

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Some Not So Soft...

(Continued from Page 1)

equipment traffic will be moving through the townships established through the authority of the claims act.

This is a post claims era — truly an era in which the selection efforts of the village lands should bear respect and honor under the Act. It was unfortunate that the so-called Hickel Highway was allowed to go through Anaktuvuk Pass some years ago. One of the reasons that might have allowed this to happen may have been the rather nebulous and complex direction the claims effort was going at the time before it was aimed at a more desired direction. If this had not been so, it was the time for the leadership of the Arctic Slope and the Anaktuvuk Pass people to protest the establishment of the road.

Once the Act was signed, it should have been the time for all parties to start thinking of an alternate route because, then, it became clearly apparent that the village of Anaktuvuk Pass would be selecting its townships immediately around its surroundings.

It looks extremely clear to us at the present time that the village is trying seriously to protect its lands the villagers traditionally used in their subsistence activities.

As we have said, this is a post claims era. Under this era, we also need "strong voices." For the greatest part, these are voices to protect the Native lands that have been selected or are in the process of being selected. We wish to say that there is no one voice that speaks for all Alaskan people. This country called America has long been hailed for its cultural and political diversity. As a state, Alaska is perhaps more culturally diverse than any other. Alaskan Natives in their own right have varied and unique viewpoints and backgrounds. Therefore, at this time, "strong voices" are needed to properly protect selected lands. We welcome new voices, some of which we do not always agree with. It is when the Native people are silent that we begin to worry.

Claims Cash Problem

Land claim cash can be a problem to the villages in that it carries the responsibility for its wise and prudent use for the benefit of the people. The distribution to the people in cash would bring a short term benefit and perhaps some of the income should be distributed to reduce the difference between the amount received by those who only enrolled in the regions. Investment of the funds may not be wise because this is unfamiliar to most Alaskans and the chances of losing or being taken are excellent. Any profit is heavily taxed at the corporation and individual level and the investment would be in danger of depletion by inflation.

The funds would have the maximum positive effect on the village if they were to be used to subsidize the cost of food and other needs in the same way the BIA or Military does.

The money could be used to support a native store or co-op which would then sell supplies at a price as low or lower than in the cities. This would make all other money go further instead of causing more inflation and being drained out through commercial stores and taxes. It would encourage people to stay in the village rather than taking their money to spend in the city.

Perhaps the best feature of this plan is that any village could carry it out to any degree they felt is best and it doesn't require any legal fees or "experts."

I hope that some of the villages consider this approach to their cash problem and its obvious advantages in improving the quality of life in the villages. The only ones who will benefit are the people who deserve it. Beware of the advice of those who would gain from some other sort of program.

—JAMES H. MCALEAR, PH.D.

Letters from Here and There

Ilisavik Enjoys Survival Stories

Attagoyuk Ilisavik, Pangnirtung N.W.T. XOA ORO CANADA
13 Feb. 74

Mr. Howard Rock
Editor
Tundra Times

Dear Sir:

Just a short note to tell you how much your paper is enjoyed in this part of the Arctic.

We receive three copies of your paper rather intermittently (due to our erratic service by plane) but when they do eventually — both planes and papers — the "Times" is eagerly read. Of special interest are your articles on Arctic Survival as the Eskimo pupils draw comparisons between your methods etc. and the manner in which they handle the various animals themselves. Also there is the closeness in the languages, e.g. Nachik-Hair seal-Netsuk in the dialect as spoken in the Baffin.

Your paper has also given us information re the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act which has been much appreciated by my wife — a Vunta Kutchin, Loucheaux, from Old Crow Y.T. — and enrolled in the Doyon Regional Corp.

Keep up your good work in reporting on the old and new ways of life in your part of the North.

I remain!
Yours sincerely,
Max Rispin

P.S. Attagoyuk Ilisavik is the name of our school.

She Has Betty Crocker Coupons

Mrs. Audrey Totaro
3117 Gull Ave.
Medford, N. Y. 11763
March 1, 1974

Dear Sir:

Some time ago you published an article about the people of Angoon, Alaska saving Betty Crocker Coupons towards a fire truck for their village.

At that time, I sent all the coupons that I had up there. Well, I have saved a lot more and would now like to know if the people of Angoon still need a fire truck and whether they are still collecting the coupons.

Any information that you could tell me about this project would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Audrey Totaro

Shareholders: Attention!

March 3, 1974

Dear Editor:

It seems time for a look at an important phase of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act — the first shareholders meeting of each regional corporation.

Would you say the majority of shareholders are prepared for this meeting? I would not.

This preparedness must stem from information — and the obvious sources is the regional corporation. Lucky are the people whose corporations take time to keep them informed of the work that is going on.

Let's consider the role of the

shareholder. The Act says we will each receive 100 shares of stock to begin with. We have the right to receive dividends from the regional corporation. We have the right to VOTE.

The vote, to me, is extremely important. It can be a token power if we don't use it. All the shareholders can do with their voting power is elect the corporate board of directors and vote on matters "as properly may be presented."

Unfortunately, many shareholders won't be able to vote in the true sense of the word. If they cannot attend the annual stockholders meeting, they will have to vote by PROXY, that is, authorize another person to vote for them.

It would be nice if the proxy concept could be eliminated in order to permit shareholders to cast their own vote while in their own village — as in statewide elections. At present, the real vote lies with people who can travel to the election place.

"The management," meaning the regional corporation, will usually ask for proxies. I'd like

to point out that a shareholder does not have to give his proxy to the corporate representative. It may be better to trust a friend or relative with your proxy.

Most villages should have begun planning for the first stockholders meeting by nominating people they would like to see on the corporate board of directors. Other nominations will take place at the meeting.

I would encourage all shareholders to think very seriously about their vote. Do you want to elect the SAME people to the board of directors? In the two years since the Land Claims Act was passed, has the board made you proud of their work? Select your leaders carefully. Remember, they are managing your money and your land.

The Land Claims Settlement gave us an opportunity to act for ourselves. Let's move ahead and participate wisely as shareholders.

Respectfully,
Nancy Gray Akpik
Fairbanks, Alaska

A New Column— Your Dental Health

The contents of this series of "Dental Health Talks" was originally prepared by the American Dental Association. They are made available for Tundra Times through the Public Health Education Office of the Alaska Native Health Service.

It is well known that our dental health program in Interior Alaska has not yet reached everyone needing dental services. This is especially true about the people in the rural communities. However, everyone understands how important it is to take care of our teeth which is a part of our total well-being.

Let's start our series by testing ourselves to find out our Dental IQ by taking the following quiz:

No. 1 — A Dental Health Quiz

* * *

How's your dental health IQ? Test yourself on these points:

1. Tooth brushing should be
 - (a) after meals and before bedtime and always after sweet snacks.
 - (b) part of a thorough cleaning a minimum of once a day.
2. Dental floss is most important as
 - (a) an aid in removing food from between teeth.
 - (b) an aid in preventing tooth decay and gum disease.
3. The primary factor in dental decay is
 - (a) sweet foods impacted between teeth.
 - (b) plaque built up on teeth.
4. For most people, the recommended toothbrush should have
 - (a) firm, resilient bristles.
 - (b) soft, end-rounded bristles.
5. The recommended way to brush is
 - (a) down on the upper teeth and up on the lower teeth.
 - (b) with a short, back and forth scrub or vibratory motion.

The best answer to each of the questions, according to the American Dental Association, is letter "b." But don't feel bad if you missed several — the answers considered "best" have changed in recent years.

Advances in dental research have lead to changes in the disease prevention procedures recommended by dentists. Dental science and dental practice are advancing at such a fast pace that it is often difficult for the patient to keep up with the latest information. That's the reason for this new series of columns: to provide you with the latest information about "Your Dental Health."

Teeth have always been one of the major mysteries of life, and there is no phase of tooth development which has not been the subject of endless questions, much misinformation, and even some superstitions. Probably this is because dental disease is as old as mankind.

Ever since the first cavemen developed toothaches, people have been trying to find ways to prevent them. Over the centuries remedies for preventing toothaches have ranged from washing the infant's mouth with holy water to hanging a root of parsley around

(Continued on page 7)