

## ANB-ANS Chapters Formed at University of Alaska

COLLEGE University of Alaska students about 35 in all, have organized chapters of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

When the installation ceremonies were held for the officers of the newly formed groups, Mrs. Otto Thier, vice president of the grand camp, Alaska Native Sisterhood came up from Anchorage to serve as installing officer.

In the colorful ceremony, Charles Smelcer became first president of the University of Alaska ANB and Mrs. Agnes Harrison was installed as the first president of the University of Alaska ANS. Smelcer is a junior student majoring in business administration and Mrs. Harrison is taking a general course of study at the state university. Both reside in Fairbanks.

### Editorial:

In the minds of many there is a big job ahead for the Land Committee and delegates in working out a precedent of law in payment for land from the government.

The big question is in the minds of the public as well as the Tlingit nation is this:

"How will the money be divided?" This writer has been asked often by non Tlingits, "What are you going to do with all the money?"

The answer has always been a huge scholarship fund with no red tape involved. And that ought to be answer of the land conservation when the delegates meet. Too often our children upon seeking office employment have been disqualified for lack of education and experience of reasons of "Little Rock" attitudes, even though they meet the required qualifications. Yes, the least we can do is give our children a complete education from this settlement and accomplish a cause.

## Alaska Native Lands Settlement Bill HR 8190

Interest in getting Indian land claims had diminished but Delegate Bartlett is aware of continued importance of this subject by his introduction of the above-numbered bill. The general opinion even among lawyers is the Teehiton case settled this matter and citizens have nothing more to fear. However, this is not true because that case merely declared that the Indians have no right to compensation against the United States for the loss of their lands. As against others (that would include a lot of people), the Indians still have a good case. Using the words of the Supreme Court, while the Indians "were permitted to occupy portions of territory over which they had previously exercised sovereignty..." the ownership which remains in the Indian "amounts to a right of occupancy which the sovereign grants and PROTECTS against intrusion by third parties."

The case cited in all documents is that of Teehiton.

## TWO MORE CAMPS ORGANIZED

May 1961

Two more applications for charter were received by the Grand Secretary's office. One is from Tuntululiak, and the other is from Kwigillingok, Alaska. The latter elected their temporary officers and they are: Dick Kuinya, President, pro tem; Tommy Phillip, Secretary; and Owen Beaver, Treasurer. There were twenty members' signatures applied to the application.

The Tuntululiak officers elected are: President, Carl McCall; Secretary, Michael Wassilie; Treasurer, Willie Moon Wassilie. Twelve signatures were applied.

The letter attached read as follows in part: "Since there are a lot of people here we have decided to elect a Vice President who would work with the President and would be of help to the local camp."

## The Voice of the Natives

May 1961

**Editor's Note: Alaska Native Brotherhood is taking root and growing westward and northern part of Alaska. The following news item appeared in the April issue of the AURORA BOREALIS "the best paper of the Kuskokwim."**

A new organization has been created here in Bethel headed by Representative Raymond Christiansen. This great organization of which many will be members is called the ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD or in plain words, "The Voice of the Natives." This organization was started in Bethel last fall but hasn't been too active because the elected officers were not officially sworn in at that time...

Those eligible for full membership are the descendants of the aboriginal races of North America. Persons not such descendants of the race but married into such race are eligible for full membership and all its rights and duties except that of holding a Grand Office.

## Last Remaining Organizer Passes On At Sitka



Ralph Young, one of the twelve

...the property already exercised sovereignty... the ownership which remains in the Indian "amounts to a right of occupancy which the sovereign grants and PROTECTS against intrusion by third parties."

The case cited in all decisions is that of Chief Johnson vs. Pacific Coasts Steamship Co. (2 Alaska 224), wherein the Alaska court said in part, "...as to holdings by them collectively in their villages and such other places... their methods of life were well understood by the law making power, and that they were understood to occupy lands in common either in villages where they lived, or for fishing, hunting and like purposes. If they occupied the same (land) exclusively as a village or otherwise, their right to the same must be protected if protected at all under section 8 (of the act of May 17, 1884).

While Judge Brown held that the land in dispute was the personal property of Chief Johnson, every other authority on Indian rights has declared that all the lands "belonged to the tribe as a whole (and it was impossible for a chief, family, clan, or any section of a tribe legally to sell or to give away to aliens, white or red any part of the tribal domain, per Bureau of American Ethnology, Bill 30, Part 2, by Henry W. Henshaw, also Goldschmidt's Report, P. IV, whose findings were made binding on the government by its introduction in the Teehitton case.

This means that there is a "cloud" on every piece of land if it was in actual occupation by Indian on May 17, 1884, and if the occupation by the non-Indian was not specially ratified by the Secretary of the Interior.

We feel that we should have stronger support especially by contributions by all interested citizens so that we might send our witnesses to Congress to help get the Bartlett Bill enacted.

There are features in that bill that the ANB does not like, but in the main it may be the best bill that we can get. The objectionable features relate principally to the handling of the money received in settlement and as to that, it can be dealt with when the bill to appropriate money for the payment comes before Congress.



William Paul, longtime ANB Attorney, Grand Camp Officer, Legislator and Editor of the Alaska Fisherman with Richard Stitt, land claims consultant and L&H and ANB officer, during a land claims meeting.

**Ralph Young, one of the twelve original founders of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. He lived long enough to see many dreams come to past.**



**September 1956**

Ralph Young, Grand President Emeritus and last remaining founding father of the Alaska Native Brotherhood died at the home of his son, Gibson Young, following a long illness. He was born in Hoonah in 1877 and went to the Sitka Training School, which is now the Sheldon Jackson Junior College. Gibson was away on a vacation and in Ketchikan when he received word of his father's death.

Ralph Young was active as an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Sitka up to the time he died. Grand President William I. Paul, Grand Secretary Cyrus Peck and Cyril J. Zuboff, Executive Committeeman, all of Juneau, attended the memorial service and ritual that was held in his honor, August 10, and funeral service the next afternoon in the First Presbyterian Church. Interment was in the family plot.

Survivors include his son Gibson of Mt. Edgecumbe and two step daughters, Mrs. Rosco Max of Pelican, and Mrs. John Strand of Sitka.

Grand Officers and Executive Committeeman that attended the rituals and funeral service are: Andrew Hope, Frank Booth, Patrick J. Paul, Cyril Zuboff, William I. Paul, and Cyrus E. Peck. Attending also was the President of the Juneau Junior ANB-ANS, Simon Johnson, who took active part in the rituals held during the memorial service.

## *Natives to Form Central Council*

**May 1961**

The Indian Bureau explains Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs Leon V. Langan, on Sept. 30, 1960, wrote in part as follows:

"The apportionment of the funds among the various villages was recommended by the Department of the Interior so that in the event the Indians received money as the result of their claims, a tribal or village fund would be created which could be used to establish productive enterprise and to re-establish the economic independence of each village.

Mr. Andrew Hope, who is president of a Native group representing the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska... (says) that a Central Council of the Natives would be formed in November when they have the annual meeting of the Grand Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood at Angoon, Alaska (and that) the local staff of the Bureau will assist them in drafting proposed entitlement procedures which will be submitted to this office for consideration.