

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

# Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Wednesdays.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99707. Telephone 452-2244.

Second class postage paid at Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, President and Chairman of the Board, Emeritus; John Sackett, Chairman; Thomas Richards, vice-president; Daphne Gustafson, Secretary; George Bell, treasurer; Laura Bergt, corresponding secretary; Thomas Richards Jr., managing editor, HOWARD ROCK, editor.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

|  |                |                  |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states) ..... | 1 Year \$10.00 | 6 Months \$ 5.50 |
| Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states) .....     | 1 Year \$21.00 | 6 Months \$12.00 |

Member of the American Indian Press Association

## Native Sciences . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

has had to live centuries ago and to the present? Did anyone tell him how he should have done it and why he should have done it? The answer is a resounding "NO." He did it in his own way and what he has found out has been an almost foolproof resolve of the dangers of his environment found unlike those in any other area — the unique problems of the Arctic world.

The Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts have attained great many scientific achievements hardly any scientist ever bothered to look into. They have solved their diet systems superbly suited to their environments. They have solved their unique social lifeways that worked best under those same surroundings. They observed the currents of the seas, the ice movements, wind directions and by solving the consequences they could cause, they made life easier for themselves and more comfortable in pursuit of their everyday lives. The vital knowledge of many adverse conditions gave them the respites for the all-pervading opportunities for lightheartedness, for spiritual expressions and for unfettered issuance of delightful senses of humor that were, and are, ever present under the austere environments. Without this, life in the Arctic world would have been broodingly dull compounded by the ever present dangers.

Science of the Western world, as applied in Alaska, suspiciously reeks of being discriminatory because that science was meant to be applied in the temperate zones — not in frigid circumstances of the Arctic world. Social science of the West, for instance, should not have been applied into the lifeways of Alaska's Natives just because it worked in New York or elsewhere.

Such applications wrecked the social systems of the Eskimos and other Native peoples. Take adoption procedures they utilized to the best possible advantage for a fatherless or motherless child. For the most part, the relatives of the widowed mother were the first to approach the unfortunate woman especially when there were several children involved always knowing that the widow would not be able to properly take care of her brood without a husband. The problem was discussed thoroughly to the best advantage of the child in question. When the adoption was agreed to, the youngster was given every opportunity to be with his true mother, brothers and sisters. His new step-parents provided shelter and clothing and affection that always appeared to be genuine.

There are many adults living today among the Native people who had been adopted when they were young children. Great many of them were very fortunate to have been given a large measure of affection from both their true parents and from their step-parents. This arrangement worked well indeed for all parties involved. Mutual friendship between both parental parties existed, thus making the life of the adopted child a great deal more bearable. And this system, that worked best among Alaska's Native people, was done away with by the social science system of the West.

The Native science, just from one facet alone — the case of the adopted child — bears a need for a good, hard look. It also cries out for recognition and respect. After all, Native sciences made things work under the uncompromising and inhospitable environments.

— H.R.

## Letters from Here and There

### Writer Surprises His Parents

Toksook Bay, Alaska  
January 18, 1974

Dear Editor:

I'm sorry I haven't had time to write to you but if what I can pick up, you can put in your paper.

My journey home was very pleasant and the weather was very cooperative with the schedule dates of mail planes so I made pretty good time on my trip.

From Fairbanks to Bethel, we took the Wien mail airways, Sky Van. From Bethel, my cousin in Peter Dull and I took his uncle's small plane (Mr. Arthur Dull) to Nightmute. Just as we got to Beard Inlet, we ran into a snow squall and as we got close to the Nelson Island mountains, the snow got a little too thick so we had to land in the river that goes out from the Inlet to the ocean, and the river is called Kaivirok. We stayed there for about 15 to 20 minutes till the mountains cleared of snow, then we proceeded.

Oh yes, when we landed in the river on top of the ice, there was a few snow machine travelers going out to the winter hunting and fishing camps. Of all the riders we ran into, or rather while we were sitting there, the two riders ran into us and they were Joe Post and Mr. Oscar with Joe Post towing a sledload of supplies for the camp.

When we landed at Nightmute, there was a usual northwind. To the villagers, this is considered to be a breeze.

Second day, I asked my cousin Edward Dull if it was possible for him to give me a lift from Nigta to Toksook but I made sure that no one is to tell my parents of my arrival to Nigta so I could surprise them myself. So next evening, I did.

After I arrived, there had been many people going out to seal hunting and they have had pretty good luck getting spotted seal and maybe one hunter got a ring seal.

The price of red fox and white fox is pretty reasonable this year but I haven't made any acquaintance with the stores that made deals with the trappers. It is only what I've heard about prices on fur.

The weather was really nice about a week after I arrived. Then the warm weather came, which made the ground very slick and icy. Now the weather is somewhat changing from warm, calm slick ground to windy, cold slick ground, and hopefully, it will soon start snowing so the snowmachine trails will be smoothened out.

Quite a few red foxes have been hunted this fall and I believe quite a few of them have been caught.

The white fox season is going to be starting soon and I wish much luck to the poor, helpless, innocent fox to be hiding well.

The National Guardsman have left last night to their annual two weeks of encampment at Camp Carroll near Fort Richardson and Anchorage. If I remember right, the two-week encampment is exercised for the purpose of training to fight in winter-time. I believe that it is for the good purpose of men to keep their intelligence on winter combat purpose.

The National Guardsmen have

left to their training, the united village had the annual meeting concerning the different sorts of reasons.

I hope to get more information for next letter I will be sending, hopefully from the people of Toksook Bay and others.

I hope this suits your curiosity about village of Toksook Bay, Alaska.

Sincerely,  
John Lincoln

### National Park Withdrawals: Hurt Homeowners?

May Creek, Alaska  
Via Glennallen 99588  
Jan. 26, 1974

Dear Mr. Rock:

Please publish this letter in the Tundra Times so others in our situation will know just what will happen. Perhaps someone in the land office will print an answer in conjunction with this letter.

Question: What will be the status of those of us who have built substantial homes and out buildings on a Native allotment that will now be within a National Park withdrawal? Is our allotment still valid or can they move us off? Also, will we be able to build and carry on with, hunting, trapping and subsistence living within the park, once it is declared as such?

Best wishes for your continued good health and prosperity.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Fran Gagnon  
May Creek via  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

## Gravel's TT Report

By MIKE GRAVEL  
U.S. Senator, Alaska

Alaska Native Village Corporations have now begun the process of choosing their share of the 40 million acres of land which have been set aside under the Native Claims Settlement Act. With such a vast undertaking, there are bound to be conflicts among the villages, the state, and the federal government.

### FOUR-MEMBER BOARD

In order to resolve these disputes, the act establishes the "Ad Hoc Hearings and Appeals Board." Mrs. Judith M. Brady, of Anchorage was appointed its chairman. I have just received a letter from Mrs. Brady advising me that the organization is in full operation with the new title of the "Alaska Native Claims Appeal Board."

Mrs. Brady explained to me that the board basically is a continuation of the Ad Hoc group, with the same four Ad Hoc members now serving as board members: District Judge John A. Waller, of Kodiak; Albert P. Adams, of Anchorage, director of rural development assistance for the state; Abigail F. Dunning, an Army Corps of Engineers lawyer; and Mrs. Brady, chairman of the board.

The Appeal Board is located in the Bank of Commerce Building, in Anchorage.

### CASES PENDING

The system for appealing a decision is relatively simple. First, cases in dispute must be

### About Savoonga Reserve

Savoonga Native Corporation  
Box 142  
Savoonga, Alaska 99769

Dear Editor:

It seems that the stillness of patience has struck all of us people who elected to go for Reserve or Reservation lands under Section 19 of A.N.C.S.A. With the certificates of elections sent in to the Secretary of Interior before Dec. 18, 1973 and the boundaries of our selected lands already established, we should have been given a priority over other people in obtaining ownership to our lands. What I am really wondering is how they are progressing in conveying these lands to us. We have never read nor heard any progress on this section of A.N.C.S.A. on letters, news, papers, etc. so far this year — but I may be wrong on this and I am sorry if I ever am.

We might be fortunate to be going for our lands considering that most of the money that ever existed in the world came from the land itself. Actually, this is gambling for any revenues big or small that may come from our resources. At least, we will have this land indefinitely or perhaps forever.

It seems also that A.N.C.S.A. and its complicated language perplexed the majority of the Alaskan Natives and a whole lot of these people are still in confusion. To them, 40 million acres of land is more than one-twelfth of Alaska and \$962.5 million appears a tremendous amount when it is all in one lump sum. They do not realize that \$962.5 million is only a fraction of what

(Continued on Page 9)

submitted to the director of the Juneau Area BIA Office.

The director's decision, if not satisfactory to the parties involved, can then be brought before the Alaska Native Claims Appeal Board, which can either uphold or reverse the earlier decision. All decisions of the board must be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for final approval.

At present, Mrs. Brady tells me, the board has received 18 appeals; one involves a village selection along the Arctic Slope, in an area claimed by the village and the state; another involves land claimed by a village and by federal wildlife officials; all must be settled quickly but carefully, in order that land selections can proceed in an orderly fashion.

The 40 million acres involved in the process represents about one-twelfth of all the land of the State of Alaska.

### BOARD REGULATIONS ARE FLEXIBLE

I'm delighted to see that the board has adopted means for settling these disputes fairly and uniformly. Its regulations allow for conferences with the disputing parties and for formal and informal hearings. The board is willing to move its offices within the state if Anchorage proves inconvenient.

There's been a growing need for the board, and it is my belief that the members will serve as invaluable aids to the people of Alaska.