

Special 35,000 Issue to Inform Natives on Claims

Perhaps in two weeks the Alaska Federation of Natives through its office of public relations and its director, Jim Thomas, Tundra Times will publish a 30,000 or 35,000 special edition.

The issue will be designed to inform perhaps all native families throughout the state on the pro-

gress and situation of the native land claims and the progress of the land bill now under process in the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs under its chairman Sen. Henry M. Jackson of the State of Washington.

The AFN public relations office and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians are

expected to pool funds to help to carry the cost of the publication and mailing.

Jim Thomas also said that advertising in the special issue will be solicited in Anchorage and Fairbanks and other cities if possible.

"This should be an exceptionally fine opportunity for busi-

nesses to reach perhaps all the native families in the outlying areas of the state as well as in cities and towns," commented Thomas.

The advertising rates will probably be higher for the special issue and this will be worked out by the Tundra Times staff and the paper's comptroller Prof.

Jimmy Bedford in the very near future.

The special rates, however, will not apply to our current advertisers some of whom have faithfully advertised for years on end. But if the current advertisers wish to place new advertising, the rates for the special issue will apply.

Tundra Times



15¢

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

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CLAIMS OPPOSITION ATTACKED



THE HUNTER—The hunter from Cape Prince of Wales is scanning the waters of the Bering Strait for seals, oograks and walrus. Although the man is hunting in the warmer weather of spring, the

hunters of the Arctic are now beginning to seek game in the ever growing cold.

—ROBERT KOWELUK Photograph

Stevens and Borbridge Lays it on the Line At Anchorage Meeting

"As all, but the most stoneheaded, now seem to acknowledge that aboriginal title is a thing of great value and dignity in law as well as in equity and conscience," John Borbridge told the packed audience of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce meeting this week.

The Anchorage chamber set up the meeting to hear Sen. Ted Stevens and Gov. Miller's executive assistant Henry Pratt who also talked along with Stevens and Borbridge.

While Pratt doggedly stuck with Miller's line of reasoning on the native land claims at the meeting, Sen. Stevens castigated those people who would persist in taking opposition to the claims with the likelihood of large award revenues when the claims solution is implemented by Congress.

"If you want to assume the \$50 million annually," Stevens declared, "the burden of education, welfare, and health services, then be intractable. Don't listen to any compromise suggestion

that might lead us out of this problem.

"But if you feel as I do, that the 2 per cent concept is a difficult one to swallow but one that we're going to have to find some way to accommodate, then listen to what Sen. Gravel and I are trying to work out."

In a surprising move in the very recent times, Sen. Stevens and Sen. Mike Gravel, Republican and Democrat respectively, have merged their working plans on the land claims during the course of the bill through Congress.

The two senators have agreed that they would work for 2 per cent concept for a duration of ten years.

Borbridge told the Anchorage chamber:

"Almost to a man, the senators and representatives on the Interior Committees of the Houses of Congress understand and are impressed by the fact that settlement of the land rights of the Alaska natives presents the Nation with what will probably be its last opportunity to deal justly with the aboriginal owners of the land."

"Perhaps," Borbridge continued.

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Certain Repeals On Gun Control Pleases Stevens

Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens expressed his pleasure with Senate passage of a bill he co-sponsored to repeal certain ammunition registration requirements imposed by the Gun Control Act of 1968.

"Passage of this bill is good news for Alaskans. The gun control act of 1968 placed an extreme hardship on many of the people of our state," Senator Stevens said.

Stevens said that the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau in charge of enforcing the provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968, has already recognized how unreasonable some of the provisions of the 1968 act are as far as Alaskans are concerned.

At Stevens request the IRS issued a directive last summer allowing Alaskans in certain rural areas to register for the purchase of ammunition through the mail, by telephone, or by radio-telephone.

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Natives' Regional Lawyers Dissect W.C. Arnold's Charges

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Barry W. Jackson and Thomas E. Fenton, law partners in Fairbanks, have had a lot of experience working with native organizations, including the Alaska Federation of Natives, Tanana Chiefs, and Fairbanks Native Association. Their scholarly reply to W.C. Arnold, Anchorage Times columnist, brings out the real truth against the writings of Arnold who has scathingly attacked the AFN bill and the native land claims.)

By BARRY W. JACKSON and THOMAS E. FENTON

The series of explanatory articles by W.C. Arnold on the Native Land Claims is interesting, but many of the facts stated bear little relation to reality. May we take this opportunity to correct the record?

"The Natives have no claim for title or compensation which can be established by legal action." The Natives have aboriginal title to most of Alaska, a

right to exclusive use and occupancy as against all persons other than the U.S. In court this right can normally be vindicated only by the U.S. Attorney, as attorney for the Guardian of the Alaska Natives, the Secretary of Interior.

The United States Congress may extinguish (expropriate) aboriginal title and give the land to third persons, and in this event, compensation by the United States is not a right protected by the 5th Amendment (no property shall be taken without just compensation) but, if paid by the U.S., is an act of grace. The Congress has uniformly made such payment.

Instead of extinguishing aboriginal title, Congress may "recognize" it, converting it into a title protected by the 5th Amendment.

Until aboriginal title is extinguished or recognized by Congress it continues, and the Courts will uphold it in an appropriate action. For example in State vs. Hickel, one of the issues is

whether Congress, through the Statehood act and other actions, has extinguished the aboriginal title of the land of the Natives of Nenana selected by the state. If

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Tundra Times' Thomas Richards, Jr. Joins Navy

Thomas Richards, Jr., the talented young reporter-photographer for the Tundra Times for nearly a year has joined the Navy and is at the present time training at the Naval base in San Diego.

Richards was just about to be drafted by the Army and he decided to join the Navy. He hopes that his newspaper writing ability and photography work will help to get him an assignment that would follow along these lines.

Before leaving, young Richards expressed a wish that he

return to work for Tundra Times upon being mustered out from the Navy.

He is the son of Thomas Richards, Sr. and his wife Dorothy who were born and raised at Kotzebue. Capt. Richards is a veteran pilot for the Wien Consolidated.

The elder Richards began flying for the airline around 1947 piloting two seaters. He now flies the Boeing 737.

Tom, Jr. is 20 years old and lived with his family in Fairbanks.