

the village that refuses to die . . .

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Kompkoff said he had looked into the possibility of moving back to the old village site as early as 1966, but it was not until the passage of the land claims act in 1971 that the effort to reestablish Chenega became serious.

After organizing a village corporation, the Chenegans had to fight for certification, since they were not listed as a village in the land claims act. Several parties, including the U. S. Forest Service and the Sierra Club, protested Chenega's certification.

Finally recognized as a village, the Chenega people were faced with the task of building a community from scratch. This has required seeking the help of numerous state and federal agencies. "What agency haven't we contacted?" Evanoff asks.

Frequently, assistance to the villagers denied or delayed because they are not physically located or have not yet received their interim land conveyance under the land claims act.

One frustrating scenario with federal agencies went like this: Chenega approached the Bureau of Indian Affairs for housing assistance. The BIA said they would have to contact the Army Corps of Engineers about water supply at the village site. The Corps said they would have to consult with the Public Health Service on the matter of water supply. The Public Health Service said they could not provide assistance because the village was not connected with a housing

authority.

Pat Kay, of the North Pacific Rim Native Corporation, the non-profit corporation for the Chugach region, commented that the agencies "didn't lend the assistance they should have."

Kompkoff said on one occasion, when a meeting with government officials was going badly, he told them, "If we decide to move down there and just have outhouses and no running water somebody's going to have to do something."

Kompkoff said his family had planned to move to the new site this year if they had a good fishing season. Fishing was poor, but Kompkoff acknowledges that the people would rather work out the details before the move. "We want to plan, that's why we're talking to all the agencies," he said. "We didn't have a good fishing season and we decided that we would wait and wait and wait."

Another problem that confronted the Chenegans was organizing themselves to deal with state and federal agencies. When the Chenega Corporation was formed, it was difficult to plan economic ventures because the village did not actually exist. At the same time, it was recognized that the village corporation could not pay the bills for setting up a new village.

A possible solution was found in the village council, established under the Indian Reorganization Act during the 1930's. After years of dormancy, the IRA Council was reactivated in 1971. It was not until the Indian Self-Determination and

Education Assistance Act was signed in 1975 that the usefulness of the council became clear.

The council itself, however, has had problems. Chenega was overlooked when the BIA prepared the list of villages organized under the Indian Reorganization Act, a problem that is just now being remedied. Not recognized as an IRA village, the council has not been eligible for funds to carry out its duties. With one council member in Tatitlek, four in Cordova and one in Anchorage, Kompkoff said, "We have no funds for per diem or travel to get the people together."

Kompkoff said the IRA council and the village corporations now have a much better idea of their jobs. It is understood that the council will seek the means to rebuild the village, while the corporation will work to make Chenega economically sound.

Separate surveys conducted since 1971 by Chugach Natives, Inc., Alaska Federation of Natives and the Department of Community and Regional Affairs indicate that most of the 68 people who enrolled to Chenega want to move there when it is rebuilt. Kompkoff is convinced that it can be a viable village again. He said the corporation has looked into establishing a fuel stop for boats in the area, a forestry products industry, and contracting to manage the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp. salmon hatchery near the Crab Bay site.

The council is seeking planning and technical assistance

grants, as well as funds for labor and materials from the BIA, the Economic Development Administration, the Rural Development Administration and the Economic Development Law Project Report (Berkeley Law Review Committee).

Chenega has also sought the assistance of the U. S. Forest Service for training services, Standard Oil of California for planning a fuel depot, and the Division of Aviation. The Division of Aviation has promised to help the village plan a small airstrip until a larger one can be constructed. Chugach Natives, Inc. and North Pacific Rim Native Corp. are providing assistance in grant writing and community planning.

Does it seem as if Chenega is finally making progress?

"Well," Kompkoff said, "Yes and no." He said there are so many meetings and so many agencies that sometimes it is difficult to tell if there has been progress. Still, Kompkoff wants to "see it through to the end." He added that he is motivated because his family and the younger people enrolled to Chenega are interested in moving.

"If I didn't believe the village could be a community again, I wouldn't be involved," he concluded.

Natives chose corporate structure ...

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The shareholders will care more about the corporation because they will identify more with it, Jackson suggested. Shareholders of other corporations sell when the business turns bad, but dissident shareholders of Native corporations will hold onto their stock and fight to get persons they trust on the board of directors, he said.

Jackson also prefers self-determination to control by a government agency. "There are many dedicated BIA employees who have stuck their necks out to work for the interests of Alaska Natives. But, he added, "The BIA is like any other bureaucracy. If it were to solve all the problems it is formed to solve, the bureaucrats will lose their jobs. So an attitude develops—look, I will help you as long as you don't get too well."

No matter how many good people work for such a bureaucracy, they become responsible to the bureaucracy, not to the people they work for, Jackson said. For this reason, Jackson said, most Natives he knows prefer to manage their own affairs.

Surveying and Mapping Convention set

The 1977 Alaska Surveying and Mapping Convention will be held January 24th through 29th at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska.

The selected theme of the convention is "A look through the lens" which will incorporate dual short courses covering conventional surveying by ground methods and surveying from aerial plat forms.

The short courses will run from January 24th through 26th and the convention will begin January 27th and conclude the 29th.

Jamie Love ...

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as well as Bering Straits officials before requesting the investigation. He acknowledged "It's going to be a very complicated legal issue."

Love said his group had discovered the Anchorage Trailer Sales contributions during a review of all contributions made during the last election. "We want to know whether they can make or can't make contributions," he said.

Bering Straits officials could not be located for comment.

U.S. Attorney Edwards said he felt it was best not to comment and would not say directly whether he had yet received Love's letter. He was aware of the law pertaining to political contributions.

Edwards said the Federal Bureau of Investigation, rather than the Interior Department, would probably be responsible for conducting such an investigation. He added that simply because something comes to the attention of his office, does not mean a crime has been committed.

In a press release announcing the request for an investigation, the Alaska Public Interest Research Group said Anchorage Trailer Sales and two other mobile home companies were sued in October by the State of Alaska for anti-competitive sales. That case is still pending. The group noted that Anchorage Trailer Sales paid Sam Kito \$4,500 to lobby against legislation that was unfavorable to the mobile home business.

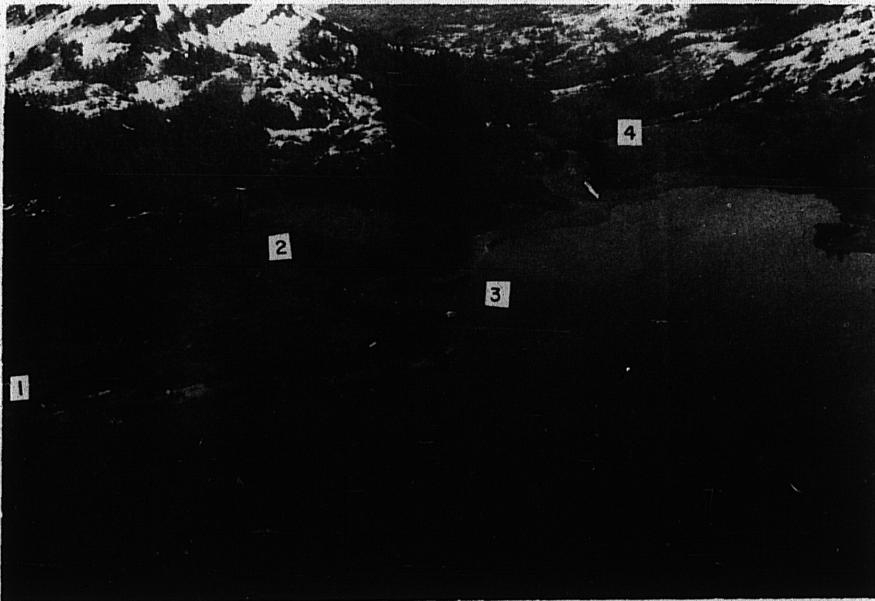
The law, if passed, would have prevented the practice of tying the rental of space in a mobile home court to the purchase of a new mobile home from a specific dealer. The group contends that Kito also tried to stop an investigation by the Attorney General into mobile home practices.

Kito said he was paid to lobby by the legislation, but denied he tried to stop the investigation. "No, they're wrong. I was involved to try to resolve the situation," Kito said.

Love acknowledged that Kito had done nothing illegal, but said his group was concerned that Native corporations may be using their political clout to protect their investments. In his opinion, he said it was improper for the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives to be involved in the mobile home issue.

"A whole bunch of legislators told me they'd vote whichever way Sam Kito told them to," Love said.

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group was founded in 1974. It is a non-profit organization.



PROPOSED NEW SITE—Crab Bay, near the old village site of Chenega, is a likely prospect for the new townsite, the annotated photo points out: (1) Port Benney, (2) potential housing area, (3) proposed small boat harbor, and (4) a likely airfield location.

—Pacific Rim Photo

First meeting

State Council for bilingual education formed

by Ramona N. Suetopka-Duerre

On December 13 and 14 the State Advisory Council for Bilingual-Bicultural Education held its first meeting at the Anchorage International Inn. Eight agencies involved in bilingual bicultural education activities gave reports to the council. Participating agencies included: Mauneluk Association, Teacher Certification Board, Center for Equality of Opportunity in

Schooling, Sheldon Jackson College, Title VII Materials Development Center in Fairbanks, Alaska Native Language Center, X-CED Cross-cultural Education Program, and the Kuskokwim Community College.

The council members were appointed by Dr. Marshall Lind, State Commissioner of Education. The council was established to advance the establishment of bilingual-bicultural education programs in the regional educa-

tion attendance areas and organized borough school districts. And to make recommendations to the State Board of Education on policies and practices for bilingual-bicultural education statewide.

Members on the council include: Ray Colling (McGrath), Mary Gregory (Bethel), Bernadette Steve (St. Marys), Elaine Ramos (Fairbanks), Bill Tegoseak (Barrow), Robert McCopnell

(Hoonah), Ernest Casalucan (Kodiak), Maxine Richert (Juneau), Evan Thomas (Buckland), and Elmer Ipalook (Tok).

Two major items of concern the council has identified include: bilingual teacher certification and more parent/community involvement in the bilingual-bicultural education programs.