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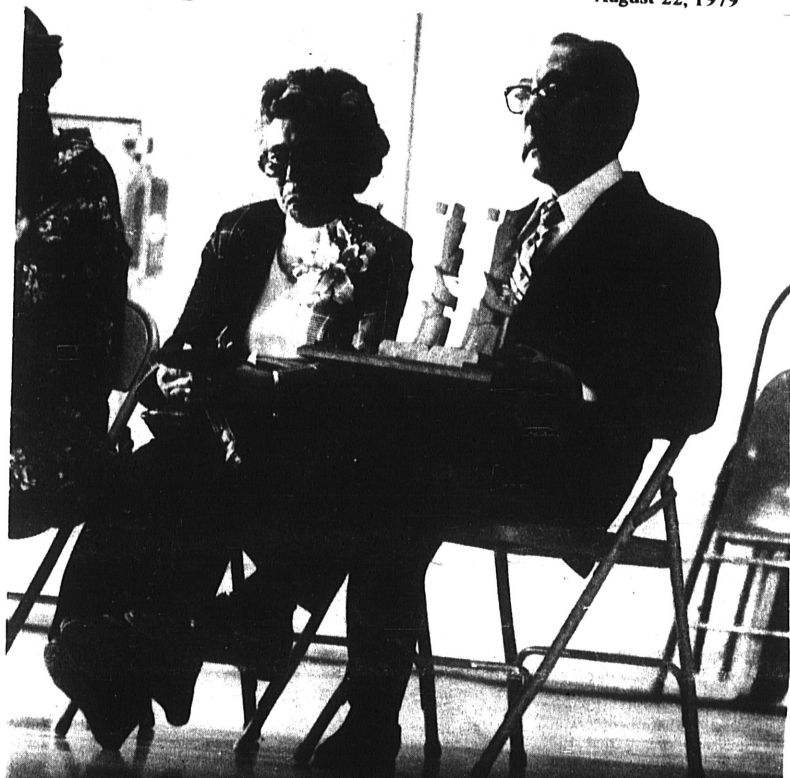
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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage — Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks — Unanguq Tuniktaug The Aleuts Speak — Ut Kah neek Informing and Reporting — Yupit Kanlaurciat The Way Eskimos Talk

August 22, 1979

Anchorage, Alaska



Mayor Eben Hopson Day celebrated

Hundreds of people paid a moving tribute to Eben Hopson on August 15 while Barrow celebrated Mayor Eben Hopson Day. The Congressional and State leadership, Native Corporate leaders, family and friends gave testimonials to Hopson's long history of public service, Civic and Native leadership to a large crowd of Barrowites and visitors in the Barrow high school gymnasium.

The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, which dedicated their award-winning headquarters building in ceremonies the same day, was the host for the celebration. Many highly placed dignitaries spoke of Hopson's vision and leadership in the Native movement, the Inuit Circumpolar effort, in State Government, during the settlement of Alaska Native land claims, and in the organization and leadership of the North Slope Borough.

The Mayor and his wife, Rebecca and Hopson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Hopson, warmly greeted notables and friends who gathered to honor the veteran leader.

A proclamation from Governor Jay Hammond was read which declared August 15 to be "Mayor Eben Hopson Day" in Alaska. Routine passengers on the Wien Boeing jets to and from the world's largest Eskimo community were very surprised to notice the State's top political, business and Native leadership all travelling on the same flight.

Guests, several of whom had come as far away as Washington, D.C., joined hundreds of persons from the community for a feast which included ham, turkey, and Eskimo foods.

The salute to Hopson attracted so many V.I.P.'s to Barrow that it took a spokesman for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation 15 minutes to introduce them all.

Stapleton/Klamser photo

Dodges questions

AFN grills Sommerville

Although he apologized if some members of the Native community might have found some of his remarks offensive, State Game Director Ron Sommerville last Friday refused to apologize for making them or for his opposition to federal oversight of fish and game management in Alaska.

At issue was a speech Sommerville made on July 25 to the Alaska Outdoor Association, a group vociferously opposed to subsistence amendments contained in D-2 legislation pending in Congress and, apparently, as set forth in current State policy.

That speech prompted Gov. Jay S. Hammond to call for an investigation of Sommerville's remarks, which the Governor called "at best inappropriate and at worst inflammatory."

Sommerville made his stand before an angry meeting of the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Friday afternoon.

Among other statements, Sommerville was reported saying at that meeting that efforts made on behalf of subsistence represented nothing more than a "front to cover the unholy

alliance between the Natives and the preservationists." Sommerville and his boss, Fish and Game Commissioner Ron Skoog, have since said those reports were erroneous and his comments before the association were taken out of context.

Sommerville brought to the AFN special meeting a purported transcript of his July 25 remarks, and that transcript did not contain the exact phrase that was reported. The transcript however, contained numerous deletions where (See SOMMERVILLE, Page 3)

TV task force sees bush needs

By LAURY ROBERTS

A telecommunications task force has recommended to Gov. Jay Hammond that the three-year-old TV demonstration project continue to be funded by the State at the same level for the next few years until commercial broadcasters can distribute the programming instead.

The state will have to stay in the telecommunications business if bush communities are to receive television programming in the future.

"The recommendations make common sense," said Lt. Governor Terry Miller, head of the task force. "We recognize the unique circumstances of bush Alaska.

Expansion of TV service to rural communities is complicated by several factors: determining a criteria for deciding what villages and towns should be in line for service; whether the State should offer programs in competition with existing cable companies; and who will pick up the cost.

The Governor's office of Telecommunications (GOT) was disbanded July 1 and the project is now split between three state entities. The task force of State officials and private broadcasters was formed to shape the future of TV in Alaska.

The Department of