

Sixth Annual NAIWA Conference held in N. Carolina

By BETSY BRENNEMAN

In a letter of welcome to the Sixth Annual Conference of the North American Indians Women's Association (NAIWA) which met on the Qualla Indian Boundary of Cherokee, North Carolina, BIA Superintendent Jeff W. Muskrat, Cherokee, said, "We are honored to have the women of the First Americans with us this week. Through the ages, Indian Women have been in positions of leadership, but one of the things we apparently adopted from the white man was his propensity to put the female in a second class place—Now that the Indian people are encouraged to make our own decisions, the Indian women should assume their aboriginal roles of leadership."

From the range of issues and topics dealt with at the conference held June 22-26, Indian women seem to be doing just that. This year's theme was "Involvement—Personal and Community in Self-Determination." The women heard an overview of P.L. 93-638, Thompson and Director of the and Education Assistance Act, by Dr. Peter Campenelli, supplemented with addresses by BIA Commissioner Morris Thompson and Director of the

Office of Native American programs, Dr. George Blue Spruce.

Numerous workshops on self-determination were held throughout the conference dealing with health, education, employment, contracting, parent advisory committees and special needs of Indian children. Also, NAIWA's ongoing committees reported and met during the session, new directors were elected, and resolutions passed.

NAIWA national president, Mary Jane Fate, Athabascan from Fairbanks, reported, "Through full cooperation from the membership, special guests and resource people, the meeting was a meaningful experience—I feel that the Indian women of NAIWA are approaching many different problems in the most intelligent and positive manner I have seen within an organization. Most negative results can most certainly be prevented at an early age in home, and we the women are going to be a part of this preventive pattern."

Seventeen resolutions pertaining to Alaska were passed and President Fate and Commissioner Thompson made a special announcement to be

carried back to every tribe that enrollment under the Native Claims Settlement Act has been reopened until January 2, 1977. Members who knew of someone eligible for benefits under the act were urged to contact the BIA in Washington, D. C., immediately.

Also attending the conference from Alaska were Daphne Gustafson, corresponding secretary, Eskimo from Fairbanks, and Sally Hudson,

Athabascan, from Manley Hot Springs. Mary Jones of Ward Cove has been serving as parliamentarian this year. Mary Jane Fate will remain in office as president until June of 1977.

The association, organized in 1970 as a result of a seminar held in Colorado, is a non-profit educational association with the goals of betterment of home, family life and community; betterment of health and education; inter-tribal

communications; awareness of Indian culture; and fellowship among all people.

Its preamble states, "We North American Indian Women with quiet dignity and pride inherent with our racial heritage united with the determination to promote through unity of purpose the general well-being of Indian people."

The 1977 NAIWA National Conference will be held in Oklahoma.



SALLY HUDSON, right, from Manley Hot Springs, presents the Lord's Prayer in Athabascan as the invocation for the Sixth Annual NAIWA Conference while her granddaughter, Betty Thompson, Yakimo, recites the prayer in sign language. —photo by LAEL MORGAN



ATTENDING THE RECENT NAIWA National Conference were, back row left to right: Agnes Dill, Laguna, Isleta, New Mexico and immediate past President of NAIWA: Morris Thompson, Commissioner, BIA; front row left to right: Mary Jane Fate, Athabascan, Fairbanks, Naional President of NAIWA; and Marie Cox, Commanche, NAIWA Founding President.

—photo by LAEL MORGAN

Doyon shows first year of profit

In its annual report for 1975 published in March of this year, Doyon Limited showed its first year of profit. The \$423,000 figure was picked up by the Alaska Economic Report, printed recently in the Daily News Miner, and confirmed for the Tundra Times by President Tim Wallis.

Wallis says the profit is nothing special. He attributes it to several new ventures and returns on previous investments that were large enough to offset the deficit.

However, Wallis admits that the annual report did not pick up the corporation's total deficit. He refused to disclose that figure.

When asked if he is pleased with the profit shown, Wallis replied, "all profits are pleasing." He also says that next year may be better or worse since "no returns are 'normal.'" With changing investments he says the only thing that can be called normal is expenses.

As to whether or not any of last year's profit will be returned to Doyon shareholders, Wallis says that the only thing that gets distributed is the surplus, which is not necessarily profit. With a deficit still remaining, Tim Wallis says he has no idea when a surplus will be available for a return to shareholders.

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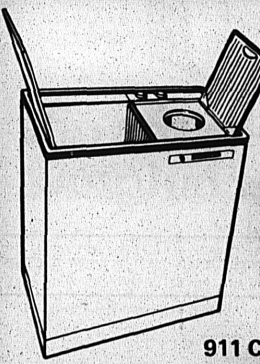
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