

# State wants input on land selection, will hold meet

For the past two years the Department of Natural Resources has been engaged in a project designed to identify lands throughout Alaska which may be suitable for state selection.

The department has developed and used a comprehensive resource assessment to put together a "pool" of 45 million acres for possible selection and plans to further refine this pool to determine the best possible lands for selection. The state hopes to receive conveyance to a large portion of its remaining Statehood Act land entitlement (about 30 million acres) as part of a final d-2 lands bill.

As part of the land selection project, the department will be holding some 19 public meetings throughout the state. The meetings will serve several purposes. First of all, it is important to explain to Alaskans the

**WASILLA:** February 23, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Wasilla Senior High School.

**GLENALLEN:** February 25, 1978 -- 10:00 a.m. -- Glenallen High School.

**DILLINGHAM:** February 27, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Council Chambers.

**NEW STUYAHOK:** March 2, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m.

**NAKNEK:** March 1, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Borough Assembly Chambers.

**BETHEL:** March 8, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Council Chambers.

**MCGRATH:** March 9, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Hall.

**GALENA:** March 10, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Hall.

**RAMPART:** March 11, 1978 -- 1:00 p.m.

**CIRCLE:** March 12, 1978 -- 1:00 p.m.

**FAIRBANKS:** March 13, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- University of Alaska -- Wood Center Ballroom.

**DELTA JUNCTION:** March 14, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Delta School.

**JUNEAU:** March 20, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Borough Assembly Chambers.

**NOME:** March 22, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Hall.

**KOTZEBUE:** March 23, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m.

**BARROW:** March 30, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- North Slope Borough Building.

complicated issue of land selections, what the significance of the selections may be and how the state lands will fit in with federal and Native lands in Alaska.

Secondly, the meetings will give the public a chance to review the state's work thus far. The 45 million acre pool of lands which the Department of Natural Resources has identified does not represent selections. Rather, it is a tentative package of general interest areas. The lands in the pool have been chosen for various values which represent potential for settlement, agriculture, forestry, coal, oil and gas, recreation, access, and others.

Third, the department is interested in gathering more local knowledge of these lands as well as hearing people's thoughts concerning the types of lands

and the locations of lands which the state is considering. Since this tentative pool must be refined, the public input gained from these meetings will play an important role in shaping the eventual selection package.

If you have any further questions you may call the Department of Natural Resources, Planning and Research Section in Anchorage (279-5577).

## S.E. Native presidents

The presidents of Southeast Alaska's three principal Native organizations--Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sealaska Corporation and Tlingit & Haida Central Council--met recently in Juneau to outline plans and procedures for ongoing meetings to discuss topics and concerns common to all of their constituents.

What has prompted closer relationships between the organizations are the vast changes taking place in the social and economic structure of Southeast Alaska and implementation of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act; particularly those problems relating to Section 17 (d)(2) of the act, subsistence hunting and fishing and Native land conveyances.

Necessary to resolution of some of the issues are closer communications between the leaders to eliminate duplication of efforts among their organizations. A thorough discussion of goals and objectives is scheduled for later consideration.

The presidents--Frank O. Williams of ANB; John Borbridge, Jr. of Sealaska; and Raymond E. Paddock, Jr. of CCTHIA--have tentatively agreed to meet on a quarterly basis beginning in March.

## VA issues reminder to Korean vets

The Veterans Administration has issued a reminder to nearly 350,000 Korean Conflict veterans to convert their GI insurance policies before their 50th birthday--or lose them.

The average age of these veterans is now 45.5 years.

The insurance in question is the Veterans Special Life Insurance (VSLI) "W" term policy.

VA Chief Benefits Director Dorothy Starbuck said that of the half million VSLI policies issued to Korean Conflict veterans, 332,012 are on the five-year limited convertible term plan.

This policy carries a very low premium rate but cannot be renewed after the veteran's 50th birthday. It can, however, be converted to one of eight permanent plans if the owner acts before the end of the last renewal period.

VA officials say they are encouraged by the response so far to a recent mailing to "W" term VSLI policy owners alerting them to the approaching necessity of converting their insurance if they wish to keep it in force.

"We have received in excess of 10,000 conversion applications and more than 25,000 updated beneficiary and optional settlement designations," a spokesman said.

Chief Benefits Director Starbuck said detailed information and cost figures for each of the permanent plans can be obtained on request from the VA centers where the veteran's insurance records are maintained, or by inquiry at the nearest VA office.

## "First Medicine Man" is old story, new book

"First Medicine Man" is an Athabascan folk tale recently published by O.W. Frost as the first volume in his World Discovery Book series. The tale is about Yobaghu-Talyonunh, an Indian hero who leaves home on a long and solitary journey to discover the spirit world in which he lives. Once he acquires the power of medicine-making, he is able to assert his superiority over animal adversaries.

As a vehicle to explain customs of the people, the tale is a basic primary source for the study of Athabascan culture, and particularly that of the Upper Tanana River where Arthur R. Wright collected this version in 1924.

But on another level, the tale presents exciting adventures of a legendary Superman who survives by outwitting the Tailman, the Wolverine, the Serpent, the Eagle, and the Silver-tip among others.

The son of a gold miner and his Athabascan wife, Wright became an interpreter for Archdeacon Hudson Stuck and an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church. After serving with his wife Myrtle in missions at Tanana Crossing, Nenana, and Minto, Wright resigned from mission work in 1935 and operated a

transfer business in Nenana until his death in 1948. His widow continues to make her home in Fairbanks today.

Wright first printed his story in four installments in an Episcopal periodical between 1926 and 1930. With illustrations by artist Bill Engels, it is now available in book form for the first time. \$10 cloth edition, \$4.95 paperback.

"Citizen," a second volume in the World Discovery Book series now in press, is the true story of an American boy's two voyages to North Pacific whaling grounds during the years 1843-1849.

According to Frost, only authentic documents of discovery with potential for broad readership will be published by his firm.

This Athabascan tale is available in Anchorage bookstores now and will be available in Fairbanks stores in the near future. The books are also available directly from O.W. Frost.

Interested persons should write:

O.W. Frost  
Dept. T.

2141 Lord Baranof Dr.  
Anchorage, Ak. 99503



Illustration for FIRST MEDICINE MAN by Bill Engels, Fairbanks artist

## WRITE-IN

HELEN LEE

DOYON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Helen is from Tanana, enrolled to Tozitina. Her parents are Hardy and Helen Peters. Helen worked for Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1973 to 1975 and since 1975 has worked for Tanana Chiefs Conference where she is now program coordinator for the Accident and Injury Control Program. She is presently a member of the National American Indian Safety Council Board of Directors and has served on the Board of Directors of Fairbanks Native Association.

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## Heroism medal to Kasilof man

Governor Jay Hammond has presented the State medal for heroism to George Jackinsky of Kasilof.

Hammond said, "Alaska Statutes authorize the making of this state heroism award by the Governor 'in recognition of a valorous and heroic deed performed in the saving of a life.' Last August, George Jackinsky saved two individuals from the wreckage of a burning aircraft at great danger to himself. State Trooper reports indicate without his assistance, the two occupants, who were unable to assist themselves, would have perished.

"This award is made to those who have demonstrated unusual acts of heroism and George Jackinsky certainly qualifies. I am pleased he will be able to attend the awards ceremony in Anchorage to receive in person the honor he deserves."