

ASNA Mails Sample Petition to Organize Borough

The Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) has sent out a sample petition to the North Slope villages for the purpose of incorporating a second class borough. If and when the borough is established, the proposed name of which is to be, "The Arctic Slope Borough," it

would have as its tax base all improvements, facilities, all oil field equipment, drill rigs not actually connected to oil wells and all properties taxable under law and not otherwise prohibited

by restricted title. The borough would include the villages of Barrow, which would be the seat of government, Wainwright, Barter Island, Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope.

The second class borough would have the same boundaries embraced by the ASNA land assertion. The area roughly stretches from the Canadian border (Continued on page 6)

Tundra Times



Inupiat Paitot *People's Heritage*
Den Nena Henash *Our Land Speaks*
Unanguq Tunuktauq *The Aleuts Speak*
Vol. 7, No. 244

Friday, January 23, 1970

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Tlingit
Ut kah neek *Informing and Reporting*
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth
Fairbanks, Alaska

VILLAGES ASK VISTA CHANGE

'From Frying Pan Into the Fire'

The Tanacross Indians are afraid that, when the land claims settlement comes, their villages will have no land left for Congress to give them.

Thus, they recently appealed to the Alaska Federation of Natives for assistance.

"We feel we have already been tossed out of the frying pan into the fire, whenever we put a claim in for our land it is lost or rejected," wrote Chief Andrew Isaac in a letter to the AFN. Isaac is chief of the United Crow Bands in the Tanacross area.

The Indians feel that there will be no record of their claims when the land settlement comes and that, consequently, their land will be awarded to the state.

They thought that many of their lands were protected by a blanket claim filed in 1950. But when some of this land was later turned over to the state, they found that their claim had been lost.

At a December meeting between the Indians and the Bureau of Land Management, Burton Silcock, director of the BLM, encouraged the villagers to file applications on their land immediately.

The application must be rejected, he added, until the land claims issue is settled in Congress, but it will be noted in the BLM file and taken into consideration when a final settlement is made.

However, as Silcock stated at the meeting, the rejected applications are returned to the individuals and only a file copy of the rejection kept in the Lands Office.

Consequently, the Indians fear that, when the settlement comes, the Lands Office will have no description of their land on file.

"Our politician friends write to us and say do not worry, every trail you walked before, every where you fish and hunt, and your villages will be yours," Isaac wrote.

"We have written to Secretary Hickel many times, but we are ignored by the Department of the Interior."

The BLM leaves many of the Indians' questions unanswered, and the state says that once it gets patent to land, natives living on it will be considered as trespassing on state property, Isaac said.

Of particular concern to the natives is the land around Mansfield Village, the main fishing, hunting and trapping area of the Indians.

"We feel if we lose the other

land we must not lose this area for it is our life's blood," Chief Isaac wrote.

In the meeting with the Bureau of Land Management, Isaac explained that this land concerned a communal type claim rather

than individual claims and asked the BLM how such a claim might be protected since the BLM deals only with individual claims.

Silcock answered that the land claims legislation must settle such matters.

Goodnews Bay Eyes Musk Ox Industry

In response to a letter from the Village Council of Goodnews Bay, the Musk Ox Project recently sent a textile field worker there. Miss Helen Griffiths, a native of England, said the village received her very well and was interested in becoming part of the Project.

Village Council President, John Small, was enthusiastic about establishing a herd of muskoxen in the village, when it is a Fourth Class City and as soon as the immediate projects of laying sewer and water lines and a village electricity supply are complete. Other members of the Council were also keen on the idea.

Goodnews Bay is located just north of Bristol Bay and last year two co-operatives were establish-

ed there, one handling groceries, the other selling salmon to Japanese freezer ships. They are both successful.

When the musk ox industry is started in the village it will probably form a third co-operative to handle the business, pay the herders, have the wool (known as 'qiviut') spun, distribute yarn among the knitters, control the quality of the garments produced, package them and ship them to fashionable stores in the Lower Forty-eight.

At first the business will be handled by the Musk Ox Project's staff who will later advise the co-operative when they are needed.

Villagers of Mekoryuk, Nuni-
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Willard Bowman Resigns Post On Commission for Rights

During this, a political year, resignations have sometimes been followed by announcements for political candidacy—but, not so, with Willard L. Bowman.

"Unlike others who have resigned," Bowman jokingly said Tuesday, "I am not resigning to run for a statewide political office."

Having served as the executive director of the state Human Rights Commission for 6½ years, Bowman looked both to the past and the future of the commission in an interview this week.

He submitted his resignation Jan. 15, effective Feb. 15.

Stating that he had no immediate plans except to take a vacation, the 49-year-old director cited personal reasons for his action.

"I feel that it is time for someone with perhaps fresher and newer ideas to take over the reins of this important commission," he said in his letter of resignation.

Bowman was quite instrumental in bringing before the public eye in 1965 the denial of

certain civil rights to the American citizens of the Pribilof Islands.

After a visit to St. Paul Island, one of the Pribilof Islands in March of 1965, Bowman called for a further and more complete



WILLARD BOWMAN

51 Lower Kuskokwim, Yukon Villages Want Major Reshuffling

By SUSAN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Criticism leveled at the VISTA program in Alaska increased this week as an organization representing 51 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area joined several past and present VISTA volunteers in calling for major changes in the program.

In a resolution passed the first week of January, and released this week, the Association of the Village Council Presidents charged that "the VISTA program has shown itself to have no stated objectives; no organizational potential; no resources for the Native people to utilize and has at times acted contrary to the wishes, desires and stated needs of the people they serve."

Listing the 51 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area, the association requested that the Office of Economic Opportunity terminate the existing VISTA fund for the listed non-profit corporation established by the association for that purpose.

The villages stressed that they want no new VISTA volunteers except through the administra-

tion of such a corporation.

The above position was taken in the wake of serious criticisms last week from eight past and present VISTA volunteers.

In a position paper released to the public, these volunteers called for a full investigation of VISTA Alaska, a new sponsor for the VISTA program in Alaska and the formulation of plans for the realization of local control.

Similar to the native association, they charged that the VISTA program had been directed "without regard to the expressed needs of the rural and urban poor."

In response, administrators of the program seemed to feel that the attack from the volunteers upon VISTA has been blown out of proportion because the opinions represented only eight out of about 170 volunteers in Alaska.

At the time the native association had not released its stand.

The administrators admitted that the current program in Alaska has its problems and discussed several changes that they hope to make.

As apparent from the resolution and the position paper, a major area of contention centers around the sponsorship and administration of the program.

In Alaska, unlike any other state, the VISTA program is sponsored by the State, because when the program was introduced in Alaska, the government was allegedly the only agency capable of administering the program.

Under the current arrangement, the state pays the salaries of a secretary and co-ordinator William Allen and provides office space and a telephone. All other expenses are paid by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The program itself is to be operated according to the VISTA guidelines from OEO, not according to policies of the state government.

In the eyes of Jerry White, the director of OEO for Alaska, the current program is one of local control, contrary to the

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