

Comments from our readers ...

Agree with Fred Bigjim

Kwigillingok, Alaska
March 25, 1977

Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Editor:

This is in regards to the editorial of Mr. Fred Bigjim, in the March 9th Tundra Times issue. We would like to take a positive stand in support of it.

We strongly agree on the part where he states that non-Natives are hired to teach the Natives, but they do not understand the backgrounds of the Native students. We hate to leave the village because of our families, our jobs, and our village life.

If we were to become certified teachers the government would save thousands of dollars transporting the teachers all the way from the lower states.

Sincerely,

Maryann Andrew, Elsie Jimmie
Margaret Beaver, Noah Andrew

Eskimo Parish author ailing

2224 Foraker Drive
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Editor:

Many Alaskans will remember Father Paul O'Connor, S.J., who wrote "Eskimo Parish," an interesting chronicle of his 40 years in the Eskimo country. He was a warm friend and a good shepherd from Bristol Bay to Kotzebue, and in villages up and down the Yukon.

More recently, he was chaplain at Providence Hospital in Anchorage.

Father O'Connor is now under medical care in Spokane, and I am sure he would be very pleased to hear from fellow Alaskans. It would be a great comfort to know that friends from the North country would drop him a line and wish him Godspeed in his recovery. His address is:

Father Paul O'Connor, S.J.
Mt. St. Mihael
Route 2, Box 95
Spokane, Washington 99207

Sincerely,
Herb Hilscher

TT needs more culture

Box 305
Bethel, Alaska 99559
March 16, 1977

Dear Editor:

The Land Claims class in Bethel Regional High School have searched through about 25 copies of the past Tundra Times newspapers. We noticed that you have spend a great deal of time on the following: Education, Human Interest, AFN business, transportation, pipeline, health, land claims, leadership and Regional Corp.

However, we would like you to have more articles on State Legislator, culture, village corp. welfare and subsistence. This change may make your paper even more helpful and interesting to Alaska Native people.

Sincerely yours,
Al Wintersteen, Land Claims
Teacher & Students
Ferdinand Pleasant, Paul

Gregory Jr., Walter George,
Sarah Brink, Susan Keene,
Charlie Isaac, Marie Pairlla,

1929 potlatch at Tanana

Nenana, Alaska
March 16, 1977

Dear Editor:

The other article about 1929 Potlatch at Tanana, reminded me of the one Chief Alex from Tolovana made in 1918 or 1919 in the month of December.

I worked on the construction of railroad during the summer. We got layed off about first November and there won't be any work till next spring in May some time.

Chief Alex came up from Tolovana about 15 of November. He saw me around town of Nenana doing nothing.

He asked me several times. He said, you are doing nothing and there won't be any work till next spring. You can go down to Tolovana with me. From there you can go down to Tanana to your family for the winter. You've got no home here.

Every time I meet him he said same thing so I finally said O.K. I was young then.

It took us nearly two weeks to get back to Tolovana I was relaying food and other things like clothing and blankets, he got

from Coghill and Alex Fowler store's in Nenana. We made several camps. Every camp he went out to his trap lines he set out when he was coming up and each evening when he came home late he said I got 7 mink.

The same story for 2 weeks. I began to wonder now if maybe sometimes he caught more than 7 or sometimes less. He only knows how to say seven.

He might get about \$5 for a mink.

When we got to Tolovana, Old Albert from Rock Crossing below Tolovana about 15 miles, and I started hauling moose meat brought down Kantishna River by Dick Thomas and Abraham Albert. There I worked another 10 days or more. Finally Chief Alex made potlatch.

Some came up from Cross-jacket with people from Minto and Nenana.

They have worked very hard for the little money they made those day's, and they did not get much for fur's or wages for work. We got only 50 cents a hour on railroad construction. That was standard hourly pay in Alaska then.

Gold mine laborers made 5 dollars a day for 10 or 12 hours work day.

But food and clothing were real cheap too.

Old Reilly and his wife packed 10 cords of wood from hill side at Rapids below Rampart.

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More comments from Tundra Times readers ...

(Continued from Page 2)

They sold the 10 cords but look at the work.

It will soon be potlatch time in Fairbanks so I'm telling about potlatches in early days.

About this election of Directors for Doyon.

What it looks like to me is the best minds and with good and best education should be on Board. Ever since this started we have the same people there on the Board and jobs.

When I was trying get this land claims started here in Interior of Alaska I use get letter's from smart young fellows. I never see their names for Board of Directors. Its up to shareholders to straighten out this thing. It's your money.

I have been on railroad building, big building, logging camps, cattle ranches, farms, lots of things, in labor, but the hardest work I ever had was with Chief Alex and old Albert. They had old dogs. The old dogs don't want to work on the same trail loaded heavy, all for board and myself I will never forget that fall 1918 or 1919.

A few years ago I ask if I could get on Board for a year or two. I thought they might need old head at times. I got a reply from the nominating committee that said they were sorry I could not be one.

I just thought they could use one old person.

Alfred Starr, Sr.
Nenana, Alaska

Dr. Hiatt reassignment

Anchorage Community College
of the University of Alaska
March 16, 1977

Dr. Hugh B. Fate, Jr.
President, Board of
Regents
University of Alaska
P.O. Box 1111
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Dr. Fate,

On March 11, 1977, the Anchorage Community College Faculty Association voted to go on record opposing your retention of Dr. Robert Hiatt in his new position.

As professionals within the University, we believe that the conditions under which Dr. Hiatt resigned make any retention or reassignment of him highly inappropriate. As Alaskan taxpayers, we are against our dollars being used to pay for Dr. Hiatt's current salary and retirement benefits, particularly in light of his short tenure with the University.

Thank you for considering our view point.

Sincerely,
Deeta Lonergan,
President

ACC Faculty Association

cc: Tundra Times

More on Hiatt

446 E. 23rd
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
March 15, 1977

Dear Editor:

The following letter was sent to the Board of Regents:

Dear Members of the Board of Regents, Hugh Fate, Sam Kito, Ed Rasmuson, Don Abel, John Schaeffer, Margaret Hall, Jeffrey Cook, Mildred Banfield, Conrad Frank and Gerard LaParle.

This is to let you know we are extremely disillusioned and disgusted with your recent decision to retain ousted President Hiatt as a "consultant" to the University long enough to allow him to qualify for his \$18,000 a year pension. With the disclosure of the University's financial crisis, the school's integrity and reputation took a terrible nose-dive. You could have helped bolster the public's (and the taxpayers') confidence in the school by dismissing completely the person responsible for the administration of the institution. Instead, you have chosen to reward incompetence and ineptitude with continued salary, continued input into the school's administration and a fat pension for life. It is bad enough that the University's finances have fallen into such dismal chaos, without asking Alaska's taxpayers to also foot the bill for "consulting services" of the president who was forced to resign because of severe problems. We strongly urge that you reconsider your decision to retain Dr. Hiatt and NOT throw away our money on either his salary or pension.

(Signed) Hilary Hilscher, Gordon Jackson, Michael DeMan, Donald L. Stevens, Carolyn Stevens, Lynn Haw, Betty Hedstrand, Vinod Batra, Robert

Quinn, Sandra Kelly, Howard Swerland, Beatrice Halkett, Martin A. Ferrall, Carol Hedderly-Smith, Sandra Dauenhauer, Sharon Johnson, August Engel, Margritt Engel, Ester Lounsbury Nugent, Mary Ann Moliter, Maxine Reed, Eric

Ekvall, Judith Witney-Eckholm, Richard Dauenhauer, Emil Notti, Susan Pozzi, Mrs. Kenneth Hume, Olga DeMay, Arthur Kelly II, Mirian Hilscher, Robert Stone, Gail Smith, Don Harris, Helen Reed, Jack Johnson, Moe Kadish.