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Alaskan newspaper

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Vol. 13, No. 49

Wednesday, December 8, 1976

Fairbanks, Alaska

Rim considers village development

**Chugach region villages
talk development priorities,
ski area, cannery, recreation
are likely investments**

By Jeffrey R. Richardson
Staff Writer

CORDOVA—Rain, sleet, and snow can't stop the Chugach Natives. They converged on the drenched little town of Cordova last week for an intensive four-day seminar in planning for economic development.

As the session drew to a close, one important theme was conspicuous: careful planning and patience are essential if the village corporations are to get the most for their money.

The seminar was sponsored by the North Pacific Rim Native Corporation, the non-profit corporation for the Chugach region. Clifford Black, executive director of the Rim, said the purpose of the sessions was to "enable them to be more innovative and more creative in their planning."

Twenty to thirty participants from the five Chugach villages heard representatives from state and federal agencies discuss the tools available to them to develop the economic potential of the region.

Native arts

festival Friday

FAIRBANKS—A "mini" Festival of Native Arts will be held Friday, Dec. 10, at the University of Alaska campus.

Scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Wood Center Ballroom, the festival will feature an auction of native handi-

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The first day of the seminar, representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Mines described their agencies functions. Black commented that their presentations "outlined the lack of need for anyone to buy a consultant. That's the important thing."

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BLM under

fire at meet

by Jeffrey R. Richardson
Staff Writer

"Basically, it's all in the courts right now." This was how Gus Sorensen, from the Anchorage District office of the Bureau of Land Management described the issue of easements across Native lands.

Speaking at a planning seminar in Cordova, Sorensen and Native Liaison officer Lloyd Sutton had few encouraging words for representatives of the five Chugach villages Eyak, Tatitlek, Port Graham, English Bay, and Chenega.

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FIRST LAND CONVEYANCE TO ASRC—BLM State Director Curt McVee and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation President Joseph Upickson sign the order which officially conveyed nearly three million acres from Federal ownership to the Corporation. Jacob Adams, Director of Land for the ASRC (second from right) and Bob Sorenson, Chief of the BLM's Branch of Lands and Minerals, both instrumental in the transfer of title, watch the signing. The conveyance to the ASRC was as large as the state of Connecticut.

Lang says no—

Who will replace Kito?

From our Anchorage Bureau

Who will take Sam Kito's place?

That's a guessing game being played by many people these days. A replacement for Kito, who announced his resignation at the AFN Convention in October, may be selected at the AFN Board meeting this week.

The three names most frequently mentioned as candidates for the AFN presidency are Roger Lang, Byron Mallot and Clifford A. Black.

Although some people have heard otherwise, Lang told the Tundra Times he is not interested in the job. He is a former AFN president.

Mallot seems to be the most likely candidate at this point. He was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Sealaska Corp. In a phone interview from his home in Yakutat, Mallot said, "I do intend to make myself available in Anchorage to discuss the possibility of the presidency with the AFN Board."

Black is the Executive Director of the North Pacific Rim Native Corporation. He acknowledged that he had been asked to consider the position, but commented, "I'm not interested for the simple reason that AFN under the present structure cannot be of meaningful assistance to the regional profit and non-profit corporations." Black added that he would be interested if AFN were immediately reorganized.

Black is not the only one who has spoken of reorganizing AFN to give power back to the people, and non-profit corporations. Calista Corp. tried to initiate such a move at the AFN Convention this year, but was unsuccessful. Cook Inlet's Roy Huhndorf said he may make such an effort at the AFN Board meeting this week.

A straw poll conducted by the Tundra Times at the AFN Convention indicated that a majority of regions were willing to consider reorganization.

TT goes

statewide

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Sheeatika vs. Sheffield —

Sitka hotels stir corporate competition

By Virginia McKinney

Sheeatika has arranged financing and hired a management firm for its long planned hotel to be built in Sitka, but there is still a chance Sheffield Enterprises might beat them to the punch and get a hotel up a year earlier than the Native village corporation.

The race to build a first-class hotel in the historic Southeast Alaska town has apparently narrowed down to those two contestants, with a Juneau radio and television entrepreneur pulling out to concentrate instead on a shopping

center there.

Sheeatika has signed a ten-year management contract for their hotel with a small family-owned Oregon firm.

The Native village firm contracted with Village Green Corporation, based in Cottage Grove, a 16-year-old business that owns three properties in Oregon.

Architects for the project are Lovegren and Loveland and Associates of Seattle, who had done the design work for Trader Vic Restaurants and Western Hotels.

Sheeatika spokesman says construction could begin as

early as mid-November if the early start-up is necessary to meet the corporations opening goal of April 1978.

The 100 room hotel is slated to have two lounges, a restaurant, meeting rooms, plus a small amount of retail space.

Financing of the four million dollar project have been tentatively approved under the Indian Financing Act, which guarantees 90 percent of the loan.

Despite Sheeatika's announced plans to build its hotel, Sheffield Enterprises has not dropped its own hotel idea for Sitka.

If Sheffield does decide to go ahead with its own hotel, it would be slated to open by next July, a year sooner than Sheeatika's.

Sheffield has been negotiating to buy a three acre tract of Katliane Street, waterfront land where Sitka cold storage once stood.

Tourism industry experts have cited the shortage of hotel accommodations at peak periods, plus the absence of a first-class hotel as obstacles to development of a larger convention and tourism industry in Sitka.