

ASRC Board Meets at Pt. Hope...

(Continued from page 1)

serious business to attend to as well.

The village responded with almost 100 per cent turn-out for the visiting board of directors: Joe Upicksoun, president; Eddie Hopson, vice-president; Oliver Leavitt, treasurer; Jacob Adams, regional land chief; Brenda Itta, secretary; Herman Aishana, Barter Island board member; and Jim Wickwire, legal consultant.

Also attending were Eben Hopson, recently elected mayor of the giant North Slope Borough; Harry Kaleak, president of the Borough school board; and Mike De Marco, his administrative assistant.

The main focus of the meet-

ing was to assist the village in deciding what type of corporation it will form under the Act. While the Land Claims Act stipulates that each village must form a corporation, it does not specify whether that corporation will be a profit-making or a non-profit corporation.

Each village must make this decision for itself. In the case of Point Hope, as in many North Slope communities, a large portion of the population speak Inupik as a first language.

Therefore, the text of what every speaker at the meeting had to say on the subject of corporations or on any subject of importance was translated into Inupik. Most of the leaders

are themselves fluent in the language, but in the case of English speakers, such as legal consultant James Wickwire, Eddie Hopson did a brilliant job of translating.

The villagers were brought up to date on all of Arctic Slope activities undertaken on their behalf. President Joe Upicksoun explained the function of the regional corporation and its fight to establish the Borough government.

"We had lost so much in the Alaska Land Claims Settlement," he said "that Arctic Slope Native Association had to have some tool to protect what we always had and what we are going to have. These are the lands that we originally had protests on in going into the AFN fight on Alaska Land Claims Settlement."

Wickwire explained the differences between the two forms of corporations possible and made a recommendation that Point Hope adopt the profit-making form.

This did not preclude the possibility of forming a second non-profit village corporation at a later date.

"Many people," said Wickwire, "have the idea that being a non-profit corporation automatically gives them a tax exemption."

"This is not true," he said. Wickwire explained that there was no tax advantage to having a non-profit corporation, but that by organizing first a profit-making corporation, then funneling funds into a non-profit organization, there would be a benefit for the profit-making entity.

The regional corporation, ASRC, is profit-making. "It would work out better," advised Wickwire, "if you have a profit corporation at both levels."

Stockholders in a profit corporation, said Wickwire know more clearly where they stand in regard to their rights, as there has been more legal machinery developed in relation to profit-making structures.

Emerging out of a background of a culture and a language that have no words for corporation, stockholder, office, executive, tax, or profit, it was not entirely clear to the people of Point Hope how a new era of corporate structure would affect their lives.

Many questions were asked in both in Inupik and English. What is a stockholder? How soon will money be coming into Point Hope? What happens if I move? Will we be issued the certificate of stockholder and how important is this certificate?

The Board of directors of Arctic Slope Regional corporation tried to answer the questions as simply as possible and in the language of the people.

Next week, Tundra Times will publish a section of some of these questions about village and regional corporations and the answers given in Point Hope.

Brenda Itta, campaigning for a seat in the House of Representatives in District 19, then addressed the crowd by invitation. "If I am elected," she said, "I will be the first Native woman to serve in the Alaska State Legislature, the first Eskimo woman."

The following day, the Board held an Executive Session meeting throughout the day, and in the evening the whole village turned out for an Eskimo dance in honor of Gregg Tagarook and the visiting Board members.

John Hope Named

John Hope, BIA Juneau Area Tribal Operations Officer, has been named Enrollment Coordinator, based in Anchorage, effective October 16, 1972.

He will be responsible for verifying the enrollment applications of approximately 80,000 Alaska Natives within a 14 month deadline, as specified in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

John has recently returned from Albuquerque, New Mexico where he met with Tribal Operations Officers from throughout the United States to explain the ANCSA Enrollment program.

In addition, he conferred with officials of the Indian Affairs Data Center where enroll-

ment data is computerized.

He will bring a broad background of knowledge to the Coordinator's position as he has been in Tribal operations work for six years and a Bureau employee for 18 years.

He has worked with the Alaska Native Enrollment program from its inception.

Area Director Morris Thompson indicated that John Hope would be an outstanding asset to this most important program.

He also praised George Walters and Frances Degnan, Acting Enrollment Coordinator and Acting Assistant Enrollment Coordinator respectively, for a job well done.

Joins Indian Suit...

(Continued from page 1)

court, said the Government's review of the evidence showed that the school board has discriminated against Indian students by unequal allocation of state and local funds.

As a result, the brief said, there are inequalities in school building investment, equipment allocation, provision of materials and supplies, and in the distribution of the more qualified and experienced teachers among Indian and non-Indian schools.

"Indian students... generally attend overcrowded schools, some of which have not met state standards for full accreditation," the brief noted.

In elementary schools, 22.3 per cent of Indian pupils are housed in temporary classrooms, compared with 9.8 per cent of the non-Indian students, the brief said.

The brief cited the valuation of school buildings per Indian student as \$1,205, compared with a \$1,425 valuation for each non-Indian student, a disparity of 18 per cent of \$220 per student.

"Notwithstanding the federal aid programs designed to give an extra measure of educational opportunity to Indian children, the facts here point to the con-

clusion that their educational opportunities have continued to be seriously substandard and that one of the reasons for this disparity is that the local school authorities have simply not expended a proportional amount of the district's resources on Indians," the brief concluded.

The Justice Department suggested that the court direct school officials to submit a comprehensive plan for correcting the disparities.

The brief also suggested that additional programs may be needed to meet the special needs of students whose first language is not English and who come from a cultural background that differs from that of the Anglo students.

In addition, the brief said the court may want to specify such corrective steps as insuring that per pupil expenditures are made on a racially non-discriminatory basis and insuring that Indian schools receive their fair share of equipment, materials, and supplies.

The case is the first in which the Justice Department is participating on behalf of Indian rights to equal allocation of educational benefits.

Atka Aleuts Troubled...

(Continued from page 1)

the land.

"On March 3, 1913, Executive Order 1733 reserved the whole Aleutian Chain including Uniak and Sonnak Island on the east and extending to Attu Island on the West and set it apart as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds, for the propagation of reindeer and fur bearing animals and for the encouragement and development of fisheries," wrote Clark Noble, land office manager. "Accordingly the application is hereby rejected."

The letter also informed Dirks that he had 30 days to appeal the ruling but on Atka that's no easy assignment. The island of 87 residents has not been allowed a post office.

It's only communication with the outside world is a fickle 50 watt school radio which goes to the State Operated school on Adak (120 miles distant) and no one on the island is allowed to send a telegram through the hook-up.

Atka has no airport, no functioning dock, no transportation except a tug leased by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) which makes a round trip from Adak monthly or once every two months when the weather is bad.

Luckily Dirks read his mail the night it arrived and asked Mrs. Sally Jamie, a visiting member of the Aleut League, to undertake his appeal. When the tug left again for Adak at 6 a.m. the next morning, Mrs. Jamie was on it and got back to Anchorage before the deadline to file Dirks protest.

Dirks' neighbors were not so lucky. Some of them would not see their rejection letters until after the protest time had expired because they were working at fisheries off the island.

Atka residents were bewildered by the ruling.

"I think we arrived here about the same time as the birds," reasoned Nadesta Golley, whose father, Sergis Golley, had struggled unsuccessfully to gain legal title to his land back in the early 1960s. "There aren't very many birds on our campsite anyway and we don't do them any harm."

In 1962 her father's claim was rejected and he was advised to apply for a five acre homestead instead. His letter of reply is a classic example of the patience with which the Aleut people have handled discrimination over the years.

Paul Nelson
Area Field Representative
Bureau of Indian Affairs
519 Eagle
Anchorage, Alaska

January 29, 1962

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I am a bit disappointed in receiving this copy attached (a letter of rejection from the federal land office.) After all the work I put in measuring and posting the land, I rather hoped I could, in the near future, raise sheep on the allotted land, but I guess even that would be forbidden.

I do not wish to settle for five acres and I do not wish to pay five or ten dollars (the price the land office suggested for a permit) to use my own Native land.

Is there anything you can do for me in the way of helping get 160 acres and help me to understand this more clearly?

Hopefully waiting to hear from you I remain

Yours truly

Sergis Golley

"They weren't so worried about the birds but what they set off an atomic bomb down here," fumed Michael Besecker, the Atka school teacher. "What harm is it going to do for the natives to own the land they fly over?"

Mike Swetoff, president of the Aleut League, reports that settlement of the Chain by Aleuts has been scientifically established by carbon dating back at least 8,400 years.

"But only 43 of our people ever applied for legal title to their land," he reported. "Most of them didn't know they could. When the BIA had that big splurge to get Natives to file their applications they never came to the Chain. Our people never had that chance."

League lawyers hope Dirks' appeal will be granted because it can be proved his forebears used the land before the executive order reserving it as a refuge. Other cases, that cannot be documented in this way, will require more complicated legal action and league representatives are hoping to get at least part of the chain reclassified so that the natives can live there as full and equal citizens with the birds, fish and fur-bearing animals.

"We'll go to the Supreme Court if we have to," Swetoff warns. "The whole damn Aleut community was never recognized in the past. Never had any representation except personal interest. We're finally breaking out of that!"

Point Hope to Move...

(Continued from page 1)

Point Hope, described the new village lay-out proposed by the council at a town meeting and asked for comments and recommendations to be submitted by the people of the village before Dec. 31.

Smooth coordination between federal, state, and borough agencies will be required to meet the projected time schedule. The Governor's Office has assigned John Trautner, of the newly created Department of Community and Regional Affairs, to expedite the move.

"If one agency falls behind," said Trautner, "they could delay the whole schedule a year."

Addressing the people crowded into Tigara Hall as "landlords of this land," David Stone, land chief of the village, described the history of the area from ancient times to the early 1800's to the present.

Funds for archaeological excavations in the areas that will one day be inundated with water may be made available through federal and private sources.

However, not all villagers are in favor of allowing the excavations, which they fear will only weaken the already crumbling coastline. At the old Tigara site alone, about 30 of the 70 village dwellings washed out between 1950 and 1967.

Oktolik predicts that "Tigara will be completely lost in 65 years."

John Cook of the University of Alaska's anthropology department will visit Point Hope in a few weeks to develop plans for preserving the long heritage of the people.

The council announced plans for a historical museum at the new site. The museum will be stocked with artifacts from the already abandoned Tigara, the soon-to-be-abandoned present site, and the to-be-constructed site of Iputak.

Members of the Point Hope village council are: John Oktolik, mayor; Elijah Rock, vice-mayor; Leo Kinnecvaak, secretary; Abraham Kowuma, treasurer; Norman Omnik, council member; and David Stone, city clerk and land chief.

There were several guests at the Oct. 16 meeting: Noah Ahguk, mayor of Anaktuvuk Pass; Samuel Agnasagga of Wainwright; Wesley Aiken, of Barrow; and Mike De Marco, administrative assistant for the new North Slope Borough school district.

Several members of the ASRC board were unable to reach Point Hope Monday, but arrived Tuesday to hold a board meeting in the village. That story appears on page 1.