

88-49-18

Tom Richards, Jr., Michael Zaharoff

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

Music and singing by Savoonga dancers from Folkways Records.

Nine new positions as constables will open in several rural areas of Alaska. The Alaska State Troopers have created the constable position for people in rural areas to serve the areas they live in. People who will fill these positions will come from or near areas such as Chitina, Copper Center, Taylor Highway, Northway, Tetlin, Mentasta, Minto, Stevens Village and Bettles. Salaries for constable positions will depend on location ranging from 1,158-1,445 dollars a month. Constables are full-time law enforcement officers. They will handle such matters as larceny, burglary, assault and battery, truancy and drug abuse. According to the Department of Public Safety hiring village constables has the following advantages: 1. It provides full time police service for villages that need the service, but don't have the money to pay for them – 2. Each village will be able to participate and contribute to the constable program – 3. The program will eliminate the cost and delay of having to wait for a state trooper to fly to a village to follow up on a complaint – 4. Each village will gradually participate in the training of the village constable.

Music by Peter LaFarge

Jeff Kennedy reads a tip from the University of Alaska Cooperative Service about banking information.

The breakup of Lake George is narrated by Frank Brink.

Tom Richards, Jr., is interviewed by Ann Nicolai. He is asked if Native newspapers will become more important or less important with the settlement of land claims. Tom Richards said he thinks that they are as important as in 1968-69. Just prior to the settlement they were extremely important. They aren't noticed as much now. Their impact isn't as great because the statewide issues aren't as apparent as they were then. There's a lot of involvement with village and regional corporations. Much of the activity is regionalized now. He thinks they will become more important because of new challenges. In the last three or four years they have been concerned with getting the corporations going. Now they will face challenges of D2 withdrawals, formulation of subsistence regulations, highway development and other challenges. These will become Native issues that will make the papers more visible again. Ann Nicolai asked he foresees a time when papers like Tundra Times will become daily newspapers. Tom said it could happen within a period of two or three years. There are certain things that have to be done. There isn't a newspaper in the state run by Natives that has true statewide representation. Tundra times tries, but there are regions that are ignored and aren't involved. He thinks that once there is a total

involvement in newspaper print communications then they can work towards a daily paper. Ann Nicolai asked about services that the Tundra times provides that a regional newspaper doesn't. Tom said it addresses statewide issues. He is happy to see the development of regional newspapers. He thinks that groups of villages have needs for communication that can't be met by a statewide paper. Regional newspaper can't devote as much attention to statewide issues as a statewide newspaper.

Announcement about a cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung publication.

Michael Zaharoff is from St. Paul Island in the Aleutian region of Alaska. He is the president of the village corporation and also on the regional board for the Aleut Corporation. In the summer he is the assistant foreman during the sealing season. Levi Lott asked him about the purpose of his trip to Fairbanks. Michael said he is here about the state operated schools and the education program. He said the meeting they had is very successful. He met the regional board chairmen. He has the opportunity to work closely with people from other villages. He talked about the state operated school board chairman under the Indian Education Act program. They serve their regions and try to meet the priorities of their local level. At regional meetings they decide how they are going to spend the money they have coming to them from the Indian Education Act program. He has not decided how they will spend the money in the Aleutian region because he hasn't seen the proposals from the villages he serves. Levi asked him if he has any ideas about what kind of courses people want taught in his region. Michael said yes they feel a bilingual program is a very important program. They feel the language is on its way out and they want a program started. Most of the students speak English and no Aleut. They are introducing Aleut into the schools now. The history of the Aleuts on the Pribilof Islands isn't known very well. There have been anthropologists on the Aleutian Chain and they are working on a report at this time. They serve a good purpose. They will know how far back the Aleuts existed on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. He talked about the villages he serves. He is glad the Indian Education Act came about because the whole state of Alaska school system has been ignored for many years. He believes the schools will improve and the children will be better off in the schools. It provides monies to improve their system and brings a working relationship between the state operated schools and the villages throughout the whole state.

Masis Ferrara talked briefly about her work with the Indian Education Act Program in Anchorage.

Michael Zaharoff asked people on St. George and St. Paul to comment about the Potlatch program.