

Easement suit filed against Interior

Alaskans in Washington

By LAEL MORGAN

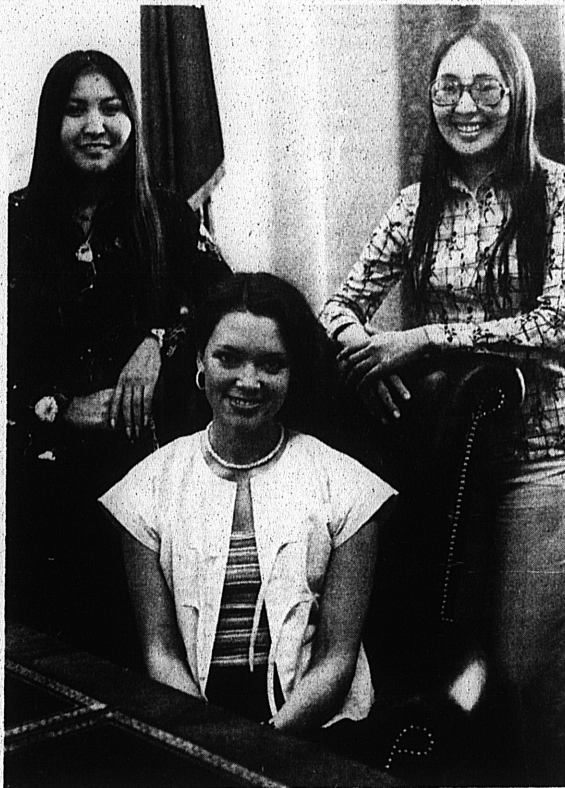
At first you talk to people when you shouldn't. Then you're too embarrassed to talk when you should. Everything is bigger, faster, more complicated and less friendly. And when it's time to go to fish camp and you're stuck with hot pavement and pigeons in the park, that's Homesick with a capital "H."

For all of that, three Alaskan girls—Hilda Woods of Shungnak, Laura Johnson Dixon of Scammon Bay and Barbara Ann Murphy of Anchorage—like their work well enough to make themselves at home on Capitol Hill.

They came to the office of Sen. Mike Gravel by very different routes. Laura, who married a GI from Virginia, found herself in Washington in 1970 as a scared bride.

"I was really homesick for the first two years," she recalls. But then she began to make friends and landed a job in a travel agency. She also worked for the American Indian National Bank and lawyer Edgar Paul Boyko before taking a job with the Alaskan senator about a year ago.

Laura's first marriage ended in divorce but she weathered that
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THREE ALASKANS Hilda Woods of Shungnak, Barbara Ann Murphy of Anchorage, and Laura Johnson Dixon of Scammon Bay work in the office of Alaska's Senator Mike Gravel in Washington, D.C.

—photo by LAEL MORGAN

Five regional corporations suing Interior Department for present process of granting easements

(Reprinted from Fairbanks Daily News-Miner)

By ERIN VAN BRONKHORST

Five Native regional corporations are suing the Interior Department to stop the present process of granting easements across land they will receive under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The suit also asks the department to grant limits on the easements.

It charges that Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe followed improper procedures and exceeded his authority in issuing plans for "floating" and recreational easements across lands the Natives claim.

An easement is somebody's right to limited use of land owned by somebody else. When the law was passed settling the Native claims in 1971, the land section included a chance for the Interior Secretary to reserve easements across Native lands for transporting resources, public recreational access, and certain other uses.

The Interior Secretary has issued two sets of guidelines on how the easements will be selected: Order No. 2987 on easements to transport energy and natural resources, and Order No. 2982 on local easements for recreational and other uses. The legal issue centers on whether those orders were properly published and are a correct interpretation of the law.

The suit was filed May 7, in Washington, D.C., by Chugach Natives, Inc., Doyon Ltd., Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Konaig, Inc., NANA Regional Native Corporation, and the Alaska

Federation of Natives.

A source close to the Native
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Doyon still drilling exploratory well

(reprinted from Mines and Geology bulletin)

Doyon No. 1, the first of four exploratory wells to be drilled as a result of the agreement reached last year between Doyon, Ltd. and Louisiana Land and Exploration Co., was begun Feb. 17 and has been going down ever since, Doyon announced recently.

The exploratory well is being drilled in the Kandik Basin 160 miles east of Circle on land Doyon obtained under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Fairbanks-based Native regional corporation is the largest of Alaska's 12 regional corporations, and one of the first to get into the petroleum exploration business.

Parker Drilling Co. is under contract to drill the test well at the remote site.

The drill rig is an all-new enclosed, winterized unit capable of drilling to depths of 20,000 feet, yet it can be dismantled in sections for helicopter transport to later locations.

Parker built the rig in Texas, and it was shipped overland to Fairbanks where it was transferred to the drill site by Hercules aircraft.

"We are pleased with the Kandik operation in every phase to date," said John Sackett, president of Doyon. "Our agreement has a lot of tough environmental stipulations and LL&E is bending over backward to comply."

"Naturally, we hope to find gas and oil, but for the short-term we can say that the LL&E-Doyon agreement has created more than 150 jobs in the Kandik area, mostly filled by Alaskans both Native and white," Sackett. "We are proud of that."

"We are working closely with the various governmental agencies and when we complete
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BLA policy for bilingual education

By LAEL MORGAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—It has always been the policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to consider bilingual education only as a tool to promote the learning of English and acculturation to the white man's way of thinking, but no more!

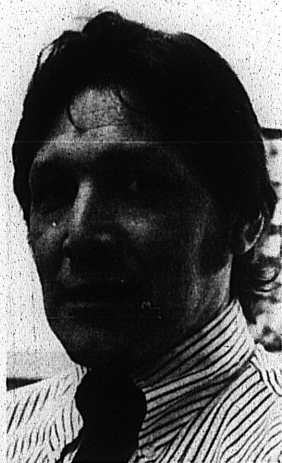
The preservation of a person's Native language and culture are equally important, insists William Demmert Jr., newly appointed director of education programs for BIA.

Demmert, a Tlingit raised in Craig and Klawock, who went on to get his doctorate from Harvard, came to his BIA assignment last month after an impressive stint as deputy commissioner of Indian programs, U.S. Office of Education. In fact, he still holds the Education directorship, along with his new position, while that agency searches for his replacement.

As deputy commissioner it was (and, for a while, still will be) Demmert's job to parcel out grants to the Indian community, but with BIA he will be running programs worth \$243 million; overseeing 213 schools and 155,000 students.

"I believe in local control and autonomy," he told the Tundra Times shortly after appointment. "The bureau needs

to develop programs that allow that. It seems easy to do, but when you look at the rules and regulations under which the bureau has to operate, it won't be. We've talked a lot about changes but it takes a while to bring them about."



William Demmert Jr.

It's Demmert's feeling that schools need to reflect the culture of the children who attend them.

"If bilingual education is separate and apart, then you're not doing the job. Bilingual

needs to be incorporated in the regular process. If you're going to talk about interacting in the dominant society, you cannot afford to deny the cultural base because it gives you your stability."

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Plans made for ANCSA workshop

FAIRBANKS—With financial support from the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the University of Alaska is now making plans for a series of workshops around the state on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and for a conference to determine the best means of delivering educational programs to rural Alaska.

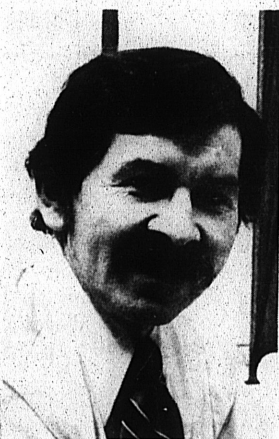
The commission granted \$10,236 for the workshops and \$10,000 for the conference on rural educational programs. Dennis Demmert, the university's director of native studies, is organizing both.

The university had requested \$15,000 for the workshops. The commission more than doubled the request, giving highest priority to the project, Demmert said.

"There's a lot to do in a short period of time," he said. "The information natives now have is minimal, not at all adequate to the need."

The responsibilities of regional

and village corporate officers and government officials, rights of natives under the settlement



Dennis Demmert

act, and the more important aspects of the act are to be covered at the workshops.

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