

Camera Shy Fred Stickman, Sr. Finally Caught by Three Stars

By PETER P. THREE STARS

For the many readers who may have been asking "What does Fred Stickman look like?" "I'd like to meet him!!" The Tundra Times has at last captured the image of the smiling sage whose inimitable insight and witty letters to the editors have made him and his Great State of Alaska well known.

Many are said to be interested in having his literary contributions compiled into a book for commercial purposes. Fred Stickman said he was asked by some party if Fred would sue him if he undertook to make a book out of his letters.

Fred assures all that he will not sue anyone so long as the project is done right. This writer agrees with many that such a compilation would be a worthy task for the posterity of all Alaskans.

While having coffee with members of the Fairbanks Agency Staff, Fred was asked why his picture never appeared in the Alaska papers. This bothered him somewhat too but he was quick to smile and reply:

"I've sneaked away from photographers many times in the past." This was too much of a challenge to pass up by a member of the Tundra Times Board.

Mr. Stickman consented to having his picture taken if it could be done before he took off.

Several seconds later this writer (a descendant from a very stealthy Plains Country hunter) raised up and shot the elusive author of letters to many editors—the trophy will not hang from the traditional lodge pole; instead, it will be shared with the



FAMOUS LETTER WRITER—Fred Stickman, Sr., the famous Letter-to-the-Editor writer of interior Alaska, is finally caught by the camera lenses focussed by the delicate touch of Peter P. Three Stars, Tribal Operations officer of the Fairbanks District of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Three Stars is a Sioux Indian and a member of the Tundra Times board. Stickman seems to be reniguing somewhat on his plans to run for the State House of Representatives in a contest for the primaries against his fellow Democrat Fred Notti. Notti had offered himself and his plane to Stickman and Rep. John Sackett, R-Galena, to ride along on the plane and the three could campaign at the same time. Notti said, "I think we'd have a ball doing it that way." Stickman told Tundra Times, "I don't think I can win. Besides, I'd be taking votes away from Fred. I want a Democrat to win." Stickman, however, got fine applause when he appeared at the FNA potlatch.

—Photo by PETER THREE STARS

news media for all to see.

In his role as village leader of Nulato Fred Stickman is a very busy man. He is presently seeking coordination and assistance between the Federal and State agencies to get roads built to the new townsite and the Nulato airport.

Due to technicalities (snags, red tape, etc.) a much-needed road to the airport failed to materialize a year or so ago and the

excuse was the Super Land Freeze.

Now it appears that this portion of land may not have been affected by the freeze after all. Oh well, that's just one of the many headaches that a Native leader must encounter and overcome in his attempts to get things done for his people.

It has been an honor and a privilege to meet you, Fred. Keep up the good fight.

VISTA Volunteer Miss Andrews Files Suit for Job Reinstatement

Objections to the VISTA program in Alaska are once again being raised—only this time they will be heard in court.

Blanche Andrews, a former Vista Volunteer who was fired Jan. 15, the Village of Kongiganak where Miss Andrews was reassigned, and 18 of the village's residents have filed suit in the U.S. District Court in Anchorage seeking reinstatement of Miss Andrews as the village's VISTA volunteer.

Filed against State and Federal officials operating the VISTA program in Alaska, the suit contends that Willie Allen "Arbitrarily, capriciously, and without proper authority terminated Miss Andrews from VISTA."

Allen is the coordinator of the VISTA program in Alaska.

As implied by Allen, the VISTA volunteer was fired because of a letter written by her in November containing criticisms of VISTA program.

According to him, she had acted irresponsibly and had stated her disagreement in a disagreeable manner.

Distributed by her immediate supervisor to volunteers largely in the Bethel area, the letter charges that the VISTA program "is a farce" and does not care what the native people think or want. Miss Andrews called on the volunteers to strive for local control.

The matter of local control has been a topic of controversy for several months now. In January, 51 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area including Kongiganak, adopted a resolution calling for local administration of

the VISTA program. Currently, the program is sponsored by the State.

In the suit, filed by Alaska Legal Services, Miss Andrews, alleges that she cannot be expelled from the program for the letter she wrote because this letter, commenting on a public issue and distributed to other VISTAs by her superior, was within the freedom of speech guarantee of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Furthermore, she says that VISTA denied her her Constitutional right of due process by not providing a hearing for her, a notice of charges against her, confrontation and cross examination of witnesses, and assistance of counsel.

The Village of Kongiganak, a small Eskimo village in southwest Alaska on the Kuskokwim Bay, claims that the termination of Miss Andrews was done without "consultation, consent, or concurrence" of the village and was thus, a breach of an agreement that the village had with Allen.

In Alaska, the program is sponsored by the State but the villages have the obligation and the authority to supervise the activities of the volunteer.

Miss Andrews had served as a volunteer in the village since Aug. 21, 1968. Ordinarily, volunteers stay in a village only one year but she stayed for a second year at the village's request.

As stated in the suit, during this time, she had worked in the areas of adult education, volunteer Head Start, operation of local government, and aiding individuals in dealing with govern-

ment agencies.

Several villagers were preparing for the General Education Development test this summer with Miss Andrews' help in the hope they could obtain high school diplomas.

Pending developments in the case, she is presently staying on in the village of Kongiganak at the request of the village. The village is helping her with food and fuel, and her landlord is letting her stay, free of charge, in the house she rented as a VISTA volunteer.

The 18 villagers who joined in the suit are participants in and direct beneficiaries of the VISTA program. They, along with other villagers—a total of 30, filed affidavits in support of retaining Miss Andrews.

As stated by her landlord, Roland Phillip, in his affidavit, "All of the people in the village liked her and benefited from her teaching the Adult Education Class.

"I need the money from renting my house but feel the village needs Blanche more than I need the money."

Other typical statements from the villagers:

"In my opinion there was no reason for Blanche Andrews to have been fired from VISTA. She has never been in any trouble whatsoever."

"I wish to see Blanche continue as a VISTA volunteer so our Adult Education program can keep going and we can finish school."

"She helps the people here with their problems and she is always around when they need her."

Pageant Judge Jim Thomas Performs Job

Jim Thomas completed a most pleasant duty last week after judging the Miss Dillingham Pageant during the Beaver Round-up Activities.

Thomas discusses the pageant work rather casually now days as he has judged many pageants over the years from Miss Juneau to Miss Nome.

"I work with the Miss Alaska Scholarship Pageant Association because it is a part of the Miss America program," Thomas explained.

"These are not beauty pageants," but competition which produces young ladies who are judged by their total personality, with great emphasis on talent and the ability to meet the public."

Local pageants of the Miss Alaska Scholarship Pageants Association take place all over Alaska each year, with young ladies selected to represent their communities at the Miss Alaska Pageant held in Anchorage usually in February.

This year, the Miss Alaska Pageant will take place on the 25th, 26th and 27th of March with a Miss Alaska Ball on Saturday the 28th.

Coming from the small community of Yakutat on the Gulf Coast, Thomas has chalked up much experience to make him a capable and effective judge at their pageants. In 1962 at Evanston, Illinois, he was named as one of the top ten Collegiate Orators in the country.

He is also accomplished in music, having been a concert baritone with a list of concerts from

Bill Seeks Easier Ways to Seek Out Oil Spills

WASHINGTON—Congressman Howard W. Pollock has introduced two amendments to the 1970 Coast Guard authorization bill that are designed to improve the Coast Guard's ability to find and control oil spills.

The authorization bill is now under consideration by the House of Representatives.

Price tag for the two amendments is approximately \$5.7 million, Pollock said.

The first amendment increases the number of helicopters authorized from six to eight. Helicopters are used by the Coast Guard to patrol the coastline searching for oil slicks.

The second amendment would provide for the acquisition of two new transportable oil storage systems instead of one. The oil storage system was developed by the Coast Guard.

In commenting on the cost involved in the two amendments, Pollock said: "This is a small price to pay for the protection such added equipment will produce. If even one major oil spill is detected and prevented from reaching our coast, this expenditure will be more than justified."

"She tries to learn the Native ways and respects us."

And as stated by the Village Council President, Evon Azean, "I am disgusted with the VISTA administration for their completely disregarding our feelings out here and their lack of concern for our Adult Education program and how much it means to us. . . I am very upset that the VISTA administration would fire Blanche and tell her to get out of this village even though everyone here likes her and wants her to stay."

"Her termination from VISTA Alaska has had a bad effect on this whole village."



MISS DILLINGHAM—Miss Gloria Thorson was crowned Miss Dillingham at the Miss Dillingham Scholarship Banquet held in that town on March 14.

Puerto Rico to Alaska.

In Alaska, he has been the Public Relations Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, former Radio station manager of KLAM in Cordova, and former president of the Cordova Chamber of Commerce.

When asked why he chose to donate his time to these pageants, he explained:

"It's always a pleasure to see the young ladies of Alaska, particularly those in remote areas, develop their total personalities as a result of these pageants."

"From shy little girls come the lovely young ladies at the State Pageant who walk with grace in high heels, who demonstrate grace and poise in Evening gown and Swim Suit competitions, and above all, who pleasantly surprise Alaskans with their ability to perform so excellently their talents before hundreds of people in Anchorage."

Asked if he expects to continue judging pageants, Thomas concluded most interestingly:

"Very much so, my aim is to one day judge other State Pageants and maybe someday, when I'm nearing the sixties I'll be able to judge Miss America—and possibly by that time I'll also have some other titles behind my name—like Governor?"

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Sealed tenders for a ten (10) year contract to operate the following concession: In-bond (duty free) store, at the Fairbanks International Airport, Fairbanks, Alaska, will be received at the Office of the Commissioner, Department of Public Works, Pouch "Z," Juneau, Alaska, up to 2:00 p.m., P.D.T., on April 23, 1970, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read.

The contract documents manifest the terms and conditions of this concession may be examined and/or obtained from the State Department of Public Works, Pouch "Z," Juneau, Alaska; Division of Aviation, 4510 International Airport Road, Anchorage, Alaska; or Airport Manager, Fairbanks International Airport.

The contract document for this concession include the Instructions to Bidders, the General Terms and Conditions, the Bid Proposal as submitted, an Affidavit, Concession Bond and Notice to Bidders, all of which are incorporated by reference and made a part thereof and are also made a part of the contract to be executed by the successful bidder for this concession.

All Bid Proposals shall be made on forms furnished by the State. The right is hereby reserved to reject any and all Bid Proposals and to waive any defects when, in the opinion of the Commissioner, Department of Public Works, such rejection or waiver will be in the best interest of the State.

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