

## Alaska Native Foundation



U. S. Department of the Interior  
Senior officials of the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Flore Lekanof, St. Paul, and Morris Thompson, Tanana. Thompson was named Commissioner in 1974.

The Alaska Native Foundation (ANF) was established in 1968 with financial assistance of the Ford Foundation to help plan for the claims settlement once it was achieved. When first organized, it was the AFN Charitable Trust, but it now has no formal association with AFN.

The Foundation offers a variety of services to regions and villages in the fields of financial and organizational management, land selection, and other areas by means of training sessions, preparation of research papers, and through the "Alaska Native Management Report," a twice-monthly newsletter.

Financial support for Foundation activities comes from grants and contracts. The president emeritus of AFN, Emil Notti, was in his sixth year as president of the Foundation in 1974.

## Regional nonprofit corporations

While the role of regional corporations was clearly defined in the settlement act, the act contained no provision for the regional Native associations from which they had sprung. In addition to waging the battle for a claims settlement, most of the associations had carried on a variety of social programs with grants or contracts from government agencies or foundations.

Even with the claims settlement, the need for such programs still existed and could not be met by corporations whose main responsibility was to earn a profit. There was still a vital role for the nonprofit organizations. These corporations, some with new names, are: the Aleut League; the Arctic Slope Native Association; Kawerak (Bering Straits region); Bristol Bay Native Association; Yupiktak Bista — "servant of the people," (Calista region); North Pacific Rim Native Corporation (Chugach); Cook Inlet Native Association; Tanana Chiefs Conference (Doyon region); Kodiak Area Native Association; Mauneluk — "no money," (NANA region); and the Tlingit-Haida Central Council.

## Next week — the money settlement

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