Letters to the Editor

Capitol move complexities

Dear Editor:

Please tell Juneau what YOU think about the capital (city) and the capitol (building).

Some Juneauites, intent on keeping money in Juneau, recently proposed that Juneau build a new capitol, funded with a 2% sales tax on Juneauites, and try to lease it to the State. Juneau votes on this proposal in October.

Some other Juneauites think, yes, Juneau should remain Alaska's capital, but all Alaskans should think and speak about—and pay for—a new building, so that the capitol is part of Alaska's capital, without provoking Alaskans into moving government from Juneau.

The first group just wants to build it now—with a sales tax that hurts the poor, without a lease, without owning the land, without solving access problems, without a limit on costs, and without asking other Alaskans—just to keep legislators happy in a plush new building.

The second group thinks Juneau and Alaska should work first on real problems like transportation, communications, and participation, to win the support of Alaskan people everywhere for a new capitol in Juneau, funded fairly by all.

I happen to chair that second group, the Keep the Capital Committee, but write this letter personally only, to ask you to tell Juneau what YOU think.

All Juneauites need to hear from YOU, the Alaskans outside of Juneau. Please send YOUR own sincere thoughts about the capitol building and the capital city to: Editor, Juneau Empire, 3100 Channel Drive, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

Sincerely & cordially, Joe Sonneman

Honest to goodness berrypicking truth

Dear Editor:

Well, it's that time of the year again...berry picking time. The YK-Delta has been blessed with an abundant supply of berries this year, blue, black, salmon and cranberries.

You know how those commercials portray the "macho man" type truck ads. They drop some truck tethered from a rope/aircraft to the amazement of their TV audience.

What's really something and what will sell is seeing a truck load full of kuspuk clad women, their children and berry equipment maneuvering on the dirt trails in search of berries. There's no stopping them, no tussock too high, no groove too deep to keep these women away from their goal...berries.

That's the honest to goodness berrypicking truth.

Sincerely, Barbara A. Kimberlin Bethel, AK