

"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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Editorial Comment—

The Arctic Borough

Last week, the State Local Boundary Commission approved the Arctic Slope Borough—a huge 56 million acres of Arctic tundra. The great treeless expanse may seem to some as a frigid desert but to the Eskimos, the mighty land means myriads of animals and fish—an area of sustenance that enabled those hardy people to survive through the ages in spite of the killing environment and from which they have learned the art of survival utilizing ingenious means.

The approval of the slope borough may become known in time that it was a move to conserve the natural and unique beauty of the Alaskan Arctic. And the overseers of this huge area will be the Eskimos themselves. This is the way it should be because the Eskimos of the area have exhaustive knowledge of the land from which they wrest their livelihood. Their knowledge of the animals, which they constantly tap for sustenance, can be classed as second to none. These can be the basic requirements in conserving the beauty of the Arctic lands and the animals in them.

The creation of the slope borough will give the Eskimos the right to tax property, set up educational systems and planning and zoning. Once the borough begins operating, it would also have other powers on such things as health, fire protection, sewer and water, police and taxation on sales.

One of the first moves the Arctic Slope Borough might make would be to pave the way for the establishment of a high school system. The people there have always bemoaned the fact that they have to send their high school youngsters to places thousands of miles away from home. Since this is a much desired educational need, it could become one of the first priorities.

The Arctic borough also stands to have a considerable tax base including the oil interests in the Prudhoe Bay area. We believe, however, that the authorities of the new borough will not be greedy but would set tax levels at reasonable rates. They will, of course, need adequate revenues to run the borough.

We do certainly believe that the approval of the Arctic Slope Borough is an important move toward preservation and protection of the Arctic lands and that the Eskimos of the area will prove to be excellent overseers and help to keep injury to the terrain and ecology to a minimum.

Sen. Stevens on CAB

Mr. Secor D. Browne
Chairman
Civil Aeronautics Board
Universal Building
Washington, D.C. 20428

Dear Mr. Browne:

Enclosed are copies of correspondence I received from Mayor A. McLean of Juneau, Alaska pertaining to the Board's decision in the Alaska case, CAB Docket 20826.

The Resolution passed by the City and Borough Assembly of Juneau embodies the general adverse reaction of all of South-eastern Alaska to the reduction in the number of air carriers. I have received similar correspond-

ence from Ketchikan and Haines, Alaska also.

In my previous correspondence on this case with the Examiner, I emphasized that the public interest is always best served by competing carriers who are spurred to accommodate the public by frequent scheduling and service. As you know, in my appearance before the Board, I have also stated Alaska's need for frequent and competitive air service.

I understand the Board's decision was predicated on the need for economic stabilization of the airlines and the need to reduce federal subsidy payments to airlines. However, Alaska's

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Important Visitors at Unalakleet

By EMILY IVANOFF BROWN
(Conclusion of two parts)

Then there was the exciting day that the natives at Unalakleet heard through the Mukluk Wireless that the Governor of the Territory of Alaska had arrived. "Come and welcome George E. Parks, the Territorial Governor," was the message. Five hundred Eskimos came to greet him. And, because his plane did not return that day, he was forced to stay overnight in Unalakleet with the trader, Charles T. Traeger.

My father, Stephan Ivanoff, was the cook. Mr. Traeger asked him to hire duck hunters to supply the Governor with fresh meat, since there was no meat in the larder. My father knew the only kind of edible duck at this time of year (July) was the female Eider duck.

Dinner was served to the Governor, his aides and the Army officials. As the platter, laden with fresh duck, was passed to the Governor, he asked my father, "What is this?" "Siberian Goose," my father replied.

The Governor's curiosity was aroused. He asked, "Do these birds migrate to Unalakleet?" Then, of course, my father had to explain that sometimes the stray young geese would get lost and migrate eastward instead of on their usual route to the Arctic. With this explanation, the discussion at the dinner table was mainly on game birds. The peak of excitement came when the Governor gave my father his 20 gauge shotgun.

Many of the well known visitors to Unalakleet stayed for several years. One such researcher in art was Frederick Machetanz, the nephew of



TEENAGERS IN UNALAKLEET are put to work removing herring from fishing nets before the fish is sold to the Japanese. Japanese canners, who especially prize herring roe, furnish fishing boats and seine for Alaska native fishermen who work for them. Fish caught is preserved temporarily in salt and ice.

Charles Traeger. He took many valuable pictures of native activities. Now he has had time since 1937 to paint these pictures and write of his experiences in Alaskan story books such as "Howl of the Malamute" and "Where Else But Alaska." He is now a distinguished associate at the University of Alaska and teaches there during the summer session.

Another well known author, Sally Carrighan, lived at Unalakleet with the Traegers. When she arrived, she announced to the public that she came to study the habits of the lemming.

Instead, she wrote a very interesting book entitled "Moonlight at Mid-day," about the Northwestern way of life.

Perhaps the most distinguished visitor to come to Unalakleet in 1967 was Sergeant Shriver, the originator of the Rural Development Project. Not even Mayor Degnan knew that this man from Washington, D.C. came to visit our village.

As a result, a Federal Aviation employee brought Sergeant Shriver to the only restaurant in town—The Burger To Go—to

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Letters from Here and There

Barrow Council on Alcoholism
P.O. Box 564
Barrow, Alaska 99723

To Tundra Times:

After coming to Barrow to help set up a comprehensive alcoholism program, I realized the need for the help of the problem drinker's family.

It is a possibility that your paper can print the article as a public health message.

If in the future your paper can use more articles on alcoholism, I will be willing to furnish more.

I am a certified alcoholism counselor interested in helping my people in their struggle against our number one health problem facing us in Alaska. I could have another article on what alcohol does to the body for the next future issue.

From the Barrow Alcoholism Center (The Igloo)
Ralph Amouak

ALASKA STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

February 10, 1972

Congressman Nick Begich
House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Begich:

The Alaska State Housing Authority has recently received criticism from several of the vil-

lages and cities involved in the Native Housing Program and other low rent housing programs.

The basis of the criticism is that the amount of money paid in lieu of taxes is not sufficient to meet the added burden of services required by the new dwelling units. Most of these Alaskan villages have a limited or non-existent tax base and cannot afford to bear these additional costs unaided. The "in lieu" payment was designed to do this.

As you know, ASHA is restricted by Federal law to paying no more than 10% of net shelter rents to the villages. Net shelter rent is the amount actually paid to ASHA by a tenant after the cost of utilities has been deducted. If a unit is vacant or if for any other reason ASHA receives no rent (Brooke Amendment), then the village suffers a loss of its 10%.

Incidentally, the passage of the Brooke Amendment cut substantially the rent paid by the tenant to ASHA and thereby cut the amount of dollars paid by ASHA to the villages.

An example of the hardship this causes is the case of the City of Nome. On October 14, 1968, the City of Nome signed a contract with ASHA to provide 50 units of low income housing. At that time it was anticipated that the average net rent paid would be \$130. Thus assuming 100% occupancy the City would receive \$156 per unit per annum or a total of \$7800. A private dwelling would pay \$480 or a total of \$24,000. The subsequent passage of the Brooke Amendment reduced the average

shelter rent received to \$20 per month. 10% of this allows the City only \$24 per unit per annum, or \$1200 from the whole project. Apparently this figure barely provides for snow removal.

At the risk of being redundant—Alaska is different. If we are to provide decent housing for our remote areas, some steps must be taken to do so without placing an undue burden on the already insufficient economic base of the villages. The present HUD programs do not allow ASHA the flexibility to do this.

The Housing Reform Amendments Act of 1971, introduced by Senators Brooke and Mondale, has within it a provision allowing HUD through the local housing authorities to pay the assessed valuation. Obviously this would solve our problem here. Remember that public housing does not increase the population of the villages nor should the villages make a profit on the new public housing. It is fair, however, that they not lose their shirts.

We of ASHA are diligently working on this problem and if anyone has any ideas on a solution where we can aid, please let us know.

ALASKA STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY
/s/ Bob
Robert E. Butler
Executive Director

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Butler also sent identical letters to Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens, Senators from Alaska.)