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Anchorage, Alaska



BLANKET TOSS — Scenes like this from the 1976 Point Hope Whale Festival will be among the many events featured at the Northwest Native Trade Fair, July 4-9 in Kotzebue.

BIA changes structure again

By LAURY ROBERTS

Alaskan Native organizations must agree on who their recognized leaders are if the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is to successfully divest much of its responsibility into local hands. And, the BIA itself will have to change its structure.

"Our mission has changed, but our organizational structure has not," said BIA Alaska Area Director, Clarence

Antioquia, in an interview with the TUNDRA TIMES. "Particularly in terms of tribal government assistance, we will have to resolve the issue of who represents whom with so many Native organizations at the village, regional and statewide level."

Antioquia, a Tlingit-Filipino from Sitka, said it may take specific legislation to determine the recognized governing bodies in dealings between the federal bureaucracy and Alaskan Natives.

The most significant impact on the BIA during the past five years he has served as area director is the development of Native leadership, Antioquia said.

"In the lower 48 they had the tribal councils.

And, while we always recognized Aleut, Tlingit, Eskimo and Athabascan peoples, there were no recognized speakers," he said. "Now it must be decided who speaks for whom."

Antioquia said, however, that Alaskan Native organizations are making progress toward continuity in leadership.

And, that's important to the BIA because it is turning the administration of many of its services over to Native groups, particularly on the village level.

"The era of self-determination has elevated the tribes in terms of the federal government," said the area director. " Tribes now relate government to govern-

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Land conveyance quickens

More land has been processed for conveyance to Native corporations over the past 12 months than in the entire period before last July, according to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ANCSA Program Management Office. And, one of the largest single conveyances under ANCSA took place June 28

when 1,135,843 acres on St. Lawrence Island were conveyed to Gambell and Savoonga Native corporations.

Overall, said BLM's Bob Arnold, the tasks of adjudication and easement identification throughout the state have been completed on nearly 15 million acres of land. Of that total, almost 9 million acres have been conveyed to 63 village corporations and 10 regional corporations.

Decisions to convey aggregating another 833,566 acres have been published, but the appeal period has not yet ended.

The St. Lawrence Island conveyance includes the

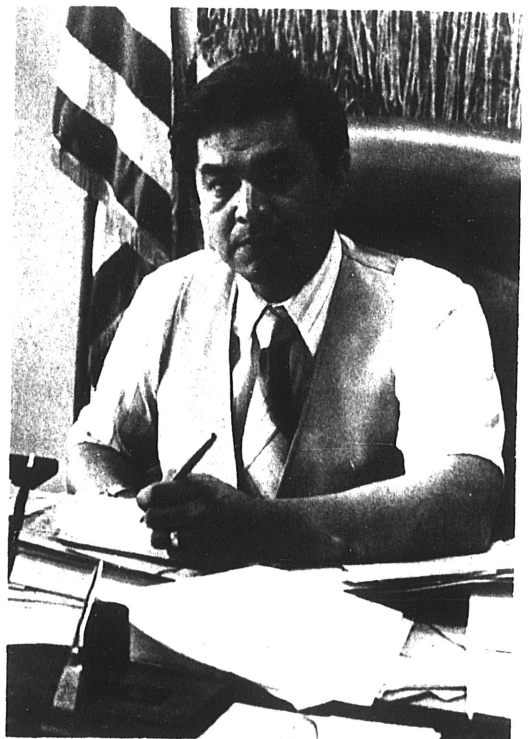
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CONVEYANCE PROGRESS

A SUMMARY

As of July 1, 1979

	ACRES
Conveyed	8,938,038
Published, but appealed	1,786,003
Published, appeal period not ended	833,566
Draft conveyance documents Furnished Native corporations	3,359,647
TOTAL	14,917,254



Clarence Antioquia