

Bead Portrait of Governor Egan

Some time back, Delores Sloan of Ft. Yukon began work on a beadwork portrait of Governor Egan of Alaska.

On May 28 during the Democratic State Convention, Delores presented the finished portrait to the governor on behalf of the Tanana Chiefs.

The remarkably realistic likeness was executed entirely in beads on a felt background, and took a week of intensive work, after the picture was first drawn from a photograph onto the material.

When asked why she chose Gov. Egan as a subject, Delores answered, "I sort of like Gov. Egan. He reminds me a little of

my late dad."

Born and raised in Fort Yukon, Delores was flown to Fairbanks by the Tanana Chiefs after she made it known she would be pleased to make a gift of her work to the governor.

The governor, in a letter of appreciation, commented on the fine workmanship.

"I know that it took many days and countless hours to develop the likeness," he said. "I can't thank you enough."

He added that Mrs. Egan was also delighted and impressed with your outstanding work, and that "it will always be among our most highly treasured possessions."

Borough Election...

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ger than 40 of the 50 states, and the largest local government in the world.

Oil companies have attempted to block formation of the borough. However, in a May decision, the Anchorage courts ruled that the June 20th elections should be held.

The oil companies have brought forth new claims since that decision, and a new hearing is scheduled before the election. ASNA is asking that the decision be thrown out of court.

David Getches of the American Native Legal Fund outlined the advantages of having a borough: "A borough can plan the area to grow the way they (the residents) want it to; they can control their schools and build water and sewer systems."

Campaign speeches for Borough Chairman and Borough Assemblymen emphasized the need for local control. Expressing everyone's feelings, Joe Uppikoun said:

"I feel through education, we can have a beautiful society. I would like to see all Inupiat Eskimos go to school here in the Arctic Slope region."

About half of the candidates for Borough positions were young people, reflecting an increased interest by the young in government.

Reporting on the progress of the Regional Corporation, Mr. Fred Paul, ASNA lawyer, explained that by the end of June, ASNA Limited will have articles of incorporation and a plan for spending \$500,000 which Congress has appropriated for each regional corporation.

The board of directors will be each of the mayors from the five North Slope villages, plus the six-man executive board of ASNA.

With patience, the Wainwright people listened to the legal suits going on in Washington, D.C., and in Anchorage. For people who have settled the North Slope, harvested its resources, and adapted to new developments by oil companies, they showed their ability to be calm in the midst of battle, and humorous even when planning their future.

Following the meeting, the question was not whether there would be a North Slope Borough, but which of the many strong leaders would be elected chairman of the enormous North Slope area.

A day later, the charter flight visited Anaktuvuk Pass. Rain beat down on the school house while Eddie Hopson translated information on oil spillage, regional corporation, village corporation, and land withdrawals into Inupiat.

David Getches explained the concept of borough government.

"As you know, big companies are coming into Alaska. As they come in, it will be important to plan how the area will grow. The borough will also be able to set up zoning. As the villages

grow, it will be important to be able to say: 'Here there will be a church; here housing.' It will also be important for you to be able to protect your way of life.

"If this is not done, the oil companies... can disrupt your hunting and fishing. Another thing you can do as a borough is to build a good educational system. For the first time you will have control of your schools throughout the North Slope.

"For the first time your children will be able to go to high school on the North Slope. You can do this because you will have power to govern your own affairs, which you do not have now. By coming together with all the people of the North Slope, you will be able to speak with a strong voice."

On the same ballot, North Slope people will vote for Borough Chairman. Eben Hopson, one of the strong candidates for that office, left his job as Special Assistant to the Governor to run.

In a short election speech, Mr. Hopson said he could work with confidence because of his experience in the legislature.

Peter Tagarook from Wainwright, running for the same office, told the people that he knows the living conditions of the Native people and that is why he is running. No candidates from either Point Hope or Anaktuvuk Pass were on the ballot because of poor communications between the villages.

However, spaces were left on the ballot for write-in candidates Charlie Edwardson, Jr. who was not listed on the ballot will be a write-in candidate for the office of Borough Chairman.

Following the lengthy meeting, the charter took off in a rain shower and headed for Barter Island, where Kaktovik, the farthest east village in the proposed borough, is located. Basic issues were again presented to the villagers.

By this time, Mr. Fred Paul, ASNA lawyer, was taking throat lozenges to enable him to speak. Eddie Hopson continued translating for the speakers, and several tape recorders were in use.

The meeting ended late that night with campaign speeches. Expressing the feelings of everyone, John Nusunginya, a candidate for Borough Assembly and the State Legislature, said:

"I want to see a good borough in which each and every one of us could be of some help."

Education and experience have brought Inupiat Eskimos to the Arctic Slope to this final stage in their development — local control by the people themselves. In the two or three years needed to make a North Slope Borough a reality, the Eskimo people have shown their ability and willingness to assume responsibility for their land in an orderly and democratic manner.

Moore Asks Christiansen to Resign

Rep. Martin Moore, D - Emmonak, has asked for the resignation of a fellow legislator, Sen. Ray Christiansen of Bethel.

Sen. Christiansen requested and was granted an excuse for the remainder of the session in order to attend to the press of his own business affairs. Christiansen operates an air taxi service out of Bethel.

Moore personally approached

Sen. Christiansen and urged him not to return home.

"The House," said Moore, "has passed most of the major legislation so far and much will now go to the Senate. Sen. Ray Christiansen is my senator, District 19 and 14 - 12,000 people that depend on that vote to get secondary education, to get bond bills for 24 million dollars of airports, to construct and build high schools in his community in Bethel and my community in Bethel."

Moore feels that passage of these bills is crucial to the bush and that every vote in the Senate counts.

Moore told Christiansen, "Ray, you should not go home. You should not leave Juneau. But you should resign your post if you do go home."

According to Moore, Christiansen refused to resign under any circumstances.

Christiansen's resignation would open the way for the

appointment of a replacement, so that the missing post could be filled by someone else, perhaps Moore himself, who feels that the work in the House is secure at this point.

Moore pointed out that Christiansen has served in the Legislature for twelve years and had never deserted before. "He took these 12,000 votes and said, 'These belong to me. They do not belong to the people that voted for me.' Then he put them in his pocket and went home."

BBNA Corp. ...

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village corporations.

The Board of Directors must also request by resolution that the Secretary of the Interior release funds to the BBNA for organizational purposes, village and regional land selection and repayment of debts.

Health Service...

(Continued from page 1)

a new era of cooperation between tribal governments and federal agencies, an era of productive exchange and sensitive listening.

Dr. Johnson is happily turning over more and more of the functions of his department to the National Indian Health Board. He strongly urges the members to get more involved, to become more vocal, and to take a hard look at where Congress is going on Indian legislation and appropriation of funds for Indian health services.

He mentioned S-1573, the Indian Take-Over Bill, which proposes that any time a tribe wanted to take over a government program and demonstrated its ability to do so, the agency would have 120 days to turn over the program to the tribe.

"It appears," he said, "that Congress is no way going to buy that bill."

More possible and immediately practical is a bill proposed by Senator Jackson, S-3157, which provides authority for the various federal agencies such as the BIA and the IHS to contract with individual tribes for specific services, to carry out certain functions, and to provide grants for the tribes to develop management capacity.

"This bill" said Dr. Johnson, "would allow us to give up our 1910 BIA Indian Act authority."

There are many more steps into the future that are needed. The National Indian Health Board hopes to make many of these come about sooner by direct contact with the federal agencies.

Nathan Little Soldier, Chairman of the NIHB, spoke to the assembled group.

In the large room at Fairbanks Inn were representatives from the Cherokee, Arapahos, Sioux, Navajo, Black Feet, Athabascans, Eskimo and virtually every tribe in the United States.

"When we walk out that door," said Little Soldier at the end of the session, "we walk hand in hand."

Urging his members to take the kind of direct action Dr. Johnson recommended, Little Soldier said: "If we sit back and wait for the Senators to take action, we will jeopardize our organizations."

The National Indian Health Board is definitely not sitting back. It seems clear that they will go a long way toward making Indian self-determination more than a political catchword.

Sea Mammal...

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reach a satisfactory solution for Alaskans who depend on ocean mammals for their very existence, I am, nevertheless, filing a minority report in an effort to overcome the actions of well-meaning but uninformed persons who are attempting to place harsh and unbearable restrictions on our Alaskan Natives," Stevens said.

What Is Stereotype? ...

(Continued from page 2)

prisingly, it chooses the styles of its own groups, so defined that they can only be imperfectly approximated by members of other groups. The clearest example is the high value that has been placed on white skin, which automatically diminishes the prestige, and life chances of large groups and entire cultures."

Grace Slwooko Chosen..

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"After that year I gave up," she says, "And off to my home village I went."

She married Joe Slwooko in 1950 and they had nine children. Joe was killed in a Nome truck accident more than two years ago.

Of her work, Mrs. Slwooko says:

"To me, writing is an art, if I only learn more words... when I see something beautiful, I just couldn't keep from doing something... writing them down answers this thirst in my lonely life. Everything seems boring and is wasted when I don't put them down. So writing just comes in handy."

Even while she was raising her children, Mrs. Slwooko found time to make notes — "what some dearest child would say" — "sometimes even using shorthand in her diary. Now, she says, she has "piles of paper junk at home."

"But all that was like happy to me," she continues. Of course, poems cheer me up; when they come to my mind, I just smile and cheer up."

Mrs. Slwooko says she feels more comfortable at her home in Gambell than any other place

mostly because of her height — four feet 11½ inches tall," she writes. "Although I like big places and long, long hallways and telephones and many other convenient things of big cities.

"And I like schools where they teach writing."

Letters and words "are useful for everything," she continues. "So that's why they are so precious, — they are so little and can tell lots! I can even put my thoughts down and put them in a little folded paper called an envelope and send them away. My, see how important writing is. That's why I pursue it."

Mrs. Slwooko notes that "it wasn't long ago we learn this English," her father being among the "first kids to go to school."

She says she always speaks Eskimo at home.

The diminutive Eskimo says she sometimes waits for chances to write, but there is so much to write any time that "all writing is precious" to her.

Again emphasizing her feelings about writing, Mrs. Slwooko says "I feel when things are not written, precious time is wasted."

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