

# AFN Charitable Trust Explained—

## Roy Ewan, Juanita Corwin Explain Operation

What is the AFN Charitable Trust (AFNCT) and what is its relationship to the Alaska Federation of Natives?

The following answers are provided by AFN Charitable Trust staffers Roy Ewan and Juanita Corwin.

The AFN Charitable Trust was formed in 1968 under a separate charter to receive funds as a tax exempt organization for which the Alaska Federation of Natives could not qualify.

It was through this organization that the Ford Foundation granted funds to increase the organizational capacities of the AFN.

It wasn't until 1969, however, that AFN Charitable Trust operated under a separate board. This was brought about by the 1969 Reform Act which prohibited political activities of tax exempt organizations.

Because the AFN was active in influencing legislation on the Alaska Native land claims, the AFN, in order to comply with the new law, formally organized a separate board of directors for the AFN Charitable Trust.

Emil Notti, who was instrumental in forming the AFN Charitable Trust, is chairman of its board of directors.

In addition to administering grant funds from the Ford Foundation in cooperation with the Alaska Federation of Natives, AFNCT is seeking to obtain additional funds from public and private agencies.

But a major part of the work of AFNCT is related to Ford Foundation grants.

Soon after the AFNCT board was formally organized, Ford Foundation granted funds to employ economic and social experts to assist in making full use of the opportunities and resources provided by a land settlement and to employ two Alaska Natives as planner-trainees.

AFNCT then employed Robert R. Nathan Associates, a firm of consultants based in Washington, D.C. to provide technical expertise to AFNCT and hired Roy Ewan and Juanita Corwin to work with the consultants as planner-trainees.

The Robert Nathan firm assigned Lee Gorsuch, a community development specialist, to work with the AFNCT staff in Anchorage after the team had canvassed the state and spent six weeks in Washington, D.C., in intensive training.

Since that time the AFNCT staff has spent a major portion of time in researching information for a preliminary planning report which will consist of an eight issue series.

Drafts of the first three series of reports were scheduled to be distributed to the AFNCT board meeting in Anchorage on Dec.

15. The AFNCT staff has also been active in meeting with officials from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management along with representatives from AFN and RurAL CAP. Similar meetings are planned for the future. Immediate plans call for com-

piling a data bank, developing training programs and continuing to assist in planning for the settlement of the land claims.

And, say the AFNCT staffers, indications are good that the AFNCT will be the recipient of a sizable grant in the near future to allow them to continue in their efforts.

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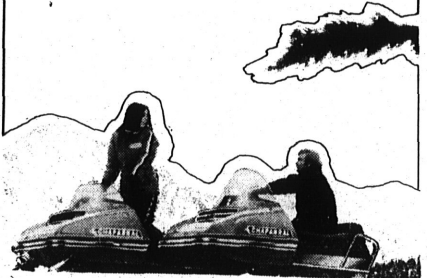
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## AFN to Be Cultural Organization?

"The Alaska Federation of Natives apparently would have no official role in post settlement activities under the Native land claims bill," according to an article by the Associated Press last week.

According to the provisions of the land claims bill, the story said, entire authority for handling claims proceeds would rest with the regional corporations and villages.

The AFN would become nothing more than a "cultural organization."

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