

Cherokee Indian Lady:—

Reawakening of Native Culture Seen

By MADELYN SHULMAN
Staff Writer

"I think there's been a reawakening of culture among our people, a new appreciation of the traditions of the native people," says Mrs. Clydia Nahwoosky.

Mrs. Nahwoosky, an Oklahoma Cherokee, directs a newly developed program in Indian Awareness at the Smithsonian Institution Division of Performing Arts.

She is in Alaska this week recruiting help and information for the Indian section of the Institution's annual Festival of American Folklife, held during the first week of July on the Washington Mall in front of the nation's capitol.

Each year, the Festival features the culture of the Indians of a different region, along with a state and an industry. This year, it will feature about 75 representatives of the culture of the Indians and Eskimos of the Northwest Coast and Alaska.

They will present the crafts, arts, songs, traditions, dances and history of their people—the living traditions that go on today as they did 100 years ago.

The task of presenting a program to accurately represent the traditions that live today is enormous. After three weeks in Washington and Oregon, speaking to Indian tribal leaders, art officials and state government, Mrs. Nahwoosky faces the tremendous diversity of Alaskan Native cultures.

Foremost in her mission, which is taking her from one end of the state to another, is finding an Alaskan who can coordinate the extensive research necessary—and arrange for recruitment and travel plans for 25 to 35 people.

These representatives, who will be invited to appear at the program in Washington, D.C., will receive travel expenses, lodging and a small honorarium.

Several members of the Festival will be invited to participate in traveling exhibitions to such places as Montreal during the summer.

During her two weeks in Alaska, Mrs. Nahwoosky has spoken to AFN leaders, Alaskan artists and craftsmen and other Alaskans with a serious knowledge of the arts and crafts of their people. She is also speaking to State officials.

Part of the purpose of her trip is to recruit funds for the Indian Awareness Program to offset the cost of the Festival and other activities of the program.

"Our aim is to present the Indian as we are today," she explained. Approximately 700,000 visitors passed through the 1970 Folklife Festival which featured the southern Plains Indian tribes. They received an introduction to the varied cul-

tures of these people—the music, food, dance, tales and crafts of many varied tribes.

The Folklife Festival seeks young people for its program, which involves the five days in Washington plus possible travel-exhibitions through the summer. They are trying to show that the traditions shown will remain alive among the young people of the tribes and villages.

Also, the exhausting schedule of several days outdoors during the hot, humid Washington summer may tax the strength of unacclimated older Alaskans.

"Besides showing a realistic picture of the Indian to white tourists," explained Mrs. Nahwoosky, "we hope to show our own people the diversity of their cultures."

The Institution, she explained, sees the Folklife Festival and its various performing groups as a "living addition to the museum exhibits."

For many years, the Smithsonian has collected the best of the thousands and thousands of artifacts of different cultures. Most of these remain housed in various storage rooms and attics of the Institution, with only a tiny percentage on display.

In recent years, people have begun to realize that simple collection and preservation of artifacts of a living culture is not enough.

During the last several years, the museum has greatly expanded its Indian programs, says Mrs. Nahwoosky. In 1970, for the first time the Indian contingent of the Folklife Festival attempted an accurate and representative program.

"We want to bring as representative a group of people from as many groups as possible," according to Mrs. Nahwoosky. During the five days of the festival, participants will hold pow wows and potlatches on consecutive nights.

Panel discussions will focus on contemporary Indian issues, including a panel discussion on termination and one on Indian fishing rights. A panel on Indian arts and crafts will also be held, at which UA assistant professor Ronald Senungetuk has already agreed to appear.

"In essence, the Indian awareness program is an advanced public relations program for the Indian people," explained Mrs. Nahwoosky.

Other activities conducted by the Program include plans for a touring program of Indian music and dance, augmented by classroom workshops and discussion sessions to circulate to educational institutions.

The program is also trying to start nationwide art exhibitions of Native Art in March 1972 and put together touring groups of the major Folklife Festival components.

"We want to change the stereotyped idea others have of us," says Mrs. Nahwoosky.

One means to do this may be a national telethon to bring to public view the Indian and Eskimo visions of himself, declaration of a National Indian Day and a series of Native American stamps featuring Indian leaders.

Already, research work is being done for an extensive Indian program as part of the U.S. bicentennial celebrations in 1976. Funds are available for Indian programs which are being planned along with the yearly programs now being done by the Smithsonian Institution.



LAURA BERGT TESTIFIES—Mrs. Laura Bergt of Fairbanks, Alaskan Eskimo Member of the National Council on Indian Opportunity, tells the Interior Department Hearing Officers about the problems of the people in the villages at the

oil pipeline environmental impact hearing in Anchorage last week. Mrs. Bergt spoke near the end of the second day of five days of hearings during which more than 200 people testified.

—Photo By STU ROTHMAN

AFN Seattle Chapter Holds Election

Alaska Federation of Natives, Washington Chapter, elected new officers for 1971 at their February 20th meeting in Seattle.

The officers elected were: George Walters of Teller, president; Jay Mallott, Yakutat, first vice president; Harry Apodruk of Council, second vice president; Virginia Thomas of Wiseman, secretary; Rachel Craig, Kotzebue, treasurer; Rebecca Harris of Cape Prince of Wales, corresponding secretary; and Paul Bell of Angoon as sergeant at arms.

Board members elected for three years were Elizabeth Walters of Sitka and Margaret Cooke of Stony River. Bill Johnson of Nome and Lorene Mallott of Hyaburg were elected to two-year board posts. Charles Resoff of Ninihchic and Fred Anderson of Afognik will fill one-year board spots.

Jim Price of Sitka will serve as the annual convention delegate for this year.

The AFN Washington Chap-

ter weeks to locate all Alaskan Natives who have at least ¼ degree Eskimo, Aleut or Indian blood who are now residing outside the State of Alaska.

"We feel that all Alaskan Natives, wherever they may reside, are eligible to receive and participate in any settlement of the Alaska Native land claims bill," says Washington Chapter President George Walters.

Census forms will be used to assure that all Alaskan Natives receive official enrollment forms which will include them in the land claims settlement.

These forms will be the basis for deciding who is eligible for land claims settlements and will probably be distributed within six months or passage of a land claims bill. Census forms may be obtained by writing A.F.N. Washington Chapter/ P.O. Box 24144/ Seattle, Wash. 98124.

AFN Washington Chapter was formed one year ago by a handful of Alaska Natives in Seattle seeking further information on

participating in the Alaska Native Land Claims Bill.

They now have over 700 natives on their mailing list in the Greater Seattle-Tacoma-Everett area and over 1500 on their mailing list in the lower "49".

FNA-BIA

(Continued from page 1)

sioner Bruce last November said, "The policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to make available to Indian people the option to take over the administration of any or all programs which the Bureau provides for them."

The Tlingit-Haida contract for administration of the BIA's Juneau Agency functions was one of the first announced under the new policy change.

Flood Conference...

(Continued from page 1)

subjects, the general public has not been invited.

However, press representatives are expected to provide information on flood control plans.

Harris-Kennedy Bill...

(Continued from page 1)

lation.

There is also fear that more conservative legislation may be introduced in the Senate either in the form of H.R. 3100, introduced in the House last month by Rep. Wayne Aspinall (D-Colo.), or in the form of new legislation proposed by the Administration.

AFN President Don Wright returned to Washington last week following meetings with the AFN board of directors. He is seeking office space in Washington as a base of operations for the AFN lobbying effort.

Wright told the Tundra Times that support for the Harris bill, which is endorsed by the AFN, is increasing in the Senate.

Dissatisfied with the position taken by the AFN, Arctic Slope Native Association Executive Director Charles Edwardsen, Jr. is conducting a separate lobbying effort here.

ASNA opposes the per capita distribution formula adopted by the AFN during its January 23 board meeting. Edwardsen said the ASNA position calls for distribution of settlement funds on the basis of lands claimed by regional organizations.

The opposing positions, con-

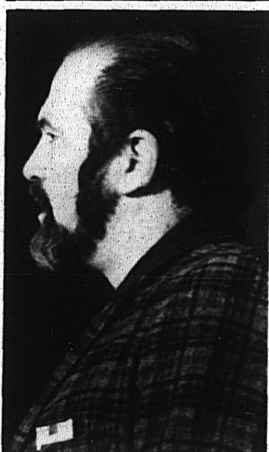
tends Edwardsen, cannot be reconciled. As long as the per capita provision remains, Edwardsen said, the North Slope will lobby against it and will make its position known to Congress.

If nothing else, Wright and Edwardsen share fears of a minimal effort from the Alaska Senators and wince at predictions of a more severe Administration proposal.

One bright note on the claims scene comes from the House: Organization of the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs last week resulted in significant representation from members known to be sympathetic toward the Alaska Native position.

Some of the committee members include Representatives Nick Begich, Ed Edmondson, Patsy Mink, and Lloyd Meads.

Although the action of the full House Interior Committee on claims legislation is the subject of a wide variety of predictions, there is speculation that the Indian Affairs Subcommittee will be more thorough and more favorable if it is delegated with most responsibility for consideration of claims legislation.



OIL EDITOR TESTIFIES—Fairbanks photographer and oil magazine editor Stu Rothman pushes for a prompt start on the oil pipeline. See his testimony on Page 2.

CLASSIFIED

The Koyukon Development Corporation is now accepting applications for an area community developer. Salary starts at \$825. Must be able to speak the Athabaskan Indian language. Must live in Galena. Job will start May 1. For information contact Koyukon Development Corporation, Box 26, Galena.

Publish March 3, 10, 17, 24.

Rebuts

Editorial...

(Continued from Page 2)

use of our resources."

I have a foreboding fear, an ominous one, that organized society is flunking so severely that uncontrollable forces will be expressed.

Very truly yours,
Frederick Paul
Attorney for
Arctic Slope Native Association