

# BLM Land Issues

By JOETTE STORM

*(Editor's Note: This week the Tundra Times introduces a new regular feature from the Bureau of Land Management on the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act. Readers may send their questions to Claims Questions, Bureau of Land Management, 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, Alaska 99501).*

The deadline for filing a claim to land that has been used for a primary place of residence is Dec. 18, 1973.

Jack Young writes, "I am a Tlingit Indian living in Anchorage and enrolled under the Claims Act. I inherited land in Haines from my father. Must I file any claim to this land under the primary place of residence provision?"

It is not likely that you can claim a primary place of residence in Haines if you live and work in Anchorage most of the year. A primary place of residence is the land on which a person lives most of the time and which he or she calls home.

It can be claimed under the Claims Act in two ways. If the land claimed as a primary place of residence lies within the land selected by a village, the village must convey title to the land to that Native. If the land is part of that being selected by the regional corporation, the corporation may grant the land, but it is not required to do so.

If the land lies outside of village and regional selections and the Native used it as his or her primary place of residence on Aug. 31, 1971, the Native may claim up to 160 acres directly from the government.

It can be claimed under the Claims Act in two ways. If the land lies within the land selected by a village or regional corporation, the corporation may grant title to the land to the person. If the land lies outside of corporation selections, it may be claimed directly from the government.

If you own land at Haines, you should have a deed showing title to the property, and you do not have to file another claim to it.

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If the land is a place where your family has traditionally lived, write the village corporation of Haines or Sealaska Corporation, 127 Franklin Street, Juneau 99801 to learn there is some way you may obtain the land through the corporations.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has estimated that only about 64 Natives will be effected by this provision of the Act.

If Natives from other regions have questions they might write their own regional corporation to learn what land is being selected.