

News from Inuvik

By LOIS KEATING

The community hearings for the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry are now finished. Hearings were held in 26 communities and several outpost camps — over 700 witnesses spoke at these informal hearings. The Inquiry will now resume its formal hearings in Yellowknife with Phase IV on Human Environment. Because of many requests by individuals in the south, hearings will also be held in May and June in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.

In mid-February, ITC (Inuit Tapirisat of Canada) presented a 60-page land claims proposal to the government of Canada. The Inuit people are not asking for a cash settlement. But they are claiming use of 750,000 square miles of land and 800,000 square miles of water. They also want outright ownership of 250,000 square miles of this area, and a 3% royalty from resource development.

They want to set up a program of self-government in this area, to be called Nunavut (meaning "our land"). Nunavut covers most of the land above the treeline in the N.W.T. and along the northern Yukon coast.

Inuvik would not be included in Nunavut. However, Inuit people from Inuvik would still be able to derive benefits from Nunavut, and would be voting members of the Inuvik Inuit Corporation. If the proposal is accepted, Inuvik Inuit people will be given the chance to decide whether they want to continue to live where they are, or to move to a new town which would eventually be built somewhere north of Inuvik, provided there are at least 400 Inuit who want to move there from areas outside of Nunavut. The Canadian government has been asked to give a reply to the proposal within 90 days.

In regard to Indian and Metis land claims in the N.W.T. the government has given the Dene people a deadline of Nov. 1, by which time a land claims proposal is to be presented by them.

Five members of the Indian Brotherhood of the N.W.T. have filed a claim against the Brotherhood, saying that the

elections held last December at the Fort Rae assembly were not conducted properly, and they are asking for reinstatement of James Wah-Shee as president of the Brotherhood. In the meantime, George Erasmus of Yellowknife and George Barnaby of Fort Good Hope have stated that they will run for the positions of president and vice-president at the Brotherhood assembly to be held in July. George Barnaby, presently a Territorial Counselor for the Mackenzie-Great Bear District, says he will resign from that position soon.

The government's decision on Dome Petroleum's application to drill in the Beaufort Sea this summer was postponed for one month, during which time U.S. and Canadian representatives will discuss the situation.

A Loucheux Games Workshop was held in Fort McPherson in February. The purpose of the workshop was to record and revive some of the old games and skills. Old-timers from the Delta communities were joined by participants from Old Crow, Yukon; and from Arctic Village, Venetie and Fort Yukon. From all reports, the workshop was a success, and a similar workshop is being held in Fort Franklin this coming week for Hareskin Games.

In Inuvik Tommy Smith has been very active in teaching Native games to groups of kids and teen-agers at Ingamo Hall two evenings a week.

Some of the old-time Inuit drummers and dancers in this area have been teaching their skills to younger people. There is quite an active group now in Tuktoyaktuk, and hopefully this same type of program will very soon be under way in Inuvik.

The N.W.T. has been divided into two voting districts, which will be put into effect at the next federal election, at which time the Territories will be represented in Parliament by two M.P.'s instead of only one. The dividing line runs roughly along the treeline, and the two districts are to be called Mackenzie River and Nunatsiag.

Since the beginning of February, Fort McPherson has its

own newspaper, called the Tetlit Tribune, and is being published twice a month.

Old-timer Jessie Green of Paulatuk celebrated her 100th birthday in January. Then a few weeks ago she was taken ill and passed away. She originally came from somewhere near Point Hope.

Another old-timer, Donald Greenland of Aklavik, passed away in early March. Last weekend Billy and Alice Dillon, who were stationed at the Bar 4 Dew Line site at Nicholson Point, died in a fire which destroyed their home.

Last week the annual ITC (Inuit Tapirisat) conference was held at Tuk. Delegates came from all the Inuit communities in the N.W.T., along with observers from Northern Quebec, Labrador and Greenland.

A number of Canadian Inuit are now in Alaska for the planning meeting for the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to be held at Barrow in November.

Board adopts new sport fish regulations

JUNEAU—Controversial regulations banning the use of helicopters or hovercraft in support of sportfishing were repealed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries this week. At the meeting in Kodiak, the board reversed a ruling made in December that prevented helicopters and hovercraft from transporting sport fishermen, sport caught fish and sportfishing gear or other equipment to be used in sport fishing. The regulations were felt by many to be too restrictive and unnecessary at this time.

The board also adopted regulations establishing a season and bag limit on sport fishing for halibut. The regulations parallel those of the International Pacific Halibut Commission, setting a season of March 1 through Oct. 31 with a daily bag and possession limit of two halibut.

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30 year reunion to be held— Sheldon Jackson class of 46

SITKA—The Sheldon Jackson High School Class of 1946 will hold its 30 year re-union this spring on the SJS campus in Sitka, April 30 to May 1, according to Herb Didrickson, chairman of the re-union.

Although several SJS graduation classes of the Sitka institution have been honored in the past, no class of the former Presbyterian school has held a re-union as such. The re-union being planned by the SJS Class of 1946 will be the first.

Didrickson, all-time basketball great of SJS and one of the most gifted and famous basketball players of Southeast, stated that a full program is being planned for the re-union. The plans are being coordinated in Sitka and consists of the following:

Chairman—Herb Didrickson
Housing and Transportation—Irene Benson Jimmy and Gladys Paul Daley

Programs and Activities—Henry Benson, Bud Widmark and Freddie Boyd

Invitations—Gil Truitt
Former staff members of the 1940 era have been extended invitations along with famous graduates of the school.

Didrickson stated that all former members of the Class of 1946, whether or not they graduated with the class, are being invited to the re-union. Class members include the following:

From Sitka: Herb Didrickson, Nick Gray, Henry Benson, Bob

Perkins, Bud Widmark, Irene Benson Jimmy and George Dick From Metlakatla: Ed Benson, Dave Leask, Francis Haldane, Albin Faber, Arlene Didrickson, Mel Booth and Georgina Burton From Wrangell: Gladys Paul Daley and Imogene Taylor Kuntz

From Craig: Ruth Frank, Blanche Edenshaw and Delbert Charles

From Hydaburg: Bob Sanderson, Frances Hamilton Brown and Phyllis Edenshaw

From Ketchikan: Ruth Kathleen and Freddie Boyd From Kodiak: Lila Gregoroff

From Petersburg: Rosie Cooday Sheldon

From Juneau: Geraldine Martin Williams, Martha Rudolph, Elizabeth Collier

From Hoonah: Ione Felton From Angoon: Harriet Bennett Chilton

From Nome: Bob Eide (John Wagner)

Those deceased are Gideon Duncan, Ed Burton, Joe Truitt, Mike Cook, Fay Cummings, Gloria Natkong Duncan and Hilda Chichenoff. Chairman Herb Didrickson stated that all members have been contacted but three or four may have been over-looked. In that event, Didrickson advised that such people could make contact with the class of 1946 by writing to the following:

Gil Truitt
P. O. Box 196
Mt. Edgecumbe, Alaska 99833

Poetic quote concerning Eskimo ivory carvers

St. Lawrence is famous for its fine ivory carvers and one of them recently clipped this quote by Erik Barnouw from the New York Times Book Review Section:

"Eskimo artists, when they carve ivory, we are told, do not begin by deciding what to carve: They say, 'I wonder what is inside,' as they carve they gradually find out. It was there, waiting for discovery and release."

The poetic quote is taped to the ivory wares display case at the Savoonga Store with the hand inked banner: "Who says?"

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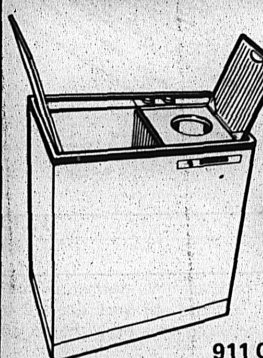
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