

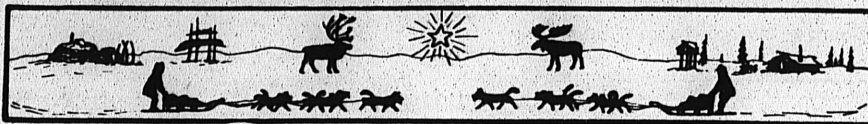
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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Fairbanks, Alaska

Native businessmen wary

The opening of United Bank of Alaska

By JEFF RICHARDSON
"It will probably exceed our expectations."

"With imagination we hope to be a help to the housing needs of the outlying areas."

Such was the optimistic tone of several people who have been involved in the creation of the United Bank of Alaska (UBA), a joint venture of five regional Native corporations. The opinions were expressed at a reception held in Anchorage January 16 to celebrate the opening of the new bank, located at the corner of 7th and G Streets in Anchorage.

Several hundred people attended the reception, including an impressive host of Native leaders, several of whom serve on the bank's board of directors.

One of the directors, Willie Hensley, one of the directors representing the NANA Region, described the initial discussion of a banking venture among members of the Alaska Federation of Natives as an effort to bring several differing fractions of the federation together. Nearly three years after the idea was introduced, the bank was granted a charter by the State of Alaska. Its doors opened for business on December 22, 1975.

Hensley commented that he expected cautious but not necessarily slow growth for the



AT THE GRAND OPENING OF NATIVE BANK—Sam Kito, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, (left), and Senator Willie Hensley join in the grand opening celebration of the new United Bank of Alaska, a joint venture of five regional Native corporations.
—Photo by JEFF RICHARDSON

bank, adding that its board of directors was relatively conservative. The 11-member board is composed of

representatives of the five regional corporations taking part in the venture: NANA, Doyon, Cook Inlet, Calista, and Bristol Bay, and 2 independent members.

Richard Purd, who, along with
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Fed. financing boon Promised in 1974 Now being attacked

Now considered a device to move
Urban Natives "back to reservations"

By MARGIE BAUMAN

FAIRBANKS—Federal legislation heralded back in 1974 as a boon to Native businesses is now being attacked as an attempt to keep them down on the reservation.

The sudden switch of sentiment from urban Alaska Natives comes on the heels of a memorandum from Commissioner Morris Thompson of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which limits areas of Alaska eligible under the Indian Financing Act of 1974.

For years, all of Alaska has been considered an Indian reservation for purposes of BIA services in health, housing, education and other economic benefits.

Thompson's memo stands to limit Indian Financing Act grants and loans in Alaska to Natives residing only in communities listed in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The list excludes Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Ketchikan, where a substantial number of Natives live.

"They're trying to force people back to the reservation and near the reservations in order to start a small business," charged John Heffle, President of the Interior Eskimo Association at Fairbanks.

"They're going to make darn sure that they (the BIA) have a tidy job for the next 100 years," Heffle said.

A former Fairbanks policeman, Heffle organized the Interior Eskimo Association in 1963 and has since proven one of BIA's most vocal critics.

His criticism of the Thompson memo is echoed by Rick Natanson, credit officer for the Tanana Chiefs Conference which serves Fairbanks and the Interior villages.

"The threat of this, to me, is that all related bureau services will be restricted as to applicability," Natanson said. "This looks like the beginning of the termination thrust."

As he talked, Natanson held before him a list of six Fairbanks Natives seeking grants totaling \$225,000 under the Indian Financing Act. The maximum individual grant allowed under
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Gives final report— Energy Task Force

By SUE GAMACHE

The Rural Energy Task Force appointed by Governor Jay S. Hammond in October 1975 submitted its final report concerning short term and long term solutions to the recurring and severe rural energy problems.

Chairman of the Task Force was William C. McConkey, Director of the Alaska State Energy Office.

The Task Force found that there was a shortage of bulk fuel storage in rural Alaska. There is also a lack of funds to buy the fuel to put in these storage facilities once they are built.

They also found that there is a need for education and training in the areas of energy conservation, fuel management, planning and safety.

Arrangements have been satisfactorily worked out with Federal Agencies for the legal transportation of fuels via Alaska's airways and waterways. Concern is shown about proposed State legislation entitled "An Act Relating to Transportation by Water Carriers".

Concern is also shown about future availability of water carriers in the area of Kodiak

Island, the Aleutians, and the Alaska Peninsula.

The Task Force believes an ongoing energy advisory group should be established by the State Energy Office. This group should operate at no expense to
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Car crash claims life—

Educator Bill Vaudrin passes

One of Alaska's foremost leaders in Native Education, William H. (Bill) Vaudrin was

killed last week in an automobile accident with a moose near Cantwell.

State Troopers said the moose was thrown onto the roof of the car which collapsed on the victim. Vaudrin was pronounced dead on arrival at Cantwell.

Passenger Rita Topkok, 17, whose address was not reported to State Troopers was treated and released for minor injuries at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Vaudrin, 33, former president of the Inupiat University of the Arctic at Barrow, has served as executive director of the State Human Rights Commission in 1973-74, coordinator for the state operated school system and a teacher at Anchorage Community College.

He was born at White Earth, Minn., and came to Anchorage on his own at the age of 16. He worked as a commercial fisherman while studying at Anchorage High School and Alaska Methodist University. He earned his Masters degree at the University of Oregon.

Vaudrin was a strong

supporter of Native education in the villages.
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Slope Borough Signs Anttonen To board supt.

In a regular meeting of the North Slope Borough, January 7, Dr. John Anttonen, Superintendent of the North Slope School Board, signed an 18-month contract that began January 1, 1976.

Anttonen has been with the North Slope Borough since June 15, 1975. The new contract will supercede the 12-month contract signed by him last June.

Anttonen was previously superintendent of Yakutat City School District and State Coordinator of Special Education with the Alaska State Department of Education. He and his wife and three children have been residents of Barrow since June, 1975.



BECOMING A TEACHER

Bernice John, 16, from Aniak, tries her teaching skills with Lyn Tober, 4, at the Career Center in Anchorage. Along with students from several Anchorage high schools, Bernice has enrolled in the Child Care course to learn more about working with young children.