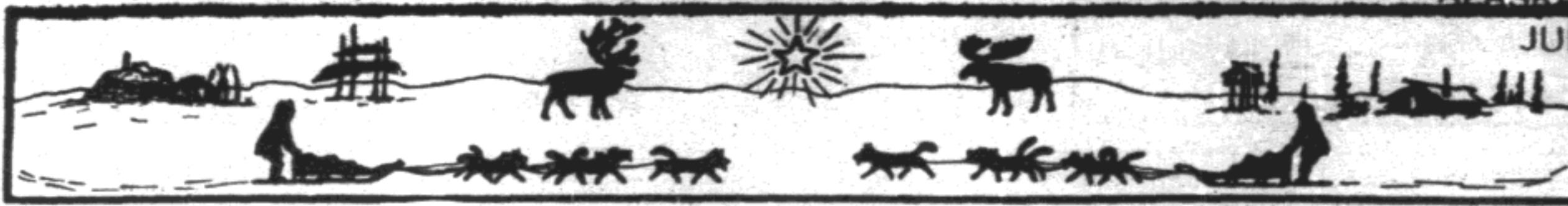


Tundra Times

RECEIVED
MAY 11 1970
15¢
ALASKA STATE LIBRARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

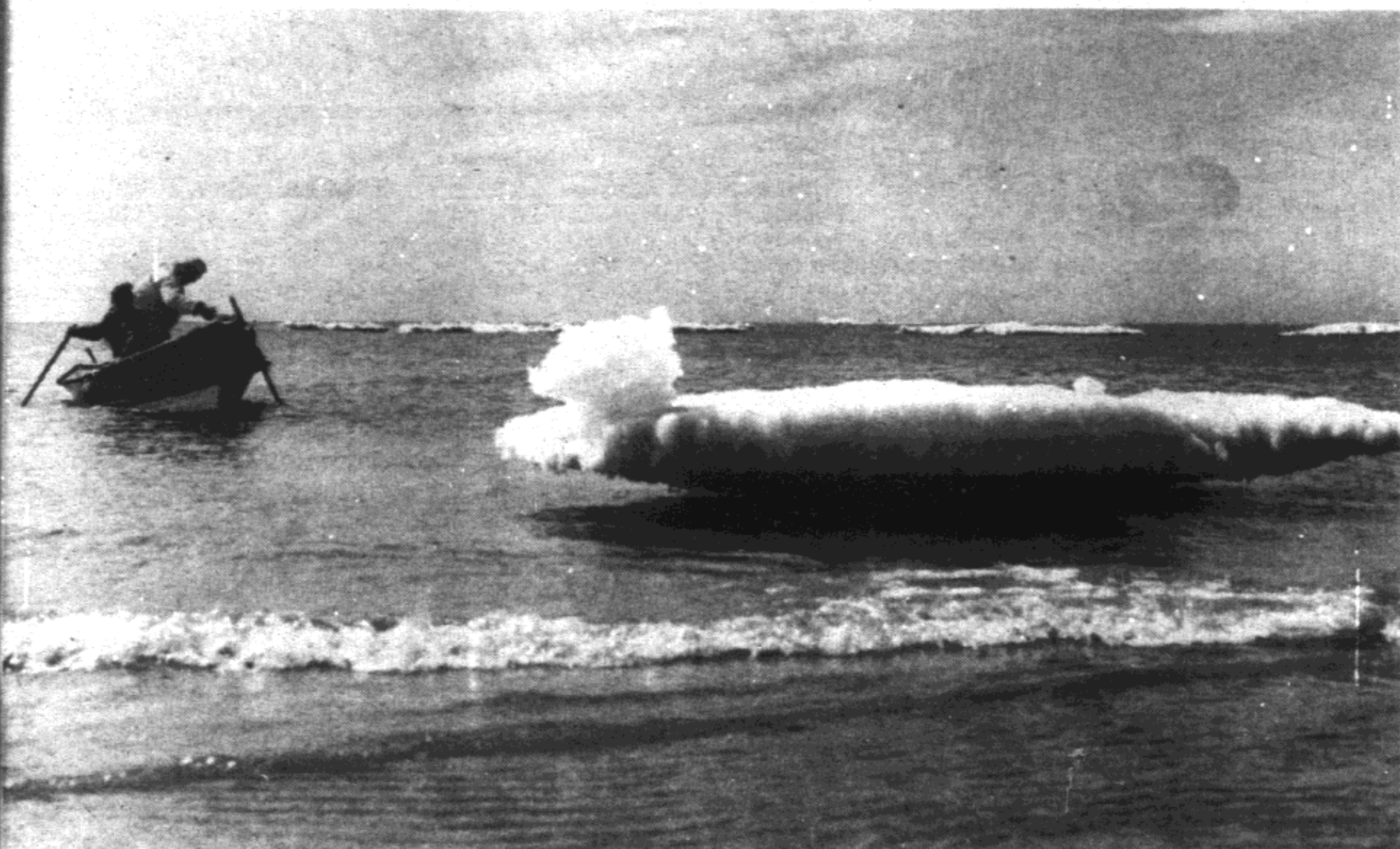


Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth

Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage
Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks
Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

Vol. 7, No. 258 Wednesday May 6, 1970 Fairbanks, Alaska

STATE SEEKS GRAVEL PERMITS



HUNTERS OF BERING STRAITS—Spring is approaching the coasts of Bering Sea, Bering Straits, Chukchi Sea and the Arctic Ocean. Whalers of St. Lawrence Island, Point Hope, Kivalina, are out on the ice whaling camps. Wainwright and Barrow will begin theirs a bit later. As spring wears on, the sea ice begins to break up, as the picture shows. At that stage, oogrucks, seals and walrus are hunted. Two Eskimos in the boat are just coming home after hunting off the coast from Cape Prince of Wales.
—ROBERT KOWELUK Photograph

131 Applications Asked For 'Free Gravel' on Or Near Pipeline Route

By SUSAN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The State of Alaska has applied for free gravel along the proposed route of the pipeline access road apparently in preparation for building the 336-mile road from the Yukon River to Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope.

Gov. Keith Miller asked the State Legislature Tuesday to appropriate \$120 million for the construction and to contract the work to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System in order to take advantage of mobilization already done by TAPS.

TAPS had planned to build the road at its expense but has refused to do so because it has not yet received the permit for the pipeline. As explained by Miller in his address to the Legislature, the State has undertaken the road project in hopes that it will expedite the pipeline project, which, he said, is so vital to the economy of Alaska.

The applications for free gravel were filed in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Fairbanks by the State Division of Highways and run from a point near Stevens Village up to the vicinity of Prudhoe Bay.

They range in size from 40 to 240 acres with the average being about 80.

According to a spokesman of the BLM, none of the applications have been approved. They will not be signed, he continued, until the office of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior gives the Fairbanks office the go-ahead.

The BLM, which is an agency of the Dept. of the Interior, has not been informed that the State of Alaska has the authority to build the road, he added.

In January, the spokesman explained, the land freeze in Alaska was modified to allow for that

(Continued on page 4)

Grant to Provide Legal Services In Remote Areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Howard W. Pollock announced that the Office of Economic Opportunity has awarded a \$469,023 grant to provide legal services in remote areas for the next twelve months.

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. is the recipient of the grant, which is to be administered through the Alaska Legal Services Corporation.

Nine attorneys, through four major offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, and Juneau, will service outposts manned by its attorneys in Bethel, Fort Yukon, Kotzebue, Nome, Barrow, Galena and Dillingham.

RCA Now Plans Installation of Dial Telephones in 142 Villages

By SUSAN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

"Literally thousands of people in Alaska have never had a telephone in their hands."

"Such may seem unbelievable to people living in or near urban areas where telephones are practically everywhere, but to RCA the situation is very real—and one that it hopes to change in the near future."

This statement was made by an RCA spokesman who is closely involved in the bush communications program that RCA plans to install when the Alaska Communications System (ACS) is turned over to it.

The \$28.4 million sale was approved last June by President Nixon, subject to authorization by the Federal Communications Commission and the Alaska Public Service Commission. ACS has been owned and operated by the U.S. Air Force since the 1940s.

The FCC tentatively approved the transfer the last of February but withheld final action pending a decision by the state commission. The state commission recently announced that public hearings on the transfer will begin June 29—only two days before RCA is supposed to take over ACS.

The executive director of ACS, Don Hall, said that it will now be impossible for RCA to meet the July 1 date, because following final approval by the state commission, which could take two

months, a minimum of three months is needed for FCC approval.

In the meantime, RCA is putting the finishing touches on a plan to take a dial telephone system to 142 villages in Alaska. Known as the Bush Communications Program, the plan is one part of the \$27.6 million in improvements slated for the present communication system.

Many of the 142 villages currently have no service, while others have only private or government owned equipment, similar to that used for ham radio operations.

Eighty-eight villages were selected by the state and RCA added 54 that could be reached with some addition to the system.

(Continued on page 6)

AFN Asking 11 Million Acres of Land

The Alaska Federation of Natives has decided to push for 11 million acres of land—3.5 million more than has been provided for in the Senate Interior Committee's land claims bill.

Acting upon a directive from the board of directors, seven delegates of the organization made the decision after a week of meetings in Washington D.C. with their regional and national attorneys.

(Continued on page 6)

Galena Comes Out in Support of Stevens Village in TAPS Suit

The Village Council of Galena has come out in support of the Stevens Village law suit against the Trans Alaska Pipeline System.

A small village roughly 300 miles west of Fairbanks on the Yukon River, Galena wrote, "We encourage you to continue this suit and we will support you."

"The issue raised by this case is important to us, as it is to all of the Native People of Alaska."

The suit referred to was filed by five interior villages, including Stevens Village, early in February seeking to bar TAPS from crossing land claimed by the villagers in its construction of an 800-mile pipeline.

The natives claimed that they had a right to withdraw earlier waivers of their land claims be-

cause TAPS had not lived up to its promise to give the natives preferential employment and contract opportunities.

In court TAPS agreed that the native waivers were invalid, but the villages are still suing for \$20 million in damages.

In its resolution, the Galena Council wrote, "We must make sure that when our land is developed that we will share in the benefits of that development. When you, the people of Stevens Village, along with other villages, sue TAPS to live up to its agreement to let Native People bid on the work, or not to use Native land, you are protecting the interests of all the Native People of Alaska."

(Continued on page 6)

Secretary Hickel Signs Transfer of Reindeer Ownership to Mekoryuk

The largest reindeer herd in the United States changed hands today when the federal government transferred ownership of some 10,000 animals to the Eskimo residents of Mekoryuk, a small village on Nunivak Island off southwest Alaska.

Signing of the title papers by Secretary of Interior Walter J. Hickel marked the close of several months of negotiations between Mekoryuk council members and federal officials.

"Reindeer have been on our

island since 1920," a council spokesman said, "Now for the first time we have something to say about managing them."

"The transfer," Secretary Hickel said, "will permit the people of Nunivak to participate more directly in the growth of the red meat industry of Alaska."

"The arrangement," he added, "provides maximum management control to the people of Nunivak."

The Nunivak reindeer make up the largest single herd among

Alaska's 30,000 animals. The majority of the deer are located on the mainland along the Bering Sea coast and are owned by individual Eskimos.

Up to now, the Nunivak reindeer have been owned and managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who also operate a slaughtering and processing plant on the island.

Since 1927 from one-third to one-half of the total reindeer meat processed in Alaska has

(Continued on page 6)