



BALINE BASKET MAKER—Elderly George Omnik of Point Hope is working on his 726th baline basket. He started making baskets back in 1949 and taught himself "just by looking at a basket someone had made." Omnik is continually behind on orders. The art is exacting and it "takes me four days to make a basket if I hurry." At 72 years old, George Omnik caught two walrus last year.



COMPETITOR—Hubert Koonook is another basket artist at Point Hope. He started work around 1952. Like George Omnik, Koonook is often behind on orders from all parts of the country.

Hit Him Again! He's Still Breathing!

(From WHITEHORSE STAR) John William Chapman of Washington state may not be the unluckiest driver in the Yukon, but he's up there amongst the contenders. He was driving a car and pulling a boat with a trailer north Alaska. On Friday afternoon at Mile 667 he slowed down for a mud-hole in the road and his trailer was struck from behind by Cassiar Asbestos truck driven by Dennis MacKenzie.

The trailer was shoved forward onto the trunk of the

car, causing \$100 damage to the boat and trailer.

Chapman got his damaged vehicle to Transport Cafe 20 miles further down the road and parked them to consider his plight.

Netta Desrosier, the driver of a Volkswagon bus, started up her motor and proceeded to back it up—right into Chapman's car causing a further \$100 damage.

There is no report as to whether Chapman has fled the territory.



PT. HOPE CHILDREN—There are many children at Point Hope.

Alaskan Artists Design Medallion

JUNEAU—A medallion commemorating the 100th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska from Russia has been struck by the U.S. Mint.

The medallion, which will carry the mint mark "P," identifying it as struck at the Philadelphia mint, pays

tribute to the early pioneers who came to find gold and riches in Alaska, but stayed to found a new state.

The 40-millimeter piece was designed by two Alaskan artists, Alice Cook of Juneau and Joan Kickbush of Anchorage.

Interior Officials Testify on Bill . . .

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establish a procedure through which nonresident tribal membership and special Federal services to Indians can be compensated by a share of tribal assets.

In conclusion Udall said the bill was only one facet of the "Indian Problem" and that the increases in appropriations for Indian programs demonstrated the interest of Congress in this challenge.

Some members of the Subcommittee differed with Udall on certain points of the bill.

Ernest Gruening, the 80 year old Senator from Alaska, thumbed through the 22-page package bill and cited the numerous instances where the Interior Secretary's broad discretionary powers were still present: "Secretary is authorized"...."The Secretary may grant authority"...."To the satisfaction of the Secretary"...."In the judgment of the Secretary"....etc.

"This isn't an emancipation bill for the American Indians," Gruening said, "There are practically no discretionary powers left to them. This bill moves in the opposite direction of self-determination," he added.

Udall countered by explaining the reasons for the Secretary's authority saying that the provisions were safeguards to protect the Indians from unlawful acts and that the trust arrangement instituted by the Government required vested authority be placed somewhere.

"The real catch," Udall said, "is to provide safeguards and still maintain the trust."

Other Department witnesses who testified were Indian Commissioner, Robert L. Bennett, and Under-Secretary of the Interior Charles F. Luce. They provided additional detailed analyses of the bill for the subcommittee.

Bennett summarized his title by title colloquy by emphasizing the importance of land and property as the beginning point in economic

development.

"But it is necessary," he added, "to apply imaginative new approaches to the use of land and resources if Indian tribes and Indian families are to ride the wave of economic growth in the United States."

Senator Mark Hatfield from Oregon questioned the "unprincipled" route the Department was taking in their attempt to solve the Indian Heirship problems—problems which result from the fractionated ownership of Indian property through inheritance.

Referring to a provision whereby all interest in trust lands valued at less than \$100 dollars would escheat (revert) to the tribe conditionally or to the U.S. for management after the death of the owner, Hatfield told Luce that "escheat" was a nice sounding legal term for confiscation. "How long does an Indian have to be dead before his land is handed over to someone else?" asked Hatfield.

Under-Secretary Luce—who will be leaving Interior next month to become Chairman of the Board for the Consolidated Edison Power Company—parried Hatfield's verbal thrusts by stressing the need for more effective tools to cope with the problem.

"The Department, Luce said, "will present a separate bill to Congress dealing fully with the total heirship problem built upon prior bills considered in the House and Senate. This is only a step toward eliminating those troublesome cases where the costs of probate and administration greatly exceed the low value of the fractionated interests."

The second round of discussions was held July 13 but the results are not available at this time. The same departmental witnesses faced the Indian Subcommittee of the House.

Indian delegates and representatives will be given an opportunity to testify at a later date.

Anaktuvuk Still Has 700 Ft. to Finish Airstrip

By RAYMOND PANEAK
Anaktuvuk Pass Correspondent

We have quite a few visitors from Fairbanks and Canada, New York and from Montana.

Also visitors from Washington, D.C. We enjoyed have visitors.

We have workers from BIA fixing up the airfield but still have 700 feet more to go.

Also six men are working in the school. They worked for about two weeks. Boy, that school building sure looks good.

They fix up the tank, made new toilet. They leveled the yard and painted the school quarters and the powerhouse.

Weather have being good and the temp. get up to 80 and people say that unusual. I think it little too warm for them.

And lots of mosquitoes up here boy, too many of them.

That's all for now and more news later.

Forest Fires . . .

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Eielson Air Force Base. Smokejumpers were immediately dispatched to this small fire and it is now under control.

The venetie fire, 30 acres in size, was controlled yesterday. There are 20 men mopping up this fire today.

Still burning out of control is the 10,000 acre Bear Creek fire, the funnel creek fire of 9,400 acres, the Black River fire, 2,600 acres and the 1,500 acre Northway fire. Control was expected yesterday on the funnel creek fire but no control has been set on the other fires.

At the present time there are over 800 men battling these blazes. Trained crews from the Alaskan villages are being used and a large number of overhead personnel has been called from the lower states.

Three large fires are still burning out of control in Canada. Two of these fires threaten the border but as of this date have not crossed into Alaska so no action has been taken by the BLM.