

Roll Specialist Weathers Sophisticated Press Corps

ANCHORAGE, Ak. — Take a pretty young Eskimo from a remote Alaskan Village on the Bering Sea, subject her to the sophisticated press corps of California, Oregon and Washington, and the results come out typically and uniquely Alaskan.

On a whirlwind tour last month to sound the call for all Alaskan Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts who live in the "South 49" (Alaskan jargon for anywhere but Alaska) to enroll for a share in the massive \$900-million-plus Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement, Frances Degnan astounded many experienced interviewers.

A guest on an open-line Seattle radio show, the 29-year-old Eskimo from Unalakleet, a representative of the B.I.A. Anchorage Enrollment Office, explained, "No one called in to ask about the settlement."

"All the calls to the program were from Alaskans who live in the Seattle area. They ran the gamut from 'hi there, Fran, how are you?' to 'glad you're down here, gee you sound different on radio,' to a multitude of calls asking me to deliver messages to their friends and relatives when I returned to Alaska," she explains.

News interviews, too, resulted in the public relations firm which was handling her tour being inundated with messages to Frances from former classmates, friends and acquaintances who just wanted to say "Hello."

"And it happened in every town we visited," she explains.

Was she frightened about the task before her? "At first," she says, "I didn't know where I was going as I had never been in any of those cities before. And I had no idea what I'd be confronted with."

The worst moment for her, she recalls, was when she was introduced to the press as being "about to explain the land claims in Eskimo."

"I almost panicked," she says. "Though my immediate family speaks both Eskimo and English, (her brother is a member of the Alaska State Legislature and her father is Unalakleet Village Council President as well as long-time Alaska Territorial legislator) I so seldom speak it, I've forgotten most of it."

How did she handle the introduction?

"I said 'hello, how are you, I hope everything is fine' in Es-



FRANCES DEGNAN

kimo. At least I hope that's what I said," she adds ruefully.

When the press corps heard (in English) that the settlement voted by Congress last year, amounts to nearly \$1 billion, the most often asked question was "how much does each Native get?"

"It's such a difficult question to answer in a few sentences," Frances explains. "The settlement provides \$465.5 million in federal funds, and another \$500 million to be paid from a 2 per cent royalty on minerals from

federal and state lands." In addition, Alaska Natives are eligible for 40 million acres of land.

Some \$75,000 Alaska Natives are expected to be eligible to share in the claims. "But it's not a per capita settlement the way it's been with other tribes, where the money is divided up among the individuals. The land and most of the money will be distributed among twelve regional corporations formed along geographic lines on a per capita basis.

"Each corporation, comprised of Native stockholders, will in turn either redistribute or invest — or both — the monies received," Frances explains.

The perky young University of Alaska graduate also had to juggle such questions as "Do you live in ice houses?" ("Never seen one."), "What is whale blubber?" ("An Eskimo delicacy we call muktuk.") and the inevitable "Is it cold there?" ("In winter below zero, but we love it. In summer, temperatures that can soar to 70 degrees.")

The press tour took her to Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma, Washington; Sacramento, California; Portland, Salem and Eugene, Oregon.

An estimated 14-20,000 Natives live outside Alaska and are eligible to participate in the claims settlement, according to Miss Degnan. "While most are estimated to live on the West Coast," she explains, "we've received applications from over 1700 communities in all 50 states as well as from 17 foreign countries."

Who is eligible? Any person who has one-quarter Alaskan Indian, Eskimo or Aleut blood, even if he was not born in Alaska.

"And that means that adopted youngsters, a second generation Californian or New Yorker, may all be eligible," Frances says.

Is she ready to search the Middle West and the East Coast of America in her search for Alaskan Natives?

"I am now," she says with new assurance. "But it's a formidable job, as we've got to find them all before the rolls close next March."

For further information, write: Alaska Native Enrollment Office, Pouch 7-1971 (B), Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

ANCHORAGE Hotels - Motels

Roosevelt Hotel
530 H St. 277-5541
Ave. Sgl. with bath \$18

LEGAL NOTICE

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH
REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES
6% Due July 1, 1973
(Tax Exempt from Federal and State of Alaska Income Taxes)

The North Slope Borough is issuing Revenue Anticipation Notes with interest at 6% due July 1, 1973 in amounts of not less than \$10,000. Those wishing to purchase same may inquire at the following addresses:
Dupere & Associates, Inc.,
P.O. Box 2183
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
Telephone: 272-9451

Dupere & Associates, Inc.,
510 6th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Telephone: 586-3553

These funds are needed to undertake the organization of the North Slope Borough which includes building the property tax rolls. The recent oil company legal action against the Local Boundary Commission, State of Alaska, has caused difficulty in using the normal sources of issuing these type of notes and organizing the Borough.
Financial Information:
Estimated Assessed Valuation
\$500,000,000

Estimated Property Taxes to be Levied
\$1,564,200
Estimated Millage Rate
3.3 Mills
Authority for Issuance
Alaska Statutes 29.58.010.

"A municipality of the state which is authorized to incur indebtedness may borrow money in a fiscal year to meet appropriations for that fiscal year in anticipation of the collection of taxes and estimated revenues for the fiscal year and may issue its revenue anticipation notes as evidence of the borrowing."
Alaska Statutes 29.58.050.

"The payment of the principal and interest on revenue anticipation notes shall be payable from revenues and their payment additionally shall be secured by a pledge of the full faith, credit and unimpaired taxing power of the municipality issuing them."

Eben Hopson, Mayor
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH
Publish November 15, 22, 29 and December 6, 1972

Nixon Approves Interior's BIA Scholarships

The President approved the Interior Department's supplemental budget for FY 1973 including Senator Ted Stevens' amendment to provide 3,500 BIA scholarships for Native students, including 300 Alaskans.

Stevens told the Appropriations Committee that "it is now evident that about 3,500 Indian and Native students across the country who have been accepted into college this fall and spring may not be able to return due to lack of funds."

Senator Stevens pointed out that "since 1965, the dropout rate for Indian and Native students has gone from 18 per cent down to 14 per cent — BIA scholarships for these 3,500 students will help this progress continue."

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for your confidence and support.

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Sincerely,
TED STEVENS

Pd. by Stevens for '72 Committee, Andy Milner, Chmn.