CENTRAL COUNCIL

Historical Profile

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

1935–1995
Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Origins of the Tlingit and Haida Land Claims 2-5

Lobbying Congress 5-6

The Jurisdictional Act 6

Prosecuting the Tlingit-Haida Claims and Formation of the Central Council 6-7

Amending the Jurisdictional Act 7

The Quantum Judgment 8

The Organizational Origins 8

Historical Timeline 10-19

Biographies of Presidents 20-23

The Central Council’s New Role 24-25

Photo Credits 26
Introduction

The history of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is intricately intertwined with the struggle of the Native peoples of Southeast Alaska for equal rights.

The organization of the Central Council evolved out of the struggle of our people to retain a way of life strongly based on subsistence. That struggle included the rights of our people to claim lands we had used from time immemorial, lands we were given no claim to under the Western concept of land ownership.

The names of some of the early crusaders in that struggle have become legendary to the Tlingit and Haida and resources in villages success of all

In the following pages we hope to provide you with some of the early history of the movement of the Tlingit and Haida peoples to preserve our traditional lifestyle and to claim the right to our ancestral land. Through the use of photographs and an historical time line, we hope readers will gain a better understanding of important landmarks along that journey. We also hope to provide readers with an understanding of the work of the Central Council today; work that is a living legacy to our ancestors' vision and commitment to equal rights and social justice.
The struggle of the Tlingit and Haida people to bring about a just settlement for lost lands and rights began at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Annual Convention of 1929 in Haines.

It was at this convention that William L. Paul, Sr., ANB Grand Camp President, chose to present to the delegates the issue of pursuing the legal claims of the Tlingit and Haida Indians against the United States government.

W. L. Paul, a Tlingit from Wrangell, was the first Native to practice law in Alaska. He returned from law school in 1918 and, with the encouragement of his brother Louis, joined the ANB.

Peter Simpson, one of the founding
fathers of the ANB, had a strong influence on Paul, who considered Simpson his "spiritual father." It was Peter Simpson who first suggested the idea of pursuing the claims.

Paul recalled the moment in his later years.

"In 1925, he whispered to me and said, 'William, the land is yours, why don't you fight for it.' This idea was a shock to me, very much like that which I

Identification of 1929 ANB Convention Members

Row A.
1. Andrew Hope
2. Sandy Stevens
3. George Demmert
4. Charles Newton
5. W.L. Paul, Sr.
6. Louis F. Paul
7. Frank Price
8. George Ward
9. Ralph Young, Sr.

Row B.
10. Sam Davis
11. John Ward
12. George Haldane

Row C.
13. Johnnie Hanson
14. Albert Kookshe
15. Peter Simpson
16. Ray James, Sr.
17. Edward Marshall
18. James Fox
19. Jack Ellis
20. Charlie Jones

Row D.
21. Jim Stevens
22. Bill Brady
23. Mark Jacobs, Sr.
24. Ray James, Jr.
25. George Betts
26. Sam Johnson
27. Sam Martin

Row E.
28. Haines Dewitt
29. Unknown
30. James Brown
31. Frank Mercer
32. Frank G. Johnson

Row F.
33. Unknown
34. James D. Jackson
35. Ed Warren
36. Rudolph Walton
37. Unknown
38. George Williams
39. James Klanott
40. Unknown
41. David Howard
42. Sam Jackson
43. Unknown
44. John M. Thunaut
45. Unknown

Row G.
46. Unknown
47. Unknown
48. Seward Kunz
49. Arthur Johnson
50. Frank Peratrovich
51. Cecil Nix
52. Joseph Allen
53. Unknown
54. John Shorty
55. Leo Dennis
56. Unknown
57. Sam Dennis
58. Joe Wright
59. James Willard

Row H.
60. Unknown
61. Mathew Lawrence
62. Gus Klamey
63. John Benson
64. Frank S. James
65. Fritz Willard
66. Frank Jimmie
67. John David
68. Steve Perrin
69. Unknown
70. Unknown
71. Patsy Davis
72. Unknown

Row I.
73. Unknown
74. James Lee
75. Henry Brown
76. Mr. Andrews
77. Bill Johnson
78. Tom Johnson
79. John Jackson
80. Jack David
81. Unknown
82. Tom Jimmie
83. Charlie James
84. James Klanott
85. Chief John Donanak
86. Jimmie Young
87. Unknown
88. Mr. Young
89. Harry Williams
90. Unknown
91. James Watson

* Among those standing are: James Clark, Ben Watson, Andrew Johnson, Jerry Williams, James Martin, Sergius Sheakley, Willie Williams, Charles Anderson, Johnnie Willard, Judson Brown, Robert Perkins, Chauncey Jacobs.
think struck a man called Saul on his road to Damascus – and in the days that followed I too became a convert."

Paul hesitated in bringing the subject before the ANB.

"The idea of claiming land that would compromise our citizenship was so abhorrent to the Tlingit and Haida people," Paul said, "that I did not dare present it to them for a period of four years."

Citizenship was held in high esteem. It had been officially granted to all Indians of the United States in 1924, although Alaskan Indians had practiced certain rights of citizenship, such as voting, prior to the federal law. Some Native leaders felt that suing for lost privileges would underline a special status they were not sure could be enjoyed along with citizenship. Also, the average Indian, as of then, had a fatalism towards the United States. They felt that if the United States decreed it was government land, they were powerless to fight it.

During those intervening years, from 1925 to the 1929 ANB convention, Paul studied the history of Indian legal claims with encouragement and advice from Judge James Wickersham, at one time Alaska's non-voting delegate to Congress.

By 1929 Paul felt the time was right to present the issue.

As Grand Camp President, Paul invited Wickersham to speak before the con-
vention on the subject. Wickersham’s diary recorded that he spoke to the Brotherhood convention for two hours on Nov. 19, 1929.

"The great audience of Indians listened most attentively as I explained the situation -- young (Frank G.) Johnson from Klawock acted as interpreter and translated my English to Tlingit rapidly... the Natives talked and asked me for many explanations, which I gave them."

The convention then elected a committee of five to meet with Wickersham the next day. His diary entry for Nov. 20 recorded his impressions of the meeting.

"They asked me to assist them in preparing a report for them to present to the convention -- which I did. They seem greatly interested and exhibit a shrewdness and careful attention to their own best interests that is gratifying to me."

After consideration of the committee’s report, the convention unanimously adopted a resolution requesting Congress to investigate the claims of the Tlingit and Haida people. One section of the resolution succinctly stated the case.

"Whereas the United States government has locked up the forest so that what was formerly ours must now be purchased from a government that gave us nothing for it..."

**Lobbying Congress**

Before the convention closed, the ANB had hired Wickersham as its lawyer. Wickersham immediately appealed to Dan Sutherland, Alaska’s delegate to Congress at that time, who then promptly introduced a jurisdictional act, authorizing the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska to bring suit in the United States Court of Claims and conferring jurisdiction upon the court to examine and adjudicate the claim.

The initial act was just as promptly referred to the Committee on Claims and there it died.

Sutherland retired the following year and on Nov. 30, Wickersham was returned to Congress after a ten year absence. He had to resign as lawyer for the ANB, but as delegate he was able to reintroduce Sutherland’s bill. Wickersham then found himself in a fight with the Department of Interior. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, G.J. Rhoade, testified against the bill, saying that a jurisdictional act was not needed because the title to all the land "...embraced in the domain ceded was acquired by the United States..." through the Treaty of Cession when the U.S. bought Russian America.

"After careful consideration of the matter, I perceive no need for the enactment of legislation proposed in (the jurisdictional act)," Rhoade said in testimony before the committee.

Again, the bill died in committee.

In the 1932 elections Wickersham was swept from office along with many other Republicans in the nationwide Democratic landslide. Anthony "Tony" J. Dimond, a Democrat, was elected as Alaska’s lone delegate. Native leaders were dismayed because Dimond had been a canny lawyer, and, in 1924, as a territorial legislator, he had sponsored a literacy test for voters, a direct threat to the Indian vote.

As a delegate to Congress, Dimond observed that it wasn’t unusual for Indian tribes to petition Congress for authority to bring their claims before the U.S. Court of Claims. He learned that it was simply granting an Indian tribe the right to present their grievances to a court. And perhaps the idea appealed to his sense of justice.

By 1935 the matter had been given full hearing. The same Congress that passed the Indian Reorganization Act, which attempted to right the wrongs of a half century of active neglect on the part of the U.S. government, also gave the Tlingit and Haida people the right to prosecute their claims in a federal court.

**The Jurisdictional Act of June 19, 1935**

The Jurisdictional Act of June 19, 1935 authorized the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska “to bring suit in the United States Court of Claims, and conferring jurisdiction upon said court to hear, examine, adjudicate, and enter judgment upon any and all claims which..."
said Indians may have, or claim to have, against the United States, and for other purposes."

Signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt, the Jurisdictional Act was the first step in a long and difficult journey that led to the formation of the Central Council and, ultimately, to the settlement of all Alaska Native claims.

While this legislation had been sought by Native leaders for several years, there were some provisions of the act that were to cause many problems in the future.

The manner in which the suit was to be brought was vague; only Tlingit and Haida Indians "...living in or belonging to any local community of these tribes" were to benefit from any judgment monies; and those funds were to be administered only at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A last minute amendment requested by the BIA added this additional language: "Provided, however, that none of the funds above indicated or the interest thereon shall ever be used for per capita payments."

While some were dismayed with certain provisions of the act, and others furious, it was still looked upon as a victory and certainly as a point of departure.

No one could foresee that nearly 25 years would pass before the court would render judgment and then another decade would pass before the amount of money owed, or the judgment fund, would be decided.

Prosecuting the Tlingit-Haida Claims and Formation of the Central Council

By the late 1930s the leadership of the ANB became concerned that nothing had been done to profit from the Jurisdictional Act. The 1935 Act had provided for the formation of a "Tlingit and Haida Central Council" for the purpose of pursuing the legal claims of the Tlingit and Haida people. The time limit in which to bring suit was due to expire on June 19, 1942.

Because of that impatience, during the 1939 ANB Convention in Sitka, the delegates passed Resolution No. 37, that designated the Executive Committee of the ANB as the Central Council.

But the United States Department of the Interior refused to recognize that action, and challenged its legitimacy.

Resolution No. 37 also created a structure of the Central Council that was similar to that of the ANB. Community Councils, composed of representatives elected democratically within each Tlingit or Haida community, would elect delegates to attend the annual Central Council convention. At the convention the delegates would elect officers who would serve on a powerful executive committee that would exercise all the powers of the Central Council during the period between conventions.

Taking direction from the 1939 Res. No. 37, in February, 1940, Andrew Percy Hope was elected president of the Central Council, an office he was to serve in for 26 years. The other officers elected were Sandy Stevens, vice president, W.L. Paul Sr., secretary, Rev. Walter Soboleff, treasurer, and Fred Wallace, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Because of the Interior Department challenge, another convention was held in 1941. The Central Council met and organized on April 9, 1941 in Wrangell. Andrew Percy Hope was elected president, Sandy Stevens was again elected vice president, W.L. Paul was elected secretary and Rev. Walter Soboleff was elected treasurer. However, a point-of-order was called because Walter Soboleff wasn't a delegate, therefore he couldn't be elected as an officer. Laura Haller was then elected treasurer. Fred Wallace was elected Sergeant-at-Arms.

Subsequent progress was slow, due primarily to provisions of the Jurisdictional Act that required approval from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on all legal matters. But eventually, a law firm was successfully contracted and on Oct. 1, 1947, a suit was filed on behalf of the Central Council.

Another 12 years were to pass before the U.S. Court of Claims was to issue a judgment, years that were punctuated by
separate law suits filed on behalf of individuals and clans – all of which were dismissed on technical or jurisdictional grounds.

Finally, on Oct. 7, 1959, the Court of Claims issued a judgment stating that the Tlingit and Haida Indians did have original use and occupancy, and asserted dominion from time immemorial, over all lands and waters in Southeast Alaska which they had claimed; and that the United States must make fair payment for those lands withdrawn to create the Tongass National Forest and the Glacier Bay National Monument.

Lost hunting and fishing rights were not considered in this decision, and the matter of determining the value of the land withdrawn by the U.S. was set aside for future judgment.

Amending the Jurisdictional Act

Following the 1959 judgment, Andrew Hope, Sr., in the company of Ted Denny, president of the newly formed Seattle Community Council, traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby for amendments to the Jurisdictional Act of 1935.

Amendments were necessary to clarify the status of the Central Council; to recognize it as the governing body of the Tlingit and Haida people; to allow for "per-capita distribution" of the judgment fund; and to reduce the role of the BIA in the eventual administration of the funds.

On Aug. 19, 1965, Congress amended the Jurisdictional Act of 1935. The amendment recognized the Central Council's role as the governing body of the Tlingit and Haida people, approved the rules of organization of the Central Council, and limited the role of the BIA to preparing a list of all people of Tlingit and Haida blood residing in the United States or Canada. Further, the Central Council was directed to "prepare plans for the use of said funds, and to exercise such powers with respect to the advance, expenditure, and distribution of said funds."

During the Central Council convention of May, 1966, 49 delegates from 18 Community Councils met in Sitka to reorganize the structure of the organization, based on the amendment of Aug. 19, 1965.

The delegates adopted more stringent rules of elections for the Community Councils and provided for the election of seven officers of an Executive Committee every two years, rather than annually. Andrew Hope Sr. was nominated for president, but declined for health reasons. The convention paid tribute to both Hope and Frank Johnson for "years of dedicated service to the Tlingit and Haida Indians."

The Quantum Judgment

In January of 1968, the quantum judgment of the U.S. Court of Claims awarded $7,546,153.80 to the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska. While it was understood from the beginning that the U.S. Court of Claims was not free to grant title to land and could make awards based only on the value of the land in question at the time taken from the original owner, still, hopes had been high that the award would amount to many times the final settlement.

Although the dollar amount set by the quantum judgment was a disappointment to many Tlingit and Haida people, the Central Council chose to preserve the principal of the award and use the interest it generated to operate programs for the benefit of all Tlingit and Haida people. As a monument to the wisdom of that decision, the original judgment fund, through investments and trust fund deposits, remains intact.

This photo of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph, parents of the late Phillip Joseph, was taken circa 1900. Mrs. Joseph was from Juneau and Mr. Joseph was from Klukwan.
Organizational Origins 1912-1995

1912
Alaska Native Brotherhood/Alaska Native Sisterhood

1929
Land Claims / Land Suit Committee

1935
Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes

1972
Sealaska Corporation

1975
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation

1976
Regional Electrical Authority

1980
Scalaska Heritage Foundation

1968
Health Committee

This photo was taken in 1918 of some of the members of the Paddock family. Pictured here (left to right) are Fred, Martin, Tom, Mrs. Anna Paddock, and Ray Paddock.
CENTRAL COUNCIL Historical Timeline

1935–1995

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
1786

In June 1786, a French expedition under LaPerouse entered Lituya Bay. Their three month stay was the first extended contact between Europeans and the Tlingit people. This visit was foretold by Daxoodzoo, a prophetess and shaman, who, upon coming out of a trance, told her people, "Moving villages floating over the ocean will soon be visiting."

The Europeans were impressed by the Tlingit art work and abundant furs, while the Tlingits highly prized the trade goods brought by the French. LaPerouse lost 21 men in a tragic accident when an ebb tide swept three boats into the breaking shoals at the mouth of Lituya Bay.

1867

Alaska was purchased from Russia. In this famous painting the German born Baron Von Stoeckl, Russian emissary, points to the globe, and William H. Seward, Secretary of State, is seated at left. They were the principle negotiators in the sale of Russian America to the United States. The Treaty of Cession that they signed in 1867, sold the vast area of Alaska for a sum of $7,200,000.

The treaty provided that "uncivilized native tribes: would be excluded from citizenship and they would be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regards to aboriginal tribes of that country."

1878 The first fish canneries began operation in Klawock and Sitka.

1880 Joe Juneau and Richard Harris discovered gold in the land of the Auk Kwaan.

1882

This rare photo was taken in the summer of 1882 by Lt. G. T. Emmons. Angoon Village was first bombarded, then burned, by the U.S. Navy on Oct. 26, 1882. The incident occurred as a result of the dispute between the villagers and the Killisnoo whaling station operators over the accidental death of a local Shaman. The Shaman was killed when a whaling gun exploded. The villagers demanded restitution in the form of Hudson Bay blankets. The whaling station operators responded by asking the Navy to suppress the "Tlingit rebellion."

1884

The "Organic Act of 1884" was adopted by Congress. The Act established a rudimentary form of government for Alaska. Section 8 proved of great importance to future Native land claims: "Provided, that the Indians . . . shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands . . . now claimed by them, but the terms under which such persons may acquire title to such lands is reserved for future legislation by Congress."

1887 The General Allotment Act, also referred to as the Dawes Act, divided reservations into 80- and 160-acre tracts which were allocated to individual tribal members. The remaining tribal lands were declared surplus and put up for sale by the government. Within a decade tribal lands were
1887

reduced from 156 million acres to 78 million acres.

A group of Tsimshians, under the guidance of Father William Duncan, a Presbyterian missionary, established "New Metlakatla" on Annette Islandland belonging to the Cape Fox Tlingits. Congress later declared the Island a reservation.

The "Act of June 6, 1897" prohibited along the coastal areas of Alaska, the use of Native fish traps in areas used for subsistence purposes for countless generations.

1888 A way of life was changing when these proud men were photographed in 1888. Aggressive missionary work in the late 19th century led to a general acceptance of Christianity among the Native people of Southeast. The influence of Shamanism, such as Yarku of the Juneau Indian Village, and clan leaders such as the three Taku chiefs posing on the dock of the USS Pinta slowly diminished.

1889 The U. S. Congress passed the first of several acts limiting Native subsistence fishing in Alaska. While Native fish traps were prohibited, cannery traps were encouraged. The floating and standing cannery traps were so effective, and the competition between the canneries, that entire salmon runs were wiped out. Native fishermen quickly adapted to the cash economy created by the introduction of commercial fish processing. Most species of salmon were canned, while kings usually lightly salted, or "mild cured," and packed in wooden barrels.

1890 This photo of Tom Kananisty, a Shaman from Klukwan, was taken sometime in the late 1890's. By the time this photo was taken, the land, that had from time immemorial been used by the Native people for hunting and fishing purposes, was controlled by U.S. government. From the purchase of Alaska in 1867 until the Alaska National Interest-Lands Act of 1980, the U.S. government did little or nothing to protect subsistence rights. Two acts of Congress in the early part of the 20th century allowed Alaskan Natives to obtain "restricted title" to land, but neither act was appropriate to the continuous use of the land and waters. Under restricted title, what land was transferred could not be sold or leased without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

1890 Native Alaskan artifacts were highly prized by collectors of the late 19th century. By 1890, when this photo was taken, many of the original artifacts had been purchased, and a lively Native handicraft industry began to take up the slack.

1880-1900 The Russian Orthodox clergy pose with members of St. Gabriel's Brotherhood (crossed sashes) and St. Michael's Brotherhood (diagonal sashes). Religious societies, organized by various missionary groups were common during the late 1880's and early 1900's.
1892 Young women of the Sitka Training School pose for this photograph, taken circa 1892. For many years the Sitka Training School provided the only secondary and vocational education available to Alaskan Natives. Founded in 1882 by Sheldon Jackson, and later renamed in his honor, the school is now a fully accredited four year college.

1897 On July 6, 1897 the S.S. Portland arrived in Seattle loaded with prospectors and over two tons of gold from the Klondike. The "Gold Rush" was on. Within two months over 30,000 men were pouring through passes owned by the Chilkat and Chilkoot Tlingits, on their way to the Klondike gold fields. The first trickle of white prospectors to Southeast had met with a friendly reception by the Native people, who willingly hired out as packers. When gold was discovered in the Klondike, however, the trickle became a flood, then a raging torrent as white men of every description clamored to get over the passes formerly controlled by the Chilkat and Chilkoot people. By the turn of the century the Native way of life in Southeast was significantly disrupted.

1897 The "Carter Code", enacted by Congress, extended the civil laws of Oregon to Alaska. Juneau was designated as the new capital city. The white community's organized efforts to achieve a form of self government was observed with interest by Native leaders. The political effectiveness of such organizations as the Arctic Brotherhood and Pioneers of Alaska led to the realization that only a Territory wide Native organization could achieve political goals. These early organizations provided experience in the techniques of group cooperation; officers were elected, business meetings were conducted by rules of parliamentary procedure, funds were raised and campaigns waged for worthy causes. The founders of the Alaska Native Brotherhood had all participated in religious societies. The experience they gained proved fundamental to the establishment of the ANB, which is today the oldest such Native American organization in the United States.

1900 Judge James Wickersham had been appointed by President McKinley in 1900 as the federal judge to clean up a scandal in the gold fields near Nome. He stayed on in Alaska and championed many causes including those of statehood and Native rights. As Alaska’s non-voting delegate to Congress he introduced an early version of the Jurisdictional Act, which later died in committee. In 1930, testifying at a Congressional hearing, he gave due credit to the ANB as the sponsors of the bill: "The Alaska Native Brotherhood was organized some years ago, as the best organization that tribes represented in this bill could make of themselves
for their own protection... They met and had discussions with respect to their rights, and it was at one of these meetings out of which the bill grew. The old men indicated that they ought to have compensation for their lands from the government... and they insisted on preparing this bill and making their application to Congress.”

1902 President Theodore Roosevelt established the Tongass National Forest. Total land withdrawals eventually included nearly 16 million acres of Southeast Alaska.

1904 Perhaps no other feature of the original Native way of life was more strongly disapproved of by missionaries than the Potlatch. They considered it a "pagan" rite that was a form of "ancestor worship" and, because of the distribution of money and valuables, the potlatch was considered inconsistent with the white virtues of thrift and economy. This traditional potlatch was held in November, 1904, in Sitka.

1906 The Native Allotment Act provided for conveyance of 160 acres of public domain to adult Natives. Few tracts were issued because of the Bureau of Land Management refused to recognize the Alaskan Natives' subsistence use of the land as proof of "use and occupancy."

1912 Alaska became a Territory with a two house legislature. The new Territory was given no power over the valuable natural resources. The power to regulate the fisheries was the responsibility of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

1912 The Alaska Native Brotherhood held its first organizational meeting. Peter Simpson was elected president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood in an organizational meeting in Juneau, in 1912. Frank Mercer was elected Secretary.

1913 The first ANB convention was held in Sitka.

1915 The Alaska Native Sisterhood held its first convention.

1919 Tlingits from Wrangell and Sitka signed a peace treaty to settle old animosities. Wrangell then joined the ANB.

1922 Charlie Jones of Wrangell, seventh owner of the "Chief Shakes" title, was charged with illegal voting, a felony. W.L. Paul, Sr., successfully defended Jones and resolved the legality of Native voting rights.

1923 The "Alaskan Fisherman," official publication of the ANB, pioneered the effort to abolish all salmon traps. The issue soon became popular and many other newspapers and organizations joined the campaign. Referendums were passed overwhelmingly by territorial voters requesting the federal government to abolish the traps. Government officials ignored the pleas.
1924  "The Alexander Fish Bill" effectively ended subsistence fishing in Southeast.

1924  Indian possessory and compensatory land claims was raised as an issue at the ANB Convention.

1925  President Calvin Colidge created the 2.5 million acre Glacier Bay National Monument.

1926  W.L. Paul, Sr, was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives, becoming the first Alaska Native Legislator.

The Native Townsite Act allowed all villages to be surveyed into lots, blocks, and streets, and individual lots conveyed to Native adults.

1929  W.L. Paul, Sr., established in court the rights of Native children to attend public schools.

The ANB Convention at Haines resolved to pursue the Tlingit and Haida claims. "Strengthened by the presence of the honorable James Wickersham, recently retired from Congress, a resolution to sponsor, a bill permitting us to seek entrance to a Court of Claims was passed unanimously."

1929  One of the earliest goals of the ANB/ANS was to bring an end to the two school system. Schools were operated by the Alaska Native Service for Native children, while white children attended schools operated by the Territorial Public School System. Many Native parents felt it important that their children be given the opportunity to compete on equal grounds with the whites in the public schools. There were also strong feelings that the instruction in the Indian schools was not up to the standard of the Territorial schools. In 1929 W.L. Paul argued and won a case (J. H. Ellis) that established the rights of Native children to attend public schools. This photo of an integrated classroom in Yakutat was taken in 1932.

1931  ANB initiated transfer of Bureau of Education to Office of Indian Affairs.

1924  The Indian Reorganization Act was enacted to curb the loss of Indian lands and to restore lands already lost under other acts of Congress. It provided for the establishment of reservations in Alaska, a subject of profound controversy amount Alaska Natives. The compromise that led to the passage of the IRA excluded Alaska.

The Johnson O'Malley Act (JOM) authorized the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with state and local governments to provide education and social welfare for Indian people.
1935 The Jurisdictional Act was successfully introduced by Alaska delegate to Congress, Anthony (Tony) Dimond, allowing the Tlingit and Haida Indians to pursue their claims in the U.S. Court of Claims.

Pursuant to the direction of the ANB, a claims committee organizational meeting was held in conjunction with the ANB/ANS convention in Klawock. David Morgan was elected president of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council on Nov. 11, 1935.

1936 The IRA was amended at the request of the ANB and extended to Alaska.

1934 As instructed by the 1939 ANB Resolution No. 37, the ANB organized the Central Council and elected Andrew Hope President, Jake Cropley, Vice President, William Paul, Secretary, and Rev. Walter Soboleff, Treasurer. The Interior Department challenged the legitimacy of this organization and another election occurred at the 1941 convention.

1941 The Central Council met and organized at Wrangell on April 9. Andrew Percy Hope was elected president, Sandy Stevens, Vice President, William Paul, Secretary and Rev. Walter Soboleff, Treasurer. However Walter Soboleff was not a delegate and could not serve. Laura Haller was then elected treasurer. Fred Wallace was elected Sergeant-at-arms.

1944 Andrew Hope, Sr. and Frank Peratrovich were elected to the

1945 This photo shows the signing of the Anti-Discrimination Act passed by the 1945 Territorial Legislature. This represented the successful conclusion of a campaign begun years before by the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood. Gathered for the signing of the bill are: (Left to right) Senator O.D. Cochran, Nome; Mrs. Elizabeth Peratrovich, ANS Grand Camp President; Governor Ernest Gruening; Rep. Anderson, Nome; Senator N.R. Walker Ketchikan; Roy Peratrovich, ANB Grand Camp President.

1946 Andrew Hope was joined in the House by Frank Johnson. Frank Peratrovich was elected to the Senate.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School opened. Many future Native leaders who became active in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement first met there.

1949 Frank Peratrovich was elected president of the Alaska Senate.

1953 The U.S. House of Representatives passed Concurrent Resolution No. 108 which made "termination" a policy of the United States, with the intent of totally assimilating the Indian people and terminating all public assistance.
1954 A change of attorneys was requested by the Central Council in the Tlingit and Haida claims case. I. S. "Lefty" Weissbrodt was appointed.

1957 "Lefty" Weissbrodt filed a petition in the U.S. Court of Claims to determine original ownership of Southeast Alaska.

1959 On January 3, Alaska officially became the 49th state of the Union.

One of the first laws passed by the first Alaska State Legislature in 1959 finally abolished fish traps, much hated by the Native people. The inability of Alaskan citizens to influence the federal government on the issue of fish traps gave the drive for statehood increased momentum.

1965 The Jurisdictional Act of 1935 was amended at the request of the Central Council. Amendments were necessary to clarify the status of the Central Council; to recognize it as the governing body of the Tlingit and Haida people; to allow for "per capita distribution" of the judgment fund; and to reduce the role of the BIA in the eventual administration of the funds.

1966 On October 18 the first meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives took place in Anchorage. The first victory of the A.F.N. was to convince Secretary of the Interior Steward Udall to impose a "land freeze" on all transfers of federal lands to the State of Alaska.

1968 The U.S. Court of Claims awarded the Tlingit and Haida people $7.5 million for lands withdrawn to create the Tongass National Forest and Glacier Bay National Monument.

1968 The Alaska Land Claims Task Force, organized by Governor Walter Hickel, recommended the conveyance of 40 million acres to the Native people.

1968 The ANB/ANS organized the Alaska Native Board of Health to advise the Indian Health Service on Native health needs. The organization evolved into Southeast Alaska Native Health Corporation.
1959

1965

1966

1968

1970

1972

1973  "Limited Entry," restricting the number of fishermen allowed to fish for salmon, was adopted by the Alaska legislature.

The Central Council created the Tlingit-Haida Federal Credit Union.

1974  In December 18, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act became law.

1975  The Southeast regional ANSCA corporation (Sealaska) was incorporated by the Central Council.

1976  The Tlingit-Haida Regional Electrical Authority was organized by the Central Council.

1978  The "Indian Child Welfare Act" was adopted by Congress.

1980  The first shipment of Sealaska logs left for Japan on September 12.

1982  In February, 1982, for the first time in history, the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian nations united in a celebration of their cultures. Both Celebration '82 and Celebration '84 were telecast throughout the state, allowing all the people of Alaska to participate in the three day events.

1970  Congress passed Public Law 91-335 giving the Central Council access to the $7.5 million judgment fund.

1970  Richard Nixon's "Indian Message" repudiated termination or paternalism as policies of the U.S. government.

1971  On December 18, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act became law.

1972  The Southeast regional ANSCA corporation (Sealaska) was incorporated by the Central Council.

1973  "Limited Entry," restricting the number of fishermen allowed to fish for salmon, was adopted by the Alaska legislature.

The Central Council created the Tlingit-Haida Federal Credit Union.

1974  In December 18, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act became law.

1975  The Self Determination Act for 1975 (P.L. 93-638) was a major advance in the efforts of Native Americans to regain control of their lives. One of the more important provisions of the law requires Indian preference in hiring for projects using "638" funds. These men are installing a water and sewer system near Mt. Edgucumbe in a project that had almost 100% Native workers.

Central Council delegates gathered for an annual meeting. These photos were taken in the late 1970s.

1975  The Self Determination Act for 1975 (P.L. 93-638) was a major advance in the efforts of Native Americans to regain control of their lives. One of the more important provisions of the law requires Indian preference in hiring for projects using "638" funds. These men are installing a water and sewer system near Mt. Edgucumbe in a project that had almost 100% Native workers.

Central Council delegates gathered for an annual meeting. These photos were taken in the late 1970s.
1973

Planned and organized by the Sealaska Heritage Foundation, the Celebrations featured traditional ceremonies and oral history.

1984 The Andrew Hope Building was completed in 1984. The Building houses the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall, Camp No. 2 offices and the headquarters of Central Council.

Central Council's Head Start Program started to better serve the educational needs of Native children.

1975

1991 On October 2, Dr. Eddie Brown, Assistant Secretary on Indian Affairs, signed the Self-Governance Demonstration Program Compact for Southeast Alaska Indian Tribes. This historic signing gave tribes the opportunity to transfer Bureau of Indian Affairs -Juneau Area Office administrative oversight funds to the tribes for use to improve services to tribal members. The Compact increased the Central Council's budget 77.1 percent.

1992 On January 1, the Self-Governance Demonstration Program Compact went into effect.

1993 Central Council left off the list of Federally recognized tribes.

1994 Congress affirms Central Council's position that the Council could not be deleted from the list of Federally Recognized Tribes by an agency of government, since it was established by an act of Congress. Central Council put back on the list of Federally Recognized Tribes.

1995 Central Council celebrates its 60th General Assembly.

1975-82

Central Council President Edward K. Thomas (right) is pictured here at a 1994 follow-up meeting with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali (center). Mr. Thomas was one of a select group of tribal leaders nationwide, including Oren Lyon (left), chosen to help the United Nations inaugurate the 1993 Year of Indigenous People. In 1994, Mr. Thomas was one of only eight tribal leaders selected to attend a United Nations follow-up meeting on plans for the 1990s as the United Nations' Decade of the Indigenous People.
CENTRAL COUNCIL
Biographies of Presidents
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
David Morgan
Term of Office 1935-1940

David Morgan, a school teacher from Hoonah, was the first president of the Central Council, from when it was organized until when Andrew Hope was elected president in 1940. During the period of his leadership the organization concentrated primarily on trying to raise money to press the land claims suit.

Andrew Percy Hope. (1898-1970)
Term of office 1940 to 1966

Andrew Percy Hope was for many years a boat builder in Sitka. Many fishing boats active in the industry today were constructed by Mr. Hope. He was long active in the Alaska Native Brotherhood and was a Charter member of Camp No. 1, organized in 1912. In 1922 he was elected Grand Camp President, and was active on the Grand Camp Executive Committee. Mr. Hope was first elected to the territorial House of Representatives in 1944. He served in the Territorial Legislature for a number of terms, and also served in the first State Legislature. Mr. Hope, along with Frank Johnson and a number of other leaders, guided the Central Council through its early years. The Convention of Nov. 28, 1940 elected him president.

Ted Denny
Term of office 1966-1967

Ted Denny became active in the Central Council when the Seattle Community Council was organized in the late 1950s. He was elected delegate to the Central Council, and shortly thereafter was elected President of his Community Council. Andrew Hope and Mr. Denny successfully lobbied Congress to amend the Jurisdictional Act of 1935. During the 1966 Central Council annual meeting Mr. Denny was elected President of the Central Council. He served one complete term.

Mr. Denny was a graduate of the Averswalds Business College of Seattle. He served as a senior accountant for Pacific Northern Airlines and then Western Airlines. He was president of the Pacific Northern Airlines Federal Credit Union, and was a member of the supervisory committee of Western Air Federal Credit Union. Following his term as President of the Central council Mr. Denny worked as a consultant for the State of Alaska. In 1972 he became chief certifying officer of Enrollment for the BIA in Anchorage.

John Borbridge, Jr.
Term of office 1967-1972

John Borbridge, Jr. was raised in Southeast and graduated from Juneau High School. He attended Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka, and graduated from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) with a bachelor of arts degree. He attended graduate school at the University of Washington in Seattle.

In 1967 Mr. Borbridge was elected President of the Central Council. During his six years as President he was instrumental in efforts to settle the Alaska Native land claims, serving as chief lobbyist for Southeast Alaska Natives from the beginning of the effort through the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. He was also one of the chief lobbyists for the Alaska Federation of Natives during that same period.

In 1972, following the enactment of the ANCSA, Mr. Borbridge was elected President and Chairman of the Board of Sealaska Corporation, the Southeast Regional ANCSA corporation he was instrumental in organizing. He served in those positions until 1976, continuing to serve as President of Sealaska Corporation until 1978.

Mr. Borbridge was appointed by the United States Congress to serve as a Commissioner on the American Indian Policy Review Commission from 1975 to 1977. He received a Presidential appointment to serve at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, dealing with human rights, military security and the environment among the 33 member nations.

He also served as Chairman of the Board of the Alaska Federation of Natives and as an AFN vice president.

Clarence Jackson, Sr.
Term of office 1972-1976

Clarence Jackson, Sr. is a merchant and commercial fisherman from Kake. He was one of the five incorporators of Sealaska, and has served as Sealaska Director.

Mr. Jackson has served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Southeast Native Timber Corporation (SANTC); as a director of the Kake Tribal Corporation; Vice President of the Kake IRA Council; President of Southeast Alaska Community Action Program; Area Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians; Commissioner of the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority. Mr. Jackson has also served on the Board of Advisors for Sheldon Jackson College, and on the Fisheries Advisory Board for the Kake area.

Raymond E. Paddock, Jr.
Term of office 1975-1980

Raymond E. Paddock, Jr. was born and raised in Southeast Alaska. From 1955 until 1968 Mr. Paddock served as analyst and electronics technician in the U.S. Air Force Intelligence. Following his military service he settled near Washington, D.C. His first employment in
civilian life was a computer systems analyst.

In 1971 he was hired by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) as a publicity director. Other responsibilities soon followed, most notably an assignment to eliminate the serious debt of the organization. Early in 1972 Mr. Paddock was hired by U.S. Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska, as legislative aide. The following year he went on to serve as a full time staff member of the U.S. Senate Public Works Committee. He worked on a number of important subcommittees assignments.

In August of 1973 Mr. Paddock returned to Alaska to become Executive Director of the Central Council, a position he served in until late 1975.

During the 1976 Central Council Convention Mr. Paddock ran successfully for the presidency. During his terms of office the Central Council went through a period of dramatic expansion.

Andrew "John" Hope, Jr.
Term of office 1980-1984

John Hope was elected President of the Central Council during the 1980 convention. He has been actively involved as a delegate to the Central Council since 1968.

Mr. Hope was formerly employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as Tribal Operations Officer, "638" Coordinator, and as Temporary Area Director. A long association with the ANB began in 1945 when Mr. Hope joined the Angoon Camp No.7. In 1954 he was elected as first Grand Camp Secretary. He was elected Grand Camp President in 1962, re-elected in 1963 and was an active member of ANB executive committee. He served as parliamentarian of the Grand Camp, and was appointed parliamentarian of the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1967 and served continuously for over 20 years. He also served as parliamentarian for Calista, Doyon and the Aleut Corporation and the National Congress of American Indians.

Edward K. Thomas
Term of office 1984-present

Administrator, teacher, and fisherman, Edward Thomas was born and raised in Craig, Alaska. He received an Associates Degree in Science from Sheldon Jackson College, a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and a Masters degree in Education from Pennsylvania State University.

Mr. Thomas has served as Chairman of the Board of the Shaan-Seet Corporation of Craig, President of the Southeast Alaska IRA Councils and as First Vice President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand Camp. During the early 1970's Mr. Thomas worked as a classroom teacher in Klawock and as a high school counselor in Craig, leaving periodically to complete his studies. Upon receipt of his masters degree he returned to Alaska to accept a position as Indian Education Counselor in Sitka. He then worked as Indian Education Director in Ketchikan.

In 1976 he was instrumental in re-activating a dormant tribal government, the Ketchikan Indian Corporation, and helped build it into an organization with an annual operating budget of over $1 million. Under his direction the organization grew to include 11 public service and educational programs. He served as the Executive Director from 1976 to 1983.

Mr. Thomas was elected president of the Central Council at the 1984 convention. Mr. Thomas served as Juneau area vice president of the National Congress of American Indians and as chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives Human Resources Committee. He was one of 16 tribal leaders selected to meet with President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and one of 18 tribal leaders selected to meet with President George Bush in 1991. In 1993 and 1994, Mr. Thomas was one of eight tribal leaders chosen to meet with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali for the United Nations Decade of the Native American. Under his direction the Central Council has expanded programs and services and successfully negotiated the Self Governance Compact. Mr. Thomas successfully led the Central Council through a challenge to its tribal status, and in 1994 succeeded in having the Central Council put back on the list of federally recognized tribes.
The Central Council's New Role

The mission of the reorganized Central Council was enumerated in the "Six Point Plan" prepared by Central Council staff and then approved by Congress in 1970. This plan called for programs in the areas of education and skills training, industrial and commercial development, housing assistance and financing.

Fortunately, the transition of the Central Council from advocacy to services coincided with the dramatic change in federal policy. In a trend that was to culminate in the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, the federal government began turning over the administration of Indian programs to Indian organizations such as the Central Council.

One of the most important steps forward came about in April, 1971, when the Bureau of Indian Affairs subcontracted with the Central Council to administer its Southeast Agency, which served social, employment and educational needs of Native Americans residing in Southeast Alaska.

Throughout the 1970s the Central Council experienced continual growth as it assumed an ever increasing number of federal programs. While the first five years of the 1980s were marked by a decrease in overall funding, it was balanced by increased funding from the State of Alaska and the development of strategies that have led to a more direct involvement in commercial ventures.

The Central Council has developed numerous programs and services, including a Business and Economic Development Department, Education Services, Employment and Training programs, Housing and Trust services, a Human Services department and other special programs.

Central Council's Business and Economic Development Department assists Native communities and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations in planning, training and economic development projects.

The Education Services programs include the Tlingit and Haida Head Start Program, Higher Education Services to assist with continuing education needs, and regional Johnson-O'Malley supplemental Native education programs.

Employment and Training Programs administered by Central Council aim at providing access to employment opportunities to all Native Americans living in Southeast Alaska. Programs include jobs training, vocational education and numerous other opportunities.

The Housing Trust Services programs provide Alaska Natives with assistance with home repair and housing. The Trust Department is responsible for managing restricted lands in townsites and Native Allotments. The department also advises, counsels and offers technical assistance on all matters relating to individual lands. In addition, the department provides assistance with environmental protection, forest appraisals and surveys, and management of trust lands. The department also provides assistance to tribal groups seeking to repatriate sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony under the NAGPRA law.

The Central Council's Human Services department administers a wide range of human services programs providing assistance to children, families and the elderly. Programs include energy assistance, emergency assistance, senior community service-elderly programs and foster home recruitment.

In addition, the Central Council is the contracting agency for the Village Public Safety Officer Program in Southeast Alaska. This program provides basic public safety resources to Southeast communities.

In 1987 the United States Congress created the Self-Governance Demonstration Project, restoring the basic right of self-determination to Indian tribes. Central Council became part of the Demonstration Project. In 1992 a Compact Agreement was signed, resulting in a 77.1 percent increase in funding for the Central Council and the elimination of the BIA Southeast Agency. The savings were allocated to signatories to the Compact in Southeast, which included Central Council, Angoon

In October, 1993, a list of federally recognized tribes in Alaska released by the U.S. Department of the Interior, left out the Central Council. Though the Bureau of Indian Affairs first published a list of Alaska tribes in 1982 that included Central Council, the Bureau dropped the Council from its 1993 list.

Ada Deer, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the time, said that the Council was established for a specific purpose, the settlement of Southeast Alaska Native land claims, and did not meet the Interior Department’s criteria as a tribe.

The Central Council, however, took the position that its tribal status was already recognized by an act of Congress, and only an act of Congress could remove the tribe from the list.

In November, 1993, Alaska Senator Ted Stevens introduced legislation that was spearheaded in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Sen. Frank Murkowski, that officially reestablished the tribal status of the Central Council.

Alaska Congressman Don Young led an effort in the House to respond to criticisms of the bill, and forged compromise language that responded to the concerns raised.

Central Council president Edward K. Thomas took an active role in the fight to restore tribal status and the legislation was unanimously passed by the United States Congress in the closing days of the legislative session.

A significant provision of the bill prohibits the Bureau of Indian Affairs from withdrawing recognition from any tribe without an act of Congress.

The Central Council of today is the legacy of the men and women who had a vision of better life for their children. Through their foresight, courage and determination the battle was fought and won. The judgment awarded as a result of the efforts made by those who fought the battle, was used as the foundation for the Central Council, an organization that will continue to serve the interests of the Tlingit and Haida people for generations to come.
Photo Credits

Title page; art work by Dennis Willard.

Historical Profile

Page 1:
Alaska State Library photo, PCA 33-1.

Page 2:
1929 ANB Convention photo, courtesy of Judson Brown.

Page 3:
Alaska State Library photo, PCA 01-2404.

Page 4:
ANS photo, Central Council archives.


Page 5:
Central Council archives photo.

Page 6:
Central Council archives photos.

Page 7:
Photo of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph, Central Council archives photo.

Historical Timeline

Page 10:

All others, Central Council archives photos.

Page 11:

1889 fishing boat, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 20-161.

All others, Central Council archives photos.

Page 12:
1900 Juneau, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 20-117.

All others, Central Council archives photos.

Page 13:

1912, Alaska Legislature, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 87-2507.

All others, Central Council archives photos.

Page 14:
ANB founders, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 33-1.

Peter Simpson, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 01-2404.

W.L. Paul, Sr., Alaska State Library photo, PCA 87-2507.

Alaska Legislature, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 87-2507.

1924 photo, Central Council archives.

Page 15:
Andrew Hope, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 33-28.

All others, Central Council archives.

Page 16:

Central Council Archives photos.

Page 17:
Native leaders, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 33-5.

Page 18:
Central Council archives photos.

Page 19:
Central Council archives photos.

Biographies

Page 22:
Andrew Hope, Alaska State Library photo, PCA 33-28.

All others, Central Council archives photos.