

"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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A Book Review—

Kil-Kaas-Git

A New Quarterly

Kil-Kaas-Git — Published quarterly by the Craig Schools, Craig, Alaska 99921 — \$2.75 per copy, wholesale rate available for merchants.

This is one of the most professional school journals this writer has seen for a long time. The first issue is 50 pages long, stapled in the center with an attractive layout. The magazine is very attractive not only for those of us living in Southeastern, but for other parts of the State or nation because of the abundance of photographs — 36 in one issue!

The general theme of the publication is Prince of Wales Island, the Past and the Present. The history of Klawock, Craig and the Haida peoples is augmented by legends of the "Koosh-da-kah" and modern fishing techniques. For someone who has not been to Southeastern to actually see the fishing fleets, the photo essays on "Commercial Trolling" and "Seining: The work of a team" are very informative.

Traditional Haida crests and designs are exceptionally well illustrated by Robyn Musial and explained by an interview with Frank Peratrovich. Even a few traditional remedies such as the use of warm pitch for infections or the juice of boiled Devil's Club for colds are presented.

The work is really a cooperative effort, mainly handled by the high school students at Craig, but with interviews and information from many of the older people in the area. This reviewer would recommend it very highly for school libraries as an informative study of Southeastern. Individuals will find it a nice supplement for other Alaskan journals or newspapers. If the succeeding issues are as good as the first, it's well worth the price.

Wally Olson

Comment—

Long Way

(The following is the author's preface to a study report entitled, "A Long Way From Home." The report was prepared by Judith Kleinfeld of the Center for Northern Education Research and the Institute of Social, Economic and Governmental Research at the University of Alaska. The report explores the effects of public high schools on village children away from home. Copies of the report are available from ISEGR. In future issues, the Tundra Times will excerpt other observations from "A Long Way From Home.")

When I began this study three years ago, it was not my intention to show that boarding home programs and regional high schools were helping to destroy a generation of village children. Quite the contrary, I believed that the serious problems of rural secondary education were due in large part to bad matches between particular types of village students and particular types of high schools. Originally, I designed this study to explore ways of placing village students with different educational needs in the most appropriate type of secondary school environment. I was highly skeptical of the village high school alternative because I questioned whether village high schools could provide an excellent education.

But as I saw what actually happened to the 1971-72 class of village students who entered the three representative high school programs studied, I was compelled to give up these initial views. In all of these programs, the majority of village children were developing serious social

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.

and emotional problems as a result of their high school experiences. Our follow-up study of graduates from these school programs suggested that in many cases, the school experience had left these students with a set of self-defeating ways for dealing with the world.

The problems of rural secondary education cannot be blamed on particular individuals or on particular inadequacies such as irrelevant curriculum or insufficient staff. The staff of the state's Division of Regional Schools and Boarding Home Program were in almost every case exceptionally concerned and hardworking people. The problems of rural secondary education are caused by the educational system as a whole. Certainly, most improvements can be made through such changes as increased local control and more school staff. But these types of changes will not end the damage done to village children, because the damage is done primarily through a total system which separates children from their families at a critical developmental period and places them in unhealthy environments for growing up.

Nothing said in this report should be taken as characteristic of all Bethel or all Beltz or all Anchorage school staff members or village students. In every school, there were always a number of exceptional students who managed to resist the disintegrating pressures of the environment and emerged strong and competent. This study attempts to show just why the negative pressures of these secondary school environments are so strong that it requires an exceptional individual to resist them.

Judith Kleinfeld
Fairbanks, Alaska
1973

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 you 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

(Continued on page 11)