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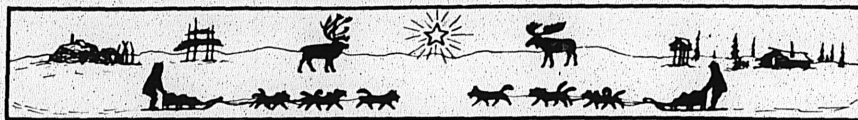
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Vol. 13, No. 51

Wednesday, December 22, 1976

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Chenega: village that refuses to die

**resettlement goal persists
despite tragedy and years
of bureaucratic run-around**

by Jeffrey R. Richardson
Anchorage Bureau Chief

After twelve years of wishing, waiting and knocking on bureaucratic doors, the people of Chenega may soon have a village again. The village was destroyed by a tidal wave which rolled into Prince William Sound after the 1964 earthquake.

Nick Kompkoff, Sr., president of the Chenega Corporation, said last week that construction of a new village, might begin next year.

Gail Evanoff, secretary of the Chenega Corporation, commented there was always talk of moving back to the old site, "but no hope to get there, they saw no way." After the quake, the Chenega people were relocated in Tatitlek, Cordova and Anchorage.

Some Chenegans didn't give up hope of moving back. Kompkoff said in the 12 years since the quake, "I have never given up my residency, I always showed my home as Chenega."

The Chenega people decided this summer not to return to the old village site, but to rebuild in a new location on Crab Bay. The land claims act and regulations allow residents of villages vacated for various

reasons to reestablish at new location.

Attempts to rebuild the village have been hampered by slow-moving state and federal agencies and confusion over the authority of the village corporation, set up by the land claims act and the village council, set up by the Indian Reorganization Act of the 1930's.

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Sealaska opens office

Sealaska Corporation has opened a Northwest Office in Seattle to provide information and services for its Native Alaskan stockholders living in

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IN A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN several years ago in Chevak by photographer Bud Smith, Mr Michael Nayagak displays the private spiritual quality which is so much an integral part of the Christmas celebration in many rural Alaskan communities.

Jamie Love tackles Native corporation

From our Anchorage Bureau

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group has asked the

U. S. Attorney for Alaska to investigate political contributions made by a company owned by the Bering Straits Native Corporation.

In a December 15th letter to U. S. Attorney G. Kent Edwards, the group's director, James Love, said Anchorage Trailer Sales owned by Bering Straits, reported \$5,550 in contributions to candidates for state and local office in the

last election. He added that one candidate reported a direct contribution from Bering Straits.

Love said it appears the contributions may violate Section 6(b) of the land claims act which prohibits money from the Alaska Native Fund being used for political campaigns.

Love told the Tundra Times he spoke with several attorneys.

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AVCP area Otitis Media clinic—

Progress reported against devastating children's disease

In a report to the Board of Directors of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (Rural CAP) in Anchorage last week, Dr. J. David Williams, an otolaryngologist on contract to Rural CAP, termed the October Otitis Media Clinic in Bethel a "success."

"I just got back from visiting 6 of the 11 villages involved in the clinic," said Williams, "and examined 30 of the 50 children who received tube myringotomies in October. With only one exception, the tubes were in place. The Health Aides, Head Start Teachers, and parents were doing an outstanding job of following up on the surgery. Quite honestly, the results were far superior to what I had expected and surpassed the "success rate" experienced with similar surgical procedures conducted in Anchorage."

For some time, Rural CAP has been concerned about the effects of Serous Otitis Media prevalent among preschool children in rural villages. Last December, the Board gave a go-ahead to a staff plan to develop

a demonstration project with Head Start children in the Bethel area.

"We've been concerned, not only because of the near-epidemic proportion of disease throughout rural Alaska and its devastating impact on the child's whole development pattern, but also because neither the State with its Medicaid Program nor the USPHS has been able to do anything about this particular state of the disease," said Rural CAP Deputy Director George Irvin, who also served as project director. "Sure, Tympanoplasty clinics are held after kids get into elementary school, but by that time the critical pre-school developmental years are past, and the damage is permanent."

A demonstration project in every sense of the word, the Bethel Clinic pulled together the resources of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, the State's Communicative Disorders Program, the Public Health Service, Kuskokwim Community College, and Rural

CAP. "If nothing else were to have happened, just getting all these organizations to get together at one time, to deal with one problem, and with one goal testifies to the success of the effort," said Rural CAP Child Development Director Roger Mooney. "The clinical success is encouraging and certainly argues for a major effort."

Rural CAP is planning a follow-up clinic, again in Bethel, next month. The Clinic will concentrate on a more sophisticated surgical procedure, tympanoplastic implantations, to repair or replace children's eardrums which have already yielded to the devastation of Otitis Media.

"We're going to put out a book," said CAP Director Phil Smith. "And we're going to make it required reading for State and Federal Public Health officials and legislative appropriations committees. If we can lick TB, we can get at Otitis Media, a disease that often has long term negative impacts on children."

Wien fighting for Southeast routes

In order No. 76-12-38, the Civil Aeronautics Board denied Wien Air Alaska's request for exemption authorization or a hearing for a route to Seattle VIA Juneau and Ketchikan. They have also ordered Wien to prepare for a hearing on their request for an Anchorage/Seattle route under Docket 28796. This hearing will be a part of the CAB's West Coast Alaska Service investigation.

In response to these actions by the CAB, Wien's Chairman of the Board, Ray Petersen, stated:

"Wien Air Alaska will apply for reconsideration from the CAB concerning our Southeastern route request. We strongly believe that service to Southeastern Alaska should remain under consideration as a part of the West Coast-Alaska service

investigation. We will continue to request an extension to our existing Fairbanks/Juneau route which will allow us to serve Ketchikan and Seattle.

We are still an active applicant for an Anchorage/Seattle route. This will provide our customers in Western and Northern Alaska with the same one carrier service to the West Coast that Southeast Alaska now enjoys. With the rapid development of Interior and Western Alaska currently underway, we would hope that the CAB will see fit to provide one carrier service to these expanding regions of our state.

We would hope that the people of these regions would support Wien Air Alaska in its quest to provide one carrier service to all Alaskan points on its routes."