

## Native Housing Tops—

# Achievements of Bush Legislators

Bush legislators agree a bill establishing a regional native housing authority was the most important one passed this legislative session.

"It is the result of the U. S. Senate bill through which we're getting 1,200 homes," explained Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue. "It will be used to implement the housing program which will eventually be funded for about \$20 million. It gives the regional authority the same power as the Alaska State Housing Authority."

The law established 12 regions in the state recognizing Native associations in each. It also gave power to the Alaska Federation of Natives in areas where problems were broader than local jurisdiction.

Legislators believe if the agency succeeds, it might be considered a prototype for management of a land claims settlement.

"Suddenly the magic day will come along and if we don't have a quasi-public institution to parallel the Native associations, we'll be in trouble," observes Rep. Mike Bradner, D-Fairbanks, who backed the bill although he doesn't exactly represent the bush.

"The rural areas put out an excellent group of legislators," he added. "Another good example of their work was the Nome school which is in the midst of a city school district. They got \$1.5 million for an addition which (except for the Nenana flood legislation) is unprecedented. Willie Hensley and Chuck Degnan (D-Unalakleet) worked together on that with a great deal of skill."

Also the credit of the Bush Bloc was a bill granting state road funds for use in building local service roads and trails.

The legislation (followed closely by Hensley, Sen. Jay Hammond, R-Naknek, and Sen. Rey Christiansen, D-Bethel) allows rural areas to contract for building or to work through the state.

A law passed which allows a special permit for any qualified guide with a language barrier. A communications network in the Bethel area was funded for about \$600,000 to the joy of Rep. George Hohman, D-Bethel, and Rep. Martin Moore, D-Emmonak. Sen. Don Young, R-Ft. Yukon, came up with \$250,000 for a Detox center for

alcoholics.

Rep. Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, shepherded through a bill that allows towns to go in to the liquor or bar business which should be of interest to residents of Barrow. A bill passed providing for trial in a man's home region. This was a result of the Bush Justice Conference.

Revenue sharing in rural areas was indirectly established through the Fairbanks Hospital bill. Rural authorities were also given some power to take land by eminent domain.

And that's just a small part of what the Bush Bloc accomplished this session. Your area representative should be more than happy to list his progress in 1971.

## Coincidences Kept Right on Coming

Coincidences happen to everyone sooner or later, but not with the regularity they have been happening to Captains Michael J. Shulman and John Draggi of the 171st Infantry Brigade, Ft. Wainwright, Alaska.

The series of coincidences started on April 28, 1969, when both men graduated from the same OCS Company at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

After graduation, both men went their separate ways. Nine months later, they came together again in the 4th Student Officer Company, Flight School, Ft. Wolters, Texas.

Both CPT Shulman and CPT Draggi flew for four months in the same class, the same section, even the same aircraft.

Both men left flight school at practically the same time for similar reasons, but not before both had been promoted to 1LT on the same day and celebrated the event together.

Coincidence continued to mount when both were assigned to Ft. Wainwright, both to the 171st Infantry Brigade, although to different battalions. CPT Shulman was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 47th Infantry "Raiders", and CPT Draggi to the 6th Battalion, 9th Infantry "Manchus".

Both men have been married about the same length of time and to round out the series of coincidences, both men are the Intelligence Officers of their respective battalions and on April 28 of this year, both were promoted to their present rank.

How long can this go on?

## Tiffany...

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that remains under jurisdiction of BIA and hence of Warren Tiffany, in that: Compensatory instruction for students who are greatly behind when they enter is given only spottily if at all. College preparatory curriculum is deficient and evidence exists that students wishing to go on to college are frequently counseled against this high goal... Virtually no effort is given to instruction in the history of language, cultures or arts and crafts of Alaska Native peoples.

## Lives Lost..

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the race so the spirit of the event remained one of light-hearted fun.

The State Police confirmed Ritter's loss midnight Saturday and word on Kendall was not released until much later.

# Mt. Edgecumbe Statewide Board...

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was the whole community; parents, interested Eskimo people, students, teachers, visitors ... all gathered in one classroom. If that isn't community involvement, I don't know what is."

About three years ago advisory boards to BIA schools began to organize. They don't have full power to hire and fire or to budget, but according to Thompson, they throw a lot of weight.

"I've been very impressed with boards I've talked to in Kotzebue and in Unalakleet. They're very sophisticated; knowledgeable as to what some of the curriculum, working closely with the school superintendent. They can get involved at a level where federal employees cannot."

"Unalakleet is a surprise. Did you know they had 17 graduates this year? Six National Honor Society and one student accepted to Stanford on scholar-

ship?" It wasn't until after Thompson saw the Kotzebue dance program that he learned the school had been under fire by some residents for backing the class.

"We have about 20 bi-cultural programs in BIA schools and this is the first time anyone has ever complained about one. I've seen too many Indians trying to be non-Native and I think the school setting really dignifies a very beautiful culture ... gives it stature. I'm glad the board backed it."

Next year, he hopes the Eskimo cultural program can be given for high school credit in Kotzebue and that similar programs can be established elsewhere.

As for a charge by a church group that Eskimo dancing involves witchcraft, well, Thompson just didn't notice.



MORRIS THOMPSON

"All I can tell you is that I had a safe flight up there and a safe flight back," he smiled.

## Seattle Indians Oppose Jackson

SEATTLE, WASH.—(AIPA)—Seattle-area Indians have launched a "spring offensive" against city officials and Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., over Fort Lawton, after Indians rejected token acreage chosen without their consultation for a multi-purpose center.

The city denied the request of United Indians of All Tribes (UIAT) for 35 acres of property looking over Puget Sound and the Cascade Mts. Instead, the city offered them a sloping area without a view in a heavily wooded section of the 425 acres of surplus property.

Religions of the Puget Sound natives are closely bound up with the spirits of the waters and woods, such as Raven and Whale.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has entered a request for 35 acres for Indian disposition with the General Services Administration, which has the duty to supervise the disposal of surplus military property.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs in mid-winter telegraphed a "show of interest" in the property of Indian disposition. Bernie Whitebear, president of United Indians, charged "political pressure" from Sen. Jackson forced the BIA to withdraw its request.

what food and tents they could salvage but pickings were slim.

"We had plenty of time to prepare," explained Bessie Wholecheese who is tenting on the military side of the dike with eight of her children. "But we had no idea the water would go so high."

They have been visited by Gov. William Egan, the secretary of Air Force, the Red Cross and numerous tourists, but no supplies materialized for them until the Air Force crew provided a hot meal Monday noon.

The Air Force has also been considerate about providing water and gasoline but many of the villagers are hesitant to ask. As of yesterday they were still short of food, tents and blankets and had no sanitary facilities.

The river has now subsided enough to salvage operations and some are securing homes with heavy cable so they will not go out the remaining ice. Several buildings have completely disappeared and structural damage to the rest is estimated at 50%.

Residents who tried to apply for federally subsidized flood insurance this winter were told it was not available because they were not within the North Star Borough. Losses are heavy but

they remain in good spirits.

No exception is John Sackett who quit State Legislature last year to buy the Galena Lodge and general store.

"I think I'll be open for business tonight," he said Monday, despite a five foot high water mark and a general coating of fuel oil in his facilities. "And I hope to rebuild this summer."

Tuesday at 11 a.m. the U. S. Weather Bureau reported the Yukon at Galena was below flood stage and still dropping. A jam appears to be developing about 80 miles below Kaltag, however, and villages in that area are warned to be on the alert. Ice is reported still solid at Anvik.

The waters of the Kuskokwim have receded at Red Devil and Sleetmute but Aniak is flooded. All the houses on the slough have been wiped out but the east end of the runway is reported dry.

Neighboring villages are flooded and water is also on the rise at Bethel. The bureau predicts there could be a lot of activity in that area.

Water is knee deep at the village of Kobuk and rising due to continued ice jams.

The Chena River has dropped to 7.7 feet (flood stage is 12) and is expected to recede.



ONE THAT GOT AWAY—One wary Galena home owner completed the house boat above just hours before flood waters of the Yukon hit.

The craft escaped flying ice burgs and kept its owner's possessions intact.

—Photo by LAEL MORGAN

## Gwitcha...

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claims activity and a deluge of federal and state housing and economic development programs caused the group to organize a sub-regional agency for better coordination.

As a step toward the new administration policy of self-determination, Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginkhye plans to work with other native groups and the government to improve communications and services.

Serving with president Solomon will be Rev. Titus Peter of Ft. Yukon, vice president; Paul Williams of Arctic Village, secretary-treasurer and Richard Martin of Canyon Village, Sergeant at arms.

The board of directors includes Allen John of Circle, chairman; Clifford Adams of Beaver, Joe Druck of Chalkyitsik, Winston James of Birch Creek, Stanley Jonas of Ft. Yukon, Winthrop Silvers of Stevens Village and Robert Frank from Venetie.