

Letters to the Editor

Russian Orthodox Diocese Says Armistead Not Member of Clergy

Russian Orthodox Greek
Catholic Church
Diocese of Sitka and Alaska
Box 697
Sitka, Alaska 99835
March 3, 1970

Fred Stickman Bawls Out Times Editor

Nulato, Alaska
March 5, 1970

Dear Friend:

I just wanted to remind you how come you have white man's picture in Tundra Times. I thought you said the paper was Indian-Eskimo paper. You know just as well as I do what the white people, some of them think about us poor Indians and Eskimos. I told you I wanted to run myself but I don't see my mug face on there yet. Maybe I haven't got the money or I'm not smart enough.

I been beat for 63 years, I should know something by now, but no one wants to listen to me.

The airfield here at Nulato is up on top of the hill two miles. It was built 1938 but they didn't finish it because the upper end was permafrost, so it's still on a slope. At that time I worked two weeks cutting brush. Everybody worked two weeks except the operators.

Two years ago I got a job as foreman to fix it. At the upper end where permafrost was 14 feet deep. We hauled dirt with wheelbarrows and filled the ditches, cut brush, same with the road. The road was nothing but muck. I fixed it by hand for \$2.00 an hour, and you talk about mosquitoes and gnats. They almost ate us alive.

The white people don't even want to give us our land back. They know we own it. That's how much they think of us. I know a lot of them kind. I worked with lot of them all my life. Everytime I get a foreman's job, they got no use for me. I don't blame them. They're jealous same way about our land. That's the reason they don't want to settle right away. They're just stalling us. In the long run they can't win and they know it.

—Fred Stickman

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Fred, when you're in Fairbanks again drop in to our office and we'll make special effort to take a good picture of you. If you have a good picture of you at home, I wish you'd send us one. We don't have one in our picture file so that's why we haven't run your picture. Many of our readers want to know what you look like.)

Dear Sir:

It was with interest that we noted the letter of Rev. Elias J. Armistead in the February 27th issue of the Tundra Times.

This letter is forwarded to you to make clear to all your readers that Father Armistead is not a member of the clergy of this diocese nor is he affiliated in any way with the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Sitka and Alaska.

Therefore, the opinions which he expressed in his letter should not be understood, in any way, to reflect the position of this Diocese in regards to the question under discussion.

Father Armistead speaks for himself, which is his obvious right. He does not, however, speak for the administration, clergy or any official of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska.

Yours Sincerely,
Rev. Michael T. Irvin,
Secretary of the Diocese

Armistead Taken to Task

532 East 9th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
March 3, 1970

Dear Editor:

This is in answer to Elias J. Armistead's letter to the Editor of February 27, 1970, in the Tundra Times.

Mr. Emil Notti made it very plain when he spoke at Tacoma, that when he mentioned a possible separate Native State, he was speaking for himself. He said it was not discussed by the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Mr. Emil Notti has been and is a dedicated man to the Native cause. This means all the Natives of Alaska.

You, as a priest, may mention that our Jesus may return tomorrow. Will your saying this make it so?

We still have freedom of speech even though sometimes it seems to be hanging by a tenuous thread.

Where did the Israelites originate, Mr. Armistead?

What do you stand for, Mr. Armistead?

Sincerely,
Mrs. Alice E. Brown