

Contemporary Native Artists Exhibit at UA

With a contemporary Native Art Festival beginning Saturday night, visitors to the University of Alaska galleries will see a huge collection of works by Indian, Eskimo and Aleut craftsmen, including works by some of today's foremost Alaskan Native Artists.

In addition to the exhibit, three special lecture programs on Native Art have been scheduled by the University of Alaska to coincide with the exhibit's opening.

B. Holm, artist and teacher, will speak Saturday evening on Indian Art. He is curator of Northwest Coast Indian Art at the Thomas Burke Memorial at Washington State Museum on the campus of the University of Washington. He is the author of a scholarly monograph on Indian art.

His lecture begins at 8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall and will be

followed by a public reception marking the opening of the exhibit in the adjoining Art Department where it will occupy the galleries and showcases until April 18.

On Sunday night at 8:00 p.m., James Houston will lecture. Houston is the man who started the Eskimo Cooperative among the Cape Dorset Eskimos on Baffin Island.

A special film and lecture presentation on totem pole presentation projects in Southeast Alaska will be presented Thursday, April 1, at 8:00 p.m. in the Upper Commons lounge. Dennis Demmert, Director of the Project and Jane Wallen, Director of the State Museum will come to Fairbanks to speak about it.

All of the talks and exhibits are free and open to the public.

The exhibit will be open daily from 12 to 5:00 p.m.

Tanacross Asks in ...

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we have developed a deep distrust of State policy or promises.

"If we get any land at all from the State it would be less the mineral rights as the State receives that upon patent by BLM. Our pleas have been ignored that we have the same rights of selections as others.

"It is felt by our people that the State of Alaska is engaged in a land swindle with the help of the BLM of such magnitude to be unique in the history of the Native property loss," writes the Chief.

He documents this charge with files of Native allotment applications turned down on technicalities, forcing villagers to reapply. The State closed the land saying that it was unoccupied, despite the presence of Native villages, subsistence hunters and ancient burial grounds.

In 1969 and 1970 the State of Alaska served eviction notices to those natives who were forced to reapply for native allotments.

Letters signed by F.J. Keenan of the State Division of Lands advised applicants for native allotments that they were trespassing on State Lands. These trespass orders, received as late as the end of 1970, were sent despite a contrary decision on appeals to the BLM.

In February of this year, Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, Chairman of the House Interior Committee, replied to a letter from Miss Margaret Kirsteatter of Healy Lake. He told her that no trespass order was valid until her claims were investigated and proved false.

Also, the State had only Tentative Approval to the land and did not own it. Until the BLM investigated her claim, the state has no right to order her out.

Two years ago, the State of Alaska allowed archeologists to excavate the traditional Indian village site at Healy Lake, saying it is on State lands, despite protests by Indian residents. Land in the Upper Tanana Area has also been included in "open to entry" plots for "recreational cabin sites" despite the land freeze.

Some villagers, whose lands were not State Selected received their Native Allotments and did not file registration of land ownership with the State. Beginning in 1967, the State foreclosed on these lands for nonpayment of the registration fee and accumulated penalties.

The villagers, many of whom do not read and who assumed the land was tax exempt (under provisions of the Native Allot-

ment Act, these lands are tax exempt) ignored the notices. At present, through such foreclosures, the titles to these lands are tangled almost beyond belief, according to attorney Barry Jackson who has represented some of the villagers in their suits.

At present, with congressional committees discussing the provisions of a land claims act, the people of these villages have passed a resolution asking Secretary of the Interior Morton and the Congress to withdraw the TA'd lands from the State, set aside state selections and allow their people to file native allotments and land claims settlements.

Yet, under the provisions of two bills in the Senate and House, settlements in this area will have to come from the State, which has no legislation making this possible.

3,000 at Potlatch ...

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snow-filled winter this year, about a possible flood—and enjoyed the sun and balmy temperatures in Fairbanks.

Later, the dancers came. Old and young. The group from Minto brought the youngest dancer to the Potlatch—tiny Andrew Grant II, resplendent in his orange feathered regalia and dancing with the best of the old folks.

From Tanacross-Northway, the dancers are led by aged Chief Andrew Isaac, traditional head of the Crow Band. He tells the crowd that he didn't expect to make it here tonight.

Indeed, the Chief spent the winter in and out of the Alaska Native Hospital in Anchorage with a heart condition which kept him there for many months.

Yet, on Saturday night, Chief Isaac beat the large round drum and led the colorful dancers of Tanacross and Northway. Truly, the spring brings its small miracles.

From the children, one could see the old traditions being passed on. The Amaouak family elders introduced their three young granddaughters, lovely in blue traditional dresses, into their dancing.

Along with the grandparents from Stevens Village and Tanacross came the children, proudly dancing in the way of their fathers and grandfathers.

Yet, tragedy almost struck the potlatch during the blanket toss. Several girls soared high near the roofbeams of Lathrop

Clerk Typists to Engineers—

PHS Job Opportunities

The following positions are being advertised by the U.S. Public Health Service. Applications for most of these must be received no later than April 5, 1971.

If these positions are not filled from within the Agency, preference will be given on initial appointments to applicants with 1/4 or more Alaska/American Indian, Aleut or Eskimo blood.

The positions are:

Inventory Management Specialist: in Anchorage, requires five years experience including two years specialized experience in inventory management or appropriate education above the high school level.

Food Service Worker: in Anchorage, part time. Requires six month experience in preparation and service of food to the public.

Sanitary Engineer: in Anchorage. Requires bachelor's degree or higher in a professional engineering curriculum plus at least three years of professional engineering experience or education equivalent.

Clerk Typist: Anchorage. Requires H.S. graduation or six months clerical experience including typing, stenography or dictaphone transcription for a GS-2 rating. Job can also be filled at GS-3 level by one year of full time study after H.S. level or one year of experience or at GS-4 level with two years

of full time study or experience.

Clerk Typist: Fairbanks (two positions.) GS-3 level requires one academic year of resident study above the H.S. level or one year of experience. Two years at the GS-4 level.

Clerk (Dictating Machine Transcriber): Mt. Edgecumbe. Requires three years of progres-

sively responsible experience in administrative, professional, investigative or other work plus two years specialized experience.

Applicants for any of these positions should apply in writing to the Area Personnel and Training Branch/ Alaska Area Native Service/ Box 7-741/ Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Ft. Yukon Mail...

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carried by air carriers on a space available basis.

This policy, which the Civil Aeronautics Board inaugurated after its Alaska Rate Hearings last summer in Washington, is an attempt by the Post Office to lower the cost of bush mail service. Before the policy change, air carriers were required to carry all mail before they loaded freight. Now, they can use mail as "filler cargo" after passengers and cargo, Mr. Wilde explained. The cost to the Post Office, as a result is substantially less.

Although all first class mail is carried within one day, during periods of heavy travel and freight, (such as the Christmas holidays), other mail may be delayed up to a week or more.

The villagers of Fort Yukon are some of those who lose out under the new system—through delayed supplies, newspapers, and other mail.

According to their petition, the United States Postal Department fails to provide the following necessities:

"Dependable Communications—Fairbanks daily newspapers arrive at least two weeks late. Educational materials lose significance by arrival time.

"Medical—Prescriptions and other supplies arrive after the need no longer exists.

"Credit—Since statements arrive long after the bill is due, credit ratings are jeopardized.

"Business—Business is affected by delayed deadlines in communications. Available scholarships, grants, and other needed programs for the low-income areas are closed before the information is obtained.

Chides Congressmen...

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reservations in their own states are not aware that in Alaska there are many natives who have demonstrated capacity for functioning in the American semi-capitalist system.

"While there are many such Indians in the lower 48, they have largely lost contact with the Indians who live on the reservations.

"As a result, these Congressmen and Senators do not realize that Alaska Natives will be able to manage the land and money that will come to Native corporations under the land claims settlement.

"If these members of Congress are not convinced," Jackson stresses, "the land claims settlement may well perpetuate dependency and deny to Alaska's native people the right of self determination."

Jackson has written to several dozen native leaders, heads of educational institutions, corporations, and government agencies for information about Native people who should be included in his exhibit.

He hopes that 500 names can be documented within a short time, hardly an exhaustive list of Alaskan native people in responsible positions, but enough to show the wide range of native

"Transportation—Transportation is jeopardized by failure of parts to arrive in time for necessary maintenance to work on trap lines, city roads, planes, snowmobiles, etc.

"Recreation—Recreation is affected by failure of the movies to arrive on time.

"People—Morale is affected by constant disappointment and frustration over these failures in communication as well as those affecting their personal lives in not having closer ties with families and friends by mail."

Although Mr. Wilde does not agree with some of their specific complaints, he does believe the villagers of Fort Yukon lose out under the new system.

Bills, he says, as first class mail, should be carried immediately. Newspapers should, as the first non-priority item loaded, be delayed not more than a few days. Except during bad weather, these things should go to Fort Yukon almost immediately.

However, at times of heavy travel and freight, supplies and non first class items may be delayed noticeably.

"Senator Stevens," he explained, "is aware of the problem. However, so far no progress has been made."

The Fort Yukon petition, he said, is far from the first complaint about the two track air transport system various officials have received.

Bush mail service, is an expensive money loser to the Post Office and one that they are trying to make cheaper while retaining necessary service.

leadership activities.

So far, response to his letters of inquiry has been slim and consists mainly of unorganized information which will require a great deal of clerical help to organize.

He is hoping Tundra Times readers can submit lists of Alaskan Natives who by their education, training, work experience, and current position demonstrate the competence of Alaskan Natives to manage their own affairs and the affairs of Native owned corporations.

Names should be organized by name, age or estimate age, city and state of residence, his or her qualifications and place of origin.

"In a matter of a few minutes I developed a list of 24 such natives from the middle and lower Yukon area of the Tanana Chiefs and that list was far from exhaustive," Jackson said.

Hopefully, an exhibit of pertinent biographies would have some influence on the final land claims bill draft of the Senate and House Interior Committees. It should convince the Senators and Congressmen, Jackson hopes, that regional corporations staffed by Alaskan natives will administer the intelligent and wise use of land claims funds.