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Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage
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Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak
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Fairbanks, Alaska

EVENTS HAUNT SLOPE BOROUGH

Native Task Force to Meet Next Monday

A task force composed of one representative from each of the 12 regional areas defined in the claims settlement act will meet in Anchorage Feb. 7 to determine the future of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

AFN, established primarily to pursue a land claims settlement, must now be redefined in terms of the role it is to play in the post-settlement era.

According to a spokesman for AFN in Anchorage, the 12 regional organizations are now in the process of selecting representatives for the task force.

Following their meeting in Anchorage, members of the task force will meet with Harrison Loesch, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Interior, who will be in Anchorage on Feb. 8 and 9 to confer with native leaders on such matters as the transfer of public lands under the claims settlement act.

Identical Bills Would Aid Native Groups

Identical bills introduced in the Senate and House of the Seventh State Legislature would provide for "An Act creating the Alaska Regional Corporation Organizational Loan Fund."

The bills—Senate Bill 284, introduced by Donald R. Young, and House Bill 499, introduced by George H. Homan—have been referred to committee.

Under the provisions of these bills low interest loans would be made available "to promote and facilitate the creation and organization by the existing regional Alaska Native associations of the 12 regional corporations" called for in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Local Affairs Agency would administer the loan fund, adopt and enforce regulations and oversee the use of money borrowed from the fund.

In addition, two appropriation bills—house Bill 533, introduced by George H. Homan, and House Bill 516, introduced by the Rules Committee by request of the Office of the Governor—were introduced in the House and have also been referred to committee.

House Bill 516 calls for an appropriation of \$610,000 from the general fund to the Office of the Governor for payments required under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for the fiscal year ending in June.

And House Bill 533 calls for an appropriation of \$5,626,000 from the general fund to carry out the purposes of "An Act

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MARTHA CAMILLE—This is the poster the Alaska Federation of Natives utilized to help win the fight for the settlement of the Alaska Native land claims. Tim Kennedy took the picture but didn't know who the Eskimo woman was until a long time later. AFN is selling the poster and the sales are doing well, and Martha will receive a royalty which may amount to \$2,000.

—Photo by TIM KENNEDY

Martha Helps Natives Win Claims

By LAEL MORGAN

Martha Camille helped Alaska Natives win their land claims settlement but for a long time no one could discover her name.

"She was a mystery woman," recalls Tim Kennedy who took the photo of her used on the land claims poster. "She was on a bush plane with me but even the Wien station man who loaded her, didn't know who she was."

Kennedy supervises the SKY-RIVER program run by the Community Enterprise Development Corp. to establish direct communications between rural

Alaska and the government.

He photographed Mrs. Camille because he liked her face but didn't remember to ask her name until after she'd disappeared. When the picture was chosen for the cover of a book on land claims published by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Kennedy started tracking.

It wasn't easy. "She was in Bethel all the time we were filming there but didn't see her. I circulated her picture for months. Finally someone in Bethel identified it."

She lives in Sheldon Point Her Eskimo name is Aagwaq

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Gely Aids Native Artists--

French Artist Helps Artists 'To Run Own Show'

Canadian artist Gabriel Gely sees his role in Alaska as that of helping Alaskan Indian and Eskimo artists to "run their own show."

Gely, a native of France, was former Arts and Crafts Development Officer with the Canadian Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He is now with the staff of Community Enterprise Development Corporation, the Shismaref Co-

operative.

Gely was in Fairbanks last week to teach Alaska natives how to operate a Native store. This was part of a two-week workshop in marketing and business principles held at the Fairbanks Native Community Center.

For twenty years Gely, who speaks fluent Eskimo, worked in the Canadian Arctic, initiating community-owned arts and crafts projects and acting as mar-

Sen. Hensley Believes Egan's Tax Plan Could Complicate Slope Plan

By NORMA BOWKETT
Staff Writer

How close is the North Slope Borough to becoming a reality?

Recent developments have complicated the matter.

In his State of the State message Governor William A. Egan proposed legislation which would divide the unorganized borough area of the state into administrative units and provide a uniform taxation on these units.

Democratic State Senator Willie Hensley of Kotzebue believes Egan's proposals may have an adverse effect on the outcome of the petition for incorporation of the proposed North Slope Borough.

He took the floor of the Senate on January 21 to ask the Alaska State Legislature to "defer any consideration of a tax bill for the unorganized borough, if and when it is presented by the Administration," until after the Local Boundary Commission hearing in Anchorage on February 24, 25 and 26.

Byron Mallott, head of the Local Affairs Agency told the Tundra Times that the Local Boundary Commission "may or may not make a final decision at that time."

Proposed legislation could have an impact on any action that the commission might take, he said.

Mallott said that the Local Affairs Agency has reported to the commission that "in the judgment of the Local Affairs

Agency the proposed North Slope Borough meets the standards for incorporation," but that his agency has made no official recommendation to the Commission.

"We will leave that to the judgment of the Local Boundary Commission," he said.

"We can't tell at this time," Mallott said, what effect legislation might have on the future of the proposed North Slope Borough.

Willie Hensley might not agree with him.

Hensley told the Senate, "I am vitally concerned about the effect the Administration's proposed plan might have on the deliberations of the Local Boundary Commission next month when they meet to consider approval or disapproval of the incorporation of the North Slope Borough.

"I am also concerned about the levy as a possible prelude of things to come in Native economic investment in future years," he added.

He quoted from Article X of the state constitution that "The

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Cash Contributions to Groups Urged by Egan

JUNEAU—Governor William A. Egan urged this week that the state's cash contributions to the Alaska Native claims settlement be distributed directly to native groups as they are organized and be treated as advances

against the state's ultimate contribution.

Otherwise, Egan said in a letter to Interior Secretary Rogers Morton. "These Alaskan funds which are rightfully for the use of the Alaska Natives will sit in the federal treasury for approximately two years, with the federal government the beneficiary of the accumulated interest."

The native settlement act approved by Congress requires the state to deposit in the Alaska Native fund of the U.S. Treasury the state's share of settlement monies—a percentage of royalties received on mineral production—within 60 days after they are received by the state.

But the act provides no payments from the fund to Native corporations until the end of a two-year period required for enrollment of Natives.

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