

Selection... Yakima Land Settlement Coming Near

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"Native representatives entered the Secretary in cases where land desired by the Natives were also coveted by the Government, to frame the orders in such a way as to recognize both the Federal and Natives' interest. The Secretary refused to secure the Native interest even in this small way."

"As a result, should the government ultimately decide it does want to retain certain lands that the Natives desire, the State and private interests and exploiters stand next in line."

Mr. Borbridge went on to say: "One cannot contemplate these land orders, wrought in the name of implementing a law supposed to have affected a just and equitable settlement of the rights of the Alaska Natives, without recalling the words of Red Cloud. 'They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land and they took it.'"

Nor is the State of Alaska pleased with the present withdrawal action. Gov. Egan has said that he believes the selections are contrary to the spirit of the December Act and protested that the Department of the Interior's actions are a "caving in to national pressure groups."

A State suit against the Federal government may be instituted.

Sen. Ted Stevens emphasized that "none of the actions taken are final. It is a time for study, what all parties have requested. All of the cards are on the table, so to speak — we know what the State wants, what the Federal government wants, and what the Natives want. It is not surprising that they all want the best land in Alaska."

He sees the problem as one of working out the priorities.

Secretary Morton has tried to steer a middle course in maintaining balance between the three major interests involved, "those of the Natives, those of the State of Alaska, and those of more than 200 million Americans whose general interest are involved as joint owners of the public domain lands of the United States."

In a phone call to the Tundra Times, John Borbridge, Jr., stated that Native action on the withdrawals should not be expressed in terms of how individual regions fared, of whether the southeast region fared better than the Arctic Slope Association, or the Tanana Chiefs had more of their demands met than the Tlingit-Haida.

"We must be concerned that the needs of all Native peoples are met."

"Undoubtedly this order is largely a response to political pressures, by ecology and conservationist groups who want to lock up the land away from human use."

Classified

THE LOCAL AFFAIRS AGENCY, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR JUNEAU, IS SEEKING A RESPONSIBLE PERSON WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA WITH A KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ALASKA AND CAPABLE OF WRITING AND ADMINISTERING FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS. THE APPLICANTS MUST BE WILLING TO TRAVEL TO CONDUCT TRAINING PROGRAMS AND GIVE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND OUR OFFICIAL STATE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT FORM PLUS OTHER SUPPORTIVE MATERIAL TO:
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Yakima Land Settlement Coming Near

Only the clearance of an executive order in the White House stands in the way of 21,000 acres now under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service being restored to the Yakima Nation of Washington State.

An extension beyond the settlement date of March 1 was agreed to by the Indian Claims Commission while a drafting team delineates the original reservation boundaries under an 1855 treaty, which will be contained in the executive order.

A crucial opinion favoring the Yakima restoration was issued by the Justice Department in December.

FNA Stages Great Potlatch...

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presentation. Food was abundant and presented gifts from many villages. Every variety of Native food was served: muktuk, caribou, moose, salmon, whitefish, and Eskimo and Indian ice cream.

Regally dressed in a full length traditional Eskimo parka made of several varieties of fur, Donna Demoski of Galena was crowned Miss Fairbanks Native Association.

Her court of queens, also arrayed in Native costumes, consisted of Clara Andre, Josephine Johnson, Mable Eskimaika, Janice Joseph, and Barbara Albert.

A raffle held for an all-expense paid trip to Acapulco and Mexico City for two people

was won by Chris Sommers of Tanana.

Proceeds from the potlatch go to support many FNA projects: scholarships for universities, the Boarding School Program, help for needy families,

and the hospital fund.

The FNA expressed their gratitude to all who support the potlatch, especially the people from the outlying districts, as they help make these projects possible.

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of the

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Glenn Gibson, Chairman

For Homentaschen To Nome, I'm Marchin, Cause Alaska's Got More Than O! Singapore. Happy Passover, HOCHBERG!

What's Black and White and Green all over?

Reclamation at the Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

Over the past 50 years of coal production from the coal deposits along Healy Creek in central Alaska, approximately eight hundred acres of land have been appreciably disturbed by the hand of man. Mine operators in the past were not concerned by the disruption caused to the environment, for, given adequate time, nature herself reclaimed the land. Until that time the disturbed land was not unlike

naturally occurring erosions in the area. The people of the United States are showing an increasing awareness and concern that their natural heritage of clean air and green valleys must receive their guiding care to assure perpetuation. Management of Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. shares this awareness and concern.

The days are now gone when one might rationalize the sacrificing of a few acres of this vast land for the sake of man's other environment—his economy. Over the life of the coal mining industry along Healy Creek hundreds of millions of dollars were created right out of the earth and pumped into the lines of commerce in central Alaska. It is important to realize that the mining of coal, like any other business, is profit motivated. Selling price minus cost yields profit. Competition keeps profit to a minimum, but as costs go up for all operators so must the selling price of the coal. This is exactly the position we have faced at Usibelli. We wish to assist nature in her reclamation but this is a cost of doing business that had to be included in the selling price.

Stan Weston, an agricultural consultant of international reputation, has been retained to supervise a reclamation program. During the summer of 1971 several test plantings were made at various locations in the Healy Creek Valley. A seed mixture

containing twelve varieties of plants was planted and fertilizer was applied.

By the fall of 1971 it was apparent that several of the test plantings were very successful. Up to twenty-four inches of plant growth and nine inches of root growth occurred in seventy-two days. Dall sheep traveled down from the mountain tops for a taste and stayed several months, unconcerned by the mining equipment operating nearby.

The big question is: Will the test plots winter? The sheep grazed the young shoots close to the ground and the incessant wind of the Alaska Range has eroded the stubble that remains. We feel confident that the test plots will successfully winter and have planned an extensive seeding program for the summer of 1972. The seeding will cover all disturbed ground created by our own operations and that of our predecessors. We have also instituted a mining plan that will allow the filling of old mine pits as adjacent coal reserves are uncovered. The land will be returned to as near to natural contours as practical. A continuous seeding program will insure cover superior to the original growth.

This fall if you happen to be flying in the Healy area take a few minutes to fly over the Healy Creek Coal Field. You'll easily be able to spot us, we'll be the bright green area with the white dots.

What are the white dots? —sheep, of course.

