

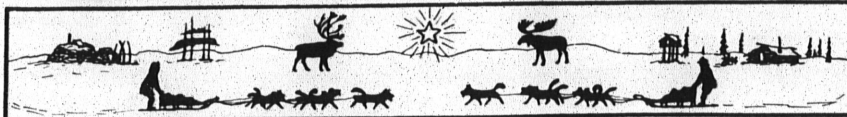
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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Fairbanks, Alaska

INDIAN WATER RIGHTS GAIN



SOLEMN MOMENT—Governor William A. Egan is standing by the huge 136-foot Kake totem pole with local citizens in their tribal regalia at

the totem raising ceremonies last week. The totem is known as the tallest authentic pole in the world.

Special Office Created, Veeder May Be Director

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
Washington Correspondent

Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton, during a press conference in Washington on Monday, announced the creation of a National Indian Water Rights Office.

The action was taken by the Administration, explained Morton, in response to the need for better protection of Indian water rights.

The new office, he stated, will be funded in the amount of two million dollars during its first year of operation. The U.S. Geological Survey, the Interior Department Solicitor's Office, and Indian representatives appointed with the consent of the Tribal Chairman's Conference will provide the expertise required in functioning to protect Indian water rights.

Demands from Indian leaders for better protection of Indian water resources have intensified in recent months. Bureau of Indian Affairs water rights authority William H. Veeder has become a symbol of the water

issue.

In August, Veeder received an ultimatum from BIA Deputy Commissioner John O. Crow. He was directed to either accept a transfer to Arizona or be fired.

On August 30, Veeder refused the transfer and stated, he would "not participate in the destruction of the Indian Tribes occupying those Reservations" which rely on the Southwest waterways for their existence.

The order which would transfer Veeder has been rescinded, Morton said. Louis R. Bruce, Commissioner of the BIA, told the Indian Press Association that Veeder will "almost certainly" assist the new office, either as its chief legal counsel or as its director.

Veeder, with 30 years of experience in water law with the Interior Department, the Justice Department, and the State of Colorado, originated the concept of a separate agency to protect Indian resources.

The 60 year-old water authority has charged that a conflict of interest exists in the Interior Department. While Interior is charged with the protection of Indian rights, it has also been conducting programs which result in the reduction of Indian resources, said Veeder.

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times they remember the storm plagued island threatened by high water—covering the airfield by the side of the village's small lake.

Gambell airport is the best in this western part of Alaska—a paved runway with a brightly shining double row of landing lights to point the way to planes in the darkness.

"The mountain is our only

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Gambell Fears Seismic Waves— Village Asks Evacuation If Cannikin Shot Goes

By MADELYN SHULMAN
Staff Writer

GAMBELL-ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND—Across a mile and a half of barren tundra behind the small village of Gambell is a large wide mountain—Sevukok. This is the place where the people of the village bury their dead, hunt for birds and seal and flee from bad weather which flings tidal waves across their

lowland ocean village.

Tidal wave is a great fear in this village—just now experiencing a surge of economic growth. Last month, in Fairbanks, City Council President John Apangalok asked that his village be evacuated if the AEC explodes its Cannikin blast on Amchitka island in the Aleutians.

Atomic energy is a foreign concept to St. Lawrence Islanders. Tidal waves are not. Many

Less Than 50 Banquet Tickets Left

At the TUNDRA TIMES deadline on Tuesday, there were less than 50 tickets left to the ninth annual TUNDRA TIMES Banquet, which is a strong indication that the event will be sold out.

Mrs. Jeane Dixon, famed prophethess and astrologer, has notified Editor Howard Rock that she will arrive from New York on Saturday's Pan Am flight to speak on the theme "Children: Our Innocent Heirs."

Preceded by a cocktail hour beginning at 7:00 p.m., the banquet will begin Saturday at 8:00

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Senator Hensley Discusses Schools In Washington

Senator Willie Hensley of Kotzebue just returned from Washington, D.C. during which time he met with various government officials concerning school construction by the BIA in Barrow, Kotzebue and the Kobuk Valley.

He reports that the BIA now has planning funds for Barrow and they hope to get appropriations to begin high school construction by 1973.

Senator Hensley and Director of Regional Schools and Boarding Home Program, Jim Harper, met with Jim Hawkins, BIA education chief, and members of

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Don Wright Reports On Claims Status

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
1675 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
September 25, 1971

REPORT ON
ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS STATUS
By DONALD R. WRIGHT
AFN President

RESPONSIBILITY—SELF-DETERMINATION—JUSTICE—and endless hard work are required to guarantee that the legislative process is responsive to the need of American people.

President Nixon has proven to Alaska Native people that his administration can deliver and fulfill the commitments of his decade, consistent with human and environmental requirements.

President Nixon, Vice President Spiro Agnew, former Secretary of the Department of Interior Walter J. Hickel, Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton, Senator Ted Stevens and the administrative staff members of these leaders must be given due respect for setting the stage to a fair and just Alaska Native Land Claims Bill by offering:

—40 million acres of land in Fee Title.

—one billion dollars plus other considerations

(Continued on page 6)

Editorial— Timing Is Crucial For AFN Conference

We, of course, don't know what the native land claims situation will be by the time the Alaska Federation of Natives annual conference is convened here for three days beginning October 8. There may be lightning fast developments on the progress of the claims in Congress, or there might be developments of delaying tactics that would bog down the complex progress of the land issue. Whichever way we look at it, this annual conference of the statewide native group is a crucial one as far as timing is concerned.

Whatever situations develop during the conference, it will be a period for soul searching and stellar efforts by all concerned. It may be the time where historic events occur. It may be a period for disappointments where trying efforts may be the order of the day.

Whatever situations offer themselves before the assembled leaders of the native people, we are, as usual, confident that our men and women and their friends will be equal to the occasion. The group is a highly sophisticated one with sound judgement and ability to meet difficult situations.

Also, we join our people back home in wishing the AFN leaders significant successes in their difficult endeavors on behalf of their people.