



## Rural and urban interests vie for spotlight during ARDC meeting

By BETSY BRENNEMAN  
Staff Writer

With rural and urban agricultural, land use, and business interests vying for the spotlight during the Alaska Rural Development Council's quarterly meeting held in Fairbanks at the University of Alaska campus July 14 and 15, Native groups emphasized their developmental goals in

terms of people. Chris Anderson, Executive Director of the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Willie Hensley of NANA Regional Corporation, led off each day's proceedings and represented what Council Chairperson Kevin Waring of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs called, the "potent and politically active" force of the Native people in the interior.

The ARDC is a five-year old organization of federal, state, and regional groups sponsored primarily by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It met in Fairbanks to focus on the key developmental issues of the Alaskan interior with an emphasis on agricultural development, water, waste and other community facilities, rural housing, land use planning, and rural government and industrial development.

Chris Anderson began the meetings' presentations with a history and update of the Tanana Chiefs Conference and its programs. With 43 villages and 34 profit-making village corporations in its region, the Conference operates on the belief that "the most important resource is that of the people themselves." And for the people, land is the most important resource.

The Conference, the non-profit arm of Doyon Limited, was formed over issues of land control and continues to see its role as communicator, educator, and administrator of efforts to utilize interior lands in ways most beneficial to its people.

### First health grant under PL-93-63

The first health care grant to an American Indian tribe made under the provisions of Public Law 93-638—The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act—has been announced by Dr. Emery A. Johnson, Director of the Indian Health Service.

The one million dollar (\$1,000,000) grant was made to the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, to help it design and construct a health care center at Keshena, Wisconsin, on the Federal Menominee Indian Reservation.

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Tanana Chiefs Land Claims College was set up in 1974 to teach the ins and outs of stocks, corporations, law, financial management and job opportunities. Having contracted for control of the Fairbanks BIA agency under the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act, Tanana Chiefs now handles social services, housing, and credit formerly administered by the federal agency.

A regional Housing Authority and the Tanana Chiefs Health Authority are in full swing and are now in process of centralization and reorganization. Paperwork has begun to establish an Electrical Authority for the area and agricultural potential has been looked at, although Anderson believes agriculture is "a hard thing to sell" because it is just not a part of Native culture.

TCC has passed a resolution opposing opening of the pipeline haul road, one of the meetings' major issues, and is asking that more thought be put into the consequences. "Interior people have a delicate and established way of life," says Anderson. "If

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SPACE AGE ANNIVERSARY—the American flag flies from the Sea of Tranquility during the first manned moon landing in history, July 20, 1969. This week, seven years to the day, Viking I touched down on Mars.

## Native Arts of Alaska seminar to be held in August

A conference entitled "The Native Arts of Alaska: An Exploration of Indigenous Life Value Sources" will be held in Anchorage the week of August 16-20 at the University of Alaska.

Two of Alaska's best-known artists, Larry Ahvakana and Ron Senungetuk will lead a seminar on visual arts during the conference. Ahvakana is sculptor-in-residence at the Visual Arts Center of Alaska, and Senungetuk is director of the Extension Center in the Arts at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Other conference sessions include:

A seminar on music directed by Jim Pepper, a Kaw and Creek musician from San Francisco. Pepper has played with jazz greats Ornette Coleman, Don Cherry, and Larry Coryell, and is the author of the popular song "Withchie-Tai-to."

A seminar on Native dance conducted by Ernie Frankson, dance instructor at Inupiat University in Barrow.

A series of seminars on New World History, with presentations by Robert Callahan, Edward Dorn, Richard Grossinger, Nathaniel Tarn, Nora Dauenhauer, and Joe Senungetuk. Callahan is editor of the "New World Journal" and director of the Turtle Island Foundation; Dorn is author of "The Gunslinger" and "Recollections of Gran Apache"; Grossinger has written "Solar Journal," the six-volume "Cranberry Islands" sequence, and is editor of "Io" magazine; Tarn is author of "The Beautiful Contradictions" and "Lyrics for the Bride of God"; Dauenhauer is a Tlingit writer and translator; and Senungetuk is an Inupiat writer and artist.

A Native art show and auction is planned to be held during the same week at the Visual Arts Center and three evenings of performances by the Jim Pepper Quintet, the Native dancers from Point Hope, and readings by the guest speakers have also been tentatively scheduled.

"Our spiritual heritage—the soundless voice of the Ancients is now re-emerging through efforts by many Natives to rebuild cultural integrity with their art," says Andrew Hope,

coordinator of the conference.

Funding for the conference is being provided by the Alaska Humanities Forum, the Alaska

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## Ramos to address NTCC

The National Teacher Corps Conference, which is scheduled July 18-23 in Washington, D.C., will feature an address by Elaine Ramos, vice president for Rural Educational Affairs, University of Alaska.

Mrs. Ramos will take part in the Indian Education component of the conference on Wednesday morning, July 21, with an address on "The Alaska Teacher Corps: An Influence on Development of Higher Education Service for Rural Areas."

The Alaska Teacher Corps program, known as X-CED/ARTTC, is the only cross-cultural baccalaureate program being delivered in remote areas of Alaska. D. M.



ELAINE RAMOS

(Mick) Murphy is executive director of the program.