

## Passing along memories

Dear Editor,

I've been under a doctor's care for a couple of weeks for some cancer tests, happy to report a clean bill of health.

I hope to be able to continue our correspondence. I hope to pass along some of the memories I still possess before they are entirely lost.

I am thinking especially of the era beginning about 1915, of perceptions of an orphaned child growing up on the lonely coast of the Bering Sea along the Alaska Peninsula and also the tragic story of a band of unfortunate Eskimo people who were driven from their ancestral homeland to a strange, yet, bountiful shore over a thousand miles from their homes on the Seward Peninsula near the Arctic Circle. I'm sure the incredible journey which was accomplished by this courageous band of Eskimo pioneers will long be remembered and enjoyed by many of your readers.

Sincerely yours,  
Charles Franz  
Bellingham

## Cherish importance of by-gone days, hopes to find answers

Dear Marilyn,

You may publish any material in the *Tundra Times* with my blessings and hope my effort to recall many interesting and often forgotten memories will help others to remember and cherish the importance of by-gone days.

I have one very selfish and important motive to exploit the use of your wonderful paper. I cannot think of a better media to pursue my life-long dream of learning the identity of my parents, who through unpredictable quirks of fate, has eluded my search for these many years.

With the aid of *Tundra Times* wide coverage I hope to find answers to many questions that will

have to be answered while there is still time to question people that may be able to help.

As a member of a team employed by the Alaska Federation of Natives, on a mission sponsored by a Presidential Proclamation to build housing for all Americans. The team, of which I was a member used a Cessna 185 airplane on wheels, skis and floats able to visit and collect all the necessary data to up-grade the living conditions in the remote and isolated regions of Alaska!

Our team consisted of Joe Vanderpool, pilot; Andy Kamkoff, project planner, engineer and coordinator of data and feasibility studies, Dick a very able and helpful interpreter and my job was to sell the program and try to explain the purpose of the program.

While visiting the Port Clarence Teller area on the Seward Peninsula I finally struck pay dirt, some of the very old timers remembered the names of people whom I mentioned who had left that area about the time my Father and Mother arrived at Herendeen Bay where my Father died.

Sincerely yours,  
Charles Franz  
Bellingham

## Mayors sponsor petition

Dear Fellow Alaskans:

Residents in over 135 of our villages do not have piped water to their homes and must use a bucket or an outhouse as a toilet. In other villages, water and sewer systems are old, inadequate, do not work properly, or are not available to everyone.

This situation is threatening the health and safety of our people, hampering the quality of life in our communities, and limiting the opportunities for economic development. Something needs to be done and your help is needed.

Attached is a petition requesting the State and Federal government to make improving sanitation conditions throughout rural Alaska a priority. If you agree with me that the lack of good water and sewer facilities in our communities is a critical issue, I urge you to sign your name to the petition and get as many

other people as you can to sign it. Hang it on bulletin boards, take it from home to home, and circulate it during meetings.

This petition is being faxed to every other rural community in Alaska in hopes of gaining a minimum of 50,000 signatures by April 2. This effort is being sponsored by the North Northwest Mayors Association in cooperation with the Alaska Sanitation Task Force, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the Dept. of Health and Social Services.

Once signatures are collected they will be presented to the State Legislature, Gov. Hickel, Congress and President Clinton.

I believe this will be a very powerful way of sending a united message from rural Alaska telling the rest of Alaska and the United States we deserve clean water and good sewage just as much as they do.

Once again, please get as many residents as you can to sign this petition and fax it to the Alaska Sanitation Task Force (fax number 465-5177) by April 2.

Sincerely,  
Bob Foote, President  
North Northwest Mayors  
Conference  
Unalakleet

*Editors note: The petition follows:*

Requesting State and Federal assistance in getting human waste out of rural Alaskan homes and safe water into them.

Basic water and sewer systems which citizens in the rest of Alaska and the United States take for granted are not available to the vast majority of residents in Alaska villages. This lack of basic sanitation facilities is creating a critical health and safety crisis in rural Alaska. Without these services, the health of our people is threatened, the quality of life in our communities is hampered and our opportunities for economic development are severely restricted.

Therefore, we the undersigned respectfully request President Clinton, the U.S. Congress, Gov. Hickel and the State of Alaska Legislature to make it a priority to assist us in improving sanitation conditions in Alaska villages so residents may have safe drinking water in their homes and no longer have to use a bucket as a toilet.

THE TUNDRA TIMES is published weekly by The Editors, Inc., Alaska Publishing Company, Inc., 3420 Spenard Road, Suite 4, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Telephone (907) 274-8811. Subscriptions: \$25.00 per year or \$3.00 per copy. Foreign subscriptions: \$55.00 per year payable in U.S. dollars. Second class postage permit application pending at Anchorage, Alaska. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to The Tundra Times, Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 82247, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-2247.