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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

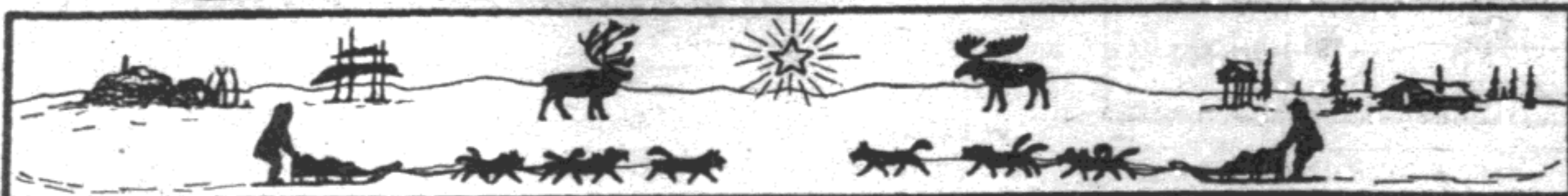
Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

Vol. 7, No. 234

Friday, November 14, 1969

Fairbanks, Alaska



Tlingit  
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting  
HAIDA  
Yaunk yawn sue  
Speak the absolute truth

## U.S. READS LANDS BROCHURE

### Seminar Backs Native Oriented Proposals

Chairman of the Alaska State Legislative Council, Rep. Gene Guess: "This conference is an experiment in democracy."

James M. Mitchell, director of advanced study program, Brookings Institution: "All of our conferees are to help Alaskans to make decisions for themselves."

John Osman, senior staff member, Brookings Institution: "The decisions you make today will influence tomorrow."

Joseph L. Fisher, president, Futures, Inc.: "In the next few years, the oil revenues can equal all the revenues in Alaska since 102 years ago."

Arlon Tussing, Associate professor of economics, University of Alaska: "In 1970, the state can spend \$300 million annually and keep it up."

The above remarks set in motion the Conference on the Future of Alaska on the first of four such conferences in Anchorage to be held from last Sunday, November 9, till December 14, all of them for the duration of three days.

The outcome of the first of four seminars under the auspices (Continued on page 6)



WOMEN—Portraying Eskimo women in their oldtime attire, Nick Wongittilin of St. Lawrence Island caught the women in pleasant mood. The work is woodcut in color. "Women" is one of many that illustrates Graphic Arts of the Alaskan Eskimo, a book being sold by Tundra Times for \$1.00.

—U.S. Department of the Interior,  
Indian Arts and Crafts Board Photograph

### 'Deadline for Justice' Brochure on Claims Distributed Nationally

"NATIVE ALASKA: DEADLINE FOR JUSTICE," a voluminous brochure on behalf of Alaska's native people and their land claims is now being distributed nationwide to acquaint the public in general the urgent need for justifiable solution by Congress on the land question in Alaska.

Compiled with dignity and meaning, the brochure was done by Hackett and Associates, a public relations firm in New York. The firm was engaged by the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc. of New York. The association works for the benefit of American Indians and has a nationwide membership of 45,000.

The frontispiece of the brochure declares:

"The United States and its people are offered a priceless opportunity to do justice to its aboriginal people whose treatment in the past has reflected little glory on our Nation."

"A hundred years ago on the Western frontier, Indians and whites were killing each other for possession of the land. Today in Alaska, sixty thousand Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts are fighting

to preserve their ancient rights and heritage, and to save a fair portion of their lands from expropriation by the State.

"They are waging a peaceful war for a decent share of America's future. Congress is now deciding their fate. The Alaska Native people urgently appeal to the conscience of every American for help in their search for justice."

"Alaska's Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut citizens have conclusive legal and moral rights (original Indian title) to 340 million acres of land—ninety per cent of the Alaska landmass."

"They are asking Congress to grant them formal legal title to 40 million acres essential to their present livelihood and future well-being, and for just compensation."

(Continued on page 6)

## Eskimo Battalion Wipes Out Foe in Mock Battle Expresses Misgivings Claims Acreage Might Again Be Cut

The Eskimos of the 1st Battalion acting as guerillas against Co A, 6th Bn, 9th Infantry from Ft. Wainwright, wiped that company out when their base was overrun in last week's exercises near Nome.

The Scouts were outnumbered 5 to 1 but they ambushed the Regular Army Company several times capturing vehicles, men, equipment and weapons without loss to the Scouts. The Scouts captured a machine gun and ammunition and used it against Co A.

The guerilla force was made up of the local Guard unit, officers and men from 28 villages who were attending a seminar and two civilians Frank Okleasik and Robert Langton.

Major John Schaeffer, commander of the 1st Scout Bn, stated, "This maneuver has proved again that the Scout cannot be matched when operating in the Arctic. Our Battalion and Co A, 6th Bn both received some excellent training."

Major Schaeffer is Eskimo from Kotzebue.

In the other activities of the 1st Scout Battalion, the Scouts launched a recruiting drive in Unalakleet, Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow Monday Nov. 10. Muktuk Marston and B.G. Reed assisted.

Activities planned for Nome included a dance featuring the J.J. Banana Spring Wound Sound Circuit band at 9:00 p.m. last Monday in the Armory, the Veteran's Day Parade, an open house at the Armory with displays, movies, Otter rides for the kids, and showing of Muktuk Marston's film, People of the Tundra at the Armory.

Eben Hopson, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association with headquarters in Barrow, expresses apprehension that the 40 million acres asked by the native people of Alaska as the land area settlement in the claims might be further reduced by compromise.

"First during 1967 when the

meeting took place between the natives, the Governor and the Department of the Interior, our position today, as far as the 40 million acres is concerned, was whittled down to that figure at that meeting," Hopson pointed out.

"We should not," he continued, "have permitted that com-

promise to take place then. Nevertheless, we were compromised and we are asking for that amount in our bill, we have to live with it now."

"The unfortunate fact is, today we face a last chance to fight for that 40 million acres and approaching the real negotiating team with an already compromised figure is an uneasy feeling of apprehension that it might again be compromised."

Hopson said that he doesn't have to convince anybody that ownership by use and occupancy is in fact a well founded title have survived numerous times in the courts, "as a matter of fact established by the courts."

He said the people have testified many times to the fact that "we have substantive legal right to the land."

Hopson recalled that at the Juneau meeting a monetary figure was also toyed with and the fact that a definite figure was not settled on has been to the advantage of the native people.

He said that \$180 million to \$350 million were talked about. Finally \$500 million figure was arrived at supported and introduced in a bill by the former Alaskan Senator Ernest Gruening. This supported by the AFN board of directors and the Alaska Federation of Natives conven-

(Continued on Page 4)

### The Sharpening of Tempers

The Anchorage Daily Times and its columnist, W.C. Arnold, will, no doubt, succeed in fanning tempers against the native Alaskan people by their inflammatory writings about the Alaska Federation of Natives' land bill they dubbed, "The Goldberg Bill." The Anchorage newspaper and its columnist may also find that they are doing no less in fanning tempers of the native people who are seeking, at last, a justifiable solution to the lands they claim as their own and for which they hold, and held, deep reverence stemming from precious and constant use for sustenance since remote pre-history. The Anchorage Times and Arnold will find that this profound attitude of the native people toward their lands will be a hard one, if not an impossible one, to penetrate.

There is also a noteworthy occurrence, this time in favor of the native people that is coming to the fore at the present time. Through reasonable and well-thought out efforts, our

leaders and their people, with the help and interest of prominent Americans, have breached the conscience of the nation in seeking justice in the solution to their problems of which the land claims issue is the greatest. This is no small achievement and which should be a blessing if the impetus continues at the present rate.

In the light of this important development, the feverish accusations and attacks might tend to work against the State of Alaska, its officials, and those who scream and clamor for ruin if the aims of the AFN bill are implemented. The sensible thing might be for prominent Alaskans and the fair-thinking Alaskan public to view the native peoples' effort for just resolution to land problems, would also aid in the overall development of the state into one of the finest in the United States of America. This can, indeed, be achieved if the land solution is done with justice.