

Savoonga Carnival...

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now, the hunters say, the walrus herd should move close to the island and the spring hunt will begin. The walrus live on the edges of the ice pack, slowly moving north now as spring begins.

For the carnival, visitors poured into the small village of 400. Besides over 100 visitors from nearby Gambell, visitors came from Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Nome.

From Anchorage, a charter plane landed with 25 members of the Prospectors Club. They slept on cots in the community building, on the floor of the church, local houses and even on the floor of the new utility building next door to the freezer.

Two charters also arrived from Nome, each conveying almost 40 travelers from Nome, Fairbanks and points South. From Soldotna came Gladys Musgrove, the now retired UA Cooperative Extension home economist who approached the University four years ago to ask them to find a method to preserve walrus meat in Savoonga.

Many years ago, Mrs. Musgrove came to the island with a small canner, to teach the women of the village how to can their walrus meat. Then, the men brought in their catch - giant 4,000 pound bull walrus who yield 2,000 pounds of meat.

Another preserving method had to be found, or 75 per cent of the village's meat supply would continue to rot in the summer heat, preserved only by holes dug in the ground covered by sheds. Even a cow walrus weighs 2,000 pounds and canning or drying the meat can preserve only a small portion.

Thus, with the new freezer this year, the villagers had much to celebrate - and for two days they enjoyed the company of infrequently seen friends, blanket tosses, contests of strength and skill, demonstrations of techniques of walrus hunting, ice fishing, games and Eskimo dancing.

Usually, villager say, Savoonga is a quiet town where most people retire by midnight for a busy

day. The Carnival and its activities kept the teenagers out dancing and having fun till the sun set in the west - and rose again three hours later in the constantly lit Arctic spring.

The people of Savoonga live poor. Most village residents live tiny, unpainted weathered frame houses and shacks, often half constructed of tar paper. All lumber must be shipped to the island and the constant storm and winds of the Bering Sea take their toll of the buildings very quickly.

In recent years, snowmobiles have begun to provide most of the winter transportation and only a few village residents still keep sled dogs.

What has not changed, however are the sturdy skin boats which carry the hunters across the ocean to hunt for the walrus.

For the Carnival, everyone organized. Cots were provided for as many visitors as possible, sleeping places found and late at night IRA President Floyd Wongittilin went from house to house checking that each visitor had found a place to sleep.

Typical of the eating arrangement was Ellie's. In her coffee house, Ellie set up tables, a two burner Coleman stove and fed dozens of outsiders on reindeer stew, spaghetti and meat sauce, bacon, eggs and hot cakes for breakfast.

Even in May, Savoonga was cold with brisk Arctic winds that drive the temperature down as the wind whips across the frozen ice. Not for another six weeks, will signs of summer come to the still frozen island.

Highlight of the two day festival was the dedication of the new walrus freezer, a modern perpetual motion machine which will keep meat frozen using the cold of the island's permafrost base.

The Economic Development Administration supplied \$ 150,000 for research and building of the first freezer of this type and the University of Alaska Institute of Arctic Environmental Engineering spent four years on the project.

Governor William Egan Endorses AFN Bill...

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claims settlement," said Egan. "Utilization of at least Petroleum Reserve No. 4 for this purpose is reasonable under the circumstances, particularly considering the continuance of Petroleum 4 is an anachronism and in addition another 17 million acres could be contributed from other federal withdrawals which surround existing native villages.

"This solution provides an aggregate of approximately 60 million acres of which up to 20 million are in effect contributed by the State," added Egan.

The state also indicated that it would agree to allow natives to select from land already tentatively approved to the state where native occupancy now exists.

In fielding questions posed by members of the committee, Governor Egan indicated the state did not object to the right of prior land selection by natives. The governor also gave support to the regional concept contained within the native position.

In his testimony on Monday, Secretary of State Rogers Morton also defended native self determination. Appearing on behalf of the administration, Morton stated the settlement of the Alaskan Native land claims is the last major outstanding claim on aboriginal title remaining in the United States.

"Congress has an opportunity to rewrite history with the enactment of this legislation," Morton said.

House Interior Committee members spent close to the entire day on Monday questioning Secretary Morton about the land settlement provisions of the administration bill. Committee Chairman Wayne Aspinall and subcommittee Chairman James Haley (D-Fla.) asked Morton to justify the 40 million acre land provision.

Morton said the 40 million acre figure was selected "after a review of all the proposals and because it seemed fair, equitable

The freezer is a wonder machine to local residents and visitors alike. It uses no power, will require nothing to operate and sits like a visitor from another planet near the ramshackle shacks which mark the village's old freezers.

At its dedication, many of the officials concerned with the freezer's development came to speak - including Roland Snodgrass, Director of the State Division of Agriculture and Phil Johnson, the UA engineer who spent the winter in Savoonga supervising building of the freezer he helped design.

The villagers of Savoonga are very proud of the freezer. It is the first of its type, prototype for many other villagers, and required long endless hours of work in the stormy fall and winter seasons as the men labored to finish building the project in time for the spring hunt.

For the two day festival, the village earned over \$1,000 - from door admissions, accommodations, raffles and other sources of income. Half of this, however, went to pay the \$500 raffle prize offered in the main raffle.

The money did not include profits made by villagers who operated restaurants, coffee shops and sold ivory carvings and skins to tourists.



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and a subsistence opportunity for the natives."

In his opening address to the committee on Monday, Chairman Aspinall (D-Col.) warned that Congress is not "negotiating" with anyone in settlement of the Alaska Native land claims.

"Any legislation enacted should not be regarded as a negotiated contract with some native leaders," said Aspinall in his 11 point opening statement. "The natives as a whole do not have a claim to anything," he said.

In his summary of the legal background of the claims issue Aspinall pointed out that, in his opinion, either all the native claims are valid, in which case they should be paid for the entire state of Alaska or they do not have a valid claim to the

entire state, in which case any settlement is "a matter of subjective judgement."

The senior members of the committee who questioned Secretary Morton were highly skeptical of the administration bill land provisions and of the concept of a single native corporation which they fear could become a political and economic force in the state.

Rep. John Saylor (R-Pa.), the ranking minority member of the committee observed that what Congress does here will be "watched by every Indian tribe in the lower 48 and the lawyers who represent them."

Scheduled to testify Tuesday and Wednesday were Don Wright President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, ASNA President Joseph Upickson and executive director Charles Edwardson, Jr.

Tribal Chairmen...

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ment of elected officials and investment bankers and have resisted wholesale individual handouts.

Probably the most diversified Indian development in the country is that of the Whiteriver Apache of southern Arizona. Their first sage move was to side with the U. S. Army against the renegade Geronimo which brought them, by act of Congress, 1,664,872 acres of prime real estate. Today they set their net worth at \$160 million.

Originally the Indian Bureau tried to set them up as sheep herders which hardly suited the fierce Apache temperament.

"After two years even the Indian Service had to concede it was a failure, notes Richard Cooley, Administrative Assistant to the tribal Chairman. "We became cattlemen about 1907 via raids into Mexico. One full blood had 1,000 head by himself."

Using this as a base, the tribe went into the lumber business and later opened the reservation to tourism. Today they operate the largest privately owned recreation area in the west realizing \$160,000 last year from fishing and hunting permits alone. They own filling stations watering spots and a motel.

In addition they've just created the largest cold water lake in the state and a \$1/2 million ski resort.

Their ski manager has secured federal funds to train 10 Apache boys to run the lifts and made ski lessons a requirement for the job.

Reckoned on assets alone, the Navajo Nation is the most impressive tribe, but they also have the largest membership (129,000 Indians).

Peter MacDonald, tribal chairman, concedes his nation's \$200 million in assets doesn't look quite as good to him as it does on paper, but there's no doubt the tribe is growing in power.

They own and operate their own utilities, lease an industrial complex and motel. They have \$10 million in a scholarship fund, have just opened their own college and own some of their own high schools where they teach many classes in their native tongue.

The tribe also has the nation's largest singly owned stand of Ponderosa pine, a \$12 million sawmill and considerable stake in an irrigation project which should give them 110,000 acres of farmland.

Investment capital came from oil, gas, uranium and coal deposits. MacDonald and his business

managers are aware these are depletable and are moving to diversify.

The tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs first went after payrolls, building plants for General Dynamics and Fairchild.

"Now we're looking for capital to create our own Economic Development Authority," MacDonald said. "The federal government has just set aside funds but nowhere near the amount we're looking for. We're talking about \$100 million to be matched by \$3-\$4 million in our own money. Chase Manhattan and the American Bankers Assn. seem reluctant to help but we haven't given up.

"We must move from a wage and welfare economy to an ownership economy." Despite growing prosperity, none of these tribes is without problems.

"If you got money, you've got trouble," Vigil warns. "We used to be just poor. Now we've got internal problems. People ousted, looking in, wanting a share of the whole thing."

Navajo MacDonald could well be speaking for the majority when he reports, "Our housing is almost universally inadequate. Our infant mortality rate, our life expectancy rate and our state of malnutrition are among the worst in the nation."

"Our tribe is at least three or four years ahead of its time... but we're short of human resources," admits Fred Banashley, Sr., tribal chairman at Whiteriver.

He's proud to note, though, that several of the youngsters his tribe sent to college have graduated and come home to work.

It seems to be a growing trend. On the increase is the number of clear thinking, well-educated young Indians who return to their reservations, which gives tribes a much better chance of managing their own affairs.

"The Nixon administration has said that the time has come for Indians to contract for control or operation of Federal program," MacDonald noted in his inaugural address last fall. "For the Navajo Nation this means we now have an opportunity to control and administer over \$100 million in (government) programs."

"My past years with the office of Navajo Economic Opportunity have convinced me that almost all things we have depended upon non-Indian administrators to do can be done as well or in some instances better by our own people and four our own people..."

"Our past gave us the present, but the future is ours to forge."

Commission Granted...

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firms in the Anchorage, Fairbanks and Kenai areas that are currently under investigation having been charged with utilizing practice or practices of recruitment and hire that have the effect of excluding minority group persons, in addition to the 28 firms already charged with alleged discriminatory practices, 25 more firms in the Anchorage, Fairbanks and Kenai areas will also be charged.

This would bring to a total of 53 firms under investigation by the Human Rights Commission.

"This project is unlike individual complaints of discrimination," Willard said in making the announcement, "as the basic intent is to detect practices or policies that have the effect of excluding minority group persons."

Willard said his staff is now in the final process of designating which of the firms would be charged with alleged discriminatory practices.

He explained that primarily the charges were based upon and under utilization of minorities and the investigation of employer practices is conducted to determine how the commission can recommend charges in policy that will result in equal employment opportunity.

Willard would not disclose the names of the 25 firms that charges would be levied against "as Federal Law prohibits the disclosure of firm names to the

General Public".

"Hopefully, this action will not result in misunderstanding," Willard said, "the ultimate goal is to assist employers in revamping policies to effectuate equal opportunities.

State Law requires the commission to have a signed and notarized complaint on file before jurisdiction commences. This requirement to establish jurisdiction is the reason for filing formal charges.

After the investigation is made and discriminatory practices are detected, the commission then will negotiate with the respondent firm to make charges if the negotiation fails, the commission is empowered to hold public hearing, "which we will do if necessary", the Director said, "but, I would hope that this will not become necessary."

On the other hand, if no evidence is found to support the charge, then the case is dropped. Willard further said that with the contractual arrangement with EEOC, his agency can defer action to the EEOC, if the employers refuse to cooperate.

This has not occurred thus far, although in other states where similar projects are under way, deferments to the EEOC have been made, in which case the EEOC assumes jurisdiction and federal enforcement power are applied.