

SJC to Hold Native Conference

March 21 marks the beginning of Sheldon Jackson College's All Alaska Native Conference on Higher Education.

The conference will probe the needs of higher education in Alaska and how Sheldon Jackson can better serve its students, half of whom are Alaska Natives, according to Dr. Orin R. Stratton, President of the college.

The central theme of the 2 day conference will be Alaska Native Goals and Higher Education, according to Dr. Stratton.

Among the prominent Native leaders who have agreed to participate in a panel on that theme are Harry Carter, Executive Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives; State Senator Willie Hensley; Byron Mallott, head of the Local Affairs Agency under Governor Egan; Robert Willard, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission and Morris Thompson, Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"We have sought statewide representation of those Native leaders knowledgeable in the field of education so that the college may make some meaningful steps, and perhaps some pioneering steps in the education of Alaska Natives," wrote Dr. Stratton.

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"In the two years since the last conference Sheldon Jackson has come a long way. Implementing recommendations of the conference, the college has strengthened its counseling program by training dormitory supervisors, employing an Assistant to the Dean of Students, hiring an Academic Dean skilled in counseling, and instituting a comprehensive orientation for freshmen prior to the start of classes.

"Other conference recommendations also proved valuable: improved recruiting methods have resulted in more Native students enrolled—65 this year; personalized attention has given Native students at Sheldon Jackson College the lowest attrition rate in the state; and increased concern has motivated the administration to seek federal funding from various programs to improve curricular offerings and content, upgrade skills and provide additional career, educational and personal counseling."

The date for the conference was purposely set for during the week prior to the Tlingit-Haida meeting in Southeast Alaska so that representatives attending the meeting might attend both without a good deal of extra travel.

Delegates to the conference will stay in one of the college's dormitories and eat in the college's dining hall.

Sheldon Jackson College was originally begun as an industrial training school for Native students, but became a two-year college in 1944 and was accredited in 1966. Of the 120 full-time students, 65 are Eskimo, Aleut, or Indian. The largest group among the Natives is the group of Eskimos.

Floodfight Conference...

(Continued from page 1)

his opening remarks.

Mr. Trent surveyed the operation of recent Federal emergency legislation during disasters within the past months.

The various representatives were welcomed to the meeting by Fairbanks Mayor Julian C. Rice.

Lt. Governor H.A. Boucher, former mayor of Fairbanks, represented the Governor's office at the meeting.

"We stand ready to assist you in carrying out what must be primarily the city of Fairbanks' responsibility."

Later in the meeting, Mr. Boucher expressed his pleasure at the degree of interaction between various agencies. Such interaction, he said, can stand the city in good stead in many situations, but it takes the threat of a flood to bring them together. Boucher was Mayor of Fairbanks during the disastrous flood of 1967.

The initial part of the floodfight meeting was devoted to National Weather Service, Soil Conservation Service and Geological Survey reports on the amount of snow in the area and the statistical probabilities of a runoff of flood proportions.

According to Glen Osgood of the National Weather Service, snow runoff this spring, without added precipitation (rainfall), could raise the Chena River water level to between 11½ and 12½ feet. Flood level is 12 feet. The months of April and May are months of low rainfall, but additional water could easily push the water level above crest level as high as 17 feet.

Most of the breakup floods in the Tanana Valley during the past 60 years have been due to ice jams. In 1936 and 1937, breakup floods struck both the Yukon and Tanana Valleys, flooding the towns of Ft. Yukon, Nenana, McGrath, Tanana, Ruby,

An evening of Native foods, dancing and merriment will be presented Saturday, March 20 when the Fairbanks Native Association hosts their annual potlatch.

The potlatch is a ceremonial winter feast and this one, at Lathrop High School in Fairbanks, will include traditional games and dances in the program.

Wild game, fish and traditional Native delicacies will be featured in the menu. Most of the

game has been contributed as donations from various villagers.

No children under 14 will be admitted this year, due to the crowds who attended last year's potlatch and the inability to handle so many people. Several thousand people are expected to attend the potlatch—the Fairbanks Native Association's main fund raising event.

Tickets are \$4 each at the Fairbanks Native Welcome Center and at Ralph Perdue Jewelry. Al Adams is the chairman of this year's potlatch and has planned a fun-filled evening.

Tony Joule...

(Continued from page 1)

until 1922 when he left to attend Northfield and Mount Herman Schools in Northfield, Mass. He was the first native of Point Hope to obtain higher education.

He returned to Alaska to teach for 44 years at Point Hope, Kivalina, Buckland, Deering, Elim, St. Michaels and Kotzebue. He retired from the BIA in 1962 and wrote a number of articles for the Tundra Times.

Tony Joule served as mayor of Kotzebue in 1964-65 and several times on the Kotzebue city council. He was a lay member of the Episcopal Church and served as translator in many villages. He also was a member of the territorial guard.

After his retirement from the BIA, Joule became a sanitarian for the Public Health Service on the Arctic Coast. He moved to Anchorage in 1968 to begin work on an English-Eskimo dictionary, a project he was working on at the time of his death.

Survivors include his widow, Mary; a son, Sylvester of Seattle; and four daughters, Mrs. Mabel Blatchford of Seward, Mrs. Vera Gelzer of Nome, Mrs. Mildred Bond of Anchorage and Annie Joule of Kotzebue.

Funeral services for Tony Joule were held Saturday, March 13, at All Saints Episcopal Church at Anchorage. Burial will be at Point Hope.

Flora Bergman...

(Continued from page 1)

in Allakaket, with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Bergman. She graduated from Lathrop H.S. in January of this year and expects to start her studies in education at Alaska Methodist University in September.

This year, she works as teacher aide in the state school in her village. Her greatest ambition is to be a school teacher and to have "lots of children of her own as well."

For the talent part of the pageant, which counts 50 per cent in each girl's final score, Flora will present a legend of her people—The Moon Legend—in her native Indian language.

For the presentation, she will don her native costume—a natural moosehide dress, decorated with beads in an intricate floral design pattern of the Wild Sitka Rose, the state flower. The sleeves and hem of her dress are fringed and the waist is tied with a moose hide belt.

Although she is confident in her native costume, Flora is apprehensive about the rehearsals and pageant she must go through in a long gown and 3 inch high heels—neither of which she has ever worn.

However, the Tundra Times is confident that our "Miss Congeniality" (one of her titles from the Eskimo Olympics pageant) will charm the judges as easily as she charmed our bachelor editor.

Tundra Times, sponsor of the Eskimo Olympics, is sponsoring Flora in the Miss Alaska Pageant.

Mentasta Struggles...

(Continued from page 1)

"Technically, the State can go in and raze the village and sell the land to someone else, even though people live there," according to an Alaska Legal Services attorney.

At the present time, the village of Mentasta Lake is also challenging the State of Alaska in the courts—in a separate suit. The village is one of those affected by the Tok area Open to Entry classification.

The open to entry program, according to G.E. Stein of ALS in Anchorage, allows the leasing of five acre recreational tracts on specifically classified State lands. An 130,000 acre tract in the Tok area in northeastern Alaska has been classified for this use.

The Mentasta Lake suit, which challenged the land classification order in Superior Court in Anchorage last month, charges that the land order was illegal and unconstitutional because it was made without giving public notice of the classification or holding hearings in the Tok area.

Some form of notice and hearing was given in Anchorage and Fairbanks, but the villagers of Mentasta Lake, which was affected by the order, say they only found out when third parties began to stake claims near their village.

The Mentasta Lake residents, three of whom are plaintiffs in the suit, contend they should have been consulted about the classification of one particular tract of land, located in the immediate neighborhood of their village—and which they use. Thirteen lease applications have now been filed in the 9,000 acre open to entry tract near their village.

The village is located on valuable land to the State. Situated on the Glenn Highway, about 50 miles southeast of Tok, it is in one of the areas valuable to the State due to its proximity to the road and to developing areas.

However, unless some provision is made in a land claims settlement, the villages on State selected lands may have no title to any of the lands their people have lived on from time immemorial.

Under the provisions of the Harris-Kennedy bill, which follows the AFN position of 60 million acres of land, \$500 million and a 2 per cent royalty on

minerals, previous State selections would be nullified.

However, these provisions would also nullify State selections on the North Slope, a provision Congress is very unlikely to pass.

Such villages as Minto, Tanacross and Dot Lake, also along the highway route, are also within the State's selection area. Minto and Tanacross have received special permission from the State to move their villages onto these lands.

Following is a reprint of the resolution passed by Mentasta Lake:

RESOLUTION

The village of Mentasta Lake, through its Village Council and traditional chief, make the following resolution based on the following facts:

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Bill has for one of its purposes the granting of lands surrounding established Native Villages, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Mentasta Lake is an established native community using and dependent upon the lands surrounding the community, and

WHEREAS, without our awareness and over our protest, the State of Alaska has selected and been given tentative approval to the selection of the lands surrounding the village of Mentasta Lake, and

WHEREAS, the most current versions of the settlement proposal do not specifically provide for a priority of village selection over State tentatively approved selections, and

WHEREAS, we will never relinquish our village site and the surrounding and supporting lands,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Mentasta Lake opposes any land claims settlement which does not specifically provide for the selection of lands surrounding the village even though these lands have been tentatively approved for selection under the Statehood Act.

DATED this 5 day of 3, 1971. MENTASTA VILLAGE COUNCIL:

/S/ Huston Sanford, President
/S/ Ben F. John, Vice President
/S/ Lee Nicolai, Secretary
/S/ Fred John, Traditional Chief of Mentasta Lake

Agnew, Native Leaders...

(Continued from page 1)

to the American Indian.

"It's time to stop the rhetoric and to start acting," the Vice President said.

"The Vice President then turned the meeting over to AFN President Don Wright who gave a 15 minute presentation. They were very, very moved with Don's opening speech. He started from the very beginning—where the Natives of Alaska were there and the Russians came—and went up to the present moment when we're really fighting for our native land claims.

"He clearly explained why we're asking for 60 million acres, 500 million dollars compensation, 2 per cent in perpetuity and the 12 regional concept. He did such a beautiful job that he visibly moved everyone in that room including the three Natives who were there—who already understood our side of the story. I really have to take my hat off to him, he did such a good job.

"No absolute promises were made but it was obvious that the administration's position was not acceptable by everyone present

at the meeting. Because of the meeting, there was a dramatic shift in their position.

"Secretary Morton said that in the last few days he has personally researched and re-evaluated his whole way of thinking on the native land claims legislation. This weekend, the administration is drafting their bill and agreed to have AFN counsel present during the entire drafting of the bill.

"The meeting was above-board and it was very, very open on both sides. A lot of questions were asked Vice President Agnew and Secretary Morton and the others.

"They didn't know what we were talking about before. They heard a lot of figures thrown around about what the natives were asking for. After this meeting, they understand why we're asking for what we're demanding.

"It was a great meeting and I think represents a dramatic shift in their way of thinking so far as the native land claims situation is concerned," Mrs. Bergt concluded.