

## Slope Votes to Form Corporation...

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without the corporation's consent.

This could have strong significance on the oil-rich North Slope.

Officers of the Arctic Slope Native Association will serve as the officers of the new corporation.

Villages included in the Inupiat corporation are Barrow, Kaktovik, Nookisut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Wainwright, Point Hope, Point Lay and Atkasook (Meade River).

Upicksoun also interpreted the objection as a "vote of confidence" in the Arctic Slope Association leadership.

The corporation, Upicksoun said, gives the Eskimos "a modern business vehicle for economic development." Among other things, the corporation is looking into possible management of a proposed air terminal at Barrow.

In addition, Upicksoun pointed out, the corporation is "part of a package" that includes the Eskimos' plans for a giant borough government taking in the entire 56.5 million acres.

"It will be a sister organization to our borough," he said.

The borough proposal is before the state government now.

With a borough, the Eskimos

will have specified zoning and taxation powers on the North Slope—plus the authority to protect their subsistence-fishing and hunting areas from industrial takeovers.

One of the prime projects of the borough will be to have a regional high school at Barrow, instead of the present situation of having to send high-school-age boys and girls to faraway schools.

Estimated population of the Inupiat corporation area is 4,500 persons.

## Jeanne Dixon...

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vention around the immediate date of the banquet and the three sessions will be held at the new ballroom of the Traveler's Inn. The banquet will be held there also.

People who wish to go to the banquet are invited to call Tundra Times at 452-2244 or write for reservations at Tundra Times, Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Tickets to the banquet may be bought beginning this afternoon, September 9, at the Tundra Times office at the Chena Building, 510 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, or they could be sent for with check, money order or cash.

## Columbus Did Not Discover America...

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Tales of domination by war and deceit, of broken treaties, unsurpassed massacres, provide gory reading for anyone who is not already aware of the course of U.S. policy towards the Indian during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Systematically, the Indian was stripped of his lands, 'reset-

ted' in a manner almost suggestive of later World War II atrocities towards other people.

After the Indian had been defeated by war, massacre and broken promises, he was resettled on reservations, barren lands where the newly formed Bureau of Indian Affairs pursued its policies of social genocide.

## Worst Airline Crash...

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aircraft disaster in United States history.

At least 51 Alaskan were among the dead.

The crash occurred at about the 2500 foot level of the Chilkat Mountains, about 20 miles west of Juneau and just eight minutes before the flight was due in at Juneau on its flight from Yakutat.

Alaska Airlines flight 1866 originated at Anchorage and landed at Cordova and Yakutat. It was headed for Juneau, Sitka and Seattle. It was to have landed at Juneau at 12:10 p.m. but crashed on approach, one mile east of Teardrop Lake.

There were no survivors.

As of Saturday night, State Troopers were at the disaster scene guarding the bodies and

the wreckage and troopers began the arduous process of removing bodies from the site last Monday. Adverse weather conditions on the mountain on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, prevented the movement of helicopters and other disaster equipment and delayed the recovery operation.

In Juneau, local units of the Alaska National Guard, called into action by Governor Egan, readied the National Guard Armory to serve as a temporary morgue. An FBI Disaster team, flown into Juneau on Sunday, will use fingerprints and other methods to identify the bodies of the plane's 111 victims.

Initial disaster reports set the number of passengers on the plane at first 107 and then 109. The final total of 111 was due to the presence on board of 4 infant children of passengers—children who are not issued tickets or manifests.

On Monday, one of the airplane's flight recorders was recovered from the crash site. It was too early, however, to know in what condition it was or to determine the cause of the fatal crash. Bits and pieces of the Boeing 727 airliner were scattered across some two square miles of rugged Chilkat Mountains.

The U.S. Weather Service reported that skies over Juneau were cloudy with light rain at noon on Saturday, with 15 miles visibility. The Alaska Airlines flight had been cleared for a landing at the Juneau Municipal Airport before radio contact was lost, 8 minutes before their estimated time of arrival.

An investigative team from the National Transportation Safety Board was immediately dispatched from Washington, D.C. and will investigate the crash site. According to James Wellington, Alaska deputy commissioner of public safety, the recovery operation and investigation of the crash site would probably take 3 to 5 days.

Two hunters at Glacier Bay reportedly heard the plane go overhead and heard the crash. However, it was some time after the crash before Coast Guard search and rescue teams spotted the crash site and even more time before ground parties were able to reach the isolated crash area.

Robert Giersdorf, Alaska Airlines vice president and Charles F. Willis, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of the Airline took part in the search before the downed plane was sighted.

There was no way as of yesterday to determine what the jetliner was doing several thousand feet below its planned flight level or whether pilot or mechanical error caused the drop.

Much speculation surrounds the fact that Juneau Municipal Airport does not have an instrument landing system to help pilots land in bad weather. Such a device, an FAA official says, had not been installed because the geography in Juneau made it impractical.

The Alaska Airlines flight was piloted by Capt. Richard Adams, 41 of Seattle.

## Misunderstood Animal..

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animal the herdsman makes this decision, and he tries in this way to make the animal more useful to him by improving such characteristics as the quality and quantity of its meat, milk, or wool. Tamelessness is important for obvious reasons, especially with animals raised for milk or wool.

The first European explorers to see musk oxen in Canada noticed that they were covered with an undercoat of fine wool. Because these men were merchants, they realized that this wool could be turned into textiles and sold at a good profit if they could get enough of it.

Obtaining sufficient of this wool was a great problem, since it was obviously impossible to approach a wild musk ox and to pluck it from its back, and it was impossible to collect the wool from the ground after it had been shed, because the wind quickly scattered it over many miles and the sun and rain spoiled its quality.

A few of these explorers thought and wrote about domesticating the musk ox for its meat or wool, but it was only 1954, 300 years after the first description of a musk ox by a European, that John Teal decided to try.

The decision to domesticate the musk ox was based on several reasons. We hear constantly that the population of the world is growing so rapidly that there is insufficient food to feed everybody even now and that the situation is going to get worse.

The arctic and sub-arctic areas of the world form almost 20% of the world's land surface, yet they contribute little to the world's total food supply.

If we are to feed the growing population, we must make full use of every climatic and vegetation region of the earth. Because of the severe arctic climate, traditional domesticated animals, such as sheep, cattle, and pigs, cannot survive.

If there is to be any kind of arctic agriculture, it must be based on native animals and plants. As the Arctic already has a domesticated meat supplier the reindeer, John Teal decided to domesticate the musk ox for its valuable underwool, which is known by the trademarked term *qivuit*.

Coming a little closer to home, a major reason for domesticating the musk ox was to provide cash and employment for people of the Arctic who did not want to leave their villages or to abandon completely their traditional way of life, yet who needed some cash for food, fuel, gasoline, and the other necessities of modern life.

Finally, the musk ox itself needed protection. It is estimated that there may have been as many as one million musk oxen at the beginning of the last century, but persistent hun-

ting with rifles has reduced this number to about 20,000 today.

Obviously, the first step in domesticating a wild animal is to capture some wild ones, which can be tamed and later selectively bred. The Musk Ox Project began in 1954, when John Teal went to the Barren Grounds of Canada to capture 7 musk oxen calves for a trial experiment in domestication.

Since the musk ox is a rare animal, it was important to devise ways of capturing the calves without killing or injuring any of the animals, such as happens when drugged darts are used.

Two safe and effective capturing techniques were devised. In the first herds of musk oxen are driven into lakes (they are excellent swimmers), and the capturers swim after them and capture the calves by hand. Where this is impossible, a cow and her calf are separated from the main herd using a helicopter, and are chased overland until they take refuge with their backs against a rock or a cliff.

Then the capturers climb up above them and drop a rope over the calf, frightening the mother away by shouting at her. Although these methods sound a little dangerous, several hundred successful captures have been carried out so far in these ways.

Immediately after capture, calves which have been swimming are rubbed dry to prevent chills, whilst those chased overland are damped down, for musk oxen possess few sweat glands and quickly become overheated.

Each calf next receives a tranquilizer to calm it down on the helicopter trip back to camp and a shot of antibiotic to prevent diseases. Calves are generally captured when they are 4-6 months old, at which age they are old enough to thrive without their mothers, yet are young enough to be tamed easily and permanently.

In fact, many calves show little or no fear of man, for they are too young to have learned to fear or distrust him. Whenever necessary, taming can be accomplished within 24-36 hours of capture by feeding the calves milk from a can fitted with a nipple, as well as other delicacies such as willow leaves.

The calves captured in 1954 were taken to a farm near Burlington, Vermont, the headquarters of the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research, the organization which started the Musk Ox Project.

There they were subjected to a series of experiments to see if it would be possible to begin musk ox domestication on a large, commercial scale in the Arctic.

In the next article, I shall describe these experiments and results.

## File Suit Against AEC...

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the largest underground nuclear test in the United States, is that some form of radiation will leak into the sea—polluting the ocean and the ocean life which gives them sustenance and income.

"They are afraid, skeptical that something might happen," Philemonof characterized his people in a telephone interview with the TUNDRA TIMES on Friday. "Their greatest fear is of radiation leakage into the ocean—affecting the marine life on which the Aleut people depend for their survival."

Probably, and the AEC has a host of experts who will state the excellent statistical probabilities—the nuclear blast at Amchitka will produce no great deleterious effects.

There is very little probability of large scale earthquake, tsunami, volcanic action or radiation leakage into either the atmosphere or the ocean. However, the very possibility of such occurrences frightens the Aleut people—who ask the U.S. court why their homes and livelihoods have been chosen to be endangered by nuclear testing.

According to Alaska Legal Services attorney Hugh Fleisher, who is handling the Aleut action, the League will probably move within the next two to three weeks to ask for an injunction to prevent the AEC from going ahead with the Cannikin blast.

They will ask for hearings on the suit—hearings at which they will present scientific experts, testimony from concerned Aleuts and other witnesses.

While the suit, of course, may be denied, Philemonof and the Aleut League attorneys believe that they are on firm legal and factual grounds. Although most of the Aleut Islands have been set aside by the U.S. government as wildlife refuge and/or military bases, the entire chain is claimed by the Aleut League as part of their ancestral lands.

Seventeen Aleut villages dot the chain, inhabited by descendants of a people who have lived and worked these islands for at least 8,000 years.

It is these people who claim they are being endangered by a massive nuclear test—a test whose affects threaten their lives, personal property and livelihood

without any real form of emergency contingency planning, or precautions.

According to the Aleut League complaint, the proposed Cannikin test violates the rights of their people in several ways.

Cannikin is a high risk experiment threatening "destruction of and/or the most serious risk of deleterious effect to the lives, property, commerce and cultures of the Aleut people."

Among these risks, the suit mentions possible earthquake, volcanic eruption, tsunami, contamination of the air and/or marine environment. As such, the Aleuts claim the AEC blast constitutes an "absolute and intolerable nuisance."

The suit claims the blast violates the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. Among these violations is, they claim, that no alternatives were reasonably investigated.

The Aleuts claim that the proposed actions of the AEC constitute an abrogation of the United States governments' responsibility to the Aleuts as native people of Alaska—to whom the U.S. Department of the Interior owes specific obligations to safeguard their rights and well being.

"DEFENDANTS' [the AEC] actions are in violations of PLAINTIFFS' [Aleut] rights as citizens of the United States and of their free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion in that DEFENDANTS' preparation for and planned execution of the CANNIKIN nuclear experiment amounts to a violation of the PLAINTIFFS' Fifth Amendment rights to due process and guarantee against taking of private property without just compensation."

Less than a week before he acted as representative of the Aleut League to file the suit against the AEC, Ilidor Philemonof, a native of the Pribilof Island of St. George who now lives in Anchorage, participated on an AEC sponsored junket to Amchitka to see the preparations for the giant Cannikin blast.

"It was sort of impressive," he told the TUNDRA TIMES that day, "All of that time and money spent there that could have been spent otherwise."