

Letters from Here and There

Friends Mad at Stickman

Nulato, Alaska
Feb. 5, 1974

Dear Friend:
Tundra Times Editor

Lot of my friends get mad at me because I write too much. Some things they don't like. Then they tell me, "Why don't you get the facts before you write?"

Don't forget every magazine that you pick up is half Baloney. That's what make this world go around.

Nothing is supposed to go right in this world. When God made this world, he didn't make it, that everything suppose to go the way you want it. Some way or another we have to suffer. And just because I write against you, you should not hate me for it.

"Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Just give hell to the editors to News-Miner, Tundra Times, River Times. Not me.

Sitting down here in my house, I heard Standard Oil at Galena was out of gas. But when I went up, it was wrong. But I heard 1/2 dozen or so people at Galena bought 10 drums of gas a piece.

Most of them don't need that much.

But years ago when I went to Catholic School here. We learned how to share everything. When we went hunting or trapping, I always shared my grub even I was hungry. Lot of the boys couldn't afford grub. But like me I always worked always making enough to live, and also my credit was good all the time.

Now if you understand this letter why I'm writing. The guys that bought that gas at Galena they don't think about the other guy. They always try to beat the other guy, same way with jobs. They try to grab the land and more land.

One white man was going to move Johnson Henry toilet to take the land, but he stopped him.

I told him, "Let's burn him out." Every white man that comes to the village start putting up fences.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

Salmon is Gone From Stores

Feb. 2, 1974

Dear Sir:

About the salmon. We used to have Alaska red salmon in the stores. Haven't seen any in the grocery stores for months. Probably a year.

Recently I bought a can of mackerel. Packed in Japan. It is awful, far from looking appetizing.

Oh, the wonderful Alaska-red sockeye salmon we used to buy in the grocery store is missed by many people.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Laura Luthby
518 12th St.
Rawlins, Wyoming
82301

Writer Disputes BIA Ruling

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following copies of two letters were submitted as letters to the editor.)

Jan. 22, 1974

Morris Thompson
Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Sir:

I have had general complaints from females, Native, in regards to their obtaining services from BIA but are refused when they are married to non-Natives. I am, therefore, requesting that you look into the ruling where Native females who are married to non-Native males are denied aid, financially or in any other manner, by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and in some instances by Alaska Native Health Service.

This ruling, I feel, is discriminatory and unjust. The U.S. Government or any agency should not have the right to deny a per-

son education or any other benefits because of sex and marital status as Native married to a non-Native, or produce any legislation to this effect.

The BIA is to protect the Indian or Alaska Native and to see their rights are protected. Yet, a law is in the books allowing a male Indian or Alaskan Native to marry whomsoever he chooses and she (non-Native) and her children benefit by their union from ANHS and BIA. Yet a female Native wed to a non-Native is deprived of her legal rights by birth due to her choice of a mate.

I have noticed in correspondence regarding these situations that the term often is used quote "white" unquote. It in itself should have no place in letters or referrals in answer to an application for aid, written literature or other types of printed matter. The term Caucasian or non-Native should be utilized instead.

I am soliciting your aid in this matter to enable the apparent injustice to the female Indian or Alaskan Native to be rectified so she does not lose her identity of birth by discriminatory legislation and bureaucratic bungling and therefore lose these benefits provided her, if she chose a mate of another race.

Sincerely yours,
John Heffle, President of AIE
Box 80931
College, Alaska 99701

UNITED STATES SENATE

Feb. 4, 1974

Mr. John Heffle, President
Association of Interior Eskimos
P.O. Box 80931
College, Alaska 99701

Dear John:

Thank you for the copy of your Jan. 22 letter to Commissioner Thompson, stating your position in regard to Bureau of Indian Affairs policy towards female Natives married to whites.

The justification which you provide in support of this position is well reasoned, and I am inclined to agree with you. I have contacted the BIA about this previously and have not been satisfied with their response. I will ask the Justice Department for an opinion as to the legality of this policy in light of provisions covering sex discrimination in the Civil Rights Act.

When I have this opinion, I will advise you further. Best regards.

Sincerely,
Mike Gravel

School Board Asks Benefits

Allakaket-Alatna School Board
Allakaket, Alaska 99720
Jan. 17, 1974

Alaska Dept. of Education
650 International Airport Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Sirs,

We would like to express our concern regarding the treatment of personnel employed by Alaska State Operated Schools in the Bush Villages. We have employees that are receiving no benefits such as sick leave, workmans' compensation, personal

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leave, and/or annual leave.

For example, if our janitor (custodian) who has worked for the school since 1963 was injured and couldn't work, he would receive absolutely no compensation or leave for the time he couldn't work. Not only that, when and if he retires he, would receive no state retirement benefits. He could not get seniority or longevity benefits because of the present hiring practices, therefore no pay raises.

Our janitor, plant maintenance man, and cooks who started work in September did not get paid until the first week in December. These four people are not considered as permanent employees and therefore are not allowed aforementioned benefits they are entitled to. We ask you, can you treat your employees at Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks the same and still keep them? Why is it that only Bush and Rural injustices such as this can go without furor and making of headlines?

We know that the school in the bush villages such as ours are about the only place of employment, but if we can't treat them right, we will find that we cannot get anyone to work. We ask you, Legislators, Commissioners, and all concerned people, to change all this.

Sincerely,
Ronald Sam, Chairman
cc: Tundra Times

Withdrawals Upset Lombard

John L. Lombard
P.O. Box 48584
Represa, Calif. 95671
Feb. 4, 1974

Hon. William A. Egan
Governor, State of Alaska
Office of the Governor
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Egan:

It is with a sad heart another Native American is again forced to continue the same fight for his land, his ancestors had forced on them. Knowing you Sir, to be a true friend of all Alaskan people, both Native and white, I am asking that your office send me all pertinent information on the land withdrawal.

The "Act" as passed by Congress the 18th of December, 1971, has not been amended to my knowledge. If it has been amended, or is about to be amended by Congress, please tell me what alteration is planned and by whom said alteration is proposed.

My people, "The Native Alaskans" and all "Others" who would be affected by said amendment want to know the answer to the above question!

As an Alaska Native enrolled in the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, I am planning to file a petition for writ of mandate in the proper court to have the Secretary of Interior obey Public Law 92-203; which is the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act as passed by Congress.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, under Sec. 17 (2) (A), allows the Secretary of Interior to withdraw up to, but not to exceed, 80 million acres for National Parks, Forest, Wildlife refuge, etc., etc. Any land withdrawal over the 80 million acres allowed, according to Public Law 92-203, is in violation of the agreement made by the United States of America and the Original Owners, the Alaska Natives.

Let me quote the "Act," Sec. 2 (A). . . There is an immediate need for a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives

and Native Groups of Alaska, based on aboriginal land claims;

Sincerely
John L. Lombard
JLL/KIM
cc: Howard Rock Editor,
Tundra Times

City Council Opposes Canal

Jan. 31, 1974

Don Young
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Don:

At a Special City Council meeting, Jan. 15, 1974, the City Council discussed the Proposed Canal at a point upriver from Alakanuk which would join the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers for navigational proposes.

The City Council strongly opposes such a project.

They feel such a project would have bad effects on the seasonal navigation routes resulting in higher cost to the residents in the Lower Yukon Delta. They also feel it will be unenvironmentally unsafe and can see no such purpose such as a project would accomplish except to waste taxpayer's money.

Sincerely yours,
Terry A. Cook
City Manager

TAC/eac

cc: Tundra Times

Boarding

Galena City Schools
Galena, Alaska 99741
Feb. 8, 1974

Dear Mr. Rock:

I would like to present just a few comments about your Wednesday, Feb. 6, 1974, front page story entitled, "Boarding Programs Are Proven Failures," by Elaine Warren.

First, I wish to comment on the title which I feel was very misleading. Inclusion of the word "three (3)" preceding the title would have more clearly reflected the true nature of the report. Either you or the report have extrapolated a very concise report to imply that the entire boarding home program in all schools throughout the state has been a failure which has not yet been proven by either the Center for Northern Educational Research or the Institute of Social, Economic and Governmental Research.

Second, I feel that no program can take the place of a child staying home and receiving this entire high school education there but due to circumstances beyond our present control this is not our present situation. It is my experience that the boarding home program has been continually progressing in degrees of competence of eliminating the deficiencies as stated in the published news item. Especially this year with the contracting of these services with the regional native corporations has great strides been made in better control of drug and alcohol problems. It is my considered opinion that small groups of boarding home students in small high schools in the student's local region has greatly contributed to the improvement of this program.

I feel that further evidence will show that the progressive results of figures for 1974 will show loss of problem exists than those of 1973 and so on. As having direct experience with this program I can only commend the Tanana Chiefs in their operation of the Boarding Home Program. It is being handled 10 times better than last year's program and I'm sure a year by year statistical comparison will reflect contention.