

Lien paid, paper looks forward

By Linda Lord-Jenkins
Editor

The Tundra Times took a big step toward bringing itself out of debt last week when five Internal Revenue Service liens totalling more than \$17,000 were paid off and burned at a small ceremony.

The liens were placed on Tundra Times by the IRS for past taxes due. Company employees had been paying on the past tax debt, which was accrued in 1978, '79 and '80, for the past two-and-one-half years.

Penalties on the past taxes totalled more than \$12,000.

The payoff of the liens and past taxes leaves the newspaper with some smaller outstanding debts. Those debts also were accrued while the newspaper was based in Fairbanks, during the late 1970s.

The five liens were burned during a small celebration at Tundra Times offices at 411 W. Fourth Ave., Anchorage.

Members of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, the Tundra Times' parent company, board of directors each set fire to one lien. Those board members were EIA president Sylvia Carlsson,

company secretary Sarah Scanlan, treasurer Mike Harper, EIA vice-chairman Willie Hensley and board member Hilda Woods.

Other EIA board members include chairman Sandra Shroyer and Agafon Krukoff, Sam Kito, Andy Ebona, and Karl Armstrong.

Tundra Times general manager George Gardner credited the newspaper's "small and dedicated staff" for working to help pay off the newspaper's debts.

He also gave a special thanks to the North Slope Borough and Borough Mayor Eugene Brower for the borough's continued support in the form of annual subscriptions for Borough residents. The practice of North Slope subscriptions was started by first Borough Mayor Eben Hopson and has been continued by former mayor Jake Adams and Brower.

The annual subscription this year enabled the paper to pay off the total tax instead of paying on a monthly basis as had been done.

Gardner said this pay-off will enable the paper to consider upgrading its equipment and thereby increase revenues.



Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., board members burn tax liens which were paid off last week. Board members are, left to right, vice-chairman Willie Hensley, director Hilda Woods, secretary Sarah Scanlan, treasurer Mike Harper, and president Sylvia Carlsson. A brief celebration was held with board members and Tundra Times staff in the newspaper's offices at 411 W. Fourth Ave., in Anchorage.

The paper is currently typeset on an IBM typesetter in a day and age when computer typesetting is the norm. The paper does much "job setting" for outside agencies and is investigating the purchase of computers to expand capacity to do job typesetting.

Tundra Times editor Linda Lord-Jenkins said the payoff of the debt is a "welcome

relief." She said the debts of the paper had been "greatly on our minds as we conducted our business and it is good to know our efforts to produce a newspaper while paying old debts is successful.

"When we finally get our old debts paid off we will be able to expand our coverage and perhaps the size of the

paper. We have been very conservative in the types of things we have covered because we also have been aware of the need to funnel money to debt payoff. This will open our coverage greatly."

Gardner said the newspaper is increasing efforts in both advertising sales and circulation