

Tundra Times Weekly Page

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

AFN Gives Out 5,000 Land Info Pieces

Over 5,000 pieces of information on native land claims were handed out to the hundreds of visitors at the AFN information booth last weekend.

The space was donated to the AFN by the Mall, a large modern enclosed shopping center in Anchorage.

Manning the booth were officials of the AFN who found the most often asked questions were: who does the Governor represent with his position? The State, the people or just himself? What are you native people asking for and why are you asking it?

Many visitors also commented that they had already signed petitions backing positions held by other groups including that of the State, under the impression that they were for endorsement of a native land claims settlement as proposed by the AFN.

Besides the hundreds of signatures added to the AFN petitions, the AFN officials had a multitude of requests for speakers and for additional information.

According to Jim Thomas of AFN, one of the most interesting sidelights was the large number of high school and college students who, while visiting the booth, said they were writing term papers on the native land claims and requested not only more information but that an AFN speaker be sent to their schools.

AFN Joins Anchorage Chamber

The Alaska Federation of Natives has joined the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce.



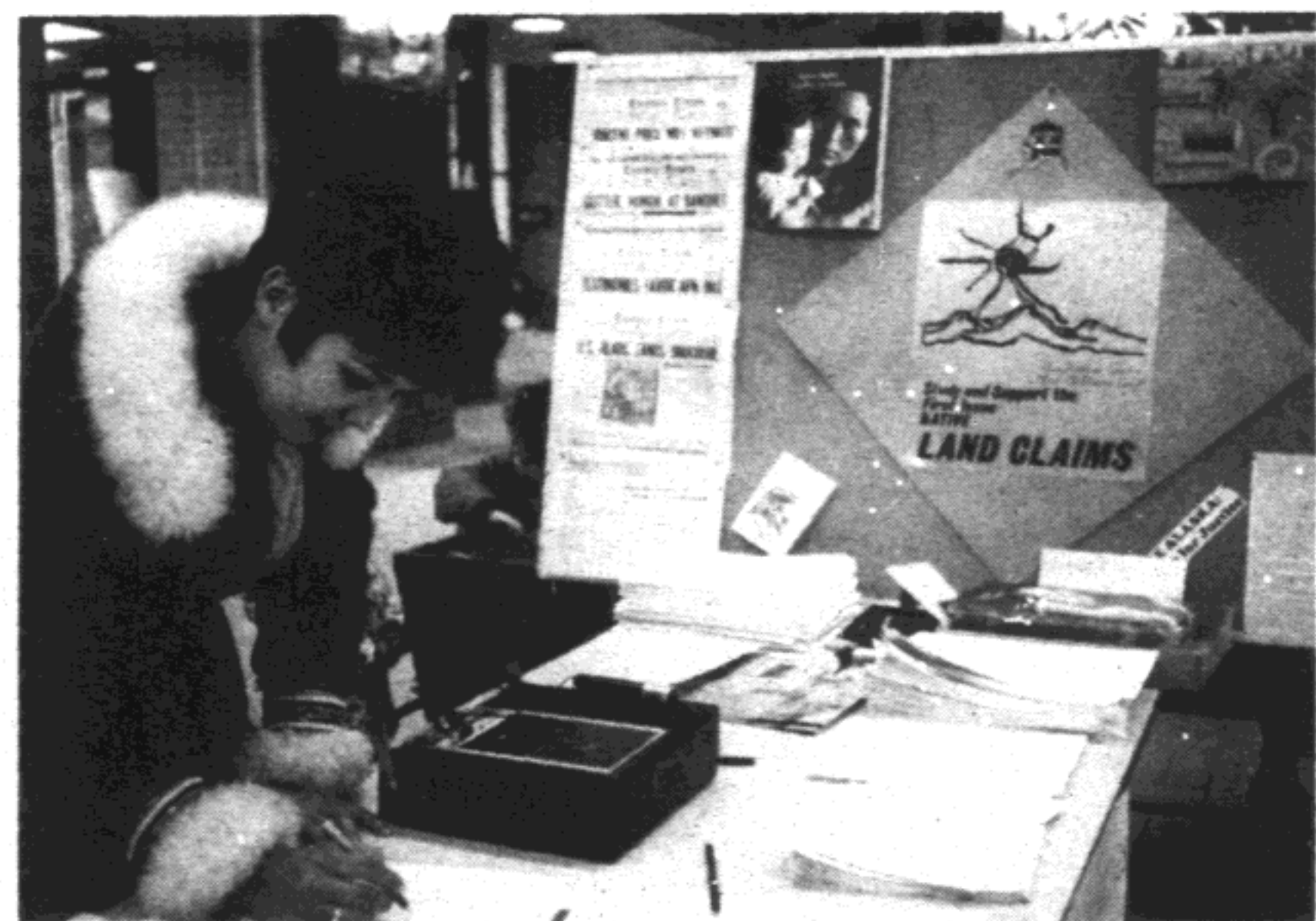
MISS ALASKA VISITS—Gwen Gregg, Miss Alaska 1969 visits AFN booth and is being given a booklet, "Deadline for Justice," by AFN PR man Jim Thomas.

Shucks!— Keith Miller Inks Petition At AFN Booth

What may go down in history as the 1969 War of the Petitions almost came to an abrupt halt last week when Keith Miller endorsed the land claims position taken by the Alaska Federation of Natives instead of that taken by the Governor's Office.

But AFN officers found the signer of their petition was Sgt. Keith Miller of Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. Sgt. Miller was one of the hundreds of visitors to the AFN Information Booth in Anchorage.

Membership certificates were presented at the Chamber's luncheon Monday.



PRETTY GIRL—Miss Blanche Palin is signing the land claims petition at the AFN booth at the Anchorage Mall. Miss Palin is secretary to Jim Thomas.



LEGISLATOR—Rep. Gene Guess of Anchorage is stopping by the AFN booth in Anchorage recently. Rep. Guess may run for Governor of Alaska. Flore Lekanof, left, is handing Guess land claims information.

Alaska's Nest Egg Seen Hatching by Magazine

According to the national business magazine FORBES, not only does the nest egg from oil leases make Alaska now the richest per capita state in the union, but "another half-billion dollars will come to the state once Congress settles the native land claims."

"Between 10 million and 40 million acres of the land currently held by the Department of the Interior will be allocated to native communities along with the cash."

"Once the Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians have their share, the

state will be able to claim from the Federal Government the remaining 109 million acres due to it under the statehood guarantees.

"Even then the Federal Government will continue to own two-thirds of Alaska, assuring a tight grip in Washington, D.C. for those who care to use it. And those oil leases on federal land will continue to be let, if Secretary Hickel has his way. The state gets 90 per cent of the royalty money from federal land oil wells."

AFN Speakers Under Heavy Demand for Speaking Dates

Because of the heavy demand for speakers to discuss native land claims, AFN officers throughout the state will soon be called upon to help lighten the load.

Willie Hensley will represent the AFN's position on land claims at the University of Alaska, (College, Alaska) where a discussion will be hosted by the college's students and professors. Also present will be a spokesman to represent the position on land claims taken by Gov. Keith Miller.

Also scheduled is a talk in Eklutna, sponsored by the

NFPC Backs AFN Land Claims Stand

A provincial meeting of the National Federation of Priests' Councils held in Seattle called upon the Church to intercede with the federal government for protection of the land rights of Indians in Alaska.

The joint provincial meeting of the NFPC adopted a resolution drafted by its social action committee which urged the Church to exert its influence with the federal government "in the matter of the moral and legal rights of the Alaska Federation of Natives' land claims."

The resolution expressed hope the present land claims dispute will not generate into "another sorry repetition" of the government's past treatment of the Indians' rights.

Delegates at the meeting voted to send copies of the resolution to U.S. Secretary of Interior Walter J. Hickel; Gov. Keith H. Miller; Arthur Goldberg, and to the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Sitka T-H Sets Claims Study

Tlingit and Haida Central Council Members Harvey Marvin and Roger Lang of Sitka have organized a native land claims study group. Meeting weekly, it is open to both the Sitka Central Council organization as well as the public.

Claims Publicity

Beginning last Sunday, the Seattle Times started carrying a series of articles written by Stan Patty, which will explore the Alaska native land claims.

"Bridge Builders," a newly formed inter-racial discussion group, to be given December 13.

Speaking engagements already fulfilled were before the Anchorage Toastmasters Club, the Spenard Lions Club and at the University of Alaska (College), where a special student orientation program was held.

Flore Lekanof spoke before the Anchorage J.C.'s, Don Wright before several labor organizations, and both Lekanof and Jim

Thomas were guests at an oil club seminar.

Joe Upicksoun spoke to the Brookings Institution committee which recommended that the group study the effect of a native group study the effect of a native land claims settlement on Alaska.

Any group wishing a speaker please contact the AFN public relations office. The 60-minute Mike Wallace CBS film on Alaska land claims is shown and literature is available.

'Know Your Native Leaders' Points Out Barrow's Eben Hopson

From the northernmost community in the United States comes the 2nd Vice President of the AFN, He is Eben Hopson, Executive Director of the Arctic Slope Native Association.

The 46-year-old Hopson is a member of the City Council of Barrow, has served in the Territorial House of Representatives (1957), was elected state senator (1958-1965), and is a past member of the Democratic Central Committee.

Hopson's father, Alfred Hopson, former trapper, hunter and businessman, was a census taker in 1930 from Pt. Barrow to Demarcation and received a gold medal for excellent work.

Eben is a former heating and furnace mechanic and a heavy equipment operator. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian Women's clubs.

As one of the speakers of the AFN's new Speakers Bureau,



EBEN HOPSON

Hopson will soon appear before groups throughout Alaska on behalf of the native land claims.



NAACP OFFICIAL—Blanch McSmith, president of the Anchorage Chapter of the NAACP is signing the AFN petition. The PR office of the AFN says thousands of petition signatures have been received from the bush.