

"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—

Alaska Native People And the Business World

It looks as if the business world will cast its eyes toward the ventures and activities of Alaska's Native people from now on. Once this starts, it will seldom take those eyes off a fascinating new scene. Also, they will watch for any pitfalls and we hope they will not be given an opportunity to gaze upon this dubious sight.

Alaska Native people have been given a chance to tap into the business world stemming from the proceeds of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. This is indeed an opportunity of a lifetime many times over. Once this opportunity was at hand, many of our business-minded Native men and women wasted little time getting their feet wet. They seemed to have found the pool quite inviting and the resulting activities thereafter have amazed many an onlooker. The seeds of business acumen seemed to have taken root and in many cases the fruits of the efforts are in the offing as yet and the eyes of the onlookers will strain to see how these will come about. We will not be the exception.

When the claims settlement was achieved, there were many questions, "What will happen now? Will the Native people be able to handle the great task at hand? Just watch, they will blow it into the four winds. They have no education and that is going to be their downfall." And there had been many other dubious attitudes as to how the post claim era will turn out to be.

We have always contended that our Native folks will be able to meet the new challenges with a good deal of ability and we are sticking to that idea. We have pointed out that our folks have good amount of adaptability to any new situation and that this trait will turn out to be a good asset. We still think so and hopes spring eternal that this gift will prevail. This will have to aided with generous amounts of good old sense and generous amounts of goodwill from our own public. The backing from our people is one the greatest needs we can offer to those people who are in the leadership positions within the various business ventures.

The Native people have embarked into a new era of operation which cannot be anything else but an exciting one. Many of us will be engulfed in the very newness of it and many of us will be drawn to it with some cautious optimism but always with great hopes for fine successes. The new fields of activities will be deemed as efforts to benefit those of us living at the present time and for the benefit of those who will come after us.

— H.R.

Taste of Alaska for Visitors

ANCHORAGE, JUNE 24 — Visitors to Alaska will receive a taste of Alaska in more ways than one when they attend Larry Beck's Alaska Show this summer in the Aft Deck of the Hotel Captain Cook.

The show is being presented every night except Monday and features the Alaska Show with slides, poems and songs of Alaska plus a special "Sourdough Buffet".

The buffet, supervised by executive chief Jacques Castanie,

features a seafood dish nightly along with fresh sourdough rolls. Rounding out the menu are over 8 salads and relish trays, hot vegetables and entrees and desserts.

The Alaska Show follows the buffet, featuring the poetry of Robert W. Service along with Larry Beck's poems and slides of Alaska. Featured along with Beck are the current Miss Alaska, Cindy Suryan; Virginia Adams, a former Miss Alaska; and Carol Beck.

The show will be a part of the summer scene in Anchorage until August 31.

Letters from Here and There

Stickman Has Running Battle With City Taxes

Nulato, Alaska
June 23, 1975

Mister Howard Rock, Tundra Times Editor:

After leaving Galbraith Lake on the North Slope I came to Fairbanks, bought a boat with outboard motor for \$2,300.00. That's when I started arguing with the salesman who charged me city tax. He said if I shipped it, no tax. I said it's the same thing if I leave with it. But I didn't win. I paid the city tax.

When I reached Nenana, I had to pay city tax there, even, on a newspaper. Then I took it out on the poor girls at the check counter.

I reached Tanana where I had to pay more city tax. Then I had to take it out on the poor girls again at the counter.

I reached Ruby. No tax there. But when I got to Galena, it got worse. I bought a pair of canvas gloves for \$1.25. The girl asked me for four cents. That's when I got mad at the village of Galena and I took it out on the women.

If she charged me \$2.00 I wouldn't have said a word. Then I went up two miles out of the village to Huhndorf store. Then I had to pay tax there for the city. That's when I really blew my top. I was actually the one who started Galena. I moved West Ruby to Galena in 1941. The city should pay me instead of me paying city tax.

I asked what the tax was for and where the money was going. I walked down to the Yukon Inn restaurant and bar, and every time a car passed me, I'm seeing dust on the road. And lot of people working on fishwheels. It looks like a fish camp instead of a city.

Also heard everybody bought license for fishing but you have to pull your net out every Friday night. No fishing Saturday and Sunday, so no fresh fish to eat Saturday and Sunday. That's the law now.

If the Fish and Wildlife tell these guys to jump in the river, I guess they'd do it. But not me. I'm the only one that's trying to stop these foolish laws they make for us for years.

But now I give up. I sold and gave away my two nets so I wouldn't fight with the law. I'll just sit here on the riverbank and watch the fish go by. I'll let the Fish and Wildlife eat all the fish. I'm tired of law and I'm tired of living.

I went to Galena for the 800-mile boat race. One hundred seventeen passengers from Fairbanks and people from all over. Everybody was happy, celebrating. Me, sitting there in the dance hall till 4 in the morning wondering what a man like me is living for at 69 years. A man should be lucky and six feet underground. At 69 you have one foot in the grave and one foot on a banana peel.

The only way I could beat the city tax at Galena I went to work for BLM so I could get some free C rations but we got laid off. I worked five days. It was good for long as it lasted. I also cut two cords of wood to get me in shape and also to quit burning oil so I wouldn't have to buy those extra drums again, but I sold the wood to someone that needs it more than I do. I'm still a little young and active yet for a pioneer's home, but I was wondering when they're going to build one around here. Maybe when they finish all the schools.

I hope to go back to work after the heavy run of fish. That's the 20th of July.

I finally got one Tundra Times and I didn't see my name in there. Nobody wants to say hello, even you in Tundra Times.

I have not much lead in my pencil. Fred Stickman, Sr.

Alternative for

Consideration

June 25, 1975
Box 368
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Gentlemen:

Rather than that Alaska secede from the union, as is sometimes suggested, I propose an alternative for consideration: that the people of Alaska make of our state, its material and human resources and geography, a planetary endowment.

This endowment would be a token before the world that we are prepared, here where the Old World reaches the New, to attempt new forms of organization to deal with the future. The Last geographical Frontier, is this among the first of another kind of frontier?

Working in accord with the people of Yukon, the NWT, and perhaps with Siberia, Greenland and Scandinavia—areas linked by climate, geography and blood—we may devise a transnational circumpolar ethic. Retaining a mutually advantageous relation with the U.S., we would not be bound to adopt U.S. government policy.

The endowment would be free to establish relations with any foreign nation, and its first allegiance would be not to any historical national government, nor to any state or group of persons—but to the land itself, (the original endowment of all civilized life, tided over to us by higher law). This would have the effect of giving the land, the environment, the planet, legal standing in international law. It could secure to us a refreshing set of priorities; and it would increase trust worldwide, for our use of land intimates our use of one another.

Since the Arctic world is located at the convergence of all longitudes it would represent a focus for a gradual reconditioning of our political and economic relations. If an endowment proved practical, the notion might spread outward as an ideal. Thus, while nations retained nationhood as an administrative and social convulgence, the overall impulse of their energies might be released to supranational, regional, and global efforts to discover the prosperity of all and the degradation of none.

Peace,
Guy C. Burneko
Bethel

Cultures in the North ...A Bibliography

Cultures in the North: A Multi-Media Resource List, is an annotated bibliography featuring information on Alaska Native groups. It has recently been publicly presented by the Alaska Educational Program for Intercultural Communication (AEPIC), of the University of Alaska's Center for Northern Educational Research.

In the preface, Dennis Demmert, Coordinator for AEPIC/CNER, states the main purpose of the bibliography:

"This publication is intended to assist the teacher in identifying, collecting and assessing useful materials on Alaska Native Cultures."

The bibliography will be distributed to all public and private libraries, curriculum developers in the state, and to Johnson O'Malley and Indian Education Act funded programs operating during the '75-'76

school year.

Presentations have been made to the Sitka educational representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Native Brotherhood, Indian Education Act, and Sitka Borough schools, and public and post-secondary libraries in Sitka, where an AEPIC workshop on Southeast community curriculum development was recently held.

The bibliography was compiled primarily by Sarah Isto and illustrated by Keith LaChance. Putting it together required the reviewing of 1200 items before the final listing of about 250 titles was finalized.

Criteria for selecting materials for the bibliography included: freedom from stereotyping and condescending language, relevance to Alaskan Native cultures, availability to Alaskan teachers, interest to students and accuracy.

On Lower Cook Inlet—

Supreme Court Ruling

WASHINGTON — Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, said the recent Supreme Court ruling that the federal government has paramount rights to the submerged lands of the Lower Cook Inlet was "unfortunate" for the state of Alaska.

The ruling that there was insufficient proof to establish Cook Inlet as a historic bay means now that the lower inlet will be treated by the federal government the same as the Outer Continental Shelf.

Gravel noted that the state needs the revenues from future oil and gas leasing in the lower inlet, which has been held in limbo pending the courts ruling.

But, he said, if his proposal is enacted providing for revenue sharing on Outer Continental Shelf resources, "we'll still be able to recoup 37 1/2 per cent of the

revenues."

The 37 1/2 per cent formula is the same one used under mineral leasing law to compensate a state for extraction of minerals from public lands within its boundaries.

In light of the court's decision, Gravel wrote immediately to Interior Secretary Stanley K. Hathaway asking about plans for initiating leasing activity in the Lower Cook Inlet.

Gravel asked when an environmental impact statement would be forthcoming and if the study indicates development should proceed, when leasing of the Lower Cook Inlet would be scheduled.



People once believed that a serpent could have a head on each end.