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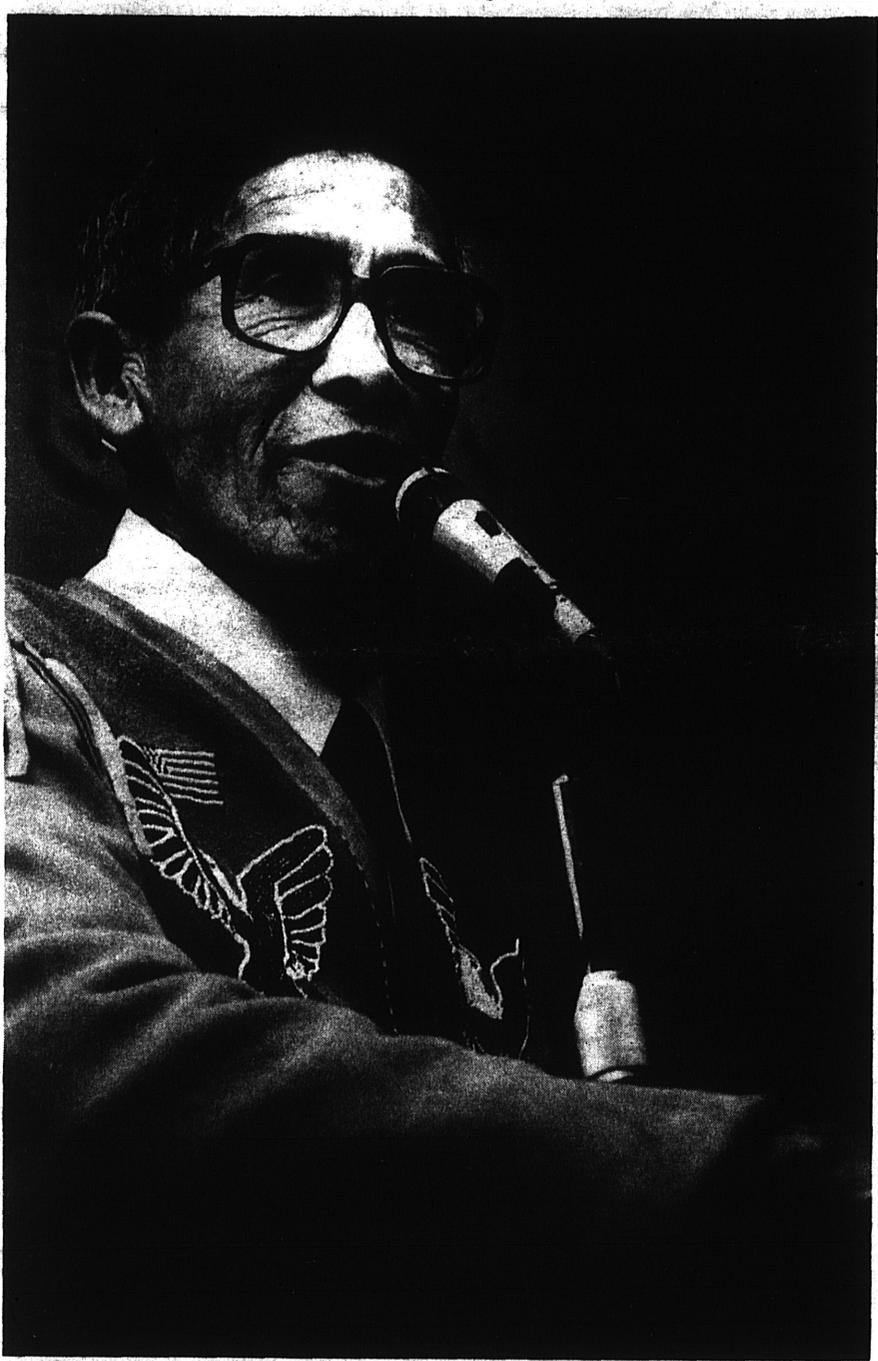
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Villages work toward unity



Alfred Grant in return engagement at Tundra Times Banquet

WHEN THE FIRST TUNDRA TIMES BANQUET WAS HELD IN 1965, AN ATHABASCAN INDIAN FROM TANANA WAS THE STAR OF THE SHOW BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 200. IF ANYTHING, ALFRED GRANT'S WIT HAS SHARPENED WITH THE PASSING OF YEARS. LAST WEEKEND, BEFORE THE LARGEST DINNER EVER HELD IN ALASKA, ALFRED OUTSHONE HIS FIRST PERFORMANCE WITH A RETURN ENGAGEMENT AT THE 1979 TUNDRA TIMES BANQUET. VETERAN BANQUET-GOERS CALLED THIS YEAR'S BANQUET "THE BEST EVER". MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE SIX/SEVEN. —PHOTOGRAPH BY ROB STAPLETON

Plans made for statewide village corporation association

A statewide association for Alaska Native village corporations will be formed in February, under a plan set forth by a gathering of Native village representatives in Anchorage last week. Seventy-seven delegates from village corporations created by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 unanimously adopted a "Resolution for the creation of statewide Village Corporation unity" in a meeting held just before the annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN).

Village delegates pointed to "many problems and concerns in common" and "the need for unity" as we are to survive in the corporate world." The villagers agreed that they needed a common voice to speak for their concerns.

The plan calls for a steering committee to develop proposals for consideration by village corporation representatives during a statewide convention to formally organize the association "no later than the first part of February, 1980." The corporation delegates, mostly village corporation presidents, said they were aware that "village corporations have had little or no voice as a group and as individual entities in decision making processes that affect them directly."

"Villagers were firm in their desire to create a statewide organization specifically to address the problems and concerns of village corporations. "There is presently no means for voicing Village Corporation concerns and problems in common at the federal, state, or AFN level," they noted. Their resolution also stated that "AFN and regional corporations cannot and should not act to represent Village Corporations without expressed authority from Village Corporations."

(See VILLAGES, Page 12)

Village leaders see chance to fill unmet needs

Seventy-seven village corporations, at the invitation of the Alaska Native Foundation (ANF), met prior to the 1979 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) to discuss common concerns.

The village corporations represented at the meeting organized a steering committee that will plan for a statewide village corporation convention, to be held no later than February of 1980.

Larry Merculieff, the chairman of the board of the Aleut Corporation, and President of the St. Paul Island native corporation, said of the ANF-sponsored meeting that "it became clear that many village corporation

problems and issues were not being addressed."

He stressed that "village corporations do not feel that anyone is at fault. AFN is involved in D-2 (a section of the 1971 Native Claims Settlement Act) and regional corporations are involved in organizing as corporations. The village corporations understand that."

He further stated that there is no way for AFN to consult with village corporations as a whole. "And so it was felt that village corporations as a whole should have input, and this would help AFN get a vehicle anytime they would want to consult with vil- (See VEHICLE, Page Three)

Part Two of Series —

FAA responds to anti-Native bias charge

By Martha Upicksoun

In response to a class action discrimination complaint filed by two Alaska Natives, Frank Pagano and Frank Peratrovich, a high-ranking Federal Aviation Administration official has made two major statements with regard to the validity of the charges. These statements seem unusual in light of his initial statement that he would not talk about the systematic discrimination

case.

The official, Garland Castleberry, executive official of the FAA's Alaska region, first stated that "Pagano said that this (discrimination) is the case today. I'm saying, I know that happened, management knows that as well."

At a later point in an interview with the Tundra Times he stated that "It's not proper to discriminate. We

don't do that. And anyone who does will have a serious problem. We want specifics. That's all we're asking for. Bring me the evidence and I'll do something."

It was earlier reported (Part One of this series) that Pagano and Peratrovich filed individual and class action complaints against the FAA "in order to end the FAA's present and past practices of invidious racial dis-

(See RESPOND, Page Four)