

Toi Gets Social Security Nest Egg

First claim under new amendments thanks to a change in the Social Security Law, 5 year old Toi Phillips is going to have a nest egg set aside for her education when she reaches college age. Toi's mother, Patricia Phillips, died last January. Social Security benefits were not then payable to Toi because her mother was not currently working under Social Security. Mrs. Phillips had worked in the past, but quit when Toi was born. The law stated she must have worked 1½ years out of the 3 years before death in order for a child to receive benefits.

Under the 1967 Amendments just signed by the President, children can get benefits on their mother's social security account even if the mother had not currently worked under Social Security, if she had worked long enough in the past.

Toi's father is Brad Phillips, Majority Leader in the State Senate. He filed for Toi and gave his permission for this story so that this new information will be available to more people.

In Toi's case, Mr. Phillips will be putting the money in trust for her college education. Under the law there is no fixed way in which the money must be used as long as it is used for or saved for the child's needs.

This change in the law could affect any child whose mother died if the mother was either fully or currently insured when she died. Social Security is a legal right and is not based on need.

There are a large number

of children in the area serviced by the Anchorage District Office who can qualify under this new provision in the law. Most of these children are in the care and custody of their father, a relative, or a legal guardian.

Persons having a minor child in their care whose deceased mother had worked under Social Security should get in touch with the Social Security Office 514 2nd Ave. Fairbanks during the second full week of each month or write to the Anchorage office at 617 G. Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Moses Paukan

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strong support from his area. He's been very active in the affairs of that region."

Moses Paukan is the nephew of the late John Westdahl. He is the president of the Association of Village Council Presidents, an organization with membership from Lower Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim. Paukan is also a merchant in his village of St. Mary's.

Mr. Westdahl died last Monday in an Anchorage motel apparently of natural causes.

Services in memory of Rep. Westdahl are being held in Anchorage today. Funeral services will be at St. Mary's early next week.

Moses Paukan is remaining at St. Mary's until after the funeral. He is expected to travel to Juneau soon after that and assume his duties in the legislature.

Gov. to Be at Potlatch . .

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p.m. on March 16.

The feasting will last until 8:00 p.m. when entertainment by native people will begin. These will consist of both Indian and Eskimo dances and other events.

"We expect a lot more people than we had last year," said Perdue. "We will again hold it open to the general public but we will try to keep it at about three quarter natives in attendance because it is primarily for them. And there is space to think about."

Perdue said there will be all kinds of native foods as well as beef, ham and such. If the potlatch feast runs true to form, there will be bear meat, beaver, moose, caribou, reindeer soup, salmon strips, whale muktuk and meat, Eskimo ice cream, Indian ice cream, baked salmon, and tasty beaver tail soup.

"We have invited dancers from Barrow, Minto, Northway and other villages," said Perdue. "We have decided to have only native dances this year and not have the modern dance as we did last year. Tyonek people have been invited and they are coming."

And the snowshoe race? The scene of the big event will be at the vicinity of the North American Championship Sled Dog Race tracks, probably where the snow is deepest.

The starting gun will sound sometime during the interim period of the big sled dog races.

"I've challenged those guys to a snowshoe race sometime ago," Perdue said, chuckling. "They want to

race a block but I said a quarter of a mile. Chickens. We'll take them out to the dog races so they won't back out."

Perdue has been training seriously and he is taking no chances. He is out to win. He is training with snowshoes complete with ptarmigan feet attached to the front ends of the race shoes.

"According to the old Indians, the ptarmigan feet on snowshoes supposed to make you lightfooted on the snow like the ptarmigan," laughed "Lightfoot" Perdue.

How has the training progressed?

"I've been getting along pretty good but my wind is still a little short," he said. "I think I'll have to cut down on my training diet—Martinis."

No Radio . . .

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prevented the crash landing of the Fairbanks Air Service plane that day.

"The plane kept bypassing the village," he said. "I learned later that the plane had crashed when I got to Fairbanks. If the radio had been working, we probably would have given him the weather ahead of time. The weather at the village was pretty bad that day."

He said the radio was needed in winter and that emergencies do arise when least expected.

"There should be a radio that's run by batteries or by portable generator because the power is turned off in summer when the days get long," Paneak said.



AGAINST LAND CLAIMS—George A. Moerlein, chairman of the Land Use Committee of the Alaska Miners Association, is testifying against native land claims.

Testimonies for, Against at Hearing

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on the native cultures of Alaska. It is for these reasons that the Aleuts urge the enactment of S.2906 in the present session of the Congress.

"The natives of Alaska are potentially a source of great strength in Alaska's future. If a just settlement is made by Congress, the State and the nation as a whole will be rewarded by the rapid advancement of Alaska natives in American life.

"They have a great contribution to make if they are given a chance to participate fully in the forward progress of our society."

MOSES NOUMOFF, Cape Douglas, 85 years old:

"...They tell me Russians sold our land to the government. There were no Russians on our land. There were no white people. White people never came there. They never saw it. They never ask us.

"I think government buy stolen property maybe. Tough luck government. Can buy whole world that way. I don't believe that the people should have their land taken away from them by people from the states who haven't ever lived there.

"...We should keep enough land to live on. We could take care of a nice piece of it. We don't need it all anymore. White man took most of game anyway. They now shoot game for fun. No more game pretty soon. No more fish. Land not worth much without game and fish.

"Land now aahsetuck. All used up. When we have land it is good. It is all we got. White man takes everything.

"Maybe we sell piece of Russia to government. We never see it, government never see it. Maybe Russia and government don't like it either."

GEORGE A. MOERLEIN, chairman, Land Use Committee, Alaska Miners Association:

"...In summary, we believe that the native groups have no legal or moral right to any of the demands they have set forth.

"As citizens of the United States and residents of Alaska they enjoy the same rights under law as I to vote, to obtain land, to hold office, to voice their opinions to government.

"We believe that to grant

these claims will do little more than create a gulf between the native and non-native peoples of Alaska, to prolong the existence of the as a ward of the state, and to discourage his becoming a responsible citizen willing to accept the obligations and rewards of our society...

"Upon your shoulders, gentlemen, and upon those of your peers in Congress rests the future of this state. The present land freeze, if continued will slowly strangle us—the native land claims, if granted, may have the same effect. Both native and non-native alike will suffer.

"We urge you to do your utmost to quickly legislate against these native land claims and to prevent them from recurring again in the future. And to direct the Secretary of the Interior to immediately recommence the management and disposal of lands in Alaska according to the laws of our nation..."

ELMER RASMUSON, former Mayor of Anchorage:

"...The greatest undeveloped resource we have in Alaska today is our native population..."

"...Alaska may be the last laboratory to test whether the material gains of an emerging state can be joined with the preservation of the finest human values for all. A resolution of our native needs can show the way to the rest of the nation in its groping for solutions to our urban problems.

"Settlement of our native land claims will enable statehood to be realized for all our people and presents a fresh and positive meaning to our hopes and inspirations. This is not special interest legislation; every one gains!"

JOE ROTHSTEIN, executive editor, Anchorage Daily News:

"...On this northern frontier in an aboriginal people who have accepted the presence of the western world, who have quietly submitted to the utilization of land they considered theirs, the depletion of fish and game resources they needed for subsistence, the development of sites and towns and camps that provided jobs and wealth from which they received no share.

"They are people whose

personal resources have permitted them to survive in one of the most inhospitable climates on earth. They are strong, resourceful, and immensely capable people..."

JOHN RADER, State of Alaska's first Attorney General:

"...In summary then, Mr. Chairman, let me repeat: Chairmen, let me repeat: 'I urge an early legislative settlement of the issue. First, time will not permit a 30-year judicial delay. Second, the courts have difficulty making adequate settlements and truly evaluating such things as fishing and hunting rights.

"Third, the solution to the problem will require local, state and federal cooperation with a continuing examination of results and necessary adjustment as the future unfolds.

"Fourth, the granting of assets, money, land, royalties to the native groups should be considered private capital to be used by them for necessary matching funds for extensive federal and state programs adopted specifically to the unique conditions of the Alaska village, but based upon the same humanitarian principle which demanded the attention of our nation to poverty, Appalachian style."

ALFRED KETZLER, Nenana, first chairman of the Tanana Chiefs:

"...But what is probably one of the most important things to us is that we have a deep instinctive feeling of helplessness as a people as long as we are cut off from the land. We are essentially a people to whom land comes first.

"We are its children; we have emotional ties to it that we can never forget, even down into generations that no longer live in the old way.

"It is a basic part of our identity—it makes us feel who we are, and without it, we have been cut off and bewildered..."

"...We have no desire to put anybody else at the same disadvantage; all we want is to be put in a position of equal rights and opportunity with the rest of the people of Alaska in the right to own and use our land."