

Statehood 1959



1959. ALASKA BECOMES 49TH STATE

June 30, 1958, Alaska achieves statehood and is admitted into the union in 1959. Dena'ina land claims remain unresolved.

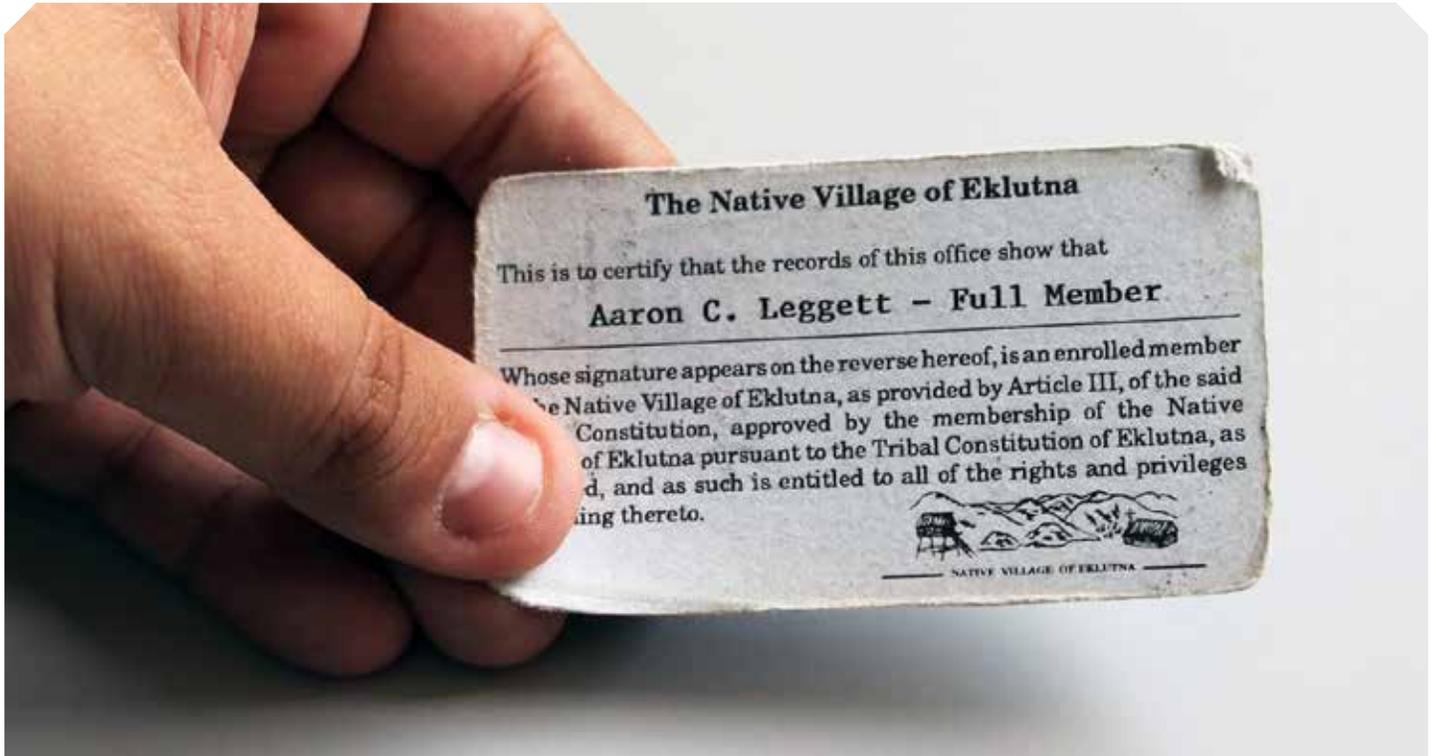
Anchorage Daily News, June 30, 1958. Anchorage Museum, B1983.091.C6725.12

State of Alaska 1959-

1959 1960S

Present

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1960S. EKLUTNA AND KENAI ORGANIZE AS THEIR TRADITIONAL LANDS ARE TAKEN

The Native Village of Eklutna organizes in 1961 after a US Public Land Order is issued reducing the size of the village's Indian Reserve from 7,000 acres to 1,819. Later, the Village files a lawsuit in US District Court seeking compensation for gravel that was taken from Reserve land. With the passage of ANCSA, this suit is extinguished. In 1962,

a group of Dena'ina from Kenai under the leadership of Rika Murphy organize to form the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. In 1967, the Kenaitze file a protest with the Bureau of Land Management for the 4,540,000 acres of land withdrawn on the Kenai Peninsula. No action on this is taken before the passage of ANCSA.

Native Village of Eklutna Tribal ID. Courtesy of Aaron Leggett

State of Alaska 1959-

1959

1964

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1964. TYONEK WINS RIGHTS TO FUNDS FROM OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES

In 1964, after several years of litigation, Tyonek wins the right to receive directly \$12.9 million from the sale of oil and gas leases on lands within the Tyonek Reserve. The funds

will no longer be administered by the BIA. The village invests the money in new homes, community infrastructure, and Anchorage real estate.

Meeting of the Native village of Tyonek with BIA representatives, mid-1960s. Photo courtesy of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Native Village of Tyonek Collection

State of Alaska **1959-**

1959

1966

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1966. DENA'INA RESOURCES CRITICAL TO FORMATION OF AFN

With financial support from the Native Village of Tyonek, the Alaska Federation of Natives holds its first convention. Emil Notti, the first president of AFN, stated: "Albert Kaloa stepped up with the resources of the village behind him. First, they donated the space. Tyonek owned the building downtown called the Audio Cam building where we held the AFN meeting. The village

of Tyonek chartered DC-3s, paid for hotels, paid people's way into Anchorage, paid for meals. Without their help, AFN would not have gotten off to the great start that it did. We came out of nowhere and with the support of the Tyonek people; we hit the headlines of Anchorage. They gave us the boost we needed to start AFN."

Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel meeting with AFN leaders about land claims. Photo courtesy of Alaska State Library, P01-4686

Emil Notti, *ANCSA at 30 Lecture Series Number 4*, page 2, December 2001, from transcript on litsite.org.