

Tanacross Chief Bemoans Inaction on Land Matter

Chief Andrew Isaac and members of the Tanacross Council, in a letter to Senator Mike Gravel, expressed concern that despite assurances of action from his office and government agencies, their claim is still being ignored.

"We have received your letters and we have read your articles in the Tundra Times, so we realize something is wrong, or there has been a misunderstanding somewhere," the Tanacross Villagers wrote.

Chief Isaac said that he had contacted the Bureau of Land Management Office in Fairbanks regarding their claim.

"We tried to ask Mr. Krumm why the State of Alaska had given tentative approval of the land where our Villages and yards were located. Mr. Krumm informed us that when the patent was given to the State they could not hold out a little piece of land here and there, that they would give the patent to the State, and we would have to settle the issue with the state," the Council said.

"What does Mr. Krumm mean in saying we will have to settle with the state? What right did they have to give the State approval of this land in the first place, when the Department of the Interior laws, and State laws both say they were not to bother us or the land we used?" the Villagers asked.

We tried to ask Mr. Krumm for help, and asked him a number of questions, but were given no answers: either it was not his departments problems, or we would have to ask some other

LOAN GIVEN FORT YUKON

At a meeting of the General Church Loan Fund of the Protestant Episcopal Church on August 5, 1969, a loan of \$93,220 was made to the Missionary District of Alaska for the City of Fort Yukon, Alaska.

This loan will enable the City of Fort Yukon to complete an application to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a Neighborhood Facilities Grant for a Community Facility.

The total cost of the facility is projected to be \$392,880. The Rev. David Salmon is the Priest-in-charge of St. Stephen's Mission in Fort Yukon and the first Athabascan Indian Priest of the Episcopal Church.

This loan marks a new era in City-State-Federal-Church cooperation. The loan will be repaid through an agreement that the City has with the State of Alaska, Department of Education, it is a non-interest bearing loan. Since the facility will be available to the State School for activities, the State will pay \$12,000 per year for the use of the facility over a ten year period.

The facility will be comprised of a gymnasium, public shower and laundry facility (in a town that has no running water) and offices for agency workers and a kitchen for community functions as well as a multi-purpose education room for community meetings and for educational ventures such as Head Start.

Capt. Tom Tull, a missionary of the Episcopal Church in Fort Yukon and the Executor of the application for the City has recently submitted the final application to HUD which the loan has made possible.

Final clearance from HUD still remains, but the Episcopal Church has made possible the application, which for the largest Indian village on the Yukon River represents a major step forward in securing recreational, educational, health and welfare facilities for its people.

department," they stated.

The Tanacross natives are also concerned that a meeting between the Village Council and the various government agencies involved, which has been promised by Senator Gravel, might be delayed in coming.

"Since we received your letter, we have been waiting to hear when the meeting with the Bureau of Land Management, the State, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and our council would be scheduled. But, as of this date, we have heard absolutely nothing," they told Gravel.

The villagers also indicated that they have had no response

from Secretary Hickel to questions concerning their claim. "Could you please find-out why we are being ignored, and let us know the reason?" they asked.

"We have tried to use integrity in all of our letters, praying that someone would understand and come forward to help us. So far the only one who has continued answering our letters is you, so once more we are asking for your help," Gravel was told.

"There is much unrest among our people, and it will only become worse unless we learn soon what our future is going to be," the council members stated.

The letter was signed by

Council members Oscar Isaac, Luke, and Tanacross Chief Andrew Isaac, Gaither Paul, David Paul, Frank



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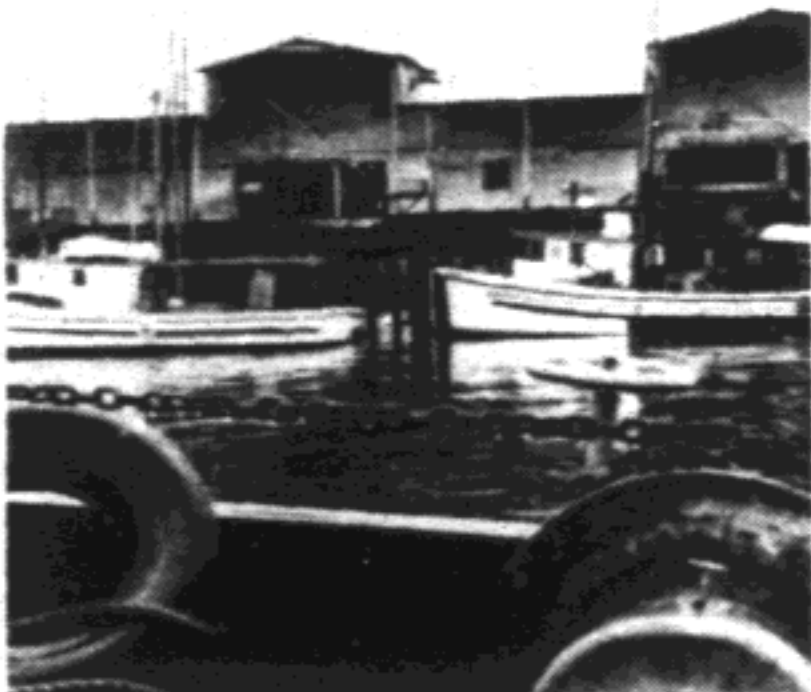
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